

## What I Need to Know

- Fire stations are QRFS property, and there are restrictions on their use. Stations contain many items of equipment, which falls into the category of valuable and attractive. However, the fundamental requirement is for close supervision, appropriate judgement and use of common sense when managing visits/use by members of the public.
- Visitors should be accompanied at all times whilst on QRFS property. Access to areas where the private property of members is stored should not be allowed. Children, especially, should not be permitted to climb on or over appliances or equipment. Where an operational requirement will leave the station empty, visitors should be requested to vacate the premises and to make an alternate arrangement to continue the visit.
- While rural fire stations are not general community facilities, QRFS acknowledges that, in some communities, the station may be one of the few (perhaps the only) large community facility available. A brigade is free to allow impromptu or organised visits by individuals or groups, provided that safety and security aspects, as well as the operational requirements of the brigade are not impeded or compromised.
- They may not be used to conduct commercial undertakings.
- As a general rule, it is not permitted to store or consume alcohol on QRFS property. However, QRFS acknowledges that social activities and fundraising activities are important components of volunteer service. Again, supervision, appropriate judgement and use of common sense should apply.

## How I do it

- Requests for use of the station for a prolonged period should be referred to the Area Director, Rural Operations, as should requests for regular use of the station, eg. as a meeting place for another organisation.
- In these instances the Area Director, Rural Operations may require the person or organisation to provide an indemnity to QRFS, in the format attached. The brigade must forward the signed indemnity to the Area Office for retention at least 21 days prior to the event.
- Requests for permission by sub-contractors to carry out maintenance, construction or other work of any description should be approved by the First Officer or Secretary, with a reminder that their work is subject to the workplace health and safety considerations applicable to their trade or profession.

## Reference Materials

- Area Reference Manual – Business Rule: D4.1.4 – Acquire and Develop Land for Brigade Facilities and Infrastructure

**FORM OF INDEMNITY**

**FOR THE USE OF A RURAL FIRE STATION**

In return for the use of the rural fire station of \_\_\_\_\_ Rural Fire Brigade, I agree that:

- I will abide by any rules issued or conveyed to me from time to time relating to the use of the station.
- I use the facilities at my own risk and I acknowledge that I am responsible for all events arising from my use of the station.
- I will exercise reasonable care when using the station.
- I shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) and its servants and agents from and against all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages, liabilities and expenses which may be brought against or made on the QFRS and its servants and agents as a result of my attendance at or use of the station, and I hereby release and discharge the QFRS and its servants and agents from all such actions, proceedings, claims, demands, costs, losses, damages, liabilities and expenses which, but for the provisions hereof, might be brought against or made on the QFRS and its servants or agents by me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_