



# Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

## What do the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services do?

Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) volunteers play a significant and vital role in helping to ensure their local communities are safe. VFES volunteers serve their local communities on a voluntary basis by undertaking both operational and non-operational roles. Not all VFES units are the same, volunteer roles and activities can vary depending on where you live.

The role of a VFES unit may vary and is determined by factors such as:

- the level of fire prevention and risk management required within their communities;
- the need to educate school children on fire safety;
- other community requirements.

VFES volunteers can respond to a range of local emergencies such as:

- structure, bush and scrub fires;
- hazardous materials emergencies;
- vehicle and industrial rescue;
- floods, storms and cyclones;
- cliff and cave rescues;
- land and air searches; and
- marine rescues.

## What volunteer roles are available?

Volunteers undertake various roles according to their abilities, interests, and what they are comfortable with. The different volunteer roles are listed below.

- Firefighting
- Fire support
- Hazardous material recovery (HAZMAT)
- Road crash rescue
- Storm and flood response
- Search and Rescue
- Vertical rescue
- Radio communications
- Operations
- Logistics
- Administration
- Equipment maintenance
- Leadership
- Training
- Welfare





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## What are the benefits of volunteering?

- Serving your community
- Increasing your knowledge and skills
- Achieving personal satisfaction
- Meeting new people
- Being actively involved in emergency services
- Challenging yourself
- Applying your skills in new environments.

## What will I be doing?

Time commitments vary between units but a typical commitment range is:

- one training night per month;
- one meeting per month; and
- attending incidents when you are available.

Responsibilities include the below.

- Attend incidents whenever possible
- Follow instructions given by officers
- Use service equipment and vehicles in a safe manner
- Attend meetings as required
- Participate in training
- Maintain a reasonable level of fitness, appropriate to allocated tasks
- Maintain vehicles, equipment and personal protective clothing.

## Unit contact information

Unit Name:
Unit member:
Position:
Contact details:

## For more information

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

[www.dfes.wa.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/volunteering)

[volunteering@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:volunteering@dfes.wa.gov.au)

Emergency Services Volunteers Association Inc.

[www.esva.asn.au](http://www.esva.asn.au)

