



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW RFS firefighters in Hawkesbury fire up for friendly competition

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Over 400 of the Hawkesbury District's finest volunteer firefighters are being put to the test at the annual NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) Hawkesbury District Championships in Windsor this weekend.

Member for Hawkesbury Robyn Preston MP and NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Rebel Talbert welcomed volunteers and witnessed them compete against their fellow members in a range of challenging, real-life scenarios.

"The Hawkesbury District Championships bring together crews from across the district to enjoy friendly competition, hone their emergency skills and share experiences from their respective brigades," Ms Preston said.

"We have seen volunteers compete in a series of simulated emergency situations where their skills and equipment are put to the test.

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

NSW RFS Assistant Commissioner Rebel Talbert said the 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 where we see the training, dedication and professionalism of our volunteer firefighters up close," Assistant Commissioner Talbert said.

Three brigades in the Hawkesbury Zone also welcomed an investment of more than \$370,000 with the handover of three new vehicles.

"The two new Category 7 and Category 9 tankers replace existing tankers at the Wilberforce and St Albans Brigades respectively, which will be handed on to serve another local brigade, as part of the tanker replacement program," Assistant Commissioner Talbert said.

"The previous vehicles served the Brigade well for many years and I am confident these vehicles will enable the three brigades to provide an even greater level of fire protection to the local community.

"The Ebenezer Brigade will also receive a support vehicle to assist with local incidents and help with others across the Hawkesbury Zone."

"Working cooperatively with the state and local governments, the NSW RFS is committed to providing volunteer firefighters with the equipment and resources they need to carry out the important work of protecting their local communities from fire and other emergencies."

**For more information contact the State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.
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