



30th July 2009

BUNDANOON GETS BOOST IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Ambulance Service of NSW and the New South Wales Fire Brigade have joined forces to provide the Southern Highlands town of Bundanoon with an increased emergency response to ambulance emergencies through the Community First Responders Program.

Bundanoon is situated amongst the Morton Bay National Park in the Southern Highlands approximately 26 Kilometres from Bowral and 140 Km from Sydney.

Under the Community First Responders program, when the need arises, emergency calls for an Ambulance will result in an initial response from the New South Wales Fire Brigade, who will provide local residents with initial pre-hospital care until the ambulance arrives.

11 NSWFB personnel from the Bundanoon will complete training by ASNSW Clinical Educators on the 1st of August and will commence as Community First Responders on Monday the 3rd of August.

They will be trained in basic patient assessment and some limited medications such as pain relief and oxygen.

They will be responded to the local and surrounding areas of Bundanoon (Exeter, Penrose and Wingello)

Community First Responders are called to enhance, not replace ambulance services.

Residents are reminded to still ask for an ambulance when calling Triple Zero (000) in the event of a medical emergency.

Importantly, at the time of the **Triple Zero (000)** call to ambulance the closest fully equipped ambulance paramedic crew will still be dispatched immediately.

In conjunction with normal ambulance services, the community first responders will benefit the local area with faster response in delivering lifesaving intervention, especially if a patient is suffering cardiac arrest or having respiratory problems. This co-ordinated response will offer optimum health outcomes for all local residents who require an ambulance.

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For further information or local media opportunities please contact Ambulance Media on (02) 9320 7796.