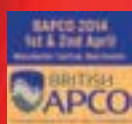


# FIRE & RESCUE

INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT INTELLIGENCE

## Read the fire

Groundbreaking research into the assessment of fire behaviour





# ROLL OUT THE HOSE!

JIM READ FROM COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY SCORESBY (AUSTRALIA) EXPLAINS HOW A NEW DEDICATED HOSE LAYER TRUCK WILL IMPACT EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

**S**coresby is a volunteer urban brigade (part of the Country Fire Authority) located on the eastern metropolitan fringe of Melbourne, Australia. Since 1991 it has been the home of the only dedicated hose layer vehicle in Victoria that has a capability of 8,000 feet (2.6 km) of 90 mm hose (canvas and extruded) and which houses the myriad of adapters necessary to work with the different sized inlets and discharges of a multitude of appliances from three different fire services. As a result, most of the 55 members of my brigade are competent in fluid hydraulics to enable the efficient relay of water from remote supplies to incidents.

The new hose layer truck contains 2.1 kilometres of 100 mm hose.

Scoresby responds to around 650 calls per annum, and the authority covers a high number of alarmed premises as well as large housing estates, major arterials and a freeway. Consequently our turnouts cover all facets of emergency response. Country Fire Authority comprises 1,228 fire stations across the state, and we also work with the

Metropolitan Fire Brigade (46 stations) and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) with 3,000 firefighters across the state.

The brigade operates a 3,000 lpm medium pumper, a heavy tanker of 3,000 litres, a forward control vehicle and the hoseslayer truck.

A new hose layer truck was recently acquired containing 2.1 km of 100 mm hose. This will enable single lays to generally deliver about 5,000 lpm per minute from each lay. The decision to utilise 100 mm hose instead of the larger 150 mm provides the vehicle with the flexibility to work with both smaller and larger capacity appliances. Applications vary from industrial fires to more remote fires such as haystacks, refuse tips or buildings on farms or isolated locations. We have designed the new vehicle ourselves in conjunction with Australian-based Fire Fighting Technologies (FFT) and Hytrans Fire Systems of The Netherlands. We required a



solution that enabled us to quickly and safely deploy large diameter hose, which can be retrieved back into the vehicle with minimal manual handling after the incident. Sprains, strains and minor injuries are minimised, enabling our volunteers to return to their work – or to their families – quicker and without injury.

The hose layer is built on a Mercedes Benz cab/chassis structure and features the FFT and Hytrans hose retrieval system, storage bins and equipment cupboards. The total cost of the unit was \$450,000 Australian dollars. We were lucky enough to buy the unit when the dollar was high and the euro at its lowest point, a saving of 15% compared with today's exchange rate. The hose layer project has been fully funded by the Scoresby Brigade from funds that it raised through the Fire Equipment Maintenance business run by the brigade. Hose layer calls make up about 5% of annual responses and – like its predecessor – the new truck will have to last 25 years.

The Hose Retrieval System (HRS) is easy to operate, but at the same time training has been rigorous to enable operators to handle a range of different scenarios. The crew contact the Incident Control and determine the amount of water and distance to be covered while they are on transit to incidents. Based on this they advise the controller about the number of pumpers he will require for an effective relay so they can be deployed. Generally the hose lay has already been computed before we arrive. The project was two years in the making, and the old truck still has a year or two to run, and this gives us the ability to train with the new hoselayer whilst maintaining a response role for both. The old hoselayer will be donated to the CFA to utilise in training new staff at its training facility at Fiskville in country Victoria.



The old hose layer truck (above) will stay in operation for another two years. Left: most members of Scoresby are highly skilled in fluid hydraulics.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

*Jim Read joined CFA (Country Fire Authority) in 1969 as a volunteer, working with different local brigades in Victoria in parallel with his profession as a police officer. He was Lieutenant (2 IC) from 1988 to 1994, then Captain until 2004. Thereafter he moved into incident management roles until 2013 when he stood down as the Knox Fire Brigades Group Officer to pursue other incident management roles in CFA. He was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2009, Centenary Medal in 2001, National Emergency Medal in 2013 and the National Medal (with two bars) for 40 years' service in 2012.*



Mobile Pump Units - Hose Layers - Hose Recovery Units - PWSE - Hoses - Foam Injection



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