



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Firefighters put their skills on display at 20th annual Northern Field Exercise

19 March 2021

Hundreds of NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) members will hone their firefighting and emergency response skills at the 20th annual Northern Field Exercise at Glen Innes Showground this weekend.

Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall and NSW RFS Deputy Commissioner Peter McKechnie will welcome more than 300 NSW RFS members at a ceremony Saturday morning, with more than 50 trucks representing 13 NSW RFS Districts.

Mr Marshall said members will have their skills tested across the weekend in a number of roles including firefighting, catering, communications and incident management functions; all critical roles in large scale emergencies.

“The exercise will see crews from all across the region put through their paces in a variety of real-life operational scenarios, while staying at a Basecamp located at the Glen Innes Showgrounds,” Mr Marshall said.

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said crews will complete 12 training scenarios, including bush firefighting, motor vehicle accident response, multi-agency response, first aid, critical incident support and vehicle maintenance scenarios.

“These exercises provide a safe learning environment in which volunteers and staff can refine their skills, learn new techniques and share ideas with each other,” Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said.

“The NSW RFS is committed to ensuring members are provided with comprehensive training and the state-of-the-art equipment required to protect their local communities.

“This exercise will demonstrate the diverse nature of our work and the many skills required to be a volunteer with the NSW RFS.”

Deputy Commissioner McKechnie said noted that North Western and North Eastern Area Command regions, like most parts of NSW had had a relatively quieter season compared to last, giving most members some welcome respite.

“Although the season has not been as busy, it’s still important to put skills to the test and keep updated with the latest techniques and practices.

“This event also provides us the opportunity to thank our volunteers for the many hours they have dedicated to protecting their communities and those of others across the state.”

With a COVID-19 safety plan, pre-registered crews will arrive in Glen Innes from today and will depart on Sunday afternoon following a prize giving presentation and closing ceremony. Unfortunately, this year’s event will be closed to the public.



For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
For current incidents or major fire updates visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au