

Hon Chris Picton MP

Minister for Emergency Services

Friday 2 February 2018

Enhanced fire and rescue response for Port Adelaide

With the redevelopment of Port Adelaide well underway, the State Government is investing in an enhanced Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) marine capability to boost community safety.

The MFS emergency response vessel 'Gallantry' will now have a dedicated crew, with an additional Marine Response Officer role being appointed to provide enhanced fire and rescue coverage to marine vessel incidents and potential structure or industry fires along the shoreline.

Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton said the large scale development around the Port and Osborne ship yards and expectations of increased boating and water activity mean it's important the MFS have a dedicated marine crew.

The enhanced marine capability is being delivered as part of a recruitment expansion of 50 new firefighters to be undertaken over the next three years.

This boost for South Australian jobs will enhance the productivity, efficiency and effectiveness of MFS operations to benefit firefighter and community safety. These positions will be offset by a reduction in overtime costs.

The MFS strongly encourages women and people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to apply when recruitment occurs.

Background

MFS marine crews respond to a variety of water and land emergencies, including vessels in distress, vessel fires, battling shoreline industrial and residential structure fires, supporting SAPOL with marine search and rescue and supporting the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure with oil spill response.

Currently, if there's a marine emergency, an MFS Marine Officer (Duty Master) and specially trained Largs North firefighting crew deploy to the Gallantry vessel.

The new 24/7 Marine Response Officer role will provide greater flexibility and more rapid response to water and land based emergencies.

The MFS currently has about 20 MFS firefighters trained for marine, with training of each firefighter taking approximately six years and ongoing training required.

Application to recruitment in the MFS is incredibly competitive and bolstering recruitment and reformed practices are designed specifically to increase diversity in the ranks. Women and people with culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Quotes attributable to Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton

We are enhancing our marine response capability at Port Adelaide – an area of significant importance to our State’s economy.

The Port Adelaide precinct continues to grow with residential, business and industrial development and this enhanced firefighting capability will provide even greater protection to the Port Adelaide community, as well as industry.

An extra 50 firefighters is fantastic news for those wanting to start their career as a firefighter with the MFS. It will also enable the MFS to bolster response capacity and make savings on overtime costs to operate more efficiently.

Quotes attributable to MFS Chief Officer, Greg Crossman

The addition of a Marine Response Officer role will enhance the MFS’ ability to respond to marine vessel incidents and emergencies across the Port River’s shoreline and beyond.

By having a dedicated Gallantry crew, the Largs North MFS firefighting crew will now have more options to respond to marine or land based emergencies.

Quotes attributable to Member for Port Adelaide Susan Close

Today’s announcement is fantastic news for our local community.

Port Adelaide has transformed from a historic maritime precinct to a thriving residential, commercial and tourist destination.

The appointment of an expanded marine crew ensures the safety of our growing community.

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