

# Wanneroo Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

## Recruitment Information 2024

### Background

Wanneroo Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade provides a primary response role and has its own allocated turnout area. The brigade provides a 24/7 response 365 days per year. It was established by the City of Wanneroo in 1962 and celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2022. Bush Fire Brigades are administered and trained by their respective local government, and are supported by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services more generally. Though members develop numerous skills and receive significant training, recruitment into the Bush Fire Service is not an established pathway for a career in firefighting.

### About the Role

The role of a volunteer firefighter is rewarding, but can also be demanding. Incidents occur at any time of the day or night, and members are frequently deployed far from home with very little notice. The work can be exhausting, dirty and dangerous and it can take a significant toll on your other commitments. Members expect to spend between 12 to 16 hours at an incident, especially during the early stages. In addition to emergency response, members must maintain a high level of training, attending a minimum of two sessions per yearly quarter. Members must also attend a meeting every month and vehicle/station maintenance sessions. In addition, members are expected to complete at least one duty roster every month. This may be a weeknight, weekend or duty officer roster depending on rank and training.

### Membership Profile

Recruits do not require any pre-existing training or skills to get started, but they do need time, commitment and willingness. Our team is diverse, ranging in their ages, occupation, interests and previous experiences. Anyone is welcome to join so long as they are over the age of 16 and live within approximately 15 minutes of our station in the Cities of Wanneroo or Joondalup.

### Commitments Summary:

- Minimum of two training sessions per yearly quarter, held every first and third Tuesday of each month
- Monthly meetings held on the third Monday of each month
- Maintenance sessions held on the first Sunday of each month
- Availability to complete one duty roster per month
- Participation in additional fundraising and community engagement events
- Complete a probationary period of at least 20 hours live fire work and a skills log book

### Requirements:

- Minimum age of 16 years
- A general level of fitness with no major health issues that would preclude you from undertaking the role
- An ability to follow directions during stressful and dangerous situations
- An ability to wear a full-face respirator for multiple hours
- Live within 15 minutes of the station (driving at normal speed limit)



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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **When do you have to respond to incidents?**

Incidents can occur at any time during the year. We are busiest in summer, frequently attending emergencies during regular work hours. Members are not required to attend fires they are not available for. We expect you to make yourself available for at least one roster a month, but you may be crewed outside of your rostered shifts if you elect to be. The brigade uses a mobile crewing application to arrange additional (non-rostered) crews and shifts.

## **What will I encounter when I fight fires?**

Firefighting is hot, dirty and tiring work. You may be actively engaged in strenuous activity for multiple hours or you may be required to wait patiently for lengthy periods of time depending on your task. You will be trained and equipped appropriately, but you will be exposed to extreme heat, smoke, dust and other dangers to your safety and health. This includes the risk of psychological injury should you encounter injured or deceased people and animals.

## **What type of incidents does the brigade attend?**

We attend any fire incident in our turnout area. Incidents are predominantly bushfires, but we also attend mobile property (vehicle) and structure fires, vehicle crashes and other incidents as requested by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Communications Centre.

## **Do I require a particular driver's license?**

You will not be permitted to drive the fire appliances operationally for at least 2 years of active service. You will be trained to drive the fire appliances over this time, providing you have the required licenses. Our heavy duty trucks are medium rigid (MR) synchromesh and automatic vehicles. Our light appliances are a standard manual C-Class license.

## **What is your alcohol and drugs policy?**

Firefighters must have a 0.00% blood alcohol reading and be unaffected by prescription or other drugs.

## **What are the risks?**

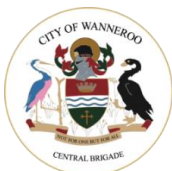
You may be injured in the course of firefighting or training. Heat induced illnesses, such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion, is not uncommon and there is a long-term risk to your health through exposure to carcinogens present at fires. We regularly encounter asbestos, toxic smoke and dangerous wildlife.

## **How long does the training take?**

The initial firefighting courses take two weekends to complete. You will then be required to complete a 20 hour live fire probationary period and log book. Depending on availability, number of incidents and external factors, the probationary period tends to take approximately 6 months to complete.

## **What if I have additional questions?**

You can ask us at an information session or email us at [wanneroobfb@wanneroobfb.org.au](mailto:wanneroobfb@wanneroobfb.org.au)



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