

Hon Chris Picton MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Friday, 22 December 2017

SA's 18 newest firefighters graduate, including recruit rescued by MFS as teen

Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton attended a ceremony today for the graduation of 18 MFS recruits who're the latest to join the ranks of fully fledged firefighters in South Australia.

The recruits were selected from a field of 2,200 applicants and underwent a gruelling 14 week training course.

For one graduate, Duane Schultz, it is the realisation of a goal he's had for 14 years, since he was rescued from a vehicle wreck by MFS firefighters, after a serious car crash.

Mr Schultz says his gratitude for the crew that rescued him, set him on a path to aim for a career in emergency services.

At age 16, "... a vehicle I was a passenger in crashed, trapping me. The experience of being rescued ultimately planted the seed for a future career as a first responder - and my desire to become a firefighter," Recruit Firefighter Schultz said.

Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton thanked Mr Schultz for his decision to join the MFS, along with the 17 other graduates.

Background

Today's graduates come from various backgrounds, including: physiotherapy, mechanical engineering, carpentry, journalism, retail, recruitment, hospitality, viticulture, airport firefighting, defence, Surf Life Saving, outdoor education, IT, physical education, nutrition, gas fitting and plumbing.

The recruit firefighters have completed more than 700 hours of challenging physical training and attended in excess of 100 lectures.

Quotes attributable to Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton

Congratulations to South Australia's newest MFS recruit firefighters. They've been selected from a competitive field of 2,200 people for the opportunity to graduate today.

It is a privilege to serve the community. Our recruit firefighters should be proud to join one of the world's oldest legislated fire services, which protects up to 90 % of the state's population, property, infrastructure and assets.

Quotes attributable to SA Metropolitan Fire Service Chief Officer Greg Crossman

The recruit firefighters who're graduating today will be able to pursue diverse career paths in operational firefighting, community education, engineering, built environs, training, fire cause investigation, triple zero (000) communications, management, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Hazmat.

I commend them for working hard to achieve a place in the recruit squad and graduate today – and encourage each to pursue a fulfilling career of service above self.

On behalf of the MFS, I wish South Australians a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, particularly on our roads.

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