

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS Road Awareness Program to Educate Students in the South-East

Tuesday, 21st 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 students in the **South—East** 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 Officers Rod Campbell and Chas Thomas will be joined by guest presenter and road crash survivor Marcus Johnstone, who was text messaging while driving, which resulted in a major crash and the death of two of his friends.

The use of mobile phones by drivers and pedestrians will 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 program will also 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 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: South-East students urged to look after their mates at MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations

WHERE & WHEN: See session times and locations below:

Tuesday October 28, 2014	10:55am	Keith Area School (Tintinara Area School students attending)
Wednesday October 29, 2014	11:40am	Bordertown High School

VISUAL AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinators Rod Campbell and Chas Thomas, crash survivor Marcus Johnstone and local students will be available for interview.

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

To contact MFS RAP Coordinator, Rod Campbell directly, please call 0437 386 674

www.mfs.sa.gov.au