

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



SA firefighters return from Queensland

Tuesday, 18 January 2011

Twelve Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters who assisted the Queensland flood disaster recovery are returning home to Adelaide.

The first two firefighters will arrive at Adelaide Airport today (Tuesday, 18 January), with the remaining group of 10 MFS firefighters returning home on Wednesday, 19 January.

MFS District Officer, Colin Lindsay led the group of South Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) specialists during their week-long deployment.

“Our firefighters have felt privileged to be a part of the international emergency response in Queensland. We have conducted searches and evacuations, infrastructure checks and damage assessments on hundreds of homes - and generally helped people get back on their feet.”

District Officer Lindsay said Queensland authorities responded MFS firefighters to various areas such as Gatton, Lockyer Valley, Laidley, Fernvale, Forest Hill, Ipswich and Oxley.

“We were inspired by the resilience of the affected communities and by the overwhelming numbers of people volunteering to help their fellow Australians,” he said.

Chief Officer, Grant Lupton said he’s pleased the MFS has been able to assist Queenslanders in their time of need.

“This flood response has highlighted that emergency services workers and volunteers from various states and New Zealand are really part of one large, international emergency services community that pulls together during large scale disasters,” Chief Officer Lupton said.

*** Media are welcome to attend Adelaide Airport when MFS firefighters return home.**

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

Further information for the public:

Call the MFS Community Education Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours.

Country callers 1300 737 637.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au