

Recognition for SAVEM

The Resilient Australia awards are sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, in conjunction with States and Territories.

The Awards are given in recognition of initiatives which strengthen communities to better manage any emergency situation.

In the field of Emergency Management, this targets those things which minimise harm and permit communities to rebound from difficult circumstances.

The 2012 State Awards were announced at a ceremony at Adelaide Oval on Thursday 8th November.

SAVEM Inc. was judged the State Winner amongst a dozen worthy projects during the preceding year from government and non-government agencies.

Many of these projects were extensions of existing initiatives by established agencies, such as Red Cross rolling out its REDiPlan pilot, and the CFS with CFS Online.

SAVEM was recognised because it –

- is a relatively new organisation, progressing from volunteer initiative
- has the rigour of its processes
- embodies the large scale of its evolution in terms of trained participant numbers
- is filling a previous gap in arrangements

We extend our thanks to the full range of participants who are making this program a reality. Most important at the Awards event were the positive comments by other emergency agencies who recognise the positive contribution by SAVEM to their own endeavours. Notably, knowing that arrangements for animals are in place encourages people under threat to evacuate in a timely manner, helping to save human life.

The award was received for SAVEM by Dr. Rachel Westcott and Board member Emilis Prelgauskas.

They will be attending the National Awards in Canberra early in December where SAVEM is a Finalist, amongst 108 submissions.

The hope of course is that this recognition will help into the future in terms of securing further support, and broadening the awareness and understanding of SAVEM by other emergency services, all of which are needed to maximise our effectiveness.

SAVEM sends sincere thanks to the State Assessment Panel, to the staff of SAFECOM and to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department for this Award.

Public outreach – Awareness Campaign

This Campaign is funded by SAFECOM and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department via the Natural Disaster Resilience Program.

After months of preparation, SAVEM has a DL size (3 fold) brochure printed, which will be progressively issued to Veterinary Clinics, Local Government, wildlife and information outlets and Emergency Services.

The target is the wider South Australian community outside the Veterinary industry, but we hope many vets and vet nurses unfamiliar with SAVEM will be informed, and inspired to visit the website and join SAVEM as a volunteer, as well as help promote SAVEM amongst clients and friends.

The brochure reminds animal owners of their responsibilities in pre-emergency event planning for themselves and their animals, and outlines SAVEM's mission as a recovery agency post-emergency.

If you would like some brochures to distribute amongst a local community group, please contact the Coordinator at info@savem.org.au

Visibility

Under the Awareness Campaign banner, we have plans underway for SAVEM to purchase lightweight printed or embroidered jackets for use in-field and to enhance public outreach.

This is part of the evolution about being easily recognisable at a glance.

Quotations are being sought for garment production, and it is intended to provide these for Team Leaders undertaking the second tier of TL training. Jackets and other garments will be available for all SAVEM members to purchase at a later date.

SAVEM Volunteers be prepared!

We are now well and truly into bushfire season, and if you haven't already, it is time to prepare your own personal "To Go Kit" (TGK's).

Skills sheet data bases

This confidential information held by SAVEM is currently being collated into regions. All Veterinarians will, in the event of a SAVEM activation, be notified via a text message from the Veterinary Surgeons' Board. Non-veterinarian SAVEM members will be contacted by a nominated volunteer(s) per region. For example, the Kadina Veterinary Clinic holds contact details for SAVEM volunteers in the York Peninsula and Mid-North region.

Functional Areas

If you have not decided upon a Functional area (Planning, Operations, Logistics) in which you would like to work, please send an email to info@savem.org.au with your preferred area as soon as possible. Remember, this is not set in concrete, but will help us to allocate human resources in the initial instance.

Eyre Peninsula Bushfires

SAVEM has not been activated for this fire, but has been monitoring the event, and has been in close communication with local vets, Annabel Forrest and Greg Sezun from Vets on Eyre, at Port Lincoln.

SAVEM has offered support and resources as required or requested.

It is recommended that animals affected by the fire, particularly wildlife and especially koalas, are assessed and treated locally.

Vets on Eyre is willing, prepared and able, to treat burned or injured wildlife or other animals, and have offered to do so. Thank you.

Livestock affected by the fire are being dealt with by farmers and the local PIRSA Animal Health Officer.

Website

As usual, please check the website from time to time for updates and notices. Your feedback is valuable, and you can contact us via one of the online forms, or by email. With continued thanks to Jan for managing the website magnificently!