

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS Road Awareness Program educates Riverland students

Friday, 12 June 2015

You might choose to take a risk on the roads, but you cannot choose the consequences.

That's the message Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will reinforce to **Riverland** students when the organisation's Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits local high schools next week.

MFS Station Officer Rod Campbell said RAP is a confronting, hard-hitting yet positive program that's delivered to licence aged high school students across South Australia.

"While the program can be emotional and challenging for the students, it leaves them feeling uplifted and empowered to create positive changes in driver behaviour on the roads, including positive peer pressure amongst their friendship groups."

MFS Station Officer Rod Campbell and Chas Thomas will be joined by guest presenter and road crash survivor Tyele Riddle. Together, they'll ask students how many people they believe are impacted by a fatal or serious injury road crash.

"People tend to think it's just close friends and family who are impacted by a serious road crash, when in fact it can run into the hundreds of people who are left traumatised, saddened and devastated. Road tragedies can be acutely painful for close-knit regional communities," MFS Station Officer Rod Campbell said.

The use of mobile phones by drivers and pedestrians is also a focus of the program.

"The dangers of using a mobile phone while driving are very real. It has the potential to cause a driver to lose their own life or cause the loss of other lives, including those of their friends. Mobile phone use is one of the key road risks students will learn about," MFS Station Officer Campbell said.

The MFS RAP has reached more than 120,000 licence aged drivers across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

WHAT: Riverland students urged to look after their mates at MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations

WHERE & WHEN: See session times and locations below:

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Tues, 16 June	9.00 am	Renmark High School	100 minutes
Tues, 16 June	1.45 pm	Loxton High School	100 minutes
Wed, 17 June	9.00 am	Glossop High School	100 minutes
Wed, 17 June	1.40 pm	Waikerie High School	100 minutes
Thurs, 18 June	9.00 am	Riverland Aboriginal Wellbeing Centre	100 minutes
Thurs, 18 June	1.00 pm	Berri Community Corrections	100 minutes

VISUAL AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator Rod Campbell and local students will be available for interview.

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

www.mfs.sa.gov.au