

Returning home safe and well ...

Information for bushfire volunteers

When it comes to the safety of our bushfire volunteers both the individual and the local government have an important role to play, ensuring that all return home safe and well.

A VOLUNTEERS' RESPONSIBILITY

When volunteering for a local government as a bushfire volunteer, they have a responsibility to make sure you can perform your roles and tasks safely and return home to your families safe and well. However they need your help to achieve this. Outlined below are some practical steps you can take to assist your local government, as well as meet your own duty of care obligations as a volunteer.

Your responsibility	Practical steps to achieve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure your own safety and health within the organisation and the tasks being performed. Take reasonable care to make sure you don't adversely affect the safety and health of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not perform tasks that you feel are unsafe, or in which you are not experienced or competent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only perform activities and tasks that you are comfortable performing, that are within your skillset, experience and knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are unsure, or need more assistance raise it with your supervisor. Ensure you are working within your level of expertise and competency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do inductions and other training so that you perform tasks safely. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend training as instructed and do not perform the work task without adequate instruction or supervision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know and understand the hazards in the work area. If you identify additional task or work area hazards report them to your supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the organisations hazard identification, management process and reporting procedure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform tasks as instructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be familiar and trained in new and current tasks. Understand and carry out instructions provided.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly wear and use personal protective clothing and equipment (PPC & PPE) provided and report any damages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the PPE you're provided with is in good condition and appropriately fits. Seek fit guidance from your supervisor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use plant and equipment as trained and instructed. Don't misuse or damage any plant and equipment. Report any concerns to your supervisor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the organisation provides an induction on plant and equipment use and how to report any concerns or issues.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with the organisation on any safety and health issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly attend and contribute to meetings (team/or one on one with your supervisor) to discuss safety and health concerns

Some examples of the things you can do:

- Read, understand and cooperate with the local governments policies and procedures for your volunteer role.
- Take the opportunity to contribute ideas to achieve a safer environment.
- Ensure you are fit and well before volunteering, we want all our bushfire volunteers to go home safe and well to their families

Thank you for the important role you provide to our community