



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW RFS firefighters fire up for friendly competition

13 September 2018

Over 200 of the State's finest volunteer firefighters are being put to the test at the 23rd NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) State Championships in Temora this weekend.

Cootamundra MP Steph Cooke and NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons will be in attendance across the three days to welcome volunteers and witness them compete against their fellow members in a range of challenging, real-life scenarios.

"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," Ms Cooke said.

"Following the Friday night official opening, the weekend will see volunteers compete in a series of simulated emergency situations where their skills and equipment will be put to the test.

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

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said 12 junior teams will be taking part in the event alongside 14 senior NSW RFS teams, with junior team St. Paul's Cadets and senior team Dubbo Composite both working to defend their 2016 State Championship titles.

"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 said.

"Highlights for spectators this year include the chainsaw challenge showcasing the abilities of specialist chainsaw operators, the 'Eat Street' Catering Challenge sponsored by Major Partner RFSA, and an opportunity to see operational vehicles and aircraft, from tankers through to helicopters."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons thanked the local community, local volunteers in the Bland Temora District and Temora Shire Council, for their generosity hosting the event.

"We encourage everyone to come along to Lake Centenary this weekend to see the training, dedication and professionalism of our volunteer firefighters up close," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

The Championship Principal Partners, Gilbert & Roach Huntingwood and Isuzu Trucks, will present the winners of the 2018 State Championships with an Isuzu D-Max to be used across their District as a community support vehicle for two years.

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 (02) 9898 1855.
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