

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS firefighters assist Queensland communities

Thursday, 13 January 2011

A contingent of 10 South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will fly to Brisbane today to assist the international emergency response to Queensland's devastating floods.

The South Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) specialists will leave Adelaide at 10 am today in what will be the second deployment the MFS has sent to Queensland. The first deployment of MFS firefighters, comprising two USAR specialists with swift water rescue skills, arrived in Brisbane yesterday afternoon.

MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton said all twelve MFS staff will form part of a national USAR task force managed by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and coordinated by Queensland Police.

"The scale of the Queensland flooding situation is difficult for many to comprehend. I commend emergency services personnel across Australia and New Zealand who have volunteered to respond to this unimaginable natural disaster.

"One of the main tasks our firefighters will likely carry out on arrival in Queensland is to conduct searches and rescues using specialist equipment and training," Chief Officer Lupton said.

The MFS deployments to Queensland are expected to return to South Australia up to a week after first arriving.

Chief Officer, Grant Lupton said the Metropolitan Fire Service's thoughts and concerns are with the people of Queensland.

"Queensland residents are showing remarkable strength during a very difficult time in their state's history. I'd like to encourage South Australians to think of their interstate neighbours by making donations and helping where possible," Chief Officer Lupton said.

The MFS will continue to assist Queensland with any further requests for additional staff deployments, to provide respite for Queensland staff and volunteers.

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

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