

TRAINING MATTERS

19 October 2011

"Experience is the teacher of all things."

- Julius Caesar

G'day All,

I must apologise that this edition is late and somewhat brief. Everything conspired against me this week, from the forklift to PC troubles, and it has meant very little time to get TM ready.

Could all members please be aware that we have had an intermittent fault with our incoming faxes from about the 7th October. Please resend or email me any training related faxes you may have sent during this period, unless you have already done so. Apologies for the stuff up but we only became aware of it today (thanks Evelyn!). Hopefully it won't have cost anyone a place on a course. As a precaution, it may be worth dropping me an email to let me know you have sent a fax through.

Moving on - I hope you get a laugh at my expense when you hear about my day last Wednesday. It's inspired a new competition with another of those super-sexy Exped DryPack30, for the winning entry.

There is also a great set of pickies from a recent large animal rescue c/o the Hawkesbury Unit.

Til next time,
-George

Training and Assessment

Course	Event Course (C) Assess (A)	Dates / format	Venue	Spaces avail.	Notes
Induction	A	19 or 26/10	Canada Bay	Check	
	C	19/10/11	Burwood	7	
	A	30/11/11	Burwood	7	
Csaw - Xcut	A	Per Assessor	The Hills	2	3 Assessors needed
Comms	A	09/11	Holroyd	2	Closes 26th Oct Assessor req Closes 23/11/11
	A	19 or 26/10	Canada Bay	Check	
	C	7/12/11	Burwood	7	
	A	22/2/12	Burwood	7	
First Aid	C(R)	22/10/11	BLU - upper	6	Note - refresher only Closes 16/11
	C	29-30/10	BLU - lower	6	
	C	26/11	Blue Mts	6	
	A		TBC	6	
GR	A	30/10	Hawkesbury	6	2 Assessors needed
MTS	C	14/12	The Hills	TBA	Closes 30/11
	A	21/12	The Hills	TBA	Closes 30/11
Map/Nav	A	Per assessors	Blue Mts	3	2 Assessors needed
SWDO	C	From 19/10	Canada Bay	5	2 Assessors still needed. Closes 12/10 5 Assessors Required
	A	Late 2011	Canada Bay	9	
Traffic Ctrl.	A	09/10	Blue Mts.	5	Assessor required

Please make sure you are able to access EOS . I am hoping to have next weeks issue in it's new home on the SWR EOS page!

I will also have details of another great deal that you can access via your EOS account.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding Training Matters.

If you need your EOS password reset or details of your username please contact State Headquarters IT ASAP (love those acronyms!).

Dob-in-a-mate!

At the risk of being self-indulgent, this page is all about my day, last Wednesday. It started with forgetting my lunch when I raced out the door for work at 0830hrs, and went downhill from there. I'll skip over the next 8 hours but they represented a steady decline to what was to become the "highlight" of my day.

1630hrs saw me with the forklift stuck high and dry in the middle of our apparently not-so-flat carpark. The drivewheel was over a slight dip - you wouldn't pick it by looking. But it was enough that the wheel was just spinning, scraping bright yellow rubber shavings off, on the concrete. The follower wheel on the other side was in a joint in the concrete that just happened to be the right distance from the dip to completely trap the forklift!

I look around and spy the dozen or so tiffors (woohoo - job done, I thought) but no - they are the tiffors that have been returned because they have the wrong size cable. I look for a crow bar. Nope - what do you think this is, an SES LHQ? What about packing under the wheel? Nope - it has now worn itself too smooth and will not grip on the timber I have. I tried everything to free it, until the battery went flat...20 metres away from the charger which has a 1.5 meter cable!

I unplugged the charger to move it closer using an extension lead...nope - 15A plug. 10 minutes hunting for a lead - surveys says...NO! So it's off to Bunnings. Of course, it's now 1730hrs so Powers Rd is gridlocked with everyone trying to get home. 30 minutes later I get back, haul the charger onto the pallet-jack, and then realize that its power lead is trapped under the table leg. The really heavy table with all the junk on it. With much cursing I eventually get the lead free, wheel the charger out to the fork and plug it in. 30min later I load a pallet onto the fork to shift it's weight. No luck - unload the pallet. Grab a sling and try to pull it out backwards with the 4WD? Nope, it's still not budging!

Meanwhile, Holroyd has called to say they are just doing an inventory of consumables, can they come up and grab some stuff? Why yes! Yes you can - and can you bring a truck with a winch and suitable pulley for a redirect so we can try pulling the fork out forwards? Meanwhile, we reposition the 4WD so we can try pulling the fork (which by now is being called an entirely different name) out sideways. OH JOY! Just after 1830hrs it rolls out of the crack with a clunk and onto solid ground again. 5 minutes later Holroyd turn up, having literally dropped everything to come and help, including not even worrying about getting their wishlist together. Many thanks to Louise, my partner in crime, and to Holroyd for coming to the rescue!

I am still looking for any of your stories about "those" days. Don't believe that nonsense about "What happens in the field, stays in the field" It's far more amusing when you share the story. All published stories will be reviewed at the end of the year and my trusty panel of experts will tell me which one gets an Exped DryPack 30. So get yourself some fancy new gear - dob in a mate!

PS. Rumour has it that Steve from Penrith is so happy with his DryPack that he travels the country in search of storms to run around in with his pack on. (Note: this rumour has not been fact-checked and is highly likely the fabrication of a wild imagination)

PPS. Did you know that the men who served as guards on the Great Wall of China in the Middle Ages were often born on the wall, grew up on it, were married on it and died on it. Many guards never left the wall in their lives.

Spotlight on...Large Animal Rescue

OK, so this is not something most of us are going to do every day on the way to work. However, Hawkesbury LHQ recently ran an SESVA funded workshop on Large Animal Rescue, with attendees from across the State. Interestingly, within a month of running the workshop there have been 2 RFA's to assist trapped cattle!



The most recent featured a cow trapped at the bottom of a 5 metre embankment into the Hawkesbury River.

After being brought to shore, the cow was secured to a recently purchased "Rescue Glide" (large animal rescue stretcher, AKA the big flat green thing) and its legs tied to prevent it lashing out and injuring itself or our members.



With hauling the poor thing back up the embankment out of the question, the new bow-loader punt was summonsed and proved the perfect vehicle to load the cow without needing to risk injury to casualty or crew by lifting over the side.

Once on board, the cow was transported to a nearby boat ramp where it was loaded directly onto the bed of the boat trailer and transported to a nearby farm.



A short forklift drive saw the cow warm and dry.



Thanks to David King for photos and info on the rescue, and congrats to all involved.

Training Coordinators

Interested in a course or assessment you have seen in the newsletter? Want to organize training with another unit?

The SWR network of Training Coordinators are responsible for managing training at the Unit Level and are your first port-of-call for any training matters.

Inter-unit training requests and offers should be sent to George Jeffreys, RLDO.

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NSW SES Critical Incident Support Program - 1800 626 800

**Assessors required urgently - see
T&A page**

Training Support Team

Members of the Training Support Team (TST) are a Region resource to assist Units within Sydney Western Region in developing their skills. TST Members have nominated their strengths, but may also be available to assist in trainer / assessor endorsements.

All requests for TST assistance should be directed to George Jeffreys, RLDO.

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Next TST/TC Meeting:
1800/1900hrs
9th December