

**MEDIA RELEASE - 17 October 2015**

**SWIFTWORKS – EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS IN SOUTH WEST WA**

**Introduction**

In recognition of the unprecedented bushfire risk facing WA this fire season<sup>\*1</sup>, specialist software developers SwiftWorks have offered to provide their state of the art SwiftWorks Integrated Incident Management solution (SIIMS) to all emergency services groups in the South West region of Western Australia. The system will be hosted and supported by SwiftWorks for the duration of the fire season at no cost to participating volunteer brigades.

**Background**

Andrew Brown, Director of Sydney based SwiftWorks, commented that "City of Bunbury has had a long association with SwiftWorks and through extensive consultation with local area volunteers in particular Bunbury VFRS Brigade Captain John Kowal. As a result SIIMS has now been refocused for volunteer group use as a fully integrated, administrative and operational command system for both Bushfire and SES volunteer groups".

**Empowering Volunteers**

John Kowal Brigade Captain Bunbury VFRS stated "the safety of our volunteers is of critical importance in incident response. With SIIMS we have a system that not only helps us the day to day administrative details but actively manages issues such as role compliance and fatigue management in an environment that also provides automated reporting thus eliminating manual paper based systems".

**Response Agencies**

Agencies that in theory should provide these facilities to support their volunteer groups fail to do so for a number of reasons, not the least being a focus on process rather than outcome. The result is that while they may have adequate high level coordination systems, there is minimal administrative assistance and no operational command system available for use by volunteer groups.

**Development Concepts**

Over a decade ago the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), in the wake of the 1983 Ash Wednesday Bushfires recognised the need for a single integrated solution to bushfire response SIIMS is the result of that recommendation developed by a private enterprise with agency and volunteer contribution.

**COAG Recommendation (2004) 8.1 <sup>\*2</sup>**

*The Inquiry recommends that implementation of a single Incident Control System for the management of multi-agency emergency incidents be further examined by the Australian Emergency Management Committee, with a view to developing one nationally agreed system*

**Product Information**

Our web site at <http://www.volunteermanager.com.au> will provide more details while the entire SIIMS product suite is covered by video tutorials for subscribers.

Please click on this link for the introductory video [SIIMS Introduction](#)

Please click on this link for the Volunteer Module introduction [VM Module Introduction](#)

**Reference**

\*1 <https://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/wa/a/29783280/our-bushfire-luck-is-running-out/>

\*2 [http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/GeneralReports/FESA\\_Report-NationalInquiryonBushfireMitigationandManagement.pdf](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/GeneralReports/FESA_Report-NationalInquiryonBushfireMitigationandManagement.pdf)

**Media Contact**

Ken Mewha  
Business Manager  
Mobile: 0407 627850  
Email: ken@swiftworks.com.au