

5. TRAINING

Fire is a powerful and unpredictable force and communities come together to protect life, property and the environment from its destructive effects. It is therefore essential that volunteer firefighters maintain a high level of preparedness in order to promote, foster and enhance the adoption of safe, effective and efficient work practices and fire suppression methods.

Rural fire brigades are found in a wide range of climatic environments - from the tropical north, through the sub-tropical central and south-eastern coastal regions, to the arid central and western interior. Each of these environments has its own topography, type and distribution of vegetation, land management and special needs. The training of volunteers, therefore, needs to be flexible enough to account for the range of strategies and tactics required to manage the local area, but standardised enough to permit brigade members to operate across environments when assisting neighbouring brigades.

Both QRFS Rural Operations and individual volunteers have a joint responsibility for training under Workplace Health and Safety legislation. The QRFS is responsible for ensuring that the relevant training is made available. Volunteers are responsible for undertaking the training that is offered to achieve and maintain a state of operational readiness.