

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Mid-North region to benefit from MFS RAP presentations

Tuesday, 7 June 2016

Mid-North secondary school students will face the realities of driving when the Metropolitan Fire Service's (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits the region this week.

MFS firefighters will be joined by guest presenters and road crash survivors Eli and Samantha. Eli will share his personal experience of road trauma as a former promising sportsman who now lives with an acquired brain injury due to a road crash incident while Samantha will talk about the responsibilities of being a responsible passenger.

Eli and Samantha now focus on educating young drivers through the Road Awareness Program (RAP). Eli's message is that just one risk on the road can have major consequences. "I'd like to make a *universe of positive* out of my personal negative," he said.

MFS RAP Coordinator Brad Ryan and crash survivor Eli will present to St Marks Port Pirie and John Pirie Secondary School.

MFS RAP Coordinator Gavin Holland and crash survivor Samantha will present to Eudunda Area School and Kapunda High School at Kapunda High School.

MFS RAP Coordinators, Station Officer Brad Ryan and Gavin Holland said RAP is a powerful and engaging yet hard-hitting program delivered to licence aged secondary school students across South Australia.

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

RAP will highlight just how many people 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 Officers Ryan and Holland said.

The use of mobile phones by drivers and pedestrians alike 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 Officers Ryan and Holland said.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 130,000 licence aged drivers and road users across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is generously supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

WHAT: Mid-North students urged to look after their mates at MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations (session details below)

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Wed, 8 June 2016	8.55 am	St Marks Port Pirie	100 minutes
Wed, 8 June 2016	1.35 pm	John Pirie Secondary School	100 minutes
Thurs, 9 June 2016	10.30 am	Kapunda High School (including Eudunda Area School students)	100 minutes

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator, Brad Ryan and road crash survivor, Eli Murn will be available for interview on Wednesday while RAP Coordinator, Gavin Holland will be available on Thursday at Kapunda.

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

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