



# MEDIA RELEASE

11<sup>th</sup> February 2009

## St John Ambulance Volunteers Work Tirelessly At Victorian Fire Front

St John Volunteers are providing outstanding efforts in first aid care and support around the clock to front line and displaced Victorians in regional relief and refugee centres.

St John Ambulance is currently staffing 13 fire staging areas supporting the front line fire fighters.

Our volunteers have been on station 24/7 for over a week in some places and are providing crucial staffing at the Emergency Control Centre at Mt Waverley providing support to ground crews.

The Douglas Donald Recreation Centre (a camp site owned and operated by St John Victoria) has been turned into a front line post for 200 CFA fire fighters. Both fire fighters and their equipment at this location have already experienced a number of ember attacks.

To date St John Ambulance has treated over 200 acute patients with many more minor cases.

Support is being flown in from South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory to provide much needed relief. "Our volunteers have been magnificent and absolutely inspiring" says St John Ambulance Victoria CEO Stephen Horton.

Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones.

**ENDS**

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