

Incident reports . . . Incident reports

Blaze impacts houses

Incident: Grass and scrub fire, Winton, District 23.
Date: 7 January 2018.
Time: 1335 hours.
Initial Incident Controller: DGO Charlie Sexton (Benalla Group). After transfer of control – Operations Manager Stewart Kreltshheim (Wangaratta ICC).
Brigades/appliances: Baddaginnie Tanker; Barjarg Tanker; Benalla FCV, Tanker, ULT (Ultra Light Tanker); Benalla Group Big Fill, FCV; Boho Medium Tanker; Bonnie Doon Tanker; Chesney Vale Tanker; Eldorado ULT; Glenrowan Tanker, ULT; Goomalibee Tanker; Gooramab Medium Tanker; Gooramab ULT; Goughs Bay – Howes Creek Tanker; Greta Tanker 1 and 2; Laceby West Tanker; Lurg Tanker 1 and 2; Maindample Medium Tanker; Mansfield Group FCV; Mansfield Tanker 1; Molyullah Slip On and Tanker; Moyhu Group FCV; Samaria Tanker; Swanpool Tanker; Taminic & North Winton Medium Tanker; Tatong Tanker 1 and ULT; Thoona Tanker 1; Violet Town FCV (D22); Wangaratta Group FCV and FCV 2; Warrenbayne Tanker 1; Whitegate Tanker 1; Winton Tanker 1.

Other support: FFMV crews and appliances.
Total personnel: 185 from all agencies.
Aircraft: Three helicopters and an air attack platform.
Cause: Slasher.
Size: 80 hectares.
Comment: Multiple 000 calls, and further information from Lurg Fire Tower combined with current weather conditions saw an early escalation to Make Tankers 5.
 This was again upgraded shortly after when a call was made to make tankers 15 and a Watch and Act issued.
 Aircraft were called in to help stop the run of the fire and also additional tankers requested. Three additional FCVs and District 23 rehab unit were also responded. The D24 Rehab Unit and D24 Coolroom Trailer were also responded to ensure firefighter welfare was considered both on the fireground and prior to being released.
 The fire jumped several roads and impacted several houses although preparation works combined with great efforts by aircraft and ground crews ensure none were damaged.
 Control was transferred to Wangaratta ICC at 1430 hours.
 The fire fortunately burnt into a depression in the ground that was quite green and allowed fire appliances and aircraft to stop the forward rate of spread at this point
 After several hours of blacking out, local response and patrol was returned around 2200 hours.



Historical structure destroyed

Incident: Structure fire, Mooroopna, District 22.
Date: 14 January 2018.
Time: 0330 hours.
Incident Controller: Captain Ray Stockwell (Mooroopna).
Brigades: Mooroopna – pumper, tanker, FCV; Shepparton – pumper, aerial, tanker; Toolamba.
Personnel: 25.
Cause: thought to be suspicious. Under investigation.
Comment: Local and supporting brigades were responded to a blaze at the historical railway station in Mooroopna.
 Upon arrival of the first crew there was little that could be done to save the historic railway station which was completely engulfed in flames.
 There were concerns about power to the dwelling so Powercor was responded to isolate the power.
 Overhaul was limited to preserve scene.
 Fire investigators and the arson squad attended the scene to determine the cause.
 The District 22 Rehabilitation unit was on scene providing services to members on what was a very hot night.

Protecting exposures

Incident: Structure fire, Cobram, District 22.
Date: 6 January 2018.
Time: 0358 hours.
Incident controller: Captain Adrian Hilder (Cobram).
Sector Commanders: Lieutenant David Beard (Cobram), Captain John Parnell (Katamatite), Senior Station Officer Steve Lewis (Shepparton).
Brigades: Cobram, Shepparton, Katamatite, Muckatah, Yarroweyah, Strathmerton, Katunga. Bendigo (PE Van responded but turned around prior to arrival on scene).
Appliances: 14, plus RDO Pete Dedman, Police, Powercor, VicRoads and Moira Shire representatives (assisting with road closure).
Cause: Not suspicious.
Comment: A fire at a fruit packing facility drew a large number of local CFA resources. It was an intense blaze in a shed measuring approximately 20 metres by 40 metres which contained two cool rooms full of fruit. This shed was fully involved upon arrival of the first brigade, due to the intense heat and developed fire the shed was unable to be saved.
 The pressure from the radiant heat on gas bottles and fuel stored in the shed caused numerous smaller explosions which accelerated the spread of the fire.
 Fire crews concentrated on protecting exposures which included a packing shed located less than 1 metre away from the storage shed; also a nearby house suffered minor heat damage. This proved to be very successful due to the excellent efforts of all involved, with only minor damaged to the packing shed.
 Unfortunately the storage also contained two vehicles, a fork lift, machinery and 200 fruit storage bins, including the two cool rooms which were also full of fruit in fruit bins were also destroyed.
 Shepparton's aerial pumper was used to help extinguish the blaze in the shed.
 This fire occurred on a day of Total Fire Ban in District 22. Although the fire occurred early in the morning, the temperature was rising. Once the fire was contained and mopping up underway, several of the attending Brigades and members who were on Strike Team duty that day, were released.
 A local road had to be closed to traffic due to a tanker relay being required to provide water for the fire fight from a nearby irrigation channel.
 Fire Investigators attended, the fire was deemed not suspicious. A fire of this size, involving critical orchard infrastructure, at their busiest time of the year, was a devastating blow for the owners.

INCIDENT REPORTS

If your brigade or group has attended any unusual or large incidents Fire Wise would like to hear from you. Telephone 0402 051 412 to discuss or email gordon@fire-wise.com.au with your photographs and details.

KEEP IT FREE!

2018 Brigade Delegate Development Program

Engaging Diversity

District	Day 1	Day 2	Location
2	22nd April	20th May	Castlemaine
8	19th May	23rd June	Carrum Downs
10	5th May	30th June	Maffra
11	27th May	17th June	Bairnsdale
17	28th April	8th July	Horsham
18	8th April	29th April	Ouyen
20	15th April	8th May	Echuca
27	26th May	15th July	Morwell
12	Completed	2nd June	Seymour
23/24	Completed	3rd June	Baddaginnie
West	Completed	4th March	Wendouree

VFBV District Councils are offering an exciting training opportunity for members to improve their skills as a current or aspiring VFBV Brigade Delegate or future leader within your brigade.
 This is a great opportunity for all members to participate in the course with other members from your District Council to improve your delegate skills, network and get to know other members and improve teamwork and communication between members.
 Engaging Diversity is the theme of the program with the following skills being important, Issue Resolution Relationship Building Communication Problem Solving Decision Making Teamwork Strategic Thinking and Leadership.

Contact Mark Dryden for more information
 m.dryden@vfbv.com.au PH: 0428 767 258 VFBV



Cave rescue success

CFA crews were called to Buchan Caves in District 11 at 0030 hours on 24 January to rescue a man who had slipped into a sinkhole.
 He had been exploring the caves with a group of friends where he dropped his torch and, when going to retrieve it, slipped and dropped 15 metres into the sinkhole.
 Rescue Commander Leading Fire Fighter Greg Fisher (Traralgon) said: "The rescue was very complex due to the narrowness of the shaft. Technical Rescue crews were called from Morwell and Traralgon Police Search and Rescue to assist, along with the firefighters from Lakes Entrance Fire Brigade."
 "A rope technician from CFA and Police Search and Rescue were lowered to the floor of the cave and secured the patient onto a stretcher. He was lifted with ropes and hands on lifting, crews placed at the top of the shaft played a pivotal role in completing the rescue. It was called under control at 0418 hours.
 "Although the narrow shaft made the rescue complex, crews worked patiently and effectively to perform the rescue.

A GREAT SAVE

Incident: Structure fire, Doreen, District 14.
Date: 10 January 2018.
Time: 2330 hours.
Brigades/appliances: Doreen – Pumper Tanker, Tanker, FCV, Ultra Light; Mernda – Tanker 1, Tanker 2, Rehabilitation unit; South Morang – Pumper.
Comment: CFA firefighters saved the popular Jojays Cafe and adjoining office areas from a fire that started in the community hall section of the complex in Doreen.

GIPPSLAND CELEBRANT SERVICES

Adam Townsend, a long serving CFA member, offers a variety of services including wedding ceremonies, funerals, naming day ceremonies, commitment ceremonies and master of ceremonies.
 55 Swallow Grove, Traralgon, Victoria, 3844
 Email info@gippslandcelebrant.com.au
 Mobile: 0438 552 028
 www.gippslandcelebrant.com.au

CFA crews arrived on scene in a matter of minutes to find the meeting room area involved in fire with considerable smoke showing.
 Firefighting crews wearing breathing apparatus made a forced entry and began an aggressive internal attack.
 CFA crews on scene worked together to quickly stop its spread through the structure.
 Water supply was not an issue with training from a Pumps and Hydraulics course put into practice.