

Minister Tony Piccolo

Minister for Emergency Services



Friday, 11 September, 2015

Next generation of MFS firefighters graduate

The newest members of South Australia's Metropolitan Fire Service graduated at a special ceremony this morning.

Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo congratulated the 18 new firefighters for completing their 14-week training program.

"It is a pleasure to welcome these individuals into our fire service and they should be very proud of the way they have committed to the many challenges during the selection and training process," Mr Piccolo said.

"I wish these firefighters the best of luck in their new role and commend them on their efforts in following their dream of becoming firefighters.

"Seven of the graduates have successfully applied from within the ranks of MFS Retained Firefighters who are located in regional South Australia."

The group's journey began with a competitive selection and recruitment process involving around 1300 applicants both from metropolitan and regional South Australia. This was followed by a grueling 14 week training program.

Their training program included general fire-fighting exercises, breathing apparatus training, operating in confined spaces, compartment fire-fighting as well as a range of technical rescue situations.

MFS Chief Officer Greg Crossman said the 18 recruits exemplify the fire service's focus on safety and the importance of teamwork while serving the South Australian community.

"As they head off to their newly assigned shifts and stations throughout South Australia I would like to commend our new firefighters for supporting one another during their 14 weeks of training," Mr Crossman said.

"Our recruits have worked hard as a team to gain the core skills that will enable them to carry out their duties in a safe, effective and efficient manner.

"As an emergency service provider, we are conscious of implementing innovative ways to provide more efficient methods of fire control, faster extinguishment and greater conservation of resources including water.

The MFS now provides firefighters with the latest in world-class safety equipment, technology and personal protective equipment.

Additionally, the Government has committed funds during the last ten years for the construction and staffing of six new and replacement MFS Fire Stations.