

From The Chief Officer.....



Number 90

"Our mission is to protect lives and property"

6th September 2013

Pager Rollout

A statewide pager test was conducted across Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September to assist with tracking an issue with missing and/or corrupt pager messages. All members with the new pager were able to participate in the test. Minimal reports of issues, through the observation reporting process, have been received following the test. I encourage members with pager issues and concerns to officially report these to the EAS Help Desk. There will be a future test when the remaining pagers have been distributed.

AFAC Conference

As the Chair of the 2013 Conference Steering Committee I welcomed the opportunity for Victorian fire and emergency services agencies to host the AFAC and Bushfire CRC Conferences this year from 2 to 5 September. The 2013 conference was the 20th AFAC Conference and the 10th Bushfire CRC conference, marking a significant milestone for the industry. The conference was an opportunity to network, share challenges and learn from each other. This year's theme was 'Shaping Tomorrow Together' to highlight the importance of emergency services working with communities and partners, to shape the future of emergency response. The knowledge gained at the conference will ensure emergency services are better prepared to help and work with the community in disaster prevention, preparedness and response. With over 1700 attendees this was the biggest ever AFAC conference.

Blue Ribbon Day

As a fire service, we know all too well the bravery and dedication shown by our members to protect lives and property in Victoria. This month, we also pay tribute to fellow emergency service men and women from Victoria Police who have sacrificed their lives serving the community. In total, 157 Victoria Police members have been killed in the line of duty. Of these, 30 have been murdered, which underlines the dangers police members face on a daily basis. This year, Blue Ribbon Day falls on Sunday, 29 September and the National Police Remembrance Day march and services will be held on Friday, 27 September. To find out about services in your area, visit www.remember.org.au/Home. Money raised for Blue Ribbon Day goes towards new and improved emergency facilities in public hospitals named in memory of fallen officers. I encourage our regions, districts and directorates to get behind this important fundraiser and day of remembrance by hosting a morning tea or small event of their own during September. To receive a fundraising kit for your event, you can contact the Blue Ribbon Foundation on (03) 9555 8000. You can find out more about Blue Ribbon Day and the Blue Ribbon Foundation by watching a [video](#), featuring Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Ken Lay, Police and Emergency Services Minister Kim Wells and more.

RUOK? Day

R U OK? Day is a national day of action on the second Thursday of September (12 September 2013) and reminds people to regularly check in with family and friends. The R U OK? Foundation works collaboratively with experts in suicide prevention and mental illness, as well as government departments, corporate leaders, teachers, universities, students and community groups. For more information on how you can ask someone RUOK? or other general information about the day please see related articles on CFA news. You can find the latest one here <http://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/news/ruok-day-article-3.html> or visit the RUOK? website at www.ruokday.com.

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful."

Albert Schweitzer