



Newsletters

The purpose of these newsletters is to keep everyone interested in animal emergency management up to date with SAVEM's work and evolution of our core business, and processes occurring behind the scenes.

This issue describes the many SAVEM activities which have been ongoing during and since the "Cherryville" fire – both relevant to that event, and associated with SAVEM's general growth and development as we approach another bushfire season.

SAVEM direct phone:

0477 055 233

SAVEM's new dedicated phone number is listed above. The Coordinator's phone number is unchanged, but the new phone number keeps SAVEM matters separate.

Obtaining our new phone was not without the usual obstacles encountered in dealing with telecommunications companies, and reminds us just how much time can be consumed from amongst our volunteers to achieve what should be a simple process.

Continuity

This is the fourth year of operation for SAVEM, in what is building to be a strong resource after emergency incidents in South Australia.

<p>The Cherryville Fire Report of May 2013 posted on the front page of our website described SAVEM's work in the field after the Cherryville bushfire which began on Thursday 9 May.</p>
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<p>Over a period of four weeks after the fireground was made safe, members of SAVEM's First Response Team located and documented dead animals, retrieved animals with burns and later responded to public requests for assistance for emaciated animals suffering from burns +/- smoke inhalation.</p>
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After the Cherryville fire

A number of new volunteers registered with SAVEM during and immediately after the event. The Coordinator recorded two television interviews on the fireground, and a portion of one interview was shown on TV news. Our Local Control Centre base, Homecare Vet to Pet's mobile clinic, was also seen.

A hot debrief was held the evening of the field operation. A more formal debrief was held on 2 June, which helped identify how we could do better next time.

Our written reports were forwarded to PIRSA's internal debrief on the event, and correspondence with Adelaide Hills Council suggested to them ways to improve on their own processes regarding dead animal pick ups on private land in such events in the future. Unfortunately, Council's response seemed not to acknowledge the need to better take care of their ratepayers.

The variation in Local Government's engagement in Emergency response is quite surprising, as we have encountered excellent collaboration from other Councils.

Support gear

As a result of the Cherryville experience, we have expanded our equipment list which will be stowed in the SAVEM Jeep (see below). Binoculars and a pair of hand held radios have been contributed by the Logistics Manager.

At Cherryville we used a thermal imaging camera, generously lent to us by Onkaparinga CFS, to locate animals from a distance, particularly useful when searching tree canopies for koalas. There will be a spot in the Jeep for one of these, because.....

Donations

We received an unexpected and very much appreciated sizeable donation from a supporter towards SAVEM purchasing our own thermal imaging camera. It is heartening that our work inspires this direct positive response.

Several months later we were delighted to receive a large donation from an Adelaide philanthropist, who wished to help toward our on-going viability.

Beyond the funding we receive from the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, jointly funded by the State Government and the Federal Attorney-General's Department, these are the kinds of approaches which tell us how much our volunteer actions are valued by the community, and generates enthusiasm and encouragement amongst hard working volunteers.

Many thanks also to Veterinary Ophthalmic Referrals for the donation of two microchip scanners, and to Virbac Animal Health for the donation of 14 scrub tops.

Identification

To ensure SAVEM is readily identifiable in public and in the field, we now have SAVEM polo shirts and jackets for official use. Our logo has been embroidered onto our tabards and "hi vis" fluoro jackets.

Caresse Robinson from *Embroider All* at Morphett Vale, did the work at a discount, as a personal contribution to SAVEM. We are thankful for this community support, which is added to the growing list of willing assistance we receive.

Independently, SAVEM volunteer Cindy Cinel has sourced personal protective equipment (PPE) and personal protective clothing (PPC) such as helmets, boots and gloves, negotiating a price to SAVEM matching the buying power of other emergency services. Thankyou, Cindy!

Identification – the SAVEM Jeep

We have now purchased our own dedicated 4WD Jeep. This vehicle will have the dual role of providing a visible presence as part of our public information and outreach in “Peacetime”, and in clearly identifying us among other Emergency Services during a response, or training event.



THE SAVEM JEEP

During the purchase process we received the full range of reactions from vehicle dealers, from straight commercial offer through to direct sponsor or discount offered. As a volunteer organisation, we are not able to access either government pricing or stamp duty relief, but we used the opportunity to inform a different, more commercial, audience about our work. Five of the six dealers we approached responded, with an overall price variation of \$10,000. In the end we were guided by dealer interest and their response to SAVEM’s mission. The dealership most engaged and interested in our work, and who offered the best capital cost, was Adrian Brien Jeep, and we thank them for their generous support. ABJ assisted in obtaining prompt signage, and promoted SAVEM to the manufacturer/parent company interstate.

The Jeep has been signed by *Signs by Knight*, and is currently undergoing fit out at *Handy Systems*. Both these companies signed and fitted the Homecare Vet to Pet Sprinter in 2002. We are very pleased with the results, and you will be able to see the Jeep later in the month at *Exercise Winter Fire* on 24 & 25 August.

The Jeep is a mid size SUV with lock in/lock out 4WD capability, 5 seats, rear luggage area and tow bar. The rear luggage space will be fitted with drug safe, collapsible cage, and drawers for crew food and water, cameras, radios, veterinary treatment kits, and so on.

Who we are

The conversations about our activation have helped articulate that:

- we are NOT a general animal rescue agency
- we ARE an emergency response/recovery resource

Thus we continue to build stronger relationships with agencies whose core business is the day to day animal rescue resource in the community.

After Cherryville, SAVEM received requests for assistance from the public some time after the event; where rescue is more appropriately the work of the standard rescue agencies. As a working timeline, we see 14 days after the emergency as the core time of our activation.

Awareness and Speaking Engagements

Basket Range Primary School asked us to provide presenters to talk to the students at the beginning of June about animal recovery arrangements.

Carol Haley made this 'real' to the young audience by pointing to things their own homes might include to help animals survive or be relocated in future emergencies. Thank you Carol.

The Coordinator was invited by SAFECOM to present a SAVEM Case Study to the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (SA Branch) Conference at the Adelaide Town Hall on 19 July. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase SAVEM to a broad audience of Emergency Service personnel.

The Coordinator was invited to speak to a welcoming and enthusiastic group at the Fauna Rescue 25th Anniversary AGM on 21 July.

Regional Workshop Series – Mount Gambier

The Jeep's first serious journey was to Mt Gambier on 28 July. Twenty three participants undertook the SAVEM Level 1 course, including veterinarians, vet nurses, CFS volunteers, MFS officers, council inspectors, the local ABC radio reporter, wildlife carers and interested members of the public.

Exercise "Winter Fire"

You are encouraged to attend this Exercise on 24 & 25 August at the Crafers Institute, just off the Crafers ramp on the South Eastern Freeway. Saturday's training will be from 1300 to 1700, and Sunday, from 0930 to 1630.

This is a timely event prior to the 2013/14 bushfire season. A prerequisite is SAVEM Level 1 course. The weekend will be fully catered, but please give dietary requirements when you register. RSVP as soon as possible to info@savem.org.au

SOPs

Three workshop days have been planned to help complete some of our Standard Operating Procedures documents. Thank you all who volunteered to assist with this important task. Beyond the immediacy of face-to-face work (essential to advancing these tasks) we also enjoyed coffee and cakes, and conversation making for a convivial time. Sincere thanks to Derek and Lyn Wells of Adelaide Hills Animal Hospital for making their meeting room available to SAVEM.

The first meeting saw the Euthanasia SOP reach final draft. Inevitably, the list of SOP's required grew, but writing the documents becomes easier with practice.

At the second meeting the Triage SOP was completed to final draft. Further workshop days will be held, to complete at least one more document prior to *Exercise Winter Fire*. To help, email info@savem.org.au

Rachel Westcott, Coordinator.

**EXERCISE "WINTER FIRE" 24 & 25 AUGUST 2013
SEE YOU THERE!**