

media release



Greek firefighters battle Adelaide's heat

Thursday, 29 January 2009

Two Greek firefighters who battled tragic bushfires which claimed 76 lives in Greece in 2007 will today share their experiences with senior Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Country Fire Service (CFS) officers.

Major Ioannis Kapakis and Major Christos Lambris from the Hellenic Fire Service have spent several days in Adelaide encountering record temperatures while discussing valuable fire fighting lessons.

The pair will reveal the challenges they faced throughout the devastating 2007 fires at a presentation **at MFS Headquarters, Wakefield Street, Adelaide today.**

Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies, David Place, MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton, CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson and South Australia's Consul General of Greece, Dimitris Hatzopoulos will attend.

MFS District Officer, George Rodis and CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson were among a senior fire fighting delegation sent to Greece in 2007 after the fatal fires, to offer expertise and support.

MFS Chief Officer Lupton says, "Today, Major Kapakis and Major Lambris will further cement the strong bond between the MFS, CFS and the Hellenic Fire Service when they share the wisdom of their experiences with fatal bushfires."

"The MFS and CFS can easily relate to the difficulties faced by the Hellenic Fire Service, given our own battles with bushfire, including the recent Proper Bay Fire at Port Lincoln," Mr Lupton said.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson says the Hellenic Fire Service recognises the high quality of service that CFS volunteers and MFS firefighters provide during bushfire.

Mr Lawson says, "The CFS and MFS hope that their relationship with the Hellenic Fire Service will continue to grow, so that all three services can reap the rewards of exchanging skills and knowledge."

Media are invited to attend today's presentation.

WHEN: Interview, vision and photograph opportunities AT 3.40 pm today.

WHERE: Level 4, MFS Headquarters, 99 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.