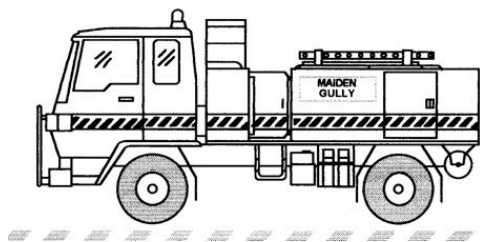


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade Winter 2017 Newsletter

www.maidengullycfa.org.au



The past 12 months

Response

At the Brigade's recent Annual Meeting, Captain David Mustey reported that your local fire brigade had responded to 57 calls for the year up from 49 last year. The number of calls within Maiden Gully remained the same with the increase due to supporting neighbouring communities. There were no significant fires in Maiden Gully.

Fire Station Expansio

In last year's Winter Newsletter, we announced that with support from the City of Greater Bendigo an additional 180 m² had been added to the north side of the existing station site at no cost. This was the key requirement to provide additional vehicle accommodation, better access, and a larger area for training and maintenance activities along with more off-street parking. The most obvious component of our Project has been the erection of a large steel garage that now houses our Field Command Vehicle. It also provides extra storage for equipment and has enabled the development of a gym in the adjoining building. It was completely



community funded through the Brigade's fundraising activities with considerable financial assistance from Villawood Properties with Paint Right Bendigo (Haymes Paints) providing the special floor paint and Bunnings Warehouse in Epsom providing the LED light fittings. The rest of the new area has been concreted with support from the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (\$2 for \$1 grant). Brigade members have re-erected the wing fence and the gates. All in all, this major upgrade has seen a \$40,000 investment in the provision of effective emergency services for the Maiden Gully community into the future. The extra space and other facilities have been well received by all users of the Fire Station.



Reducing our carbon footprint

Recently, the Brigade has received a grant through the Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Program to replace all the station lights and our portable units used for incident lighting with energy efficient LED units. This will result in a 50% reduction of energy usage, reduced maintenance and better illumination throughout the building particularly over the entrance doors.

Winter brings firewood raffles

The colder weather sees our firewood raffles underway outside Maiden Gully IGA on alternating Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Each time, we raffle a trailer load of split firewood with it being delivered to the winner. This activity is one of our major fundraisers for equipment and infrastructure improvements. It is also a chance to talk to one of your local firefighters about the Brigade and to collect a fire safety brochure to help you have a fire safe winter.

Small mistakes can cause fires, please don't run the risk.

Maiden Gully Fire Brigade also knows that colder weather increases the risk of residential fires. There are over **3,000 preventable house fires** in Victoria each year. Most house fires are caused by someone making a mistake – a moment of carelessness, forgetfulness or neglect. House fires happen all year round but tend to be more frequent in winter due to the use of heaters and clothes driers. Most fatal fires occur in the home and can be prevented. Here are some tips to help prevent a house fire:

- Never leave your cooking unattended; small distractions lead to fires which can cause serious injury and damage to your home.
- Make sure candles, incense and oil burners are kept away from anything that can catch fire and are extinguished before leaving home or going to bed.
- Be careful not to overload your power boards, or leave electrical appliances plugged in for long periods of time.
- Always clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after each load of washing.
- Keep clothing and curtains at least one metre away from your heaters.
- When you are at home, keep the keys in your deadlocks for an easy exit.

Smoke alarms provide an essential early warning and time to evacuate safely - but only if they work! All smoke alarms have a 10-year life span and need to be replaced or they may not work when you need them most. Many homes in Maiden Gully are now over 10 years old and the smoke alarms have never been replaced. The fire services recommend **photoelectric** smoke alarms with a 10-year lithium battery in a tamper proof chamber. You can find more helpful hints on the "Your Safety" section on our website (www.maidengullycfa.org.au).

Winter is also bonfire and burn-off season - always register your bonfire or burn-off



Call: 1800 668 511

Email: burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au

Keep your burn-off safe and legal:

- Never leave it unattended
- Monitor weather conditions
- Have sufficient water and equipment to stop the fire spreading
- Check Council Local Laws

These actions help ensure that firefighters are not called out unnecessarily.

June 2017