

News Release Minister Jennifer Rankine

Minister for Police
Minister for Correction Services
Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Road Safety
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Thursday, 1 November 2012

SES Edinburgh Unit Celebrates 50th birthday tomorrow

The SA State Emergency Service's Edinburgh Unit will celebrate its 50th birthday tomorrow night.

Minister for Emergency Services Jennifer Rankine will unveil a commemorative plaque at the event, which is expected to attract 70 former and current SES members and guests.

"The Edinburgh Unit has had a colourful history," Ms Rankine said.

"It was originally a Civil Defence Unit located in Salisbury. The priority was on training members to handle the aftermath if an atomic bomb was dropped.

"The nature of the Unit's work has changed quite considerably over the years.

"It has always been a very active Unit. At one stage Edinburgh held the national record with more than 800 call outs in one year."

The unit now responds to about 250 call outs each year - clearing fallen trees and storm clean-ups comprising most of the work.

Over the years, the Unit has been involved in high-profile cases including:

- the Salisbury level crossing crash – 10 years ago last week
- the major flooding of the Gawler River in 2005 which saw parts of Virginia and Gawler inundated
- the recent search following the discovery of the body of a young woman at Hillier

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and Member for Taylor Leesa Vlahos, SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie along with Deputy Mayors from the City of Playford and City of Salisbury, will also attend the event.

"I look forward to chatting with Edinburgh SES Unit Manager John Lawrence and Edinburgh Unit Team Leader Bob Bowley, who last month was awarded the prestigious Keith Lane Award along with other long-serving Edinburgh Unit members," Ms Rankine said.

Edinburgh SES Unit, like all SES units, is always on the lookout for new members. Training is held Wednesday nights, from 7pm.

People who are interested in joining should contact the Edinburgh Unit on 0428 400 002 or SAFECOM's Volunteer Services Branch on 1300 364 587.

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