



Members of the State Emergency Service (SES) play a significant and vital role in helping to ensure that the community is a safe place in which to work, live and play.

They serve the community on a voluntary basis by providing a commitment in operational and non-operational roles (eg. administration).

This information leaflet explains what you can expect when joining the SES. It can also be given to your employer.

BENEFITS

- ongoing training
- personal protective equipment
- full insurance cover
- opportunities to make friends
- opportunities to use existing skills and gain new skills
- opportunities to help others.

ABOUT THE ROLE

Volunteers undertake various roles according to their abilities, interests, and what they are comfortable with. The roles of an SES volunteer are diverse and include activities such as:

- storm damage temporary repairs
- map reading and navigation
- communications
- operations

- search and rescue
- flood response
- vertical rescue
- first aid
- logistics
- welfare
- administration.

Support members undertake non-operational roles in areas such as welfare and communications.

INDUCTION

There is a three month probation period during which induction is undertaken. A formal induction book is provided which covers organisational and local unit information, occupational safety and welfare, communications, map reading and navigation, working in a team, administration, and basic general rescue. Individual SES units may incorporate some unit specific information.

TRAINING

Training nights are usually held weekly for approximately 2.5 hours. They may include topics such as:

- tents
- anchors
- first aid
- stretchers
- knots

- search techniques
- storm damage
- generators and lighting.

Training courses are run throughout the year. Depending on your local SES functions, you may have the opportunity to sign up for courses such as:

- first aid
- communications
- operations room
- map reading and navigation
- search techniques
- single rope techniques (abseiling)
- urban search and rescue
- leadership
- air search observer
- cliff rescue
- storm damage.

Being a volunteer and undertaking regular training means that you can:

- develop new skills and knowledge
- apply existing skills and knowledge to different situations
- explore the opportunity to be creative and develop initiative
- develop leadership skills
- improve your interpersonal, communication and teamworking skills.



YOUR COMMITMENT

As an SES member you are expected to:

- be available to attend callouts (whenever possible)
- attend training nights
- undertake formal training (eg. first aid)
- wear appropriate dress and maintain personal presentation
- have respect for policies and procedures
- be willing to assume assigned tasks
- have a positive attitude
- observe FESA's values.

State Emergency Service members are also called on to help with unit maintenance days (approximately every three months on a weekend) and participating in clean up duties after training as need be.

CALLOUTS

Units are mobilised to incidents via pagers, telephones and SMS messaging. It is understood that some volunteers may not be available at various hours due to work or other commitments, and are encouraged to discuss emergency service leave arrangements with their employers.

EMPLOYERS

The benefits to employers for supporting employees as volunteers include:

- opportunities to create relationships with the local community
- increased awareness of community issues
- increased ability to attract and retain skilled staff
- increased staff motivation and productivity
- increased staff team working skills
- increased staff morale
- positive corporate image
- enhanced public relations through FESA's Employer Recognition Program.



For more information contact:

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on

or a Volunteer and Youth Services Branch member on 1800 628 141.



www.fesa.wa.gov.au

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ARE YOU READY?

to join the State Emergency Service

Information for prospective State Emergency Service Volunteers and their employers

