



The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

29th August 2019

To All CFS Volunteers

The CFS Volunteers Association welcomes Mark Jones to the role of CFS Chief Officer. We look forward to working with him constructively to advance the CFS capability and professional development of our volunteers so we can continue to protect and serve our community.

The criteria set down by the Association for the selection process of our new Chief Officer, being, to have a good knowledge of fire behaviour in South Australia and to have managed a volunteer-based organisation, was for the protection of the volunteers.

The Chief Officer of CFS is more than just an executive role. This person is the leader of the organisation operationally and being a military based hierarchal structure, on days such as catastrophic fire days the Chief Officer gives a set of instructions which must be followed. If these instructions have any ambiguity through lack of knowledge, then this would place our volunteers in a very dangerous situation with the possibility of loss of life or serious injury to our volunteers or the public. Consequences of this happening is a Coronial enquiry where the Chief Officer will have to explain his actions and may have to face legal proceedings. The Chief Officer has ultimate responsibility for all actions taken on the fire ground.

CFS Volunteers work closely with CFS staff, as managing a volunteer organisation is not the same as managing a paid workforce. The CFS is integrally based around our local communities which is supported by a government agency. This does create challenges but is one of the key factors that has made CFS highly respected within our state, nationally and internationally.

Andy Wood
CFSVA President

David Lindner
CFSVA Vice President

Jeff Clark
CFSVA Deputy Vice President