

## 2. RESPONSE

To comply with the *Fire and Rescue Service Act, 1990*, it is our responsibility to respond to emergency incidents and to mobilise sufficient resources to manage an incident. QFRS Rural Operations accepts that it has a responsibility towards volunteers to establish policies, practices and procedures for brigade activities that are in the best interests of the workplace health and safety of brigade members and others whose assistance is requested during operations.

The efficient, effective and safe management of brigade operations is the prime responsibility of First Officers. It is not their responsibility alone; other officers, and all brigade members, must also accept responsibility.

Rural Fire Service volunteers need not only to be fully aware of the latest operational procedures, but must also utilise them to avoid an increased risk of:

- injury or death to firefighters and/or members of the community
- damage to property
- litigation and/or insurance liability.

Firefighters are responsible for their own actions and the actions of those whose assistance they have sought and should:

- accept only those tasks that they know they are capable of performing;
- observe all statutory obligations related to the carrying out of the tasks;
- accept only those tasks that are within the recognised charter of the QFRS;
- wear appropriate protective equipment during brigade activities, including that supplied by QFRS Rural Operations; and
- report all activity-related accidents and illness.

Where the assistance of others is required, firefighters should assign tasks only to those who are capable of performing them and ensure that non-QFRS personnel are suitably dressed or wearing sufficient PPE for the task.