

Friday, 22 May 2009

## **METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE WELCOMES 18 NEW RECRUITS**

16 men and 2 women will become the newest members of South Australia's Metropolitan Fire Service at a special graduation ceremony this morning.

Minster for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the new recruits on completing their gruelling 14-week training program.

"It's a pleasure to welcome these 18 enthusiastic individuals into our fire service and they should be extremely proud of the way they've achieved, given the many physical challenges they've faced as part of a stringent selection process," Minister Wright said.

The final group of 18 was selected from hundreds of applicants and have endured a rigorous training program, including general fire-fighting exercises, breathing apparatus training, operating in confined spaces, compartment fire-fighting as well as a range of technical rescue situations.

The training is second to none and its execution is not only a credit to instructors but also to the staff of the MFS Learning & Development Department who strive to develop best practice programs for delivery at all times.

MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton, said the 18 recruits exemplify the fire service's focus on safety and the importance of teamwork.

"I would like to commend our new firefighters for supporting one another during their intensive, challenging 14 weeks of training.

"Our recruits have worked hard as a team to gain the skills that will enable them to carry out their duties in a safe, effective and efficient manner," Mr Lupton said.

The Government is committed to providing our emergency services with the necessary resources to keep up with the ever-changing nature of emergency management. Since the Rann Government came to office, more than 200 new MFS fire fighters have been recruited.

"We're continually on the hunt for innovative ways to provide more efficient methods of fire control, faster extinguishment and greater conservation of resources including water.

The MFS now provides our fire fighters with the latest in world-class safety equipment, technology and personal protective equipment.

Additionally, the Government has committed funds for the construction and staffing of a new fire station at Seaford in the southern suburbs, while a brand new station at Paradise is now operational.

“I wish these impressive individuals the best of luck in their new role and commend them on their efforts to successfully fulfil their dream of becoming fire-fighters,” Minister Wright said.

**MEDIA NOTE: Media welcome to attend ceremony TODAY at 11 am at MFS headquarters, 99 Wakefield Street, Adelaide**