



## **REPORT BUSH FIRE ARSON – CALL CRIMESTOPPERS 1 800 333 000**

To educate and encourage the public to provide information that will assist with the arrest of arsonists, the RFS and Crime Stoppers have entered into a partnership.

This is recognition of the significant contribution arson made to the 2001/02 Christmas Fires and in response to the subsequent findings of the Joint Select Committee on Bush Fires inquiry.

Lack of information from the public was a major problem for Strike Force Tronto, the NSW Police Force's investigation into the causes of the Christmas fires.

The RFS hopes that Crime Stoppers' new bush fire arson focus will replicate the success it has achieved for the NSW Police Force on general crime.

Crime Stoppers provides an important communication link between police and the community by offering a free call, anonymous service.

The RFS promotes the 1 800 333 000 number and encourages calls through stickers on RFS vehicles and by displaying signs at fire scenes requesting information on suspicious activities.

Passing motorists, residents or visitors to an area affected by fire are asked to call 1 800 333 000 with information on:

- details of vehicles such as makes, models and registration plate numbers
- descriptions of suspects
- dates and times of suspicious activities.

One small detail can make the difference in achieving an arrest.

Callers can remain anonymous if they do not wish to become personally involved.

Rewards are available for information that leads to an arrest, however, only 10 per cent of callers ask for reward. This is evidence of the community support for Crime Stoppers.