



MEDIA RELEASE

Help St John Ambulance to be ready in case of an emergency

14 April 2009. St John (NSW) is launching an Emergency Response appeal to raise funds to support its role in providing first aid during emergencies like the recent Victorian Bushfires.

Sean Gavin, CEO of St John (NSW), said the money raised will help St John to be ready to respond promptly when called to an emergency situation.

“This appeal will help to cover the costs of logistics surrounding equipping, feeding, transporting and accommodating volunteers who are deployed to emergency sites.

“During the Victorian Bushfires, the first group of volunteers from NSW was on its way within hours. In total, 85 volunteers were deployed to assist their Victorian colleagues who were already on site”, said Mr Gavin.

Some 7,140 hours were provided during the five weeks of fires, where St John volunteers treated more than 1,200 people and transported 32 patients to hospitals.

St John has also played a pivotal role in responding to several other disasters in NSW, such as the 2001/2002 Christmas Bushfires, 1993/1994 Bushfires, 1990 Nyngan Floods and 1989 Newcastle Earthquake to name a few.

Didier Moutia, who is amongst those who went down to Victoria, understands the importance of the role St John plays in the emergency service response.

“As the fire fighters start to move towards the fires, we stay behind to treat the casualties. The injuries range from smoke inhalation and eye irritation to severe burns.

“During the 1993/1994 Bushfires, for example, we had around 530 volunteers who treated more than 5,000 casualties. The number of hours was close to 35,000, which represents four years of volunteering in less than one week”, said Mr Moutia.

If you would like to donate to the Emergency Response appeal or know more about St John visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 02 9219 6825.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

Photos are available upon request.

For further information and please contact:

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