

# MEDIA RELEASE



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

## New shirts for RFS members

19 October 2009

The NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) can confirm its members are being issued with new utility shirts, following numerous requests from volunteers.

In recent years, lightweight yellow shirts were issued to RFS aviation personnel. Since then, the shirts have undergone significant improvements, including a change in the fabric, colour configuration, the introduction of double pockets across the chest, and male and female sizing.

Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the new shirts are an improvement on previous designs and with the use of a heavier fabric and the inclusion of double chest pockets, they will not be see-through when wet.

“These new shirts will be provided to volunteers free of charge,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

“This new shirt has been developed following extensive piloting, testing and evaluation.

“This process has included burn testing in combination with personal protective equipment at international laboratories.

“The colour yellow has been chosen due to the high visibility and the safety it provides to firefighters while wearing it. The colour yellow also provides a higher protection from heat, which firefighters encounter as part of their everyday duties.

“The new shirts address issues such as UV protection, heat absorption, visibility and corporate identity.

“I will not be banning volunteers from wearing blue drill shirts, particularly when volunteers have funded these themselves.

“These shirts are being made available to all members, providing for the first time a utility garment at no personal cost to volunteers, which can be worn during a range of activities,” Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

**For further information, please contact the RFS State Duty Media Officer on (02) 9898 1855.**