

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS Road Awareness Program educates Yorke Peninsula students

Friday, 17 October 2014

You might choose to take a risk on the roads, but you cannot choose the consequences.

That's the message Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will reinforce to **Yorke Peninsula** students when the organisation's Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits local high schools next week.

MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas said RAP is a confronting, hard-hitting yet positive program that's delivered to licence aged high school students across South Australia.

"While the program can be emotional and challenging for the students, it leaves them feeling uplifted and empowered to create positive changes in driver behaviour on the roads, including positive peer pressure amongst their friendship groups."

MFS Station Officer Thomas will be joined by guest presenter and road crash survivor Eli Murn, who now lives with an acquired brain injury. Together, they'll ask students how many people are impacted by a fatal or serious injury road crash.

"People tend to think it's just close friends and family who are impacted by a serious road crash, when in fact it can run into the hundreds of people who are left traumatised, saddened and devastated. Road tragedies can be acutely painful for close-knit regional communities," MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas said.

The use of mobile phones by drivers and pedestrians will also be a focus of the program.

"The dangers of using a mobile phone while driving are very real. It has the potential to cause a driver to lose their own life or cause the loss of other lives, including those of their friends. Mobile phone use is one of the key road risks students will learn about," MFS Station Officer Thomas said.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 110,000 licence aged drivers across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

WHAT: Yorke Peninsula students urged to look after their mates at
MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations

WHERE & WHEN: See session times and locations below:

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Mon, 20 Oct	9.00 am	Moonta Area School	90 minutes
Mon, 20 Oct	1.00 pm	Kadina Memorial School <i>With Pt Broughton students attending.</i>	90 minutes
Tues, 21 Oct	9.00 am	Minlaton District School School <i>With Ardrossan Area School, Maitland Area School and Yorketown Area School students.</i>	90 minutes

VISUAL AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator Chas Thomas, crash survivor Eli Murn and local students will be available for interview.

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

www.mfs.sa.gov.au