



Wednesday, 29 January 2014

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ECHUCA CFA VOLUNTEER ON TV FOR BUSHFIRE SAFETY**

Echuca CFA Captain Mark Hooper is talking bushfire safety on TV and radio across regional Victoria again this year, as one of the presenters of the CFA volunteers' *Fire Safety Starts With You* campaign.

The campaign is being run by the CFA volunteers' association, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) with the support of the Fire Services Commissioner, and urges Victorians to plan and take action for their family's safety this summer.

VFBV Executive Officer Adam Barnett said having an experienced local volunteer deliver the safety message draws on the volunteer firefighters' unique standing as professionally trained, experienced emergency personnel who come from the same community that they protect.

"The volunteers' *Fire Safety Starts With You* campaign is a reminder to the public that while CFA volunteers prepare and train for fire all year round, the community has an important role to play too."

"There is no better perspective on how important it is for every Victorian to plan for their family's safety this fire season," he said.

The TV commercial reminds the public that they can find more tips on how to prepare on the State Government's new emergency website, [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au), or they can call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line, 1800 240 667, to request an information kit.

Echuca CFA Captain Mark Hooper said every Victorian should heed the message and plan for their safety, so every member of the family knows what to do.

"Fire safety starts with you – you are the best one to plan for your family's safety," Capt Hooper said.

"By being aware on hot days and having a plan you can put straight into action, you are doing your bit for fire safety this summer," he said.

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“The Echuca Fire Brigade has already dealt with bush and grass fires in the local area as well as sending crews away to fight fires at Toolleen and in the Mallee, and the Blue Mountains fires in NSW late last year. It’s summer and it’s time everyone was ready.”

The Echuca CFA Brigade has 50 volunteers and is on call every day and night of the year, responding to around 250 fire, rescue and road accident calls in an average year

Mark Hooper has been a CFA volunteer for 24 years, he is a veteran of the 2006 fires in northeast Victoria and the 2009 fires, and comes from a CFA family, his father has also served as Captain of the Echuca Brigade.

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