

What I Need to Know

- Allocating volunteers to the various membership classes allows QFRS to plan more effectively for service delivery, resource allocation and volunteer training and support.
- There are three membership classes for Rural Fire Brigade volunteers:

Firefighter – Appropriately skilled and trained and physically capable of carrying out the duties and tasks of an active firefighter.

Ideally a firefighter resides in the brigade's management area to be reasonably available for active mitigation and fire fighting response duties. Such a member must be committed to acquiring the levels of competence required to carry out the duties of a firefighter, be physically capable to perform firefighting duties and prepared to participate in the learning, training and skills maintenance activities appropriate to the role being performed. Firefighter members perform duties, both mitigation and response, in accordance with the QFRS Operations Doctrine.

Support Member – Appropriately skilled and trained to provide support to the operational and/or organisational areas of the brigade

Support members need to demonstrate an interest in and commitment to the provision of fire management services to the community. Such members should display a capability and willingness to acquire the necessary skills and levels of competence to carry out their duties effectively and to participate in the required training and skills maintenance activities. The range of duties/positions appropriate to support members includes but is not limited to the following:

- IMT Member
- Catering
- Radio Operation
- Logistics support
- Brigade secretary or treasurer
- Chairperson
- Data Officer

Community Member – Any person, of good character, acceptable to the community and with a demonstrated interest in commitment to the provision of fire management services to the community.

Community members need to demonstrate an interest in and commitment to the provision of fire management services in the community. Such members should be residents of the community serviced by the brigade; however, this should not exclude persons with a strong community commitment or specialist skill.

The focus of this membership group is on maintaining strong links with the community and promoting and maintaining community engagement through programs focused on education and awareness. This group would act as a sounding board to provide checks and balances regarding the brigade's performance in line with community expectations and values.

Note: Brigade members who are not firefighter members may attend fires from time to time by being 'co-opted' by the 1st Officer in the same way that members of the public are through the powers available to the 1st Officer in Section 83(1)(b) of the Act. Attending fires in this way is appropriate for emergent situations only; any regular or on-going attendance at fire by a brigade member requires a person to hold firefighter membership.

How I do it

For further information regarding membership categories, talk to the Area Director Rural Operations.