

FESA and CALM Fight against Arsonists



(Left to right) Bruce Jones from FESA, John Tillman from CALM and Sergeant Nigel George from the WA Police confer during the January 2005 Perth Hills Fire Photo - Tony Ashby/CALM

he Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA) and the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) would like to thank all firefighters and volunteers who helped fight the recent Perth Hills bushfires.

FESA media spokesman Bill Rose said the fires were started by arsonists.

"The fire was initially a CALM managed fire until it began to threaten homes in the Coulston Road Boya area and FESA attended these fires," Bill said.

"As the fire progressed FESA took over the western side of the blaze, which saw several properties and other assets under threat.

"As the fire progressed FESA Fire Services personnel (career and volunteers) and local government fire brigades - many of them volunteers, assisted CALM with putting out the bushfire. With career firefighters, they also provided protection to assets and homes that were threatened."

More than 1000 firefighters attended the fire, among them about 400 volunteers.

There were more than 315 CALM and Forest Products Commission people assisting firefighters in their efforts.

"FESA State Emergency Services personnel along with Salvation Army volunteers ensured that those fighting the fires were provided with food and plenty of water," Bill said.

"One particular morning at the fire's peak, approximately 500 breakfasts were served."

Volunteer fire fighters travelled from around Western Australia, including the Shire of Mullewa, Goomalling, Kulin and Margaret River, to attend the fire.

Currently there are about 18,000 WA Bushfire Volunteer Firefighters in 120 fire brigades around the State. This group is funded by the Local Government and State Government Emergency Services Levy, with volunteers mostly called upon to help extinguish bushfires.

There are approximately 2,500 Fire & Rescue Service volunteers in 100 brigades funded by FESA.



• Fire crews on duty at the Perth fire were (from left to right) CALM's Karin Khan, Tom Powell and Anthony O'Neill Photo - Ron D'Raine/CALM



🎧 Fire crews from CALM, FESA and the volunteer brigades at the January 2005 Perth Hills Fire Photo - Ron D'Raine/CALM