

From The Chief Officer.....



Number 111

“Our mission is to protect lives and property”

21st March 2014

Assistant Chief Officer

As part of the move to a new regional model, CFA is seeking to appoint five Assistant Chief Officers. This opportunity is advertised as of today both internally and externally. The ACO will lead the delivery of fire and emergency management services in each newly established region spanning: planning, prevention, preparedness, response and operational recovery. Each ACO will actively develop strategies, budgets and business plans and manage the resources of the region, whilst providing regular advice and support to the Chief Officer. Successful applicants will have demonstrated senior management experience and visible leadership qualities that empower staff and volunteers to carry out statutory obligations across the region. They will also have strong strategy, technical and operational understanding, coupled with the ability to foster relationships within the community. Experience in emergency services management and qualifications in a relevant discipline are a pre-requisite. The role of Assistant Chief Officer sits within the Office of the Chief Officer and reports to the Chief Officer via the Deputy Chief Officer, Readiness and Response.

‘Jo Fisher Executive’ an executive search recruitment company has been engaged to manage the recruitment process on behalf of CFA. More information about the opportunity is available by phoning Kate Wheeler at ‘Jo Fisher Executive’ on 9016 6000. The position description is available upon request from cfa@jofisher.com or recruitment@cfa.vic.gov.au. Applications should be forwarded to cfa@jofisher.com with a cover letter and resume. The closing date for applications is **7 April 2014**.

Emergency+ App

The "Emergency+" app for smartphones was developed and built by the national Triple Zero Awareness Working Group (TZAAG). The working group found that these problems arose largely because more than 66 per cent of incoming calls to Triple Zero are now made from mobile phones. Mobile callers often do not know exactly where they are, therefore tying up call-takers and preventing them from processing the next incoming call. Without an accurate location, it is difficult to dispatch resources and often their arrival on the scene is delayed. The Emergency+ app enables Triple Zero (000) callers to tell Emergency Services calltakers their location co-ordinates, using their smartphones' existing GPS functionality. The app is free to download.

Change your Clocks – Change your Smoke Alarms Campaign

Australia’s fire and emergency services attended more than 12,000 residential fires in 2013. Last year within the CFA area there were 1,897 residential fires, resulting in 8 deaths and an estimated \$61 million damage. The campaign to encourage Victorians to change their smoke alarm batteries when they change their clocks is one way of raising awareness regarding the number of house fires and encouraging people to take preventative action at the end of daylight savings on Sunday 6 April. Smoke alarms provide an essential early warning and time to evacuate safely – but only if they work. Some of the key messages for this year’s Campaign include:

- Only working smoke alarms save lives.
- Change your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks on Sunday 6 April.
- Victoria’s fire services recommend long-lasting alkaline batteries for smoke alarms.

Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program

The VESEP 2014/15 program has been launched. The following key dates apply:

- Applications close at Districts – 9th April 2014
- District Planning Committee Meetings 10 April to 27 April 2014
- Regions to submit applications to VESEP Project Coordinator – 29 April 2014
- Anticipated Minister’s announcement of successful projects – Late June 2014

All Brigade & Group Secretaries have been posted the application packs which include the DoJ brochure, CFA guidelines and application forms.

“If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten.”

- Anthony Robbins - Author