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Brigade Captain
Brigade Training Officer

Your Ref:

Our Ref: LD07 Training Program

22 December 2017

The following is a list of the pre-requisites required to prior to making application to attend a course.

Please refer to SOP 1.1.15-1 for recommended minimum level of training required for your brigade classification (Rural Remote, Rural, Village 1 or Village 2) for guidance in developing a training path for your members.

SI (Safety Induction) – This is an internal NSW RFS program for new members to induct them into general workplace health and safety (WHS). It is available through MyRFS for members to access on receiving notification from Head Office indicating their successful membership application.

Two parts of this program are required to be completed, Part A theory assessment (online) and Part B practical demonstration at brigade station (to be forwarded to District L&D).

IND (Volunteer Induction) – This is an internal program for new NSW RFS members to induct them into the general operations and organisational structure of the NSW RFS.

It is available online through MyRFS for members to access on receiving notification from Head Office indicating their successful membership application.

BF (Bush Firefighter) – Membership notification received from H.O. and a letter presented to the captain saying they are now a probationary member of the brigade and have undertaken the RFS Safety Induction (SI) and Volunteer Induction (IND) programs through MyRFS.

The aim of the BF course is to give trainees the knowledge and skills to fight bush fires safely and effectively under constant and direct supervision. BF certification is required for the member to be able to attend any incidents with the brigade.

VF (Village Firefighter) – Have obtained Bush Firefighter (BF) certification or equivalent. The VF course is an extension of BF training to cover village type fires/incidents using defensive techniques. It covers fire behaviour, safety, use of equipment, team work, procedures and fire protection systems. Only firefighters who expect to attend village type fires/incidents need training to VF level.

It is highly desirable that nominees already have the ability to bowl and roll 38mm and 65mm canvass hose by hand, ship and install a standpipe, branch skills and a reasonable level of flexibility to work and advance in a low position for defensive fire fighting.

AF (Advanced Firefighter) – Have obtained Bush Firefighter (BF) certification or equivalent. Advanced Firefighter is the level of competency needed to fight bush and grass fires without constant and direct supervision. The AF course is designed to give trainees a range of knowledge and skills to enable them to maintain equipment, map reading, hydraulics and pumping, safety, fire weather, fire behaviour and fire prevention.

The expectation of an AF certified member is that they have obtained significant experience and applied expertise in fighting bush fires to lead a crew and take responsibility on the fireground when required by the crew leader.

This has been modularised into **API** (Advanced Principles Introduction), **CSW** (Crew Safety Welfare), **NAV** (Navigation), **HYD** (Hydraulics) and **WFB** (Wildfire Behaviour). All five are required to obtain the AF qualification.

CLW (Crew Leader Wildfire) – Have obtained Advanced Firefighter (AF) certification or equivalent. The course is designed to give trainees a range of knowledge and skills for leading a crew involving bush, forest, grass and crop fires. That is the knowledge and skills to size up the situation, determine tactics, implement appropriate strategies and procedures and issue appropriate orders so as to co-ordinate the work of firefighters.

Crew Leader certification is required for obtaining Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain or Captain rank within the brigade with the appropriate brigade classification to lead a crew.

CLV (Crew Leader Village) – Have obtained Village Firefighter (VF) certification or equivalent. The course is designed to give trainees a range of knowledge and skills for leading a crew with village fire incidents. While the types of incidents and tactics mentioned are similar to those covered in Village Firefighter (VF), VF training focuses on the carrying out of actions by firefighters at incidents, whereas CLV covers how the crew leader makes decisions at those incidents and leads those firefighters.

Crew Leader certification is required for obtaining Deputy Captain, Senior Deputy Captain or Captain rank within the brigade with the appropriate brigade classification to lead a crew.

CLS (Crew Leader Supervision) – Have obtained Crew Leader Wildfire (CLW) and/or Crew Leader Village (CLV) certification or equivalent, to be in line with your brigade classification. The course is designed to give trainees training in supervisory skills, such as leadership, operational management, Incident Control Systems (ICS), and safety.

The trainee has already received training in tactical skills to lead a single unit at wildfire incident in the CLW course. If the trainee is in a village brigade, the trainee should have received village tactical skills training in CLV.

CLS will enable the trainee to supervise small-scale operations, typically involving up to about 5 units in either situation and also assist the Group Captain when required at a single or multi agency response, with the ability to lead a Strike Team or Task Force or fill the role of Sector Leader.

RFD (Rural Fire Driver– Bush Firefighter (BF) & the appropriate driver's licence held for a minimum of 12 months. It is the level of competency needed to drive firefighting vehicles under operational conditions.

It is preferred the applicant has had some experience at driving the appropriate RFS vehicle and can comfortably drive a manual shift vehicle.

FAA (First Aid Application) – Have Bush Firefighter (BF). This is an internal RFS specialist qualification for members, who can provide first aid to injured persons under operational conditions, ie: at an incident, or in general.

TFT (Trim and cross cut felled trees) – Have Bush Firefighter (BF). Desirable that the trainee have chainsaw experience and be able to start the chainsaw, carry equipment required in the field for 8hrs, able to work on uneven ground and manoeuvrability to avoid possible hazards during operation.

PBS (Prescribed Burning Supervision) – Have Suppress Wildfire (PUAFIR303A) Crew leader Wildfire (CLW) certification plus Introduction to Incident Control System (ICS) or Supervise Response (PUAOPE001B) Crew Leader Supervision (CLS).

The course is designed to build upon existing crew leader skills and develop skills to supervise a prescribed burn by achieving the objectives of a burn prescription in the safest, most cost-effective way.

BAO (Breathing Apparatus Operator) – Have VF certification (PUAFIR202B) for a minimum of 12 months, hold a current first aid certificate and passing a specified medical examination.

Breathing Apparatus Operator is the level of competence needed to undertake offensive firefighting using compressed air breathing apparatus. Competency maintenance for BAO requires the use of breathing apparatus set under training or actual firefighting conditions once every three months and hot fire training once a year (Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus SOP's 2008).

ASA (Assessment Advocate) – Have obtained AF certification or equivalent qualification (or BF certification if it is in the interest of the District and authorised by the District Learning & Development Officer).

This is the level of competence needed for members who are willing to contribute to the process of assessment. ASAs gather evidence of competence on behalf of qualified assessors (ASRs). ASAs can only gather evidence to the same level they are qualified to.

CBD (Conduct Briefings/Debriefings) – The Conduct Briefings/Debriefings program is for members who carry out relative complex briefings and debriefings, for example brigade officers, Group Officers or senior members responsible for coordination of crews at an incident.

The program enables members to prepare and conduct precise and effective briefings and debriefings. It covers situations from crew briefings/debriefings up to those required by senior staff at major incidents.

This program is targeted at members of the RFS with leadership roles such as RFS career staff and senior volunteer officers, being a minimum of Deputy Captain of a brigade.

Course Nominations

All course nominations need to be signed off by the captain in the Nomination Approval area on the Training Nomination Form. Could you also put a priority on members for courses such as CSO, RFD and FAA with “1” being the person most preferred to attend the course. A copy should also be kept for the brigade records for training undertaken by their members.

If you have any further questions relating to training, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss the issues of concern.

Tamsyne Harlen
A/ Learning & Development Officer