



Community Action Teams

Community Action Teams

- A CAT is an innovative way to harness the willingness of local volunteers who are keen to prepare their community against local threats.
- CATs come in all different sizes and shapes with different objectives and purposes.
- CATs can be geographical or functional (operational and non-operational).
- CATs are an extension of our service delivery with the community but are usually community owned and driven.
- Different communities will have different motivations for starting a CAT and the NSW SES should assist and encourage the community to own the process.

Community Action Teams

Some examples of CATs include:

- Flood Focus Group
- Local Flood Warden Systems
- Digital Media Team
- Bush Walking Groups
- Social Media Team

Community Action Teams

Storm & Flood Volunteer

Sample Role Description

At the centre of the work needs capturing in a big day.

What's involved?

As a Storm & Flood Volunteer, you will be involved in:

- Debris removal
- Property damage assessment
- Equipment distribution
- Photo taking

Is this role for you?

Pre-requisites: Volunteer with SES.

Desirable attributes: Good communication skills, ability to work in a team, and a positive attitude.

Challenges: Working in a team, and capturing work needs.

Anything else?

This role will give you a sense of achievement and a rewarding experience.

If you have any concerns, talk to your team leader, or call the NSW SES on 1800 201 000.

Community Connector

Sample Role Description

Engaging with the community to build resilience to future disasters.

What's involved?

As a Community Connector, you will be involved in:

- Engaging and building relationships with the community.
- Keeping up to date on local events and issues.
- Gathering information from the community.
- Events: As a function of the community.

Is this role for you?

Pre-requisites: Good communication skills, ability to work in a team, and a positive attitude.

Desirable attributes: Good communication skills, ability to work in a team, and a positive attitude.

Challenges: Working in a team, and capturing work needs.

Anything else?

This role will give you a sense of achievement and a rewarding experience.

If you have any concerns, talk to your team leader, or call the NSW SES on 1800 201 000.

Logistics Support

Sample Role Description

It takes a team to get things done, and supplies operations are a key part of that.

What's involved?

As Logistics Support, you will be involved in:

- Supply and distribution of equipment.
- Facilities management.
- Support of the team.
- Customised solutions.

Is this role for you?

Pre-requisites: Ability to work in a team, and a positive attitude.

Desirable attributes: Good communication skills, ability to work in a team, and a positive attitude.

Challenges: Working in a team, and capturing work needs.

Anything else?

This role will give you a sense of achievement and a rewarding experience.

If you have any concerns, talk to your team leader, or call the NSW SES on 1800 201 000.

Incident Support Crew

Sample Role Description

Can you work under pressure to short deadlines? Volunteer in the NSW SES Incident Management team during a severe weather event. There are a number of important roles that need to be undertaken to help things run smoothly in keeping the community safe. The role of the Incident Support Crew member is an intense and challenging experience!

What's involved?

As part of the Incident Support Crew, your tasks could include:

- **Admin:** Providing support such as note-taking, answering phones, printing and document handling.
- **Planning:** Assisting the team with developing rosters for the days and weeks ahead.
- **Media support:** Assisting our information sharing teams to provide vital updates to the community.
- **General assistance:** Use your existing skills to assist with a range of tasks within the Incident Management Team (IMT).

Is this role for me?

Pre-requisites: Communication skills and the ability to work in a team.

Desirable qualities: Administration experience, project management skills.

Training required: Your NSW SES team leader will provide safety orientation and training on the day. No pre-training is required for this role.

Challenges: Ability to adapt to a diverse range of situations. As every operation is different, a high level of initiative will be required.

Anything else?

This role will give you experience in the emergency management of severe weather. It's an important part of the NSW SES and a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Thank you for volunteering with the NSW SES!

If you have any concerns, talk to your team leader, or call the NSW SES on 1800 201 000.

End of the day

As the completion of your volunteer assignment, please return all equipment and personal protective equipment to your team leader.

We're keen to hear from you about your volunteer experience with the NSW SES. You will receive a feedback survey in the week following your assignment - but if you have suggestions or concerns, please email experience@ses.nsw.gov.au.

Volunteering with the SES was great, I got such an insight into what happens during a big storm, I can't wait to sign up again!

Sam

SAFETY & SUITABILITY

Incident Management Crew

Please advise your supervisor of any pre-existing injuries or conditions. Where possible, adjustments will be made to accommodate your requirements.

Task	Rarely <25%	Occasional 26-50%	Frequent 51-100%	Comments
Sedentary duties (sitting, standing, walking, typing)			X	The majority of this role will be undertaken in an office environment.
Data entry		X		
Complex writing		X		
Oral communication		X		
Manual handling (pushing, pulling, lifting, carrying)	X			
Lower limbs (walking, squatting, kneeling, climbing)		X		
Upper limbs (overhead lifting, gripping, fine motor skills)		X		
Full use of vision		X		
Full use of hearing		X		
Driving	X			
Flying in aircraft	X			
Working at heights	X			
Exposure to critical incident trauma		X		
Exposure to weather conditions	X			

While volunteering with the NSW SES, it is important to take steps to look after yourself, physically and mentally. The following tips will help to ensure your safety, and that of your team members.

- Take regular breaks
- Get a good night of rest before your assignment
- Allow time for rest after your assignment
- Drink adequate water
- Wear protective clothing to avoid the sun or harsh weather conditions

If you feel unwell or need to report an injury, talk to your team leader. If the situation is life-threatening, call 000 immediately.

If you have any concerns, talk to your team leader, or call the NSW SES on 1800 201 000.

VOLUNTEERING REMAINED SES

Community Action Teams

- Who will manage the CATs?
- Management of a CAT will vary across the state depending on how the CAT is established and if the CAT is geographical or functional.
- All CATs will be attached in SAP to either a NSW SES Unit or a functional Unit at SHQ.
- Many CATs will manage themselves and potentially form their own structure.
- Some CATs may have a close relationship with their local Unit and may partake in training and other Unit activities.

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- Will CATs require uniforms or PPE/PPC and or equipment?

If it is required, they will have appropriate PPE/PPC which not only protects them, but also identifies them as CAT members.

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- Will we offer CATs training?

The type of training will come down to the type of roles and functions the CAT are performing.

It could be:

- filling sandbags,
- providing information back to the Incident Controller,
- distribution of timely information amongst the community,
- operation of pumps

Community Action Teams

Are CATs covered by insurance?

- All CAT members are covered by the relevant NSW SES insurance policies whilst they are volunteering for an authorised purpose for the NSW SES.
- This includes Workers Compensation.

Community Action Teams



- Questions