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Fire Chief awards off duty police officer

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ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) Chief Officer Paul Swain has today presented a Chief Officer's Commendation award to an off duty police officer following the heroic actions at a Kambah house fire earlier this month.

"It is my pleasure to award off-duty Australian Federal Police (AFP) Officer Clint Gordon with a Chief Officer Commendation after rescuing an elderly occupant and extinguishing a fire," ACTF&R Chief Officer Paul Swain said.

"Clint's quick actions have no doubt saved the life of the resident and minimised fire damage to a home," he said.

At approximately 1pm, off duty police officer Clint Gordon noticed smoke issuing from a house on Trussell Place, Kambah on 5 June, 2013. Clint investigated and identified that a fire was burning in the kitchen and that an elderly occupant was still inside. Clint entered the house and due to smoke logging, was required to crawl to search for the occupant. The 96-year-old male resident was found in a rear bedroom and Clint shielded the resident with a jacket, leading him to safety on the front porch in the care of neighbours.

"Clint's actions then continued heroically by breaking the kitchen window with a garden rake and extinguishing the fire with a garden hose before the arrival of ACT Fire & Rescue," Chief Officer Swain said.

"Officer Clint Gordon selflessly entered a heavily smoke logged burning house at great personal risk to himself to search for and rescue the elderly occupant," he said.

"This exemplifies the professionalism and dedication of the AFP and its members and is highly deserving of this ACT Fire & Rescue Chief Officer Commendation.

ACT Policing Deputy Chief Police Officer Charmaine Quade congratulated Constable Clint Gordon on his bravery at the Commendation award ceremony.

"We are extremely proud of the actions of many of our officers who selflessly protect and serve our community both on and off duty," Deputy Chief Police Officer Quade said.

"Constable Gordon has shown tremendous commitment to his role as a police officer by attending to the situation while off duty. He is an asset to the Canberra community and highly deserving of this commendation."