



8 December 2015

Hon. Joe Francis MLA
Minister for Emergency Services

Hon. Liza Harvey MLA
Minister for Road Safety

MEDIA STATEMENT

New road crash rescue equipment to help firefighters across WA

- **Two initiatives made possible by Road Safety Commission grants of \$626,600**
- **New equipment means quicker and more comfortable extrication of vehicle occupants**

Firefighters attending road crashes will be able to rescue passengers more quickly and comfortably thanks to an expansion of road crash rescue capability across the State.

Minister for Emergency Services Joe Francis and Minister for Road Safety Liza Harvey today announced the rollout of specialised heavy rescue equipment to key locations across WA, along with a suite of modern lithium ion powered rescue tools.

The projects have been made possible by \$626,600 worth of grants from the Road Safety Commission.

Mr Francis said many road crashes attended by fire and emergency services occurred in remote and regional areas, some involving heavy vehicles like buses and trains.

“Road crashes can occur in any location across the state, so the need to have well-equipped road crash rescue and heavy rescue units available is vital,” he said.

“These specialised pieces of equipment will mean our firefighters, including volunteers, are better equipped than ever to deal with these sorts of incidents.”

Ms Harvey said the new initiative would contribute to improved road trauma outcomes.

“The new equipment will enable emergency responders to extract vehicle occupants more quickly and comfortably, reducing the likelihood of critical injury,” she said.

“This will undoubtedly help us move toward the Road Safety Commission’s target of reducing road deaths and injury by 11,000 by 2020.”

The two initiatives will mean faster deployment of rescue resources and will also expose volunteers to new and advanced rescue methods.

Fact File

- **DFES attended more than 2,267 road crashes over the last 4 years, 752 of which**

occurred in remote and regional areas.

- The Heavy Rescue Air Cache project will upgrade DFES' current Perth-based cache with more modern equipment and strategically position four additional caches in Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Karratha.
- The Lithium Ion Tool Expansion Program will provide a suite of lithium ion power tools to all 155 road crash rescue enabled vehicles throughout WA.

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Action officer:

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Cleared by:

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