

Friday, 19 September 2008

## SA CONGRATULATES STATE'S NEWEST FIREFIGHTING RECRUITS

18 metropolitan fire fighters will become the freshest faces of the fire service, when they attend this morning's graduation ceremony marking the completion of a gruelling 14-week training program.

Minster for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, will attend the ceremony to congratulate the newest members of the Metropolitan Fire Service.

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

Over the last 3 months 17 men and one woman underwent a rigorous training program, which included general fire-fighting, 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.

"The Government is committed to providing our emergency services with appropriate resources to keep pace with the ever-changing nature of emergency management. Since the Rann Government came to office, it recruited more than 200 new MFS fire fighters, which brings the total number of serving officers in the department to 806.

"We're continually on the look out 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 establishment and staffing of a new fire station at Seaford in the southern suburbs, while a brand new station is currently under construction at Paradise

The recruits graduating from the most recent course will enable the new station to be staffed.

"I am equally eager to welcome another round of graduates who are due to complete their training course at the end of next month," Minister Wright said.

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