



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW RFS firefighters fire up for competition

12 September 2014

200 of the State's finest volunteer firefighters are being put to the test at the 21st NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) State Championships in Pambula this weekend.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said volunteers will be competing against their fellow members in a range of challenging, real-life scenarios.

"Volunteers will compete in a series of simulated emergency situations where their skills and equipment will be put to the test," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"With scenarios ranging from simulated motor vehicle accidents, navigation and helicopter water drops, to bush, grass and structure fires, firefighters will be tested on leadership, teamwork, adaptation and decision making.

"This year the Championships will also feature the inaugural 'whose kitchen rules?' event in which NSW RFS volunteer caterers will provide meals for 460 people three times a day, along with the introduction of a chainsaw event to showcase the abilities of specialist chainsaw operators."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons said 12 junior teams will be taking part in the event alongside 14 senior NSW RFS volunteers, with junior team Oakville Alpha Brigade and senior team Dubbo HQ Brigade both working to defend their 2012 State Championship titles.

"The NSW RFS State Championships bring together crews from all corners of the State to enjoy friendly competition, hone their emergency skills and share experiences from their respective areas.

"These teams gain great experience in fire safety, team work and leadership in a safe and controlled environment. It's a valuable learning and development experience for everyone involved.

Commissioner Fitzsimmons thanked the local community, local volunteers and Bega Valley Shire Council for their generosity and logistical support.

"We encourage everyone to come along to the Pambula Sporting Complex during 12 – 14 September 2014 to see the training, dedication and professionalism of our volunteer firefighters up close," said Commissioner Fitzsimmons.

The winners of the 2014 State Championships will be awarded an Isuzu D-Max to be used as a community support vehicle for two years across their District.

The NSW RFS State Championships are held every two years in various locations across NSW.



**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on 9898 1855
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