

Fire and emergency services Board visits Copper Coast

Wednesday, 26 May 2010

The diversity of emergency response efforts to protect the people and property of the Copper Coast area will be a key focus of the fire and emergency service sector's Board visit to the region tomorrow, Thursday, 27 May.

The heads of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and State Emergency Service (SES), along with other Board members, will visit Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta, as well as Maitland on Yorke Peninsula, to discuss emergency service strategies for the State and explore local issues.

SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place says the visit, which will include a meeting with the District Council of Copper Coast including Mayor Paul Thomas and Chief Executive Officer Peter Dinning, will involve visits to MFS and CFS facilities at Kadina, Wallaroo and Moonta.

The Board will also visit the joint SES-CFS facility at Maitland where it will meet with SES and CFS volunteer representatives.

The spotlight will be on the diversity of the emergency response capacity of the Copper Coast and Yorke Peninsula area.

"The Copper Coast and Yorke Peninsula areas are growing rapidly, and responding to incidents such as we have seen on Yorke Peninsula, is only possible with the strong contingent of local SES, Volunteer Marine Rescue and CFS volunteers working alongside our MFS staff," he said.

"As well as attending to storm and fire related incidents, the emergency services continue the hard task of road crash rescue response in what has been a devastating period on our roads, with CFS and SES volunteers along with the MFS doing a tremendous job."

Fire prevention and emergency response will be a key focus of the Board visit, with the release of the findings of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission due soon.

"The government, primarily through the Bushfire Task Force, continues to respond to the Victorian experience and is committed to improving bushfire management practices and strategies," Mr Place said.

"Improvements are being made, but changes to bushfire management are a sustained effort. Some initiatives were already been implemented in the fire danger season recently completed, and others will need to be researched and developed over the coming years."

Coinciding with the Board meeting will be the chance to recognise the important role of the volunteer employers and self employed volunteers in supporting the fire and emergency services sector.

An event will be held tomorrow evening at the Wallaroo Town Hall to recognise and thank the employers of the sector's volunteers. A number of certificates will be presented throughout the evening as part of SAFECOM's Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP).

This will be the 11th SAFECOM Board visit and VERSP ceremony held in SA.

Media are invited to the VERSP event tomorrow evening from 6.30pm at the Wallaroo Town Hall, Irwin Street, Wallaroo.

For further information please call SAFECOM Public Affairs:

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CFS Line: (08) 8212 9849

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