

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS Chief Officer Greg Crossman retires after 40 years of service

Tuesday, 17 July 2018

After 40 years of service with the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), Chief Officer Greg Crossman has announced his retirement.

Chief Officer Crossman joined the MFS as a firefighter in 1978, earning the Dux Award of his recruit squad.

In addition to serving as an operational firefighter, Chief Officer Crossman served in the Community Safety and Resilience Department, the Learning and Development Department and in Corporate Services.

He ascended through the ranks of Firefighter, Senior Firefighter, Station Officer and District Officer before becoming an Assistant Chief Fire Officer in 2010.

Mr Crossman was appointed as MFS Chief Officer and Chief Executive Officer in March 2015, serving at the organisation's highest level for the past three and a half years.

MFS Chief Officer Crossman said he recently reflected on his 40-year career with the MFS, which began at the age of 20.

"I feel incredibly privileged to have enjoyed a career serving the community of South Australia over the past four decades. The MFS is an organisation that I dearly love. It is filled with good people who are committed to enhancing community safety through protecting lives, property, assets, critical infrastructure and the economy."

"My family is the most important thing in the world to me, and I recently reflected on whether I'd like to commit to a further three years as Chief Officer – after 40 years of service. Despite my passion for community safety, I felt very strongly that it was time to retire in order to spend time with my wife and family, including our four beautiful grandchildren," MFS Chief Officer Crossman said.

Minister for Emergency Services, Corey Wingard, said South Australia has greatly benefited from Chief Officer Crossman's outstanding service through his exemplary dedication and commitment.

"Chief Officer Crossman joined the MFS in 1978 and served in various roles in the fire service including operations and community safety while maintaining an ongoing interest in his staff's personal development," Minister Wingard said.

"He has also been awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal, the Australian National Medal and Clasp, and the MFS Exemplary Service Medal, among his achievements," he said.

"On behalf of all South Australians I thank Chief Officer Crossman for his service with the MFS and offer my best wishes for a well-deserved retirement."

MFS Chief Officer Crossman's final working day with the MFS will be Tuesday, 17 July 2018 before commencing leave. He farewelled staff this morning.

Current MFS Deputy Chief Officer, Michael Morgan will be appointed as Acting MFS Chief Officer, while current Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Paul Fletcher will be appointed as Acting MFS Deputy Chief Officer for an interim period of 12 months, to provide continuity.

Retiring MFS Chief Officer Crossman looks back proudly on his career and has great optimism for the organisation's future under the new leadership team.

"Michael Morgan has been given the responsibility of leading the organisation until July next year. Together with Acting Deputy Chief Officer Paul Fletcher, he is looking forward to progressing the great work of the MFS in enhancing community safety. I leave the MFS in very capable hands."

Please see further information about Chief Officer Crossman on the following page.

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

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Gregory Crossman, AFSM, MBA

Chief Officer and Chief Executive – South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

Chief Officer Greg Crossman was appointed as MFS Chief Officer in 2015.

Chief Officer Crossman joined the MFS in October 1978 as a Firefighter and progressed through the ranks to Assistant Chief Fire Officer in 2010 before being appointed as Chief Officer.

Greg has served in various departments within the MFS, including Operations, Community Safety, Learning and Development and Corporate Services. He has maintained a personal interest in people development and lifelong learning throughout his career.

Chief Officer Crossman holds a Graduate Certificate in Business and Masters of Business Administration with a focus on Human Resource Management.

He was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) and the Australian National Medal and Clasp for his services in advancing the firefighting profession and service to the community of South Australia; and the MFS Exemplary Service Medal.

Greg is a past President and a founding member of the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF), a registered charity that provides a mechanism for paid firefighters to give back to the community through volunteer work and philanthropic endeavours. He still maintains interest in the Foundation.

Greg was also the Chair of the Fire Service Credit Union, a position that he held for over 13 years prior to becoming a Director of the Fire Service Credit Union, joining the board in 1996.

Chief Officer Crossman was a member of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC), a Board Director of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) Board and a Trustee of the SA Metropolitan Fire Service Superannuation Scheme.

His interests include strategic planning and forward thinking; leadership development; social sciences, philosophy and people; history; music; health and wellbeing of Emergency Services personnel; and family.

Chief Officer Crossman helped lead a collaborative approach to sector-wide emergency service reform and contemporary industrial relations.

As Chief Officer and Chief Executive, Greg Crossman was responsible for 36 fire stations, a marine section, training college and engineering workshops, and a staff of over 1,100 firefighters and corporate personnel, providing fire and emergency services to a population of approximately 1.3 million people.

In his tenure as MFS Chief Officer, Greg Crossman has worked together with the Senior Management Team and MFS personnel to achieve many projects, including;

- Negotiating an Enterprise Agreement bringing 54 new staff to the MFS to provide additional relief firefighting positions and departmental staff
- Enhancing the organisation's Marine capability
- Sign off and progression of first phase of establishing a new fire behaviour training module with construction of a new live fire training facility at Angle Park Training Centre
- Instigating the establishment of a new Wellbeing and Safety Department
- Engaging with the Equal Opportunity Commission to develop an MFS strategy for Diversity and Inclusion
- Establishing a recruitment strategy to increase workforce diversity
- Development and implementation of a Workforce Doctrine to underpin workforce culture and values
- Working with the emergency services sector to create a better cross agency service to the community (state-wide response and planning)
- Improving recognition of service and formalising links to retiring and retired firefighters.

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Michael Morgan, AFSM, MBA (HRM), AIFireE

Acting Chief Officer and Chief Executive – South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

Michael Morgan joined the MFS as a firefighter in 1986 and is currently in the 33rd year of his career with the organisation.

He progressed through the ranks as an operational Firefighter, through to Station Officer, District Officer (now Commander rank) and was appointed as an Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) in 2010.

Michael's career has had a strong operational focus, serving as the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of (Firefighting) Operations for six years before being appointed as Deputy Chief Officer in 2015.

Newly Acting Chief Officer Michael Morgan is passionate about Human Resources, firefighter and staff welfare, workforce change, enhancing workforce diversity and equality, projects involving Corporate Social Responsibility and encouraging a culture where firefighters give back to the community they serve.

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