

SAVEM

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VETERINARY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT Inc.



SAVEM NEWSLETTER

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The October Newsletter comes from SAVEM's Logistics Manager, Emilis Prelgauskas.

The purpose of these newsletters is to inform SAVEM participants and others interested about SAVEM's contemporary activities, most of which are not broadly noted in the public realm. These activities are essential housekeeping and preparedness initiatives - essential for us to be activation-ready in times of need. We continue to improve and expand our on-going training and preparedness actions: subsequently, this means an increase in resourcing and administrative requirements, without which none of the visible actions and outcomes by SAVEM and its participants would be possible.

Volunteer Training Team (VTT)

In September 2019 the two-year VTT project was completed. The VTT comprises senior SAVEM members who bring skills from allied fields for SAVEM's benefit. The output is the Training Plan and Training Calendar, including training conducted throughout the duration of the project. The Training Calendar can be found under the *Volunteers* tab on the website. There is a hierarchy of training opportunities, enabling participants to build their emergency response skills. As we repeatedly say, such skills have direct application to everyday life. The SAVEM Coordinator sincerely thanks the Team for their enthusiasm and contribution to a very successful project outcome. Thanks also to the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, administered by SAFECOM, for funding this project.

4WD training

A cadre of 10 senior SAVEM volunteers have been able to take a one-day 4WD training course – also funded by the NDRP VTT project. They used the SAVEM no.2 vehicle, the Toyota Hilux, purchased with an earlier NDRP grant, and with the generous assistance of Adelaide Hills Toyota. An SOP/work instruction for the vehicle is evolving, with input from the 10 trainees. The result will be to increase our confidence in using our resources and safely and effectively. It is also good fun, as participants have found!



Photo: Belinda Battersby



Photo: Deb Pearce

Medical supplies and donations

SAVEM does not hold short-dated medications during 'peace-time'. Past experience is that even during Activation short-dated supplies received from well-meaning donors leaves SAVEM with a disposal cost/obligation shortly thereafter. The best donation for medications is cash, which we can readily convert into what we need. Logistics does hold (large) quantities of 'forever' materiel such as bandages, towels, etc. (Insiders will remember the 'koala mittens' era from Sampson Flat fire). We thank the outside organisations who keep us in mind when they offer SAVEM surplus long-life items.

Field Hospital (FH) transport SAVEM was able to secure NDRP funding for a dedicated transport trailer, holding the 5 hospital packs and support gear including the control room radio. It was challenging to find a manufacturer willing to work on such a bespoke trailer, but an order has now been placed with Premier Trailers. They will have the float and packs at their premises during construction, so that fit of the contents can be matched to the trailer.

PLEASE VISIT THE NEW SAVEM WEBSITE! savem.org.au

and have a look around. Thanks to Trevor and Cristian at Gyre Digital for their fabulous work. The website is part of our NDRP funded Communications strategy – with a promotional poster and pocket card still to be developed.