



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEER APPLICANTS OF THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Join the team of everyday volunteers that defend our people, homes and livelihoods.

During bush fire season application response times to join the NSW RFS can be significantly delayed due to the firefighting effort by brigades and NSW RFS personnel. We appreciate your patience.

When you join the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), you're joining the world's largest volunteer fire service—a team of more than 70,000 hardworking, professional and dedicated volunteers in communities right across New South Wales.

Our volunteers are ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round, attending a range of incidents from bush and grass fires to house and structure fires, road accidents and assisting at other events like floods, storms and searches.

For more information visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer

PREPARE.

ACT.

SURVIVE.

The application process

Decide

1 Determine if this is right for you



2 Find a nearby NSW RFS brigade



3 Complete the Expression of Interest Form



4 Wait for an invitation to a recruitment information session or contact from a brigade

Apply

5 Complete the Volunteer Membership Application Form including the criminal history check



6 Attend an interview



7 Membership is endorsed by the District Manager

Train

8 Join your brigade and commence training

Becoming a volunteer

Becoming a NSW RFS volunteer takes time and dedication. There are several steps you'll need to take to become a Member of your local brigade.

Before applying, **consider the kind of role you could take on, and the time you can spare.** It's also a good idea to **discuss your intention to volunteer** with your family, friends or employer—their support can be crucial.

NSW RFS volunteer roles

More than just volunteer firefighters, the NSW RFS relies on a team of dedicated men and women behind the scenes, filling important roles in areas such as:

- › Administration
- › Communications
- › Catering
- › Community Education
- › Community Engagement
- › Training
- › Operational Logistics Support
- › Welfare Support
- › Equipment Maintenance

No matter your experience, there's a role for nearly everyone.



The application process

Find your local brigade

The next step is to locate your local rural fire brigade. We encourage you to attend open days, information sessions and events at your local brigade where volunteers can help you decide whether joining is right for you.

If you're not sure where your nearest brigade is, you can find a list of brigades at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/brigadelist. You can then complete the expression of interest at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/volunteering-with-the-rfs

You may be invited to attend a recruitment information session in your local area. This is a good opportunity to meet local volunteers and discuss your application.

Apply

To apply to join NSW RFS you need to complete an application form and submit it to your local rural fire brigade.

Volunteer Membership Application Forms are available from your local rural fire brigade, Fire Control Centre (FCC), or when you register for a recruitment information session. [Find a local brigade or FCC here.](#)

The NSW RFS Volunteer Member Application comprises of four parts:

- **The NSW RFS Volunteer Membership Application Form V1-0718**
- **The Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC)/Application and Informed Consent Form** (for applicants 16 years and over)
- **Guide to the National Police Checking Service, Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check (NCCHC) /Application and Informed Consent Form 2018**
- **Service Standard 1.1.7 Code of Conduct and Ethics**

You need to complete the **Volunteer Membership Application Form** and **NCCHC/Application and Informed Consent Form** (for applicants 16 years and over) and ensure you have read the Guide and Code of Conduct and Ethics.

Training

Training and education opportunities that provide the knowledge and skills to work safely are provided to all members free of charge.

As a Registered Training Organisation, the NSW RFS offers nationally accredited qualifications, recognised outside of the NSW RFS.

It can take months of training before volunteers are qualified to enter the fireground.

During bush fire season when brigades are on the fireground and NSW RFS staff are involved in firefighting coordination efforts, application response times can be significantly delayed. We appreciate your patience.



Further information

Member protection

The welfare of our members is important to us, and we have services in place that support our members and their families.

All members of the NSW RFS are protected from legal liability when fighting bush fires, or performing other authorised activities as defined in the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. Additionally, all members are covered for workers compensation claims for any injuries sustained while taking part in authorised brigade activities.

Supporting the NSW RFS

Helping immediately

The best way you can help immediately is to donate while you're thinking of applying. Your support for the NSW RFS is now more critical than ever.

You can donate directly to your local NSW RFS brigade by visiting www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/support-your-local-brigade



Thank you

Thank you for your interest in joining the NSW RFS. We look forward to welcoming you to a resourceful team of everyday volunteers that stand as one to defend people, homes and livelihoods.

For more information visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer

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