

## Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

The volunteer bush fire brigades in the Shire of Mundaring provide fire protection and suppression services for the whole Shire and assist in areas under the control of the Department of Environment and Conservation.



The volunteer brigades operate with a total of 14 Light Tankers, 2 x 3.4s, 2 x 4.4s, and an Incident Control Vehicle.

All brigades have at least one **Light Tanker**. The Light Tanker is a versatile, rapid, first response appliance designed to allow quick and easy access to fires in many situations. Due to its small size and 4WD capability, the Light Tanker can negotiate terrain that many larger appliances cannot. It's ideal for our rugged, heavily wooded, hilly and gravel terrain.

The **3.4 Urban Tanker** and the **4.4 Rural Tanker** are both ideal for firefighting in open pasture/grasslands, open bush, and forest and residential areas. Both are 4 wheel drive and carry crews of 4-6 personnel. The appliances carry 3000 and 4000 litres of water respectively.

The 3.4 Urban Tanker carries a large variety of equipment including breathing apparatus which is necessary for structural firefighting.

Mt Helena and Parkerville each operate a 3.4 Urban Tanker, while Chidlow and Wooroloo each operate a 4.4 Urban Tanker.

## Darling Range Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Darling Range Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade operates the **Incident Control Vehicle** (ICV).

The ICV establishes a Forward Control Point for larger incidents, controls access to this area, establishes and operates communications and provides general operational assistance to the Incident Management Team.



Communications is provided through two-way radios, fax, mobile and satellite phones. All radio traffic is recorded on a 4 channel tape recorder. Additional equipment carried includes a Mobile Duplex Repeater.

The ICV personnel liaise with other agencies such as Police, FRS, DEC, SES and Air Reconnaissance.

Based in Mundaring but covering the whole Shire, this brigade is the ideal place for undertaking a challenging non-fire fighting role.



## Collar Tank Team

This is a less strenuous activity than bush firefighting but no less essential. To allow helicopters (Helitacs) to operate more efficiently a water source is required as close as possible to the fire.



A collar tank is a large plastic polymer container with a capacity of 7,500 litres of water. As it fills with water, from the base, a collar floats up, keeping the top open from which the Helitacs fill their tanks. Hovering 3 metres above the tank, the Helitac draws up 1,100 litres in 50 seconds through a snorkel.

Using the collar tank two Helitacs can refill and drop water directly onto the fire as frequently as every 90 seconds. This rapid turnaround is a critical factor in fire suppression and the prevention of serious property damage.



*This document was produced with the support of the Shire of Mundaring*

## Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue

The Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service was formed in December 1995 to provide a Structural, Road Rescue, Hazardous Material and Bush Fire unit to cater for the expanding Hills community and assets that were at risk.

It was formed by members of the then existing Mundaring Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. All members of this brigade can access training from basic fire fighting right through to incident command and control.



This brigade is equipped with state of the art breathing apparatus, road rescue equipment (jaws of life), hazardous chemical suits and other equipment to tackle emergency situations.

The brigade also caters for junior members from the age of 11- 17 years. They are not able to attend incidents.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT  
IN CASE OF FIRE  
DIAL 000**



# Mundaring Firefighters School MFS

In 1995 the MFS was established by a group of dedi-  
cated bush fire fighting volunteers.



The school covers all aspects of a training provider  
from Training Needs Analysis, course design, course  
delivery and assessment.

Support tasks include organisation of courses, main-  
tenance of training records and general administra-  
tion.

Approximately 20 courses are conducted per training  
year (May to November), involving 150 students.

As well as delivering the accredited basic firefighting  
courses, the MFS has developed its own seminars to  
compliment and expand FESA training. The school  
adapts the curriculum to reflect the changing needs  
required by local and national demands.



# 3rd January 2008 - Parkerville

A severe bushfire swept through Parkerville on 3rd  
January 2008 threatening many lives and properties.

Despite it being early afternoon, all of the Shire of Mun-  
daring brigades responded. Volunteers left work and  
families. Some had their own houses in the path of the  
fire – yet they still went to help their neighbours.



It was a fast moving wildfire that caused extensive  
damage. In about 5 hours it ripped through 300 hec-  
tares and destroyed 2 houses, 17 sheds and 17 cars  
before it was contained. Over 90 appliances attended  
and 196 water drops (31,500 litres) were made by Heli-  
tacs and water bombers.

In over 3 days alone the Shire of Mundaring volunteers  
dedicated nearly 2,000 volunteered hours! Many more  
hours werespent completing the cleanup and patrols  
over the ensuing weeks.

## Volunteer Roles - for men & women

- Firefighting
- Equipment maintenance
- Community safety and education
- Public relations and assisting other agencies
- Hazard reduction burning, during the cooler months
- Support, e.g. communications, incident manage-  
ment
- Administration, e.g. secretary, treasurer, records Of-  
ficer, membership/recruitment
- Ancillary, e.g. station maintenance,  
social coordinator, fund-raising

# Benefits

- Opportunities to make friends
- Develop new skills and knowledge
- Apply existing skill and knowledge to new situations
- Explore the opportunities to develop initiatives
- Develop leadership skills
- Improve interpersonal, communication and team-  
work skills
- Opportunity to help others
- The respect and admiration of the community

# You will receive

- Personal protective equipment
- Insurance cover
- Professional, comprehensive and ongoing training
- Support from the Shire and FESA

# Are you ready?

Become a part of this elite dedicated group. Receive self-  
esteem, friendship and the respect of your community.

# To contact us or to find out more

Visit your local Fire Station on a Saturday morning or  
just make a phone call. You'll be welcomed.

- |                                       |                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Chidlow VBFB                        | 9572 3016             |
| • Darlington VBFB                     | 9299 7217             |
| • Glen Forrest VBFB                   | 9298 8936/0438 964099 |
| • Mt Helena                           | 9572 1414             |
| • Parkerville                         | 9295 4484/0428 916950 |
| • Sawyers Valley                      | 0417 970895           |
| • Stoneville                          | 9295 6457             |
| • Wooroloo (Sat.9.30-11.00)           | 9573 1166             |
| • Darling Range VBFB (whole of shire) | 0417 927510           |
| (Communications)                      |                       |
| • Collar Tank Team – Darlington VBFB  | 9299 7217             |
| • Mundaring Firefighting School       | 0407 997 024          |
| • Mundaring VFERS                     | 9295 6555/0418 329893 |

email: [Volunteer@bfb.asn.au](mailto:Volunteer@bfb.asn.au)  
web: [www.volunteer.bfb.asn.au](http://www.volunteer.bfb.asn.au)

# MUNDARING VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICES



# ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY? MAYBE NOT?

The Shire of Mundaring has 10 volunteer fire brigades.

Just like you, the volunteers are residents of the area  
and have jobs and families. But they dedicate their time  
to suddenly leaving work or dinner with loved ones to  
rush and protect your property. Fire does not choose  
'the when and where'.

There are never enough volunteers, especially during  
the working week. We are busy people with other com-  
mitments and volunteering is often the very last thing  
one considers. But isn't this your property, your lifestyle  
and your community? Please do not assume that some-  
one else will be the volunteer.

Too much work falls on too few people, no matter how  
rewarding it may be.

You can rely on us but -

# WE NEED YOU!!