



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARDUOUS FIREFIGHTER PROGRAMME 2019

Background	<p>The NSW Rural Fire Service has increasingly been requested to provide a bushfire fighting capability interstate and internationally. Often in these instances, hosting states or agencies have a requirement for firefighting and incident management personnel to meet medical and fitness standards. Primarily the global ‘industry standard’ fitness test for wildland firefighting is the Arduous Pack Test (APT). The APT has been undertaken in the NSW RFS as a barrier test for internationally deployed personnel and Remote Area Operators (RAFT) who are required to undertake this annually.</p>
Arduous Firefighter Pre Requisites	<p>To obtain or maintain status as ‘Arduous Firefighters’ NSW RFS personnel will require the following pre-requisite as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF Qualification <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Fire Behaviour, Navigation and Crew Safety and Welfare (New AF modules) <p><i>It is strongly recommended that interested members with previous versions of Advanced Firefighter i.e. AF03 or AF11 complete AF14 as there has been many changes to the Advanced Firefighter qualification. Members without existing AF qualification will need to complete AF14.</i></p> <p>Additionally Arduous Firefighters will need to maintain a current Arduous Firefighter Medical and Arduous Pack Test as stipulated in the Service Standard for Health and Fitness of Firefighters. Successful applicants will be placed on the Arduous Firefighter Operational Deployment Register, from which they will be available for out of area deployment including interstate and/or internationally.</p> <p>Locally, Arduous Firefighters may also be called upon to work with RART (Rapid Aerial Response Teams) and/or RAFT (Remote Area Firefighting Teams) where operational conditions allow. All recruitment for future Monaro RAFT and/or RART positions will be taken directly from the members listed on the Monaro Arduous Firefighter Operational Deployment Register.</p>
Capability & Limitations	<p>Arduous Firefighters are limited to operating within environments where a guaranteed method of extraction or support exists – and is not reliant on external factors such as weather or resource availability.</p> <p>Operations that are ‘remote’ or have the potential to require a self-sufficient capability, are suitable only for Remote Area Operators (RAOs). ‘Remote’ areas are typically greater than a 45-minute walk to any method of extraction or where there is a potential or definite requirement for self-sufficiency. The definition of a ‘remote’ operation includes the concept of self-sufficiency. A self-sufficient capability is required when a risk exists that a crew may become stranded and unable to reach support or a guaranteed means of extraction in a timely manner.</p>
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOI opens December 2018 • EOI Closes March 31st 2019 • Medicals Completed June/July. (please note medicals are completed every 2 years) • Arduous Pack Test Completed as per Monaro 2019 Training Calendar (8th September 2019) Please note arduous pack tests completed annually. • Successful applicants added to Arduous Firefighter Operational Deployment Register, October 2019.
Nominations	<p>Expression of Interest forms can be obtained from any FCC or requested via email from Monaro.team@rfs.nsw.gov.au</p>