

URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

BY 3RD AUGUST



VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA

DATE: 8 July 2013
TO: Brigade Captain / OIC
SUBJECT: Planned Burning Survey

Dear Captain,

CFA and VFBV are conducting a study into the barriers & opportunities faced by brigades involved in planned burning, and the support they would need to become further involved.

Recently, CFA published an online survey for Brigades to feed their views into this study. Acknowledging that many Brigades do not have access to a computer or the internet, I have attached a paper version of that survey to ensure your Brigade has the opportunity to feed its views into this important work.

This survey is important; with many volunteers reporting to us over the years that they feel overly prescriptive permit conditions, and changes to legislation, regulations and community attitudes have made it steadily more difficult to undertake protective burning in their local areas. It is also widely acknowledged that planned burning is not only essential for risk reduction and protecting the community, but also provides an excellent opportunity for training and skills maintenance.

The study is not only looking at broad acre burns on crown land, but also the difficulties faced by brigades in managing smaller private burns in their areas, including those in the road & rail corridors.

This study is an opportunity for your Brigade to give key decision makers a good picture of who is ready to do more, what barriers they face and how best to support them in carrying out those activities in the future. The results will go to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, showing how brigades feel about prescribed burning, working alongside DEPI and the red tape they frequently encounter when undertaking these activities.

Attached, you will find;

- A Survey to be completed by brigades with have been involved with planned burns in the past. (Past 10 – 15 years for example) (Green)
- A Survey to be completed by brigades who have not had any involvement in planned burns in the past. (Blue)

You only need to complete one of the attached surveys. Simply choose the one most appropriate for your brigade. The **Green** one if your Brigade has been involved and/or conducted Planned Burns in the past, or the **Blue** one if your Brigade has not had any involvement.

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The survey closes on Saturday 3rd August, so I encourage you to complete the survey as soon as possible to ensure your views are considered.

VFBV has advocated for more time for the surveying period, but the timelines have been heavily influence by the desire for Government & CFA to review processes before next year's fire season. The closing date set by CFA needed to allow enough time for responses to be analysed and documented as part of the study. Whilst not ideal, I still strongly urge your brigade to be involved, and take part today.

You can return the survey via any of the following channels;

POST	FAX	EMAIL
VFBV C/- Adam Barnett 9/24 Lakeside Dr Burwood East, VIC 3149	(03) 9886 1618 Attention: Adam Barnett <u>Please return by Saturday 3rd August 2013</u>	a.barnett@vfbv.com.au

Alternatively, you can complete the survey online; brigades with little involvement in planned burning should go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/BRIGADES-NOINVOLVEMENT and brigades that often conduct planned burning should go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/Brigades-Involved

Should you need any assistance in completing the survey, or wish to discuss any of its contents, please feel free to contact Mark Jones, who we have appointed as a VFBV Project Officer for this work. You can contact Mark on;

Mark Jones
Project Officer

Phone: 0428 179 826 or Email m.jones@vfbv.com.au

I thank-you in advance for your assistance in completing the attached survey, and I look forward to advocating on behalf of your brigade and volunteers, informed by your brigade's wishes through the survey, in pursuing improved policies and procedures that would enable brigades to be more involved in planned burning should they wish to.

Yours sincerely



Adam Barnett
Executive Officer