

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



South Australia welcomes 18 new firefighters

Friday, 17 December 2010

A qualified Chef, a former entertainment rigger and a practitioner of Chinese medicine are just some of the 18 South Australians who'll graduate as the state's newest firefighters today.

The new recruits were selected from a strong field of hundreds of applicants for the opportunity to join the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) as professional firefighters.

They'll be recognised at a special graduation ceremony before a crowd of family and friends at **MFS Headquarters at 11.00 am today.**

Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, said the recruits have completed an intensive, 14 week training course that has prepared them for what will be a challenging career.

"It is pleasing to welcome these 18 committed, dynamic South Australians into the Metropolitan Fire Service. Today they will graduate with great pride in what they've already achieved in terms of a competitive selection process and gruelling training course," Minister Wright said.

The recruits have received rigorous training in general fire fighting exercises, breathing apparatus training, operating in confined spaces, compartment fire fighting and technical rescue.

MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton, said the MFS has selected a group of recruits with varied backgrounds but a common commitment to team work.

"Our recruits hail from working backgrounds such as equestrian, the timber industry, catering, the Country Fire Service (CFS), sales, IT, the Defence Force and environmental protection.

"Despite their varied life experiences, the recruits have formed a bond as a group over the past three and a half months and will graduate as a team today," he said.

Recruit firefighter, Catherine Yates worked as a rigger in the entertainment industry and was a circus trainer and performer prior to joining the MFS.

"For the last 14 weeks, every single recruit has been challenged physically and mentally in order to graduate today. We look forward to working together and supporting our further development," she said.

All MFS firefighters are encouraged to commit to life-long learning and to explore specialist areas within the fire service such as community safety, training, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), operations, infrastructure and logistics, communications, road crash rescue and Hazardous Materials.

Media are invited to attend the Graduation Ceremony at MFS Headquarters, 99 Wakefield St, Adelaide on Friday, 17 December.

The ceremony begins at 11.00 am and concludes at approximately 11.45 am.

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

Further information for the public:

Call the MFS Community Education Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours.

Country callers 1300 737 637.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au