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Australian-first \$4.3m MFS live fire training facility launched

Tuesday 20 April 2021

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) has welcomed a brand-new \$4.3m live structural fire training facility that's so innovative, it's unparalleled in Australia.

MFS Chief Officer, Michael Morgan and Minister for Emergency Services, Vincent Tarzia officially launched the facility at the MFS Angle Park Training Centre today.

The Angle Park Structural Firefighting Training Facility is a large 'burn hall' containing 16 shipping containers with a wide variety of live fire scenarios including house, business and high rise fires.

The MFS has drawn learnings from international fire services to design and deliver a unique training facility, the first of its kind in Australia. It will provide MFS firefighters with a far more realistic and diverse training environment for structure fires throughout their careers.

Firefighters regularly battle fires in homes, businesses and high rise buildings and work to limit the risk of injury, and life, property and economic loss. This modern burn hall is a state-of-the-art facility where crews can hone their skills, to the benefit of firefighters and the broader South Australian community.

MFS Chief Officer, Michael Morgan said the new facility is a key asset that will be well used by the organisation's 1,100 firefighters.

"It is with great excitement that the MFS welcomes this new facility at our Angle Park Training Centre. This burn hall represents a great achievement by the many MFS personnel who contributed to the design, planning and construction phases of this project.

"The facility will help our firefighters better predict and react to fire behaviour within a structure. This will not only enhance firefighter safety, but also help crews to reduce the property and financial losses that South Australians experience when fires occur in homes, businesses and high rise buildings," MFS Chief Officer Morgan said.

The burn hall delivers a far greater variety of basic, intermediate and complex live fire training scenarios for firefighters, plus a breathing apparatus compressor and cylinder fill station.

The facility includes lecture rooms, purpose built dirty-to-clean workflow areas, a briefing / debriefing room, workshop areas and an equipment drying room.

The main role of the facility will be to boost firefighter knowledge, safety and performance, helping crews to make informed risk assessments and decisions based on fire behaviour indicators.

With an asset life of up to 50 years, the hall will be used for training recruits and the ongoing training and upskilling of metropolitan and regional MFS firefighters of all ranks.

The internal access points of the shipping containers can be re-arranged throughout the life of the facility, increasing the number and variety of training scenarios available.

Smoke from live burns will be contained within the shed, collected and treated to minimise the impact on the local environment.