

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Maley to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services:

NTFRS Volunteer Fire Fighters – Training

- 1. How many trained/qualified (wildfire qualified) volunteer fire fighters are there within the Northern and Southern Region that are qualified to fight wildfires?**

35.

- 2. How reliant is the fire service on the volunteer fire fighters during our fire season and to maintain community safety in remote communities and roads?**

Volunteers are essential part of the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS).

- 3. What is the total number of volunteer fire fighters in the NT?**

257.

- 4. How many of these volunteer fire fighters are wildfire qualified?**

Refer answer to Question 1.

- 5. How many volunteers attended wildfire training last year?**

8.

- 6. How many volunteer firefighters require training to be able to respond to wildfire and other incidents?**

Training must reflect the needs of the volunteer brigades according to risk.

- 7. How often are training courses conducted to qualify firefighters to fight wild fires?**

Annually.

- 8. How many people can attend per course?**

Most courses are capped at 12 persons.

- 9. How many wildfire courses have been conducted in the last 6 years?**

7.

- 10. Do operators of the tankers need instruction to structure fire or external attack training?**

No.

- 11. If so how many volunteer fire fighters are presently qualified to carry out these tasks?**

35.

- 12. Are volunteer fire fighters trained in all areas of the roles and responsibilities to protect the community?**

There are four volunteering models within the NTFRS each requiring a different level and composition of training dependent on risks associated with a brigade's community.

- 13. What was last year's (2020/21) budget for training volunteer fire fighters?**

\$33,300.00

- 14. What is this year's (2021/22) training budget?**

\$41,450.00

- 15. How many trainers are there in the volunteer training section?**

1 in Darwin. 1 in Alice Springs.

Some career firefighters with the required Certificate IV in Training and Assessment can also deliver training to volunteer firefighters.

- 16. Is this sufficient to conduct the required training and if not, has additional manpower and/or budget been requested to increase this capability?**

The NTFRS intends to increase the allocation of career firefighters to some Regional Stations. This increase will also allow for a greater local capacity to train volunteer members.

- 17. Are there sufficient volunteers trained in training and assessment and are these members utilised to conduct training?**

Yes.

- 18. Please provide a breakdown of where the training budget was spent last year (e.g. how many training courses were undertaken).**

Training course	Number of	Location
Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 (PUAFIR210 Prevent Injury)	5	Alice Springs, Yulara, Tennant Creek, Nhulunbuy and Darwin
Chainsaw (Trim and cross cut)	3	Katherine, Darwin and Nhulunbuy
Road Crash Rescue (FERGS and Regional Stations only)	7	Ti Tree, Batchelor, Adelaide River, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Yulara and Tennant Creek.
Wildfire Firefighter (PUAFIR204 Respond to Wildfire and PUA FIR303 Suppress Wildfire)	2	Alice Springs and Yulara
PUAFIR207 - Operate breathing apparatus open circuit (Regional Stations only)	1	Jabiru
Bulk Water Carrier upskilling and induction	4	Darwin

- 19. Please provide a breakdown of how this year's budget is going to be spent providing training for volunteer firefighters?**

Refer to question 22.

- 20. How many actual training days for training volunteer firefighters, for their core roles, were there in 2021?**

91.

- 21. How many planned training days are there in 2022?**

105.

- 22. Please provide a breakdown of what training is planned to be delivered to trainee volunteer firefighters?**

- Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 (PUAFIR210 Prevent Injury);
- Chainsaw (Trim and cross cut);
- Road Crash Rescue
- Wildfire Firefighter (PUAFIR204 Respond to Wildfire and PUA FIR303 Suppress Wildfire);
- PUA FIR207 - Operate breathing apparatus open circuit
- HAZMAT familiarisation
- 34URP upskilling and induction; and
- 24P upskilling and induction

23. Has there been any suitable Crown land areas allocated for wildfire training?

Yes.