

Infralog

CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Update:

Issue 32, December 2012

Hi Everyone,

Welcome to Issue 32, the Christmas edition of Infralog. As I look back over the past twelve months I see a period of instability, challenges and change. Fortunately the small team who work with me in I&L are a highly dedicated bunch of professionals who not only treat the many challenges we face as an opportunity but continue to look for improvements on what we can deliver to those that we serve. Infralog provides an insight into some of the work they are doing - read on for the latest update.....



Regards,

Arthur Tindall AFSM

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Since the last Infralog:

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, (V&E)

(V&E Team currently comprises Sandy Paterson, (Manager), Andrew Plush, Tony Kuiper & Wayne Byrne manages Leased vehicles and Command and Logistics vehicles and reports to MIL)

Recent Deliveries

Thornlea and Wolseley 34 have recently received refurbished 34 appliances. Strathalbyn have received their Hook-Lift

12-13 New Appliance Program

The first nine new 34's for this financial year have been inspected and are waiting shipment to Adelaide. This batch includes the 'Option 1' 34 prototype. (See Manager's Update)

The remaining fourteen 34's from this financial year's build are also complete and will be inspected by I&L staff during the week commencing 21st January 2013.

The 24 Prototype featured in the last Infralog has been widely displayed and feed back sought. The responses to the prototype have been extremely positive with a number of very good ideas also being provided. Thank you to all those members who came out to look at it and to make comment.

Two Bulk Water Carriers, one RCR Vehicle, one QRV, one 14 and a Bulk Water Carrier Hook-lift Pod are still under construction.

Other Issues

Pneumatically Operated Ladder Gantries and / or Light Masts.

Some later model 34, 24P and 34P appliances are fitted with pneumatically operated ladder gantries and / or light masts. These devices do not need and are not designed to cope with high pressure air. Where these systems are fitted the air supply will also have a regulator pre-set to the required pressure. If the Gantry or mast is not working properly please do not adjust the air pressure without consulting the manufacturer's manual as this may not fix the problem but instead cause further problems.

Pressure Cleaners

The price of pressure cleaners has reduced significantly in recent years so allowing brigades to purchase them for the purpose of cleaning appliances and other vehicles quickly and effectively. As pressure cleaners discharge water at high pressure care must be taken to ensure that damage doesn't occur to vehicle electrics and electronics when using them. In recent times we have become aware of a number of siren speakers being damaged or destroyed as a result of being pressure washed. Please take care when using pressure washers to ensure that vehicle operation is not compromised as a result of their use.

Strategic Appliances

In recent years CFS has prepositioned retired appliances that are in good working order in key strategic locations, (Kangaroo Island, Port Lincoln and Pastoral Areas). By doing so we are able to mobilise personnel to crew these appliances by air and in doing so increase firefighting capability on the ground more quickly than would the case if personnel had to travel by road. This strategy was used to good effect during the recent Port Lincoln fires.

Staffing

Tony Kuiper, husband of R2 Training Officer Tanya Kuiper and a long term CFS Volunteer has recently joined the I&L team as a contractor. He will be assisting Andrew Plush in the commissioning, decommissioning, refurbishment and delivery of appliances. Tony is based at the MFS Engineering Workshop at Angle Park and can be contacted on 0407 948478.

Prototype 24

As mentioned earlier, the 24 Prototype featured in the last edition of Infraclog has generated a huge amount of interest to the extent that ten will be built as part of the 2013 -2014 build program. The production appliances will not include the ultra-high pressure pump featured on the prototype, will have a larger pump, (one that is similar to that used on the original single cab 24 appliances), and it will not include a fridge. Apart from that the concept will remain largely unchanged. Tender have been called for cab chassis, pumps and body-builds so these appliances can be built.

Logistics Vehicles

CFS is now in possession of all of the Logistics Vehicles that we are able to purchase this financial year from the funds available, (42). Canopies have been fitted to all of them except one for which the recipient Group have elected to have a slip on firefighting unit fitted. Electrical fit-out is being carried out by three companies namely Prix Car and Lawson's in Adelaide and Mitronics in Crystal Brook. A number of vehicles have already been delivered and the feedback to date on our choice of the Isuzu D Max has been very positive.

BUILDINGS & FIXED ASSET MANAGEMENT

(Building and Construction Team: Sandy Pope, CFS Project Officer Operational Facilities, SAFECOM Manager Building & Construction - Mike Lynch, SAFECOM Manager Asset Services – Paul Sargent.)

In this edition I take the opportunity to formally welcome Sandy Pope to the I&L team. I asked Sandy to introduce herself and here is what she provided:



Hi, my name is Sandy Pope.

In October 2012, I won the position as the CFS Project Officer – Operational Facilities and became a new member of the Infrastructure and Logistics team. I am working on existing and new CFS projects with Mike Lynch, SAFECOM Building and Construction Manager. In the near future I will be working with Regions preparing a 3, 5 and 10 year strategic asset replacement plan for CFS buildings in addition to working on building projects.

In May this year, I married Robert Pope who has 28 years experience as an active member of CFS; a Lieutenant and Communications

Coordinator at Moorook; the Communications Coordinator for the Chaffey Group and Region 3 Regional Volunteer Management Committee representative to the State Volunteer Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

For some time I witnessed the dedication and support Rob gives to the local and wider communities as an active member of CFS in the varying roles he undertakes. I live and work in Adelaide during the week, but spend most weekends on our property in the Riverland and then have the ability to support the local community in times of need. Therefore, I joined the Moorook CFS Brigade as a Volunteer in August 2012. A couple of weeks later my skills as a volunteer were put to the test and given a Marshall role at the Loxton Farmer of the Year Parade. I thoroughly enjoyed the day directing small and large farming equipment traffic safely down the main street and getting to know other volunteers in the region.

For over 20 years I worked for the Department for Education and Child Development with varying roles. The last five years I was as a Capital Projects Manager, managing up to 34 projects with a combined value of \$107m refurbishing existing schools and building new schools.

Recently, I attended the two days BFF1 Training Course at Brukunga. I enjoyed the steep learning curve, in addition getting to know others attending and the Instructors who were fantastic from beginning to the end of the training course.

I want to thank all CFS Staff and Volunteers for the kind welcome I've received since my involvement with CFS and believe I am extremely lucky to be part of such a great organisation.

I wish you all a safe and happy Festive Season and a prosperous New Year.

Update on Current Building Projects

Region 1

Eden Hills – New Operations and Appliance building - the project is 70% complete, the appliance shed is at lockup stage, second fix is 100% complete and in January the Brigade will relocate into the new Operations facility and demolition of the existing building will commence. The engaged Environmental Agency has completed the contaminated soil report which includes the scope of work to remediate the soil and as a result the earth work will commence in the near future.

Montacute – New Appliance building. Preliminary drawings have been submitted for Development Assessment Commission (DAC) planning approval. DPTI have requested an arborist report for the removal of the significant tree located on site. Consultants have been engaged to visit the site and prepare further design information

Parndana – KI Group Appliance Storage – 30m x 10m shed for pre positioned appliances. Recently Kangaroo Island Council approved the appliance storage building be constructed on the original planned site. The design will be confirmed and in the New Year the plans will be resubmitted to DAC for approval.

Stirling – land acquisition - The Stirling Brigade and Regional Staff have agreed that the brigade will be relocated to the ex SA Water site at Stirling. The land will be purchased this financial year and the new station constructed in coming years. SAFECOM are currently working through the process to acquire the agreed parcel of land.

Woodside – Lease finalised. New shed to house Group BWC to commence.

Region 2

Concordia – New lease drafted, currently with Council for the station.

Lyndoch – New Operations and Appliance building – The new building is complete and recently the Brigade relocated into the new facility. The remaining external civil works will be done shortly so practical completion can be achieved by the end of December.

Mt Torrens – New Operations and Appliance building – Contractors took possession of the site on 19 November 2012 and a “Start Up” meeting was held with Brigade representative on 27 November. A temporary fence has been installed around the building site, the building pad has been established and some underground services and bund wall will be established by late December.

Port Victoria – New station: Development approvals are now in place. Final design documentation awaiting sign off from Brigade and Region. Some issues with land dedication still to be resolved

Region 2 – Regional Office. Lease currently being negotiated that will see Region remain in existing office for at least the next three years.

Region 3

Coonalpyn – Land issues resolved with the selected site being a portion of the Council depot. Funding allocated for construction of new station allocated in the next financial year.

Palmer – New Operations and Appliance building – Contractors took possession of the site on 19 November 2012 and a “Start Up” meeting was held with Brigade representative on 27 November. A temporary fence has been installed around the building site, the building pad and retaining walls constructed and some underground services will be established late December.

Rockleigh – Land: Site identified, waiting on Council.

Region 4

Brinkworth – Free standing vehicle garage (6 x 6 metres) – materials delivered, the garage is currently under construction and expected to be completed on 19 December.

Farrell Flat – New station – new land is currently under investigation.

Region 5

Millicent – Land for GCC. No progress at this time.

Nangwarry - New Appliance building. Project completed on 15 November and the Brigade are extremely happy with their new facility.

Stewarts Range – New site identified. Negotiations with owner to commence.

Region 6

Tumby Bay Air Operations – New building with 2 appliance bays and storage bay - Engineers have redesigned the floor slab and the work is currently out to Tender.

State Training Centre

CBRN/HAZMAT Facility – Completed, handed over to CFS.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(CFS Telecommunications Team - Manager Telecommunications – Mario D’Agostino and Telecommunications Support Officer, Marilyn Hughes)

Radio Replacement CFS Region 5:

Gambier Electronics has completed the GRN mobile radio upgrade in Region 5 during the last weeks of October. The upgrade involved transitioning a total of 266 radios consisting of:

Base	Home	Appliance	Command Cars	Total
55	35	73	103	266

With the completion of this GRN upgrade in Region 5, the entire fleet of CFS GRN mobile radios have been replaced and the new radios are in active use. The upgrade also included a transition for those Country Fire Authority bases across the border that use CFS radios.

The new radios are an improvement on the older type of radio which have been in use from the inception of the Government Radio Network ten years ago. Region 5 is now undergoing the transition of GRN portable radios managed by regional Planning Officer Jason Drewitt. It is planned that the majority of the new portable radios will be allocated before the end of the year and the remaining portable radios to be completed very early in January 2013.

SAGRN Upgrade

The SAGRN upgrade is progressing. An Expression of Interest (EOI) for the SA Government Radio Network Upgrade was issued earlier this month.

The GRN Team in the Attorney-Generals Department is nearing completion of their GRN digital terminal equipment roll-out. This will complete the digital terminal migration for the remaining GRN users and bring us a step closer to our transition to the digital network which will take us into an existing new era that will provide new functionality and features that will assist with our operational requirements.

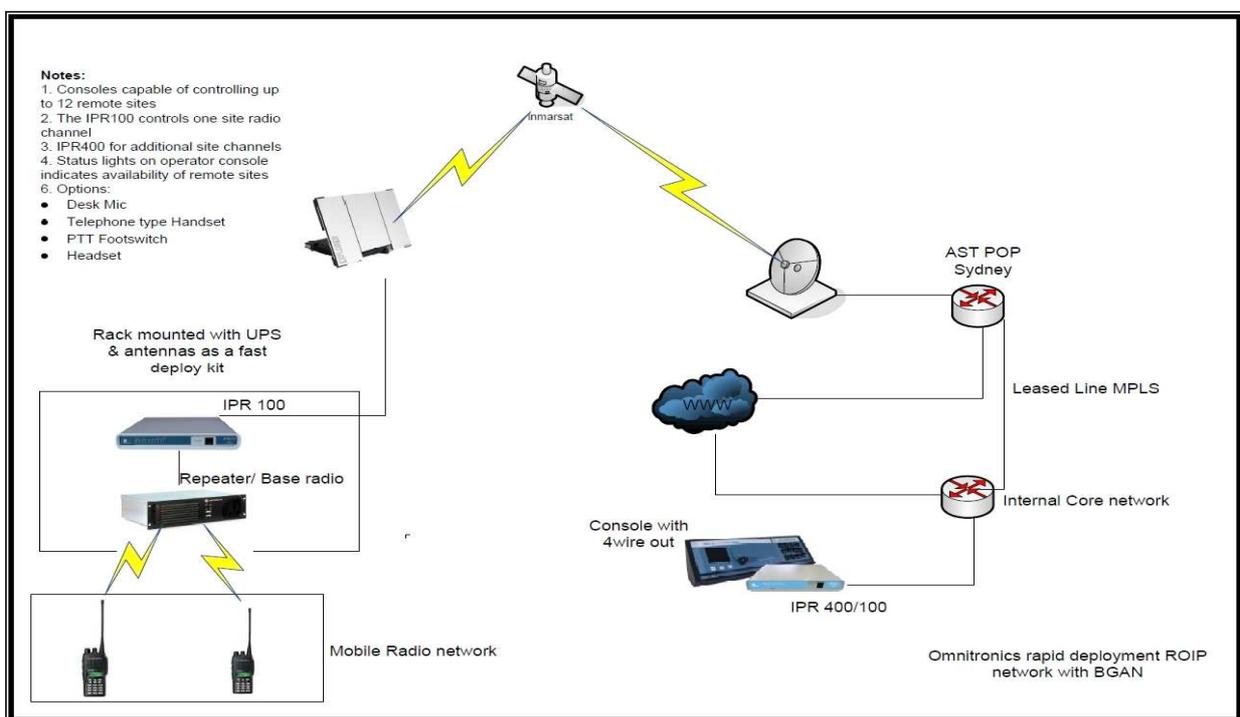
The GRN Team are continuing the development of the common code-plug and are now working on a discussion paper detailing navigation and transition options as requested during the last common code-plug meeting. Seeing the implementation of this code-plug will go along way to solving long standing interoperability issue with SES, DEWNR and FSA.

VHF Radio

Our current VHF radios are reaching the end of their operational life and we have commenced looking at digital radios that incorporate some of the new technologies that have become available in the market place.

Most VHF digital Radios now have inbuilt GPS capabilities that can provide Automatic Vehicle Location, (AVL), which can be accessed at a local level via a tablet computer located in a command vehicle. Such a system would allow those in control of a Sector or Division to know exactly where their resources are at any point in time. The advantage of such a system is that it uses direct communication and doesn't rely on infrastructure to transmit information.

Another product we are looking at is RoIP or Radio over Internet Protocol which is similar to Voice over Internet Protocol, (VoIP), but uses two-way radio communications rather than telephony.



The above diagram shows how a VHF radio would communicate back to a repeater which then interfaces into a satellite system which in turn places the call into the IP domain. Once this call is in this format the radio audio can be routed to virtually any type of radio system so allowing interconnectivity between UHF, VHF and HF radios. However, the benefits of interoperability aren't just related to the radio systems they also apply to corporate communications such as Telephone PABX, Computers and Cell Phones.

HF Radio

Development of HF for CFS is still progressing with a prototype profile almost ready for a trial and evaluation. If the trials prove successful further consultation and trials will be carried out involving the volunteers who will be using the equipment.

Codan has just released a new radio call the Envoy which is the most intuitive, reliable and advanced radio Codan has built to date. The Envoy now comes with software-defined architecture which allows Ethernet and USB connectivity that improves the user interface and will make HF radio a more viable solution for our organisation. We are hoping to trial this equipment and see if the technology has potential for use by CFS in remote areas.



Paging

Wipath, CFS's pager supplier, is in the process of developing a Volunteer Availability Communication System, (VACS). VACS is a software based integrated communication platform that is currently being trialled by three CFS Brigades. The software enables a brigade to monitor and manage the availability of volunteer personnel in real-time.

Personnel can communicate their availability and other important information using every day technologies such as SMS messaging, Toll-Free calling and the internet. Availability information is monitored by rules based on operational requirements and generates automatic alert notifications when this is compromised.

Operational and planning questions can also be answered in real-time or through historical data collected over time. The system can answer immediate operational questions before or during a response, such as, "do we have a driver available"? Or "do we require additional personnel due to a shortage"? Using the "Insights" feature officers can also answer planning questions, such as which skill set do we have a shortage of relative to availability?

CFS Pagers Outgoing (November 2012)

Region	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	HQ	Total
November	100	44	22	23	24	8	0	221

MANAGERS UPDATE

"Next Generation" Wildland Garment

Stewart & Heaton are now in the process of producing final prototypes of the new wildland garment that was subject to state-wide consultation. Once received the PPE and Uniform Committee will conduct a final review and sign off process before the garments go into production. The new design of garment should be available prior to the next fire season.

Wildland PPE STUD ISSUES

A number of reports have been received about studs pulling out of the material on the new Tecasafe Plus wildland garments. This problem has nothing to do with the new material but was caused by an incorrect setting on a machine that applies the studs. As a result the studs can be hard or near impossible to pull apart which in some cases has led to studs pulling out of the base fabric to which they are attached.

As soon as S&H became aware of the issue they took action with their Australian manufacturer to rectify it but it has become evident that a significant amount of the PPE may have been delivered to volunteers prior to the fault being discovered.

If you have any of this faulty PPE you are to **contact S&H directly on (08) 8346 4507** and make arrangements for the product to be returned so the faults can be rectified. S&H will cover the cost of doing so. (Note S&H are closed from COB Friday 21st December until Monday 7th January.)

Please pass this information on to those that may have recently received product and also check any stocks that you may have.

Appliance Servicing

Each year we deliver around thirty or more new or refurbished appliances to Brigades and when doing so recover the appliance the new one is replacing. It has become evident that a small number of brigades are failing to service their appliance in accordance with the endorsed servicing schedule because they know it is soon to be replaced. Other service items such as tyres are also not being replaced when they should be for the same reason. Where this occurs I&L staff organise to have the necessary servicing and maintenance done and all costs incurred are booked to the cost centre of the Brigade that previously operated the appliance. This occurs because Brigades are funded to service the vehicles they operate in accordance with the approved servicing schedule.

When a vehicle is recovered it is either refurbished and passed on to another brigade or sold. It is a requirement that any appliance we sell is in roadworthy condition unless we indicate otherwise due to chassis rust etc a

Prototype 34

The prototype 34 is finished and awaiting shipment to Australia from Fraser Engineering. We expect it to arrive in Adelaide early in the new-year at which time it will be displayed around the State to gain feedback. This appliance is similar in design to the current 34 but only has one live rearward facing 60m hose reel in lieu of two 60m sideward facing reels and has two dead reels, one holding 38mm lay flat hose and one holding 25mm lay-flat hose. By configuring the appliance this way and reverting to having the pump across the back of the vehicle rather than on the centreline we have been able to reduce the length of the appliance by approximately 300mm.

This appliance is the second variation of the modular design concept discussed in an earlier Infraclog. The current 34 is an 'Option 2' appliance with this prototype being an 'Option 1' because it has a crew work deck on each side of the tank rather than just the one on the drivers side as is the case with the current 'Option 2' 34



Views of the new Type 34

Thankyou

As the manager of I&L I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank my staff, and those from SAFECOM that support us, for the great job they have done over the past twelve months under very trying conditions. They are a small but dedicated team that punches well above their weight. As their manager I consider myself a lucky person and I certainly couldn't ask for better people or ask more from them. They are an exceptional group of people.

On behalf of the CFS infrastructure and Logistics Tea Team I would like to extend an enormous thankyou for your support over this past year. It has been a pleasure conversing and working with you all and we look forward to doing so again in the New Year

Merry Christmas and Happy & Safe New Year to you all.

Prepared by,

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(Feedback on Infralog, both positive and negative, is encouraged and welcomed)