

Chaplains Aspiration....

Believing that God is the answer to human's dilemma, the Chaplain stands ready to bear witness to the forgiving love and redeeming power of God, to all people, especially to those in crisis.

They pray that God will guide their thoughts, words and actions.

They seek to be a channel of God's love.

They desire to serve as a source of support and counsel to the Rural Fire Service Community, and the victims of emergencies that require fire response.



Chaplaincy Contacts....

Chaplaincy continually provides a proactive and reactive response service, twenty-four hours, seven days a week....

State Operations Call Centre

1800 049 933

The Senior Chaplain

0418 622 479

Senior.Chaplain@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Fax: (02) 9553 1854

The Senior Family Support Chaplain

0418 493 033

Senior.Chaplain@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Fax: (02) 9553 1854

Your Local Chaplains

Name:

Contact No:

Name:

Contact No:

Name:

Contact No:



NSW Rural Fire Service

Chaplaincy and Family Support

The Chaplain aims to be the one who can listen with empathy, advise calmly and offer assistance when such assistance is appropriate.



Your Chaplaincy.....

The NSW RFS Chaplaincy and Family Support Program exists for the purpose of supporting, nurturing and expressing the spiritual and religious beliefs and values of the members of the Service and their families. To give whatever assistance possible to the community, and ancillary units associated in support of the Service, irrespective of religion or denominational affiliation.

The Chaplaincy focuses on three main areas of ministry, that of physical, cognitive and spiritual development.

The Chaplain seeks to personalise the dimension of religion, affirming wholeness, God's presence, and individual responsibility to the non-religious as well as religious people in fire service settings.

The Chaplain's role is multi-faceted, embracing tasks as pastor, administrator, consultant, counsellor, advocate, and educator. In fulfilling these roles, the Chaplain remains a voice for spiritual care, unity, fairness, personal ethics, and individual worth in a world often filled with trauma and its aftermath.

The Senior Chaplain can facilitate contact with Ministers of all denominations and non-Christian Faiths.



What Fire Chaplains Do....

Provide for the spiritual needs of staff, volunteers and their families.

- Crisis situations involving RFS personnel.
- Crisis situations involving families of RFS personnel.
- Visiting RFS personnel that are sick or injured at home or in the hospital.
- Crisis intervention involving victims of emergencies that require fire response.
- Assist staff and volunteers with stress management.
- Crisis intervention involving staff or volunteers seeking family guidance.
- Serve as a part of the CISM process.
- Assist the IMT at an emergency as directed.
- Serve as a liaison with local Clergy.
- Perform or participate in wedding ceremonies, funerals, dedications, and baptisms for personnel and their families.
- Provide a listening ear and keep what is heard confidential.
- Support the individual during grief from loss of function and to help the family, and RFS community to be supportive during return to optimal independence.



District Chaplains....



There are 50 Honorary District Volunteer Chaplains, local Clergy, representing a wide range of Christian denominations, together with Judaic and Islamic faiths, throughout NSW.

District Chaplains must be local Clergy, within a Fire District, and nominated by the local Fire Control Officer or Brigade Member. The nomination is processed by the Senior Chaplain for presentation to the Denominational Head or their Church. District Chaplains can only be expected to act within the mandate of appointment given by their Denominational Head or Church.

District Chaplains tend, naturally, to identify with the particular District or Brigade to which they are attached, and may be seen on occasions very closely identified with it, but as the *Chaplain* they always retain their independence.

Some Chaplains, especially but not exclusively in rural areas, are themselves Volunteer Firefighters and Brigade Members. As such, they are under the same discipline structures of the Brigade as all other personnel. But when they act in their capacity as Chaplains, they resume their independent status.

Chaplains are there with a care for *everybody* without exception, whether religious or not. He is not there to 'ram religion down people's throats', however, are a representative of the Love of God.