

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SES Chief Officer

The Association has discussed with the Minister and put a concept proposal to the Commissioner on the reinstatement of a Chief Officer for the SES in WA.

Some of the reasons for a Chief Officer for the SES include; a true understanding and empathy of the SES role and the Volunteers, alignment with the other jurisdictions in the Nation, as well as having effective representation and standardisation nationally, in training and rescue methods.

Commissioner Klemm has advised that we should be receiving notification on this matter before the end of July this year.

SES Awards

The State SES Awards judging has been completed and DFES is working through the finalists.

The Association will be working with DFES to make the process easier and more effective in future years.

Feedback has suggested that a number of Local Managers were unaware of when nominations were called for and the process to be followed.

The Association is also working with DFES to ensure the National Honours and Award process is kept simple and nominators have a full understanding of the requirements and standard required in the applications.

About Consultation with DFES

The Association has a committee elected by the SES Units, of which some committee members represent the regions they are attached to.

The committee works well and as the prescribed association for SES units – (as per s24 of the *FES act 1998*), advocates on behalf of the SES Volunteers.

The DFES consultancy model has different levels of consultation and in many instances the information shared with the Association is restricted and confidential.

Much of this information is shared with the Association to obtain feedback and guidance from the committee members before further and wider consultation is performed.

This works well, and it is this trust on both sides that has bought the Association forward and raised the level of effectiveness within DFES.

This Association values its integrity and works hard in the best interests of the SES Volunteers.

Gordon Hall ESM
President

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PAYMENTS

The purpose of the Operational Efficiency Payments is to provide a monetary reward to SES units in recognition of their due diligence in maintaining their operational readiness and efficiency.

The unit will decide where the money can be spent, with some examples including funding unit award or thank you nights.

Out of this, the units will have structured visits by District Officers and they will have a better understanding of the DFES expectations operationally, training and administration.

Most units are doing this now however this will formalise the business.

All units will be receiving a letter from DFES about the OEP and the first payment is expected to be before 30 June 2018

PORTABLE FRIDGES

We have been advised that six portable fridges have been supplied and fitted to vehicles at Units in the north of the state.

These fridges are very welcome by members at the Units, as they will assist greatly when the Units are doing remote searches, remote rescues, remote community visitations etc.

The support from FES Commissioner Darren Klemm on speedily resolving this long standing issue, is greatly appreciated by the SES Volunteers

TRAINING MATTERS

A real training concern has been highlighted to us this week - Endorsement Currency.

Unknown to us, and we believe most trainer/assessors, the following is the DFES policy on Endorsement Currency - as per PDT3.3 - Workplace Trainer Assessor Endorsement

"Workplace Trainer Assessor endorsements will apply for a period in accordance with the TRK Risk Rating unless otherwise determined by the TRK Owner or Delegate.

- ! High Risk – 2 years
- ! Medium Risk - 3 years
- ! Low Risk - 5 years

A TRK Owner or Delegate can authorise the extension of endorsement by providing an email to the TADC confirming approval to extend. This decision to extend endorsement will be made based on evidence that the Trainer Assessor has maintained their skills and knowledge as a Trainer Assessor and in the subject matter. Regular delivery of the TRK is one method of demonstrating currency and the need for continued endorsement."

It appears DFES are now starting to enforce the high risk period of 2 years.

We have spoken to DFES and the answer we obtained was

"essentially the currency is 2 years for high risk TRKs and this has not changed since the risk ratings were established.

We do however allow some flexibility and we are not going to just remove endorsements without working with the regions and the TAs to maintain their currency.

We will alert regions when TAs are coming up to the 2 year mark and they need to then get them on a course to maintain currency ASAP but with an absolute maximum of within the next 12 months to allow for training/non training season.

The key focus here should be on the outcomes for students by having an experienced and current TA - not on the ability for a TA to keep a TRK. "

Hopefully this clarifies the matter for everyone, however if you are experiencing problems, please let the Association know.

SES MASCOT

Several members have suggested we should have some form of mascot - such as a dressed teddy bear etc.

If this is desired, we may be able to include in the range of memorabilia available for purchase.

What are your thoughts?

Please let your Regional Representative know.

WORK DRESS TROUSERS

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the khaki trousers for our working dress uniform are no longer available and in run-out mode.

Your Regional Committee Members have been discussing possible temporary alternatives with Unit Managers over the past few months, and the clear result is a desire to have ParisBlue/Black looking trousers with the khaki shirt.

We have advised DFES accordingly, and as the khaki trousers run-out, Paris Blue/Black looking ones will be issued.

FUTURE DRESS UNIFORM

The SES Volunteers have three levels of uniform, PPC which is orange, semi casual which is orange PPC trousers/khaki trousers and the SES Polo shirt, and the working dress consisting of khaki trousers and khaki shirt.

As the availability to DFES of khaki trousers and shirts is rapidly diminishing, the time is now right for SES Members to start thinking about what they would prefer as a permanent dress uniform.

Feedback to the SESVA representatives from the SES units about what the Volunteers feel the future dress uniform should be like is now required.

Remember the dress uniform is usually used for official business, office duties, parades and other occasions where the SES is showcased or represented.

Once we have an idea of what people would prefer, we can begin discussions with DFES about changing/upgrading/improving our uniform.

This is your opportunity to have your say.

This is an important issue, so please don't procrastinate - contact your Representative NOW!!!

HOW TO KEEP INFORMED

Don't forget we have a website which keeps you informed of what is happening across the state in SES land.

We also have "the App".

And also, if you would like our newsletters, other relevant information etc forwarded direct to your email, just contact the SESVA office (sesva.office@ses-wa.asn.au), and advise your your details.

From your SESVA team