

Hazard Action

September 2016



Safety Officer Pack Rollout



Over the past few months the Operations Coordinator has been working on assembling a Safety Officer pack which meets the needs of SRFA operations. Having looked at material available through the National Rural Fire Authority and safety officer packs recently rolled out by the New Zealand Fire Service, the SRFA safety officer pack is a blend of the best of both.

Each safety officer kit consists of:

- 1 Safety Officer Vest
- Safety Officer Responsibilities guide
- Incident Ground Hazard Assessment forms
- Safety Issue Checklist for rural fire situations
- A3 Incident Hazard Board
- Incident report card
- Stationary

A training / induction session will be delivered to each VRFF station prior to the packs going onto their appliances to ensure

the position is clearly understood by all personnel, when a safety officer should be put into place and who will undertake this function in the field. Training for agency and contract fire crews will be arranged.

The first fire crew to receive this training was Invercargill Parks fire crew which undertook both theory training around the role as well as putting the pack to work at a small number of live fire exercises undertaken as part of their scheduled training days.

All SRFA vehicles will be equipped with a safety officer kit once training at the location has been completed. It is hoped that all kits will be rolled out and training completed by early October to most locations.

Safety Officer is not a new role, but we are now providing tools to support the role.

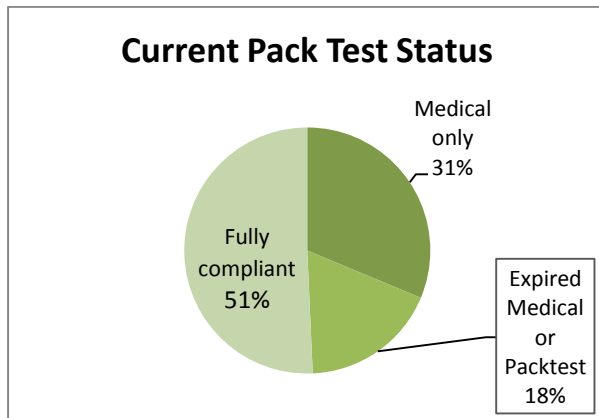
Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

Elton Smith has recently completed the required modules through SIT to obtain the Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (Level 6) qualification. This is an extramural programme which has been completed over the past 12-18 months.

Medical Checks

Over the coming months we will be undertaking medical checks with a number of VRFF and fire crews. The Operations Coordinator will be in touch with the following stations to arrange medicals during September - October:

- Athol Volunteer Rural Fire Force
- Waikawa Volunteer Rural Fire Force
- Garston Volunteer Rural Fire Force
- Invercargill Parks Rural Fire Crew
- Milford Sound Emergency Response Team
- Ernslaw One Tapanui Staff



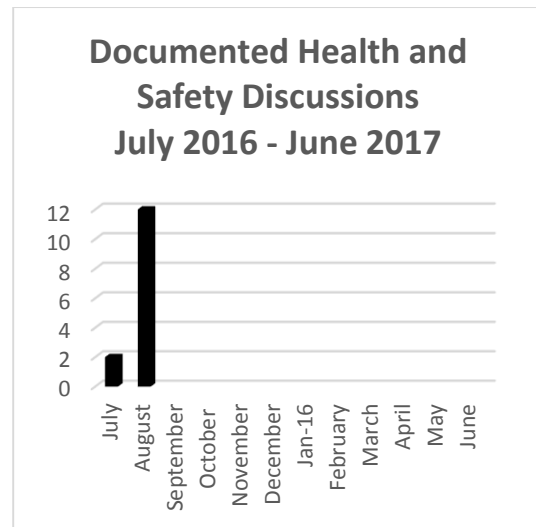
Note: Subject to consistent change

Rural Fire Deployment Register

Those personnel that are part of the Southern Rural Fire Authority deployment register will be contacted directly to have your medical and pack test arranged over the next 6-8 weeks in preparation for the coming fire season.



Documented Health and Safety Discussions



There were 12 documented health and safety discussions recorded for August which consisted of:

- 11 August - DoC training
- 12 August - DoC training
- 18 August - Fulton Hogan training
- 18 August - Athol VRFF
- 18 August - Blackmount VRFF
- 19 August - Fulton Hogan training
- 22 August - Garston VRFF
- 23 August - Southroads training
- 24 August - Southroads training
- 25 August - Hedgehope VRFF
- 25 August - Southroads Training
- 26 August - Southroads Training

As a result of recommendations made at the last VRFF controllers and health & safety representatives meeting, record of safety discussion form has also been included as part of the VRFF training activity sheets which are returned to SRFA each month. This will result in a significant increase in the reporting of safety discussions which were previously held but not reported.

Accidents and Near Miss Incidents

There were no reported accidents or near miss incidents.

Number of injury accidents reported July 2016 - June 2017

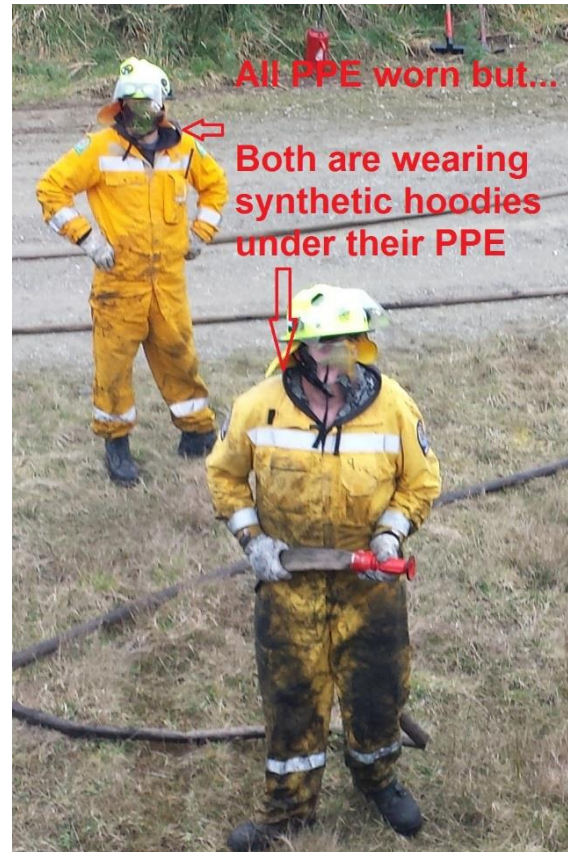


If we do not wear all our PPE or wear our PPE inappropriately we are putting ourselves and our fellow fire fighters at risk of injury.

Recently during fire training activities a number of fire fighters were observed (and corrected) wearing inappropriate clothing beneath their PPE, for example synthetic hoodies and other clothing which has a very low ignition threshold and will result in serious burns if ignited (despite wearing all other PPE).

It is YOUR responsibility to ensure that you wear your PPE appropriately and ensure those working alongside you do as well. If you see any individual you must correct them for their own safety.

Number of near miss incidents July 2016 - June 2017



It is not important who or where these firefighters are from, but it is important we learn from their mistake.

Dust Mask and Goggle Kits

Earlier in the year it was reported that dust mask and goggle kits would be issued to all VRRFF locations. Those stations that have not yet been issued kits will receive these by mid October 2016.



Personal Protective Equipment

As we all should know our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) exists to protect you from a range of potential hazards associated with fire fighting and other emergency work we engage in.

New Look and Layout

The old SRFA Health and Safety Updates have been in need of a facelift for some time now. To make the move towards something that is a bit easier for all personnel to be engaged in, I give you Hazard Action!

