



Our first newsletter was circulated to participants in October, 2011, outlining our evolution up to that time. In this third edition, you will find details of upcoming activities which continue to improve our preparedness for the coming peak emergency period in summer 2012/13.

Coming activities 1

There are several Standard Operating Procedure (SOP's) documents which require completion prior to the next bushfire season, namely:

- Euthanasia
- Entry to Premises
- Animal Triage
- Animal Identification
- Communications
- Spontaneous volunteer training

If you are interested in a particular topic, or a specific element within a topic, please list your interest with the Coordinator, at info@savem.org.au for example, Alan Mills, Simon Edwards and Andrew Hunt have offered to contribute specifically with regard to large animal/equine aspects of the Euthanasia SOP.

Web site now live!

Internode have sponsored SAVEM's website, providing hosting and email at no cost to SAVEM. Jan Mahoney, from CSIRO, is a non veterinary volunteer with SAVEM, and has constructed the web site. Please visit:

www.savem.org.au.

We sincerely thank Jan for her excellent work. The website will continue to evolve and develop along with the organization.

Our hope is that this makes communications with veterinarians, the public and government easier. We have uploaded SAVEM's series of wildlife treatment sheets for easy access, our provisional training calendar, registration and enquiry forms and newsletters.

In time, training modules will be added for the convenience of all SAVEM volunteers.

Support

While veterinarians have been, are now, and continue to put substantial interest and effort inputs to SAVEM evolving, there are limits to what can be achieved by these efforts alone.

The Veterinary Surgeons Board continues to be the opt-in path for veterinarians to choose to be notified of an incident. Each year, about 300 practitioners opt-in. We thank the Veterinary community in SA for this, as well as Biosecurity SA for sharing this list with SAVEM.

We continue to value the on-going support by veterinary suppliers, notably ProVet in Adelaide who first underpinned us in the response to the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

We continue to apply for government funding rounds in the emergency services field. In 2011 we secured funds via the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission's (SAFECOM) Emergency Management Volunteer Support Scheme (EMVSS), through which we were able to initiate our training program.

This included Introductory day workshops attended by 100, and team leader day training involved 40 participants.

There is of course a fair administrative load in applying for, receiving and contracting, and then acquitting these funds to government administrative processes.

Recorded presentations

Our Legislation workshop in February 2012 was, with the speakers' permission, recorded for future use around the State. Snr Sgt Russell Dippy from SAPOL Emergency Management, Dr Carolyn Lewis from SA Health (Controlled Substances) and Shatha Hamade from RSPCA gave SAVEM participants succinct insight into the legislation which is at the core of our work.

Coordinator

Rachel Westcott is the voluntary Coordinator of SAVEM. Beyond the day-to-day operational tasks, SAVEM as a young organization needs to reach forward and plan our development and growth. This involves speaking to community and other public groups, planning coming activities and initiatives, and outreach activities such as poster displays in public places or veterinary clinics.

Activities during the first months of 2012 have included presentations to and meetings with print media, RSPCA, and Service clubs such as Probus.

A general meeting of non-veterinary volunteers resulted from a number of newspaper articles printed about SAVEM.

Coming activities 2 - Burns course

Dr Anne Fowler has offered to conduct her popular Burns course for SAVEM on Sunday 26th August at Central Queensland University's campus at 44 Greenhill Road, Wayville.

This is a FREE course, and regional vets, nurses and wildlife carers wishing to attend are encouraged to apply for a travel subsidy. Veterinarians will be able to claim CPD points for this course.

This course is expected to fill quickly, so to register your interest, please email the Coordinator at info@savem.org.au

Coming activities 3 -Training in regional locations

In 2012 SAVEM successfully applied for funding, through the EMVSS program, for our emergency training to be offered Regionally. This will enable country clinics to access SAVEM's training without travel to Adelaide, and will help outreach to the veterinary community across the State. We hope as well to build the number of practices volunteering to become Regional Coordination Centres. Emergency Management training offers much that is directly translatable to improving everyday life and work skills, and is therefore valuable in "peacetime", as well as in "battle".

Another aspect to this training is an Awareness campaign. In the coming months printed brochures and pamphlets will be distributed to all vet clinics in South Australia, and to other government and non-government offices such as Local Government, RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and wildlife care organisations. This public outreach will assist the public to understand SAVEM's correct role. Keep watching the website for updates.

Community attitudes

At present, some people in the community believe that 'someone' (such as either government or a volunteer group like SAVEM) should do all the personal emergency preparedness (including for horses and pets) BEFORE an emergency.

This is not SAVEM's role. We are a POST-emergency response and recovery organisation, working to rescue, triage and treat & reunite animals.

Our public outreach does give us the opportunity to give some guidance to animal owners about pre-emergency personal preparations and planning.

The SAVEM Board all contribute their efforts as volunteers. This includes contributing to the evolution and creation of drafts and proposals for all SAVEM's activities.

Outreach

SAVEM regularly is approached by others about what we are doing, finding us further advanced in our preparations and structures toward emergency arrangements. However, our structure suits our jurisdiction. This is not directly replicatable in other places where jurisdictional differences in processes exist.

SAVEM assisted Oliver Funnell from Adelaide Hills Animal Hospital, to attend the Northern Territory Emergency Management conference. He was able to outline our arrangements here, and bring back papers from others with experiences elsewhere.

It is worth reiterating some "take home messages".

- if you are not 'accredited' or known to emergency services, you will not be able to access the emergency ground, regardless of held good intentions.
- because authorities rightly worry about unauthorised access and outcomes, not just in sightseeing and looting, but in allowing untrained personnel access, thus putting themselves, and potential rescuers, at risk.

SAVEM has been approached by an Honours student in Emergency Management from Western Australia. We have provided her with information on SAVEM and its processes, with the caveat that other jurisdictions will need their own unique appropriate arrangements.

This reality is a barrier to the simplistic views expressed by some that a generic national overview for emergency response is all that is needed.

Fortunately, AIIMS™(Australasian Interservice Incident Management System™), subtitled, "*A system to manage any emergency*", according to which the SAVEM Plan is written, is sufficiently flexible and accepted by emergency services across the

spectrum, is able to be a uniform basis, while individual circumstances need unique specific structures.
SAVEM processes meet both these frameworks.

Calendar of Events

5 August	Introductory Workshop, Fleurieu region Venue: Yankalilla Youth & Community Centre (TBC)
26 August	Burns course, 44 Greenhill Rd, Wayville
23 September	Introductory Workshop - York Peninsula & Lower North region
October	Provisional: CFS Fireground training
25 November	Team Leaders Refresher course
2 December	Introductory Workshop, Riverland
2013	Introductory Workshop, South East region

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