



ENQUIRIES: | cesm@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au
DATE: | 04 August 2024

Dear Volunteer Firefighters of the Shire of Victoria Plains,

RE: Minimum training requirements to maintain active Volunteer member standards

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the CEO of the Shire of Victoria Plains, I am honored to work alongside such dedicated and skilled individuals like yourselves. Your unwavering commitment to protecting our community during times of crisis is truly commendable.

In 2022, the Shire of Victoria Plains implemented bushfire standards after risk workshops were carried out with volunteers. Since these standards have been implemented, brigade captains should have communicated the requirement to carry out this training. The deadline of 1 September 2023 was implemented however, this was extended to allow volunteers more opportunities to complete this mandatory training.

The Shire of Victoria Plains Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) has scheduled an accelerated Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills course for the 3rd and 4th of September 2024. This training is mandatory for all registered volunteers who have not yet met the required standards. Our records have identified yourself as one of these volunteers. We recognise that many of our volunteers have been fighting fires for years and possess significant experience. Therefore, we are delivering a one-time, fast-paced course that will acknowledge these existing skills while focusing on lesser-known areas. Participation in this course is essential to ensure you are adequately prepared to respond effectively to bushfires and to maintain your registration as an active member of your respective brigade.

Course Details:

- **Dates:** 3rd and 4th September 2024
- **Location:** Calingiri Bush Fire Station
- **Time:** 0830hrs to 1630hrs
- **Welfare:** Morning tea and lunch provided – *Please advise of any special dietary requirements*

Additionally, all volunteers must complete an online AIIMS Awareness course that has been added to your eAcademy, you will have received an email with this information. This course is a short awareness course and must be completed to ensure an understanding of incident management, please complete this prior to the course.

Members who have not completed all of these courses prior to 1 October 2024 will be deregistered as active members of all Shire of Victoria Plains Bush Fire Brigades. It is imperative that all active volunteers meet the requirements set out in 2022 to ensure we maintain the basic requirements for safety and efficiency within our firefighting teams.

Registration and Participation:

As you have been identified as a volunteer requiring this training and by agreement of your brigade Captain, the Shire has automatically enrolled you in this training using the DFES eAcademy platform. If you wish to withdraw from this training, please log into your eAcademy and select cancel or contact our Emergency Services Team to complete this on your behalf.

We understand that this training requires a commitment of your time, but we firmly believe that the benefits of improved safety, performance, and community trust will greatly outweigh these temporary inconveniences.

We also acknowledge that some volunteers may have been registered for reasons other than active response or may no longer volunteer as part of the coordinated response on Shire-provided fire appliances. If you fall within this category and wish to withdraw your membership, please contact the Shire via cesm@victoriaplains.wa.gov.au or (08) 9628 7004 and ask for Emergency Management.

If you no longer wish to be an active brigade volunteer but still wish to attend incidents on an ad hoc basis, you can do so by completing the Rural Fire Awareness course online and obtaining a vehicle ID sticker from the Shire Administration. You will then be classed as a Spontaneous Volunteer. It is important to note that Spontaneous Volunteers who obtain a vehicle ID sticker and comply with the basic requirements are still covered by the Shire's insurance when attending Shire-managed bushfires. More information on Spontaneous Volunteers can be found under Emergency Services on the Shire of Victoria Plains Website at www.victoriaplains.wa.gov.au.

In closing, I want to emphasise the values and reasons behind this letter. Ensuring that all volunteer firefighters meet the minimum training requirements is not just about compliance; it is about safeguarding our community, enhancing our collective ability to respond to emergencies, and upholding standards of safety and efficiency. Your participation in this training reflects our shared commitment to these values and our dedication to serving and protecting the Shire of Victoria Plains.

Thank you again for your continued service and dedication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Fletcher', written in a cursive style.

Sean Fletcher
Chief Executive Officer
DATE: 7 August 2024