



Media Release

New Emergency Portal to assist volunteers

Number 2013-012

Status Immediate release

Date Friday, 25 October, 2013

ESA Commissioner Dominic Lane has thanked the community for the huge interest in joining the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) and has asked potential new volunteers to visit Volunteering ACT's new Emergency Volunteering Portal www.emergencyvolunteering.com.au.

"The Emergency Volunteering Portal has been developed by Volunteering ACT as a way to volunteer with emergency service agencies as well as to inform ACT residents about preparedness for natural disasters and to provide updates on emergency volunteering news and current opportunities," ESA Commissioner Dominic Lane said.

"The community can register as an emergency volunteer by visiting www.emergencyvolunteering.com.au or downloading the Ready ACT smartphone app and fill out a form with their details and skills," he said.

"Volunteering ACT is the one point of contact for the Australian Capital Territory in the case of an emergency for people who want to volunteer and for organisations seeking volunteers.

"I would like to congratulate the team at Volunteering ACT for drawing up the framework and creating such a portal that the community can easily access.

"Volunteering ACT will act as a central agency to register offers of assistance from individuals pledging their time to volunteer and requests for assistance from organisations seeking volunteers in disaster preparation, response and recovery activities.

"Four ACTRFS taskforces have been sent to work in the Sydney Basin since the first request last Thursday with more deployments to assist in firefighting efforts in NSW also a possibility.

"With the current fire emergency in NSW, the ACTRFS has received over 100 offers from the ACT community to join in the past week.

"Volunteering with the ACTRFS can be a very rewarding experience and help the Canberra community and other jurisdictions across Australia in times of need," ESA Commissioner Dominic Lane said.

"Next year, a series of information sessions and intakes will be held for members of the Canberra community who are interested in joining the ACTRFS," he said.