

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Leadership Under Fire

Thursday, 28 May 2015

'Leadership Under Fire' is a collaborative initiative between the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Operation Flinders Foundation.

This event will be held over the weekend 29 – 31 May 2015 at the MFS Training Centre Angle Park and Adelaide Fire Station and will give a group of Operation Flinders Peer Group Mentors (PGMs) the opportunity to experience first-hand what it's like to be a member of South Australia's Emergency Services.

PGMs are graduates of the 'Operation Flinders' Program who have been identified as possessing leadership potential, empathetic qualities, and the ability to overcome challenges. After receiving further training by Operation Flinders they return to the wilderness program to help other 'first timers' who are going through what they once did.

The 'Leadership Under Fire' weekend has a theme based on fostering leadership, positive role modelling and community service.

The weekend will provide the participants with a number of physical and mental challenges including abseiling from the tower, a Breathing Apparatus tunnel crawl and firefighting hose drills. The participants will also have the opportunity to communicate with firefighters, see career presentations from SA Police, South Australian Ambulance Service and MFS. On Saturday afternoon they will also take part in the MFS Road Awareness Program.

Operation Flinders Team Leader and MFS Commander, Michael Shepherd said "Leadership Under Fire is a great opportunity for MFS personnel to foster an ethos of community service in these young people and to enhance their skills so they can become good role models for future Operation Flinders participants. Through continued follow up training with Operation Flinders they will become more valuable members of the community."

"This is a great initiative and partnership between MFS and Operation Flinders to promote leadership opportunities for PGM's who are willing to continue to develop and challenge themselves." John van Ruth, Chief Executive Officer - Operation Flinders.

Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo said the 'Leadership Under Fire' weekend highlights the commitment to the community shown by Emergency Service and Operation Flinders Foundation workers.

"They invest significant time and energy in supporting young South Australians to overcome challenges beyond their years and experience," said Minister Piccolo.

What: 'Leadership Under Fire' – A joint initiative between MFS and Operation Flinders fostering leadership, positive role modelling and community service.

Where & When: MFS Adelaide Fire Station, 99 Wakefield Street, Adelaide
10:00 am – 11.00 am
Saturday, 30 May 2015

Visual and Interview Opportunities:

Invited media are welcome to attend 'Leadership Under Fire' at the time listed above for filming, photographic and interview opportunities.

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