

## What I Need to Know

### The Importance of 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 suppression methods to fight fire.

In relation to training, both the QRFS and individual volunteers have a joint responsibility under Workplace Health and Safety legislation the (Workplace Health and Safety Act (Qld) 1995).

- The QRFS responsibility is to ensure that the relevant training is made available.
- The individual's responsibility is to undertake the training that is offered.

### Delivery of Training

At brigade level, training is usually conducted in small informal sessions, focusing on a single topic or module, at a time and place convenient for the volunteers. Training modules contain elements of theory, discussion and practice. A mix of experienced volunteers and new recruits join in regular training sessions, both to upgrade skill levels and to maintain a satisfactory state of operational preparedness.

Those brigade members who seek formal recognition of their training are issued a "Statement of Attainment" on the successful completion of the assessment process associated with the training. Statements are also available for:

- Recognition: recognition of practical knowledge and skill demonstrated in the field
- Attendance: recognition of active participation in training

Rural Operations accesses two different types of training. They are:

### Accredited Training

- Nationally recognised competencies from the Public Safety ITAB, identifiable by the prefix PUA; e.g., *PUATE001A, Work in a team*; and
- Training accredited in this state by the Queensland Department of Education and Training.

### Non-accredited Training

- Recognised only within Queensland Fire and Rescue Service – specialised training designed to meet our organisational requirements.

### Area Training and Support Officer (ATSO); and

### Brigade Training and Support Officer (BTSO)

The role of ATSO and BTSO is to promote and support volunteer training around the State. ATSO responsibility includes recruiting volunteer trainers and developing their training skills.

## How I do it

- Approach your Brigade Training Officer or First Officer for advice on what training is required.
- Ask your training officer to enrol you into the relevant training session.
- Complete the pre-course reading and self-check questions (if relevant).
- Attend the nominated training session and complete a Form 15 to ensure your training is recorded.

## Reference Materials

- Area Reference Manual - Business Rule: C1.1.2 Ensure Area Training Needs Identified and a Training Plan Developed/Implemented