



State Fire Commission
Annual Report 2001

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Statement of Compliance

Honourable J Jackson

Minister for Health and Human Services

Dear Minister

In accordance with Section 107(g) of the *Fire Service Act 1979*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the report of the State Fire Commission for the year ending 30 June 2001.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Fire Service Act 1979*.



J. B. Gledhill BSc. FI. Fire E. AFSM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND CHIEF OFFICER



W. J. Burn AFSM

COMMISSION MEMBER

30 September 2001

VISION

Our vision is a Tasmanian community safe from the impact of fire and other emergencies.





Tasmania Fire Service

PROFILE

Tasmanian firefighters have served the Tasmanian community since the early 1800's and have had a legislated responsibility since 1883.

The current Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) was established by the *Fire Service Act 1979*. Today the TFS is an innovative and efficient statewide service that takes pride in its long and proud history.

The TFS provides services from 236 brigades throughout Tasmania. These services include rapid and effective response to emergencies including rescue and hazardous materials as well as fire prevention and community education. Strategic placement of brigades has ensured that over 98 percent of Tasmania's population are no further than ten kilometres from a fire station.

We also protect residential and commercial land and buildings worth more than \$15 billion and over one million hectares of privately owned forested land from fire and other emergencies. In 2000-01 our 250 career firefighters and 5,000 volunteer firefighters responded to over 10,000 incidents. Our firefighters were reinforced by 175 support staff.

Our volunteers and career staff work as an integrated team committed to achieving our strategic goals for a safe Tasmania.



OUR ROLE

The role of the State Fire Commission is to protect life, property and the environment from the impact of fire and other emergencies. We provide a rapid emergency response and promote fire safety in partnership with the community. The Commission delivers all of its services through its operational arm, the Tasmania Fire Service.

We will measure our success in terms of:

- Comparing performance with industry benchmarks.
- Achieving our periodic goals and objectives.
- Maintaining financial strength and viability.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In carrying out this role we will demonstrate a commitment to the following key principles:

- Operate in a consistent and fair manner.
- Keep in touch with stakeholder expectations.
- Provide development opportunities for all members.
- Display strength and unity in membership.



Major Goals and Expected Outcomes

Major Goals	Expected Outcomes
Delivery of an effective and efficient fire service.	A rapid response to fires and other emergencies that minimises the social, economic and environmental cost to the community.
Promotion, coordination and delivery of effective fire prevention and safety education and training to the community.	Fewer unwanted fires in a community that is willing and able to respond appropriately when threatened by fire.
A safe and productive workplace where people are able and willing to contribute towards the achievement of organisational goals.	An increase in skill levels, job satisfaction, workplace safety, reduced absenteeism together with a harassment-free workplace.

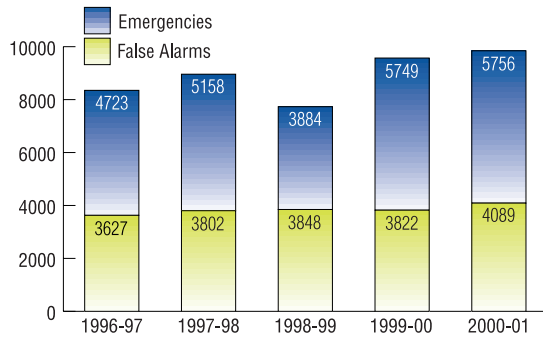
Business Performance Targets

The State Fire Commission is committed to a program of continuous improvement, and has established the following targets as indicators of performance.

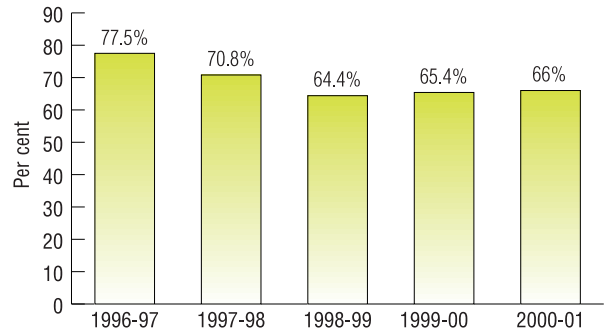
Performance Targets 1999-2000						
	1999-2000 Actual	2000-2001 Target	2000-2001 Actual	2001-02 Target	2002-03 Target	2003-04 Target
Operational						
Number of incidents	9,571	8,300	10,164	8,200	8,100	8,000
Number of fires	4,752	3,675	4,593	3,650	3,625	3,600
Number of false alarms	3,822	3,600	4,065	3,000	2,850	2,850
Percentage of fire causes undetermined	33.6%	30%	32%	29%	28%	25%
Percentage structure fires confined to the room of origin	65.4%	70%	65.1%	72%	74%	75%
Financial						
Net Surplus	\$1.1M	\$0.9M	\$1.4M	\$1.1M	\$1.6M	\$1.6M
Return on assets	2.9%	2.4%	3.2%	2.8%	3.6%	3.4%
Return on equity	2.5%	2.1%	3.1%	2.3%	3.4%	3.2%
Debt to equity	12.6%	12.4%	12.3%	12.1%	11.9%	11.5%
Current ratio	66.9%	69.8%	44.3%	66.9%	69.7%	71.3%
Human Resource						
Staff turnover	4.3%	6.0%	4.1%	6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Average sick days per staff	5.1	5.0	6.1	4.9	4.8	4.8
Workers compensation claims	90	85	91	80	75	75

Facts at a Glance

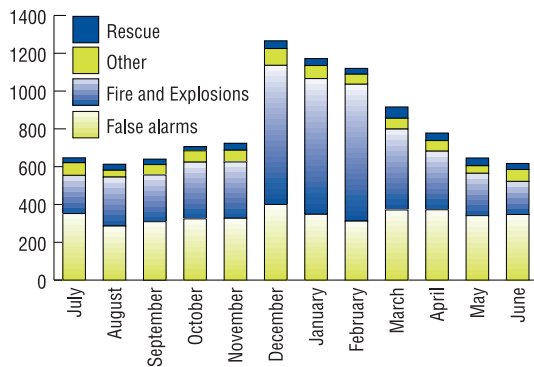
Total Incidents Divided by Type



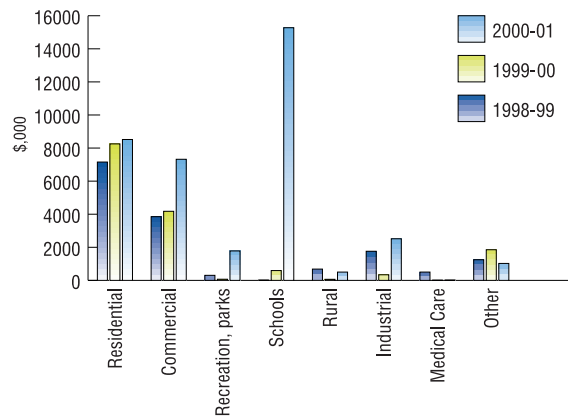
Structure Fires Confined to the Room of Origin



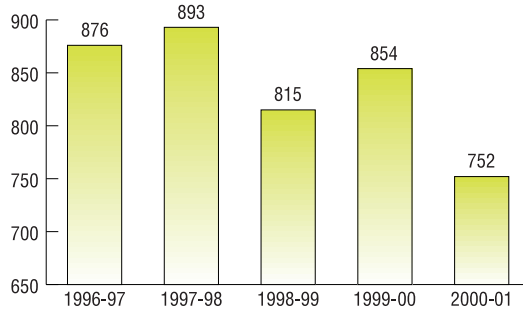
Total Incidents by month 2000-01



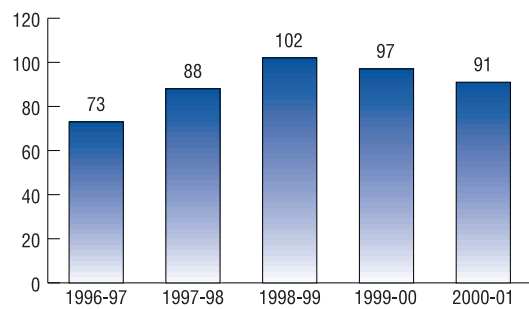
Change in Dollar Loss by Property Type



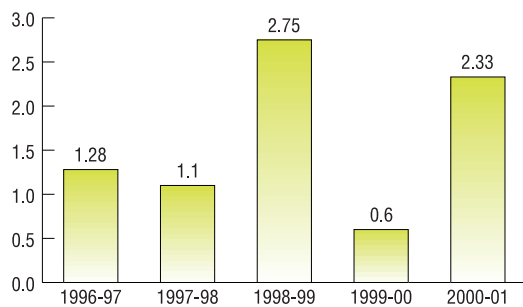
Number of Structure Fires



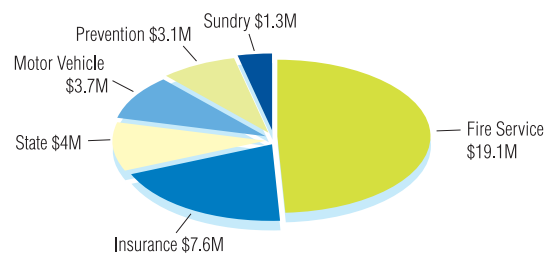
Number of Workers Compensation Claims



Fire Death Rate Per 100,000 Persons



Revenue 2000-01 (38.8 Million)



Chairperson's Report



Tasmania experienced an unusually protracted fire season in 2000-2001 as a result of a long dry summer. The fire season was dominated by a number of major fires, several of which burned for up to six weeks, placing heavy demands on local resources. Despite its severity, fire damage and losses were kept low, mainly as a consequence of community vigilance along with effective firefighting operations.

Deployment of brigade crews and individuals from other parts of the State was once again undertaken at these major fires. The willingness for brigade members to assist their neighbours, even over long distances for protracted periods, has now become a feature of Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) operations. Remote Area Teams for bushfire fighting in remote areas of the State have been established and were very effective in tackling a number of fires in areas that previously were beyond our reach. As in recent years, close co-operation continued between the three firefighting agencies, Forestry Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife and TFS.

In August 2000 five TFS officers were deployed to the USA as part of a Tasmanian contingent requested to assist in the management of extensive wildfires burning in the west of the US. This unprecedented request proved extremely successful from both a USA and Australian perspective. TFS officers were able to demonstrate their fire management and firefighting expertise and their contribution proved to be invaluable. In return these officers and the TFS gained significant experience and exposure to the management of major fire events and an increased awareness and commitment to inter-agency co-operation.

This co-operation and the experience underpinned the successful management of a number of the major fires during our recent fire season. The formation of a Multi-Agency Co-ordination Group, consisting of Forestry Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife and TFS developed as a consequence of the USA experience, has significantly advanced the efficiencies of fire management in Tasmania.

The vital importance of our 5000 volunteers in helping to keep their fellow Tasmanians safe throughout the year was again demonstrated all around the State. The work undertaken by volunteers clearly represents a large cost saving to the TFS and to the people of Tasmania. However it must be appreciated that there are significant costs to the TFS in utilising volunteers and this cost will continue to increase as the TFS, like all other organisations, fulfils its duty of care requirements. The obligations and duty of care to provide safety and fairness in the workplace are the same regardless of employment status. To that end the Commission recognises a need for increased efforts and expenditure in areas of training and support for volunteers.

During the year a number of new fire stations and facilities were completed. Significant progress has now been made in the provision of fire stations through a building program that has been continuous for the last 20 years. As a consequence the need for new fire stations will diminish, however there will be an on-going need for refurbishment and where necessary, upgrading of stations. The diminishing building program will progressively allow an increase in the capital allocation for the fire appliance replacement program. The Commission is still striving to achieve a sustainable replacement program for its fire appliance fleet. Whilst a steady replacement program has been in place for the past 10 years, there are still insufficient replacement vehicles being fabricated to meet the demands of an aging fleet. Additional funds from the fire station building program will assist. However, rising costs particularly associated with vehicle safety requirements and sophisticated fire appliance technology are now consuming significantly more of the replacement program capital allocation than in previous years. This has not assisted the Commission in achieving a sustainable replacement program.

Finally, the State Fire Commission recognises the importance of its people. May I once again pay tribute to the men and women from all parts of the Tasmania Fire Service who are deeply committed to working for a safe Tasmania.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J B Gledhill'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

J B Gledhill
CHIEF OFFICER
Chairperson
State Fire Commission



Year in Review

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	% Change
Operational				
Total fires	2,949	4,752	4,593	-3
Structure fires	815	847	750	-11
Other fires	2,155	3,905	3,843	-2
False alarms	3,848	3,822	4,065	6
Other Incidents and Calls	935	997	1,502	51
Total Incidents and Calls	8,041	9,797	10,164	4
Fire investigations	169	202	172	-15
% of investigated fires with cause undetermined	12.4%	11.8%	6.4%	-5
% of fires confined to room of origin	64.4%	65.4%	65.1%	0
% of homes with a smoke alarm		80%	82%	2
Deaths caused by fire	12	3	11	266
Human Resources				
Career staff turnover	5.9%	4.3%	4.1%	0
Average sick days per career staff	5.8	5.1	6.1	20
Workers compensation claims	102	97	91	6
Financial				
Operating surplus after abnormal items	\$2.0M	\$1.1M	\$1.4M	27

Key Result Areas

Emergency Response

To ensure that brigades are dispatched on the basis of 'best resourced' for the incident in a minimised response time.

- Regional Management and Brigade Chiefs have been monitoring brigade response times and response procedures have been modified to ensure that adjoining brigades are simultaneously advised of an incident when needed. The changes in response procedures have ensured that best resourced brigades are dispatched even though the incident may have occurred outside their area of responsibility.

To improve the speed with which responding brigades are notified of emergency incidents.

- Call handling times were reduced from 59 seconds in 1998-99 to 55 seconds in 2000-01 or by 6.8%. Times have reduced by 19.1% since 1997-98. Upgrades to the paging network have enabled nearly all the State's brigades to receive coverage.

To provide brigades with the capacity to manage their risks.

- A working party has developed criteria to classify brigades based on risk. This project is a major area of review and may have an impact on brigade training and resourcing. Due to delays in compiling data the completion date has been extended to June 2002.

To promote within our community an understanding of our response capabilities.

- The TFS undertook a survey to establish the level of community awareness of our response capabilities. Survey results indicated the community is confident of the TFS ability to adequately respond to emergency incidents.

- During 2000-01 9,845 incidents were attended including 4,621 fires. Total incidents attended increased from the 1999-00 period although the number of fires attended decreased. The increase in total incidents was primarily due to an increase in non-malicious false alarms.

- Firecomm's call taking and dispatch consoles were upgraded providing best practice in workstation OH&S and technology efficiencies.

- Work commenced on the development of a training framework for Firecomm. Accreditation into the national Public Training Safety package is expected in November 2001.

- There was an increase in the number of deaths as the result of fire from three in 1999-00 to 11 in 2000-01.

- A specialist Fire Management Unit was created to provide ongoing advice and support to Fire Management Area Committees, regional management and brigades throughout the State.

- A comprehensive revision of the Volunteer Brigades Management Manual was commenced. A new handbook is expected to be completed in 2002.

- Complete the development of a comprehensive risk classification model for brigades. The model will provide the basis for more accurately identifying brigades' resourcing and training requirements.

- Research Australian best practice procedures regarding call handling and mobilisation times to identify possible areas for improvement. This and the above project will target a number of the objectives for the Key Result Area.

Objectives & Performance
2000-01

Other Highlights 2000-01

Expected Achievements
2001-02





Fire Safety in the Community

To deliver programs and services that reduce fire risks in the community, and enable people to act safely when fire occurs.

- Over 90% of children who completed the Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program did not engage in further fire-lighting behaviour.
- Various programs were undertaken designed to increase the number of homes with operational smoke alarms. The proportion of Tasmanian homes with a smoke alarm increased from 80% to 82% in 2000-01.
- The TFS developed a new program to inform the hundreds of people who provide daily care to dependant elderly and disabled people about fire safety in the home. These additional resources are expected to greatly increase the level of fire awareness in these at risk groups in the community.
- Education of the community in fire prevention and how to react safely when fire occurs continued with fire safety expos, demonstrations in malls and shopping centres and media advertising.
- A major outcome was a significant reduction in the number of residential fires. Following six years of approximately 650 residential fires per annum the figure fell to 564 in 2000-01 suggesting that fire prevention programs are helping to achieve a reduction in residential fires.

To ensure the community complies with its fire safety obligations.

- Educating and improving fire safety in the business community continued with inspections, development of evacuation plans and training courses for over 8,000 personnel. The increased level of training and building inspections is helping to ensure the community complies with its fire safety obligations.

- The School Fire Education Program was delivered to in excess of 20,000 school children during the year.
- Nineteen Community Fireguard groups comprising almost 300 residents were established in areas identified as high bushfire risk. These new groups brings the total number of groups throughout the State to 78.
- The new *General Fire Regulations 2000* took effect on 1 January 2001 replacing regulations enacted in 1975. The new regulations updated requirements for fire protection equipment, clarified the obligations of building owners and occupiers and provided for other improvements in fire safety measures in the built environment.

- Ensure TFS members are equipped to provide consistent fire safety information to the community by compiling information concerning fire safety issues and programs.
- Provide further information to at-risk sectors of the business community regarding their fire safety obligations.
- Inform the community about the the range of fire safety programs and services available from TFS.
- Increase vulnerable people's participation in fire safety programs.
- Improve the standard of fire protection equipment servicing.

Key Result Areas



Our People

To comply with an initial level audit of occupational health and safety.

- Significant progress has been made in implementing new OH&S systems. Our progress has nevertheless fallen short of full compliance with an initial level audit. The implementation of new systems continues.

To develop and implement a training and development system that meets our needs and the training needs of our members.

- Progress has continued toward the adoption of the Public Safety Training Package national framework. The level of both career and volunteer training significantly increased from the previous year with an increase in over 1,000 volunteer training places for consecutive years.

To ensure our workplace operates on the basis of fairness and equity that values and supports our people.

To ensure a workplace where there is trust, co-operation and tolerance between all areas and members within those areas so that they are both able and willing to work with other work groups to solve problems and maximise opportunities.

- Discussions have taken place with most career member workgroups regarding the development of values, behaviour and guidelines for workplace behaviour. A pilot workgroup was established in Launceston Fire Brigade.

To develop a system that enables the Commission to accurately forecast its required staffing levels in operational areas of the service for the next 5 years.

- Career staff turnover continues to decrease, down from 4.3% in 1999-00 to 4.1% in 2000-01. Investigations into a career staffing model were undertaken and showed that such a model is not appropriate for the current organisation and will not be further pursued.

To have effective internal communication mechanisms that are actively and competently used by all members of the Service.

- It was decided that Fireground, the TFS journal should be expanded and distributed to all TFS members. The journal content has been expanded and the publication is now posted to all TFS members, both volunteer and career.
- The Information Systems Branch has undertaken a significant upgrade of the TFS intranet site as well as other developments and hardware upgrades all of which have increased the ease and efficiency of internal communications.

To develop and implement optimum systems, for member recruitment selection and promotion.

To ensure that we provide all career members with access to both regular performance feedback and subsequent support and recognition.

- Progress on these two objectives has been minimal due to the primary concentration on OH&S and Managing Diversity issues. Both objectives have been included in the latest Corporate Plan.

Objectives & Performance 2000-01

Other Highlights 2000-01

- Workers compensation performance has continued to improve in 2000-01 with a decrease in the number of claims and a reduction in the average cost of each claim per employee.
- During the year, two 12 week recruit courses were conducted to train 27 new career firefighters.
- There were significant increases in the number of participants at both career and volunteer training courses with 1,440 and 5,233 places respectively.
- A new training facility in the north of the State was completed at Youngtown.

Expected Achievements 2001-02

- Enterprise agreements for employees in Engineering Services and Communications Services will be registered with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission.
- A new enterprise agreement covering uniformed employees will be certified by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.
- Complete new policies on managing diversity and harassment and discrimination.
- Develop a plan to implement agreed values and behaviours and managing diversity principles.



Resource Management

To provide finance staff and budget managers with appropriate financial management skills.

- Appropriate financial skill levels have been determined for finance and operational staff. To facilitate training to operational staff TFS Finance Branch developed an Introduction to Budgeting module that has been accredited by TAFE as part of the Diploma of Firefighting Management. This module has been accredited for use nationwide.

To account for and record all financial transactions in the financial statements in a timely manner.

- The financial system was modified and tested to ensure all GST transactions were accounted for in the financial statements.

To provide a flexible financial reporting system that meets the needs of end users.

- Report capabilities of the TFS financial system, Prophecy, are being fully tested and are expected to satisfy all outstanding user requirements.

To provide support, tools and training to information technology users appropriate to their needs.

- IT competencies for operational staff have been developed and training modules for both operational and administrative staff are in place and continue to be reviewed. The development of e-assessment and e-training material now allows the viewing of training material and the printing and recording of assessments on-line through the intranet.

To provide information technology users with accurate, timely and relevant information and to eliminate the duplication in electronic data entry.

- E-reports and work flows continued to be developed and enhanced on the intranet. This allowed staff throughout the State to run queries on the corporate databases and to schedule reports to be sent regularly and automatically to internal staff and external organisations. Business process re-engineering to reduce the duplication of data entry continued. A new 000 caller line identification system has been installed to assist Firecomm in dispatching brigades and the identification of malicious calls.

To provide an appropriate level of support and management of the information systems.

- Regular security updates and where necessary other upgrades continue to be applied as part of this ongoing objective. Updated disaster recovery plans will be reviewed again in 2001–2002. A substantial server replacement program commenced in the financial year with completion date set for late 2001. This will increase the reliability and capacity of these servers and allow for the upgrading of server applications.

- Communications Services further extended the paging network resulting in almost all brigades being covered.
- Training facilities at Youngtown and the Engineering Services complex at Cambridge were completed. New fire stations were completed at Ross, Great Lake and Natone.
- Information Systems Branch commenced an upgrade of all computer hardware and software throughout the State.

- Complete IT desktop hardware and software upgrades for regional headquarters.
- Communications Services will work with Tasmanian Ambulance Service to completely upgrade its radio system.
- Major building projects for 2001-02 include the completion of new stations at Bagdad and Karoola and new combined fire and ambulance stations at Great Lake, Dunalley, Strahan and a major upgrade of the fire and ambulance station at Devonport.
- A financial model for asset replacement and the allocation of repairs and maintenance budgets will be developed.

Emergency Response

GOAL STATEMENT

To respond to fire and other emergency needs of the Tasmanian community with the appropriate resources in a timely and efficient manner.

OBJECTIVES

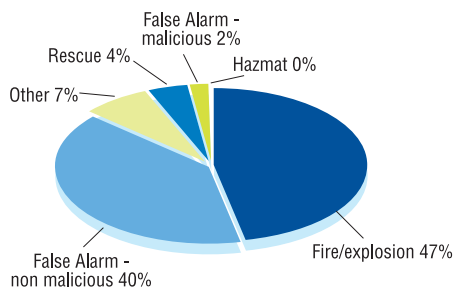
- *To ensure that brigades are dispatched on the basis of 'best resourced' for the incident in a minimised response time.*
- *To improve the speed with which responding brigades are notified of emergency incidents.*
- *To provide brigades with the capacity to manage their risks.*
- *To promote within our community an understanding of our response capabilities.*



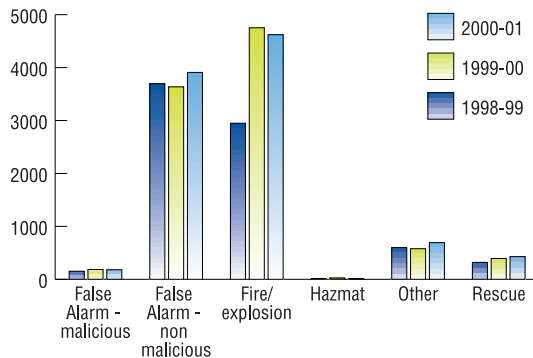
Brigade Activity

There was a slight increase in the number of incidents attended by brigades during the 2000-01 financial year compared to the previous year. A total of 10,164 reported incidents were attended of which 9,845 incidents (96.9%) had full reports submitted. Total incidents were slightly higher than the 9,797 incidents attended in 1999-00. The total number of fires attended was 4,621 down from 4,752 in 1999-00. Total fires attended remained high because for the second year in a row Tasmania experienced an extreme bushfire season with brigades attending more than 2,500 bushfires. There was a slight increase in the number of non-malicious false alarms.

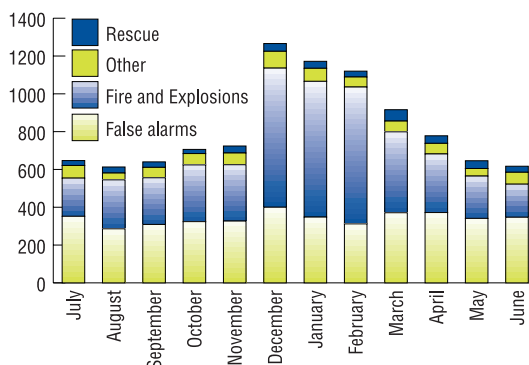
Type of Incidents Attended 2000-01



Type of Incidents Attended



Total Incidents by Month 2000-01



Bushfire Season

A dry winter followed by widespread spring rains produced abundant grass fuels and delayed the onset of the fire season. From November 2000 to the end of February 2001 the State was relatively dry, however, good rains in March brought a welcome end to the fire season. The Fire Permit Period commenced statewide from midnight on December 5 and was revoked at midnight on 30 March 2001. There was a single day of Total Fire Ban on 7 February 2001.

Brigades attended 2,671 bushfires that covered over 14,200 hectares. Early in the season there was a spate of lightning caused fires which is an unusual ignition cause in Tasmania. Many of these were in the northwest and west of Tasmania and burnt for long periods in peat soils. There was also a higher than average number of fires originating from accidents and machinery. The increase in these causes can be attributed to the long, dry summer as both lightning and machinery causes of fire are more prevalent during extended dry periods. There was a low number of escapes from fires lit subject to a fire permit which was a credit to the responsible practices of land owners and Fire Permit Officers.

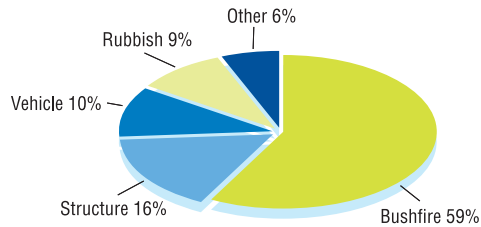
Notable fires included a large peat and scrub fire on King Island which was started by lightning and burnt for over two months, requiring the use of incident management teams and fire appliances and crews from the Tasmanian mainland. Several fires occurred on the West Coast, including one at Pieman River near Reece Dam and another at Mt Farrell. A large fire in dry forest in the Pipers River area required a multi-agency Incident Management Team and considerable resources to suppress, without major damage to properties and vineyards in the area. Large grass fires were a feature in the north, near Blessington and Nile and Andover-Mt Seymour in the Midlands where there were stock losses. The grass fires resulted from the curing of the good spring growth during a period of low stocking rates on farms and extended drying. Large fires also occurred at Poatina, Great Lake, Strickland, and Eaglehawk Neck. A significant fire began behind the Tolosa St Reserve in Glenorchy and burnt into the Wellington Park and onto the face of Mount Wellington.

The 2000-01 period was the second busiest fire season in the last eight years after the previous year's record of 2,764 bushfires. Fortunately there were no serious injuries or fatalities during the bushfire season and although there were significant stock losses few other property losses were experienced.

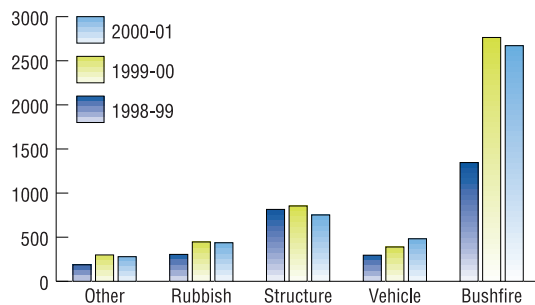
The majority of large fires across the State were managed using multi-agency incident management teams that proved to be very effective in supporting local resources in difficult circumstances. A multi-agency coordinating group was established between TFS, Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania to provide coordinated support and resources to incident management teams across the State.

Emergency Response

Type of Fires Attended 2000-01



Type of Fires Attended



Number of Fire Permits Issued

Region	1999-00	2000-01
North West	1,237	1,053
North	1,374	744
South	2,863	1,105
Total for State	5,474	2,902

The total of 2,902 permits issued during the year was significantly less than the previous year. This was the result of increased restrictions on issuing permits due to the potentially severe bushfire conditions present over the summer period. In comparison the total number of permits issued in 1997-98 was 2,809 with 1,802 issued during the 1998-99 period.

Response Times

Objective:

To ensure that brigades are dispatched on the basis of 'best resourced' for the incident in a minimised response time.

Response times (the total time it takes for an agency to respond to an emergency) is generally accepted Australia wide as a recognisable, reasonable and potentially useful indicator of performance for agencies responding to emergencies. There are

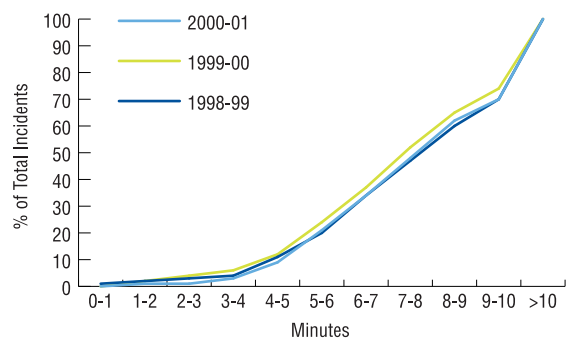
many factors outside the control of the fire service that impact on response times including weather conditions, topography, road networks and traffic situations.

The graph indicates the response times for incidents, defined as the time from when Firecomm answers a call reporting an incident until the first TFS unit arrives at the scene of the incident. Response times have marginally increased during 2000-01 compared to the previous year. The median time for combined career and volunteer crews has increased from 7.8 minutes in 1999-00 to 8.0 minutes in 2000-01.

As is the case with the percentage of fires contained to the room of origin, TFS response times appear to compare unfavourably in the Report on Government Services 2001 with other fire services throughout Australia. However, a direct comparison of these statistics is not appropriate as the TFS includes data from both career and volunteer brigades whereas many State's only include career brigade response times.

Regional Management and Brigade Chiefs have been monitoring brigade response times and response procedures have been modified to ensure that when appropriate adjoining brigades are simultaneously advised of an incident. The changes in response procedures has ensured that the best resourced brigades are dispatched even though the incident may have occurred outside their area of responsibility. Further changes may eventuate following the planned project on brigade risk classification.

Response Times (Structural Fires)



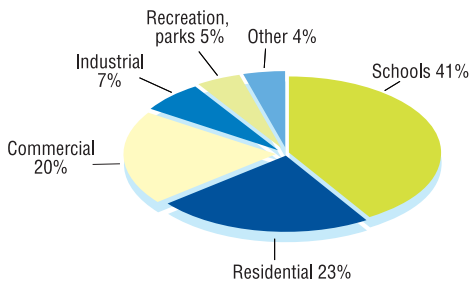
Property Fires

The total value of property fire losses in 2000-01 more than doubled that of the previous year despite the fact that the total number of structure fires decreased from 854 to 752 over the period. Total estimated damage for 2000-01 was \$37.1 million up from \$15.5 million in 1999-00. The significant increase was predominantly due to a small number of high damage property fires including a \$6 million television transmitter fire on Mount

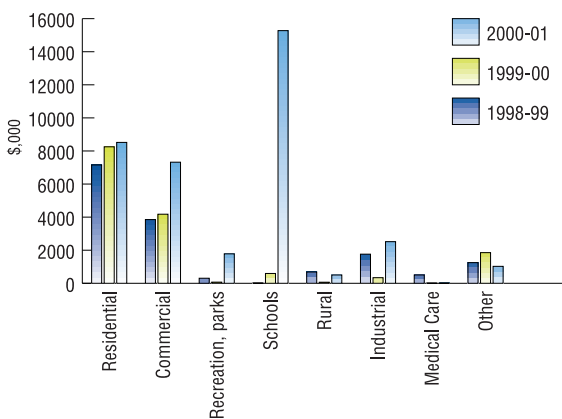
Wellington and \$15 million damage due to a fire at Reece High School in the north west of the State. Residential property losses remained relatively static compared to the previous four years while damage resulting from school and commercial fires was relatively high. A number of deliberately lit school fires in the north west of the State contributed the bulk of the losses in this area.

The decrease in the number of structure fires is an extremely positive outcome for the TFS and suggests our fire prevention strategies may be contributing toward a reduction in the number of property fires experienced. For the first time since 1993-94 the number of structure incidents was below 800. After remaining relatively static for the past seven years residential property fires substantially decreased from 655 in 1999-00 to 564 in 2000-01.

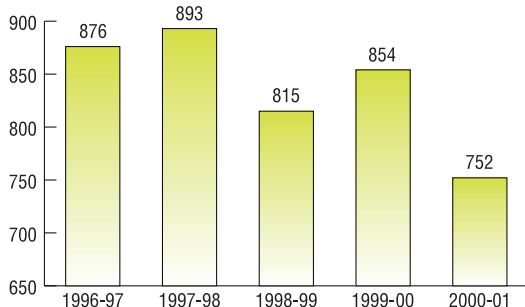
Dollar Loss by Property Type 2000-01



Dollar Loss by Property Type



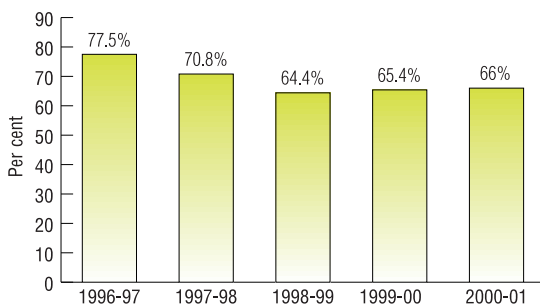
Total Structure Fires



Extent of damage

A key performance indicator for measuring the effectiveness of property damage mitigation is the proportion of fires that spread beyond the room of origin of the initial fire. The figures for the current year show another slight improvement in this indicator: In 2000-01 66.6 per cent of all structure fires were confined to the room of origin compared to 65.4 per cent in 1999-00.

Structure Fires Contained to the Room of Origin

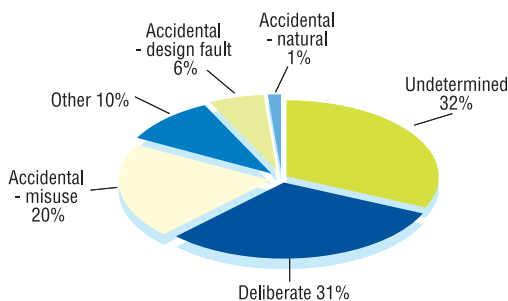


Cause of Fire Incidents

There was an increase in the number of deliberately lit fires reported, from 1,161 in 1999-2000 to 1,428 in 2000-01. Prior to 1999-00 figures are not comparable due to a change in the reporting such that the category for "suspicious" fires was removed with all fires now classified as either deliberate or accidental.

A positive outcome was the continued reduction in the percentage of fires with an undetermined cause, down from 34 per cent to 32 per cent of total fire incidents. As can be seen in the following graph this figure continues to fall and reflects increased training in fire investigation.

Cause of Fire Incidents 2000-01



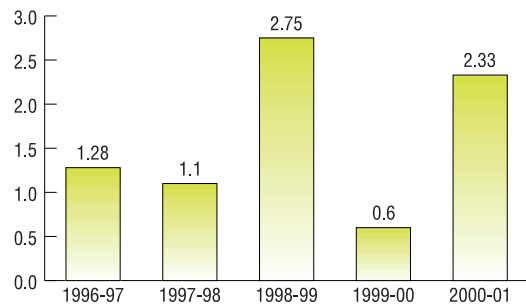
Deaths and Injuries as a Result of Fire

There was a significant increase in the number of fatalities as the result of fire. In 2000-01 there were 11 fire related deaths compared to three for the previous period. The year was the second worst period for fatalities in Tasmania in the past eight years. The figure for 2000-01 equates to 2.33 fatalities per 100,000 people and is well ahead of the national average of 0.6. The average number of fire-related fatalities per annum in Tasmania, measured over the last seven years, is 6.4. Given Tasmania's small population size, the number varies significantly year-to-year, from a high of twelve in 1998-99, to a low of three in 1999-2000.

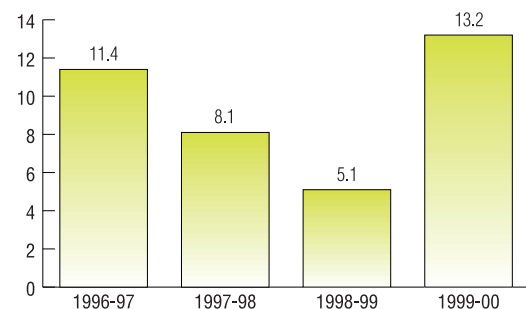
Not all fire-related fatalities are caused by fire. Of eleven fatalities in 2000-01, nine occurred due to accidental circumstances; suspicious circumstances surrounding two other fatalities are under investigation.

Fire injury statistics are collected by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and measure the number of hospital admissions excluding emergency department non-admissions. The data is only available for periods a year prior to that covered by the annual report. Tasmania's rate significantly increased from 5.1 per 100,000 persons in 1998-99 to 13.2 in 1999-00. Notwithstanding this increase Tasmania was third lowest of all other States and below the national average of 14.4 injuries per 100,000 persons.

Fire Death Rate per 100,000 Persons



Fire Injury Rate per 100,000 Persons



Statistical Information

The data used for the reporting of operational activities was derived from the Service's incident reporting system which conforms to Australian Standard 2577 - Australian Incident Reporting System.

All TFS fire brigades contribute data to the reporting system. Incident reports are compiled from observations made at the scene by responding officers and fire investigators.

Official incident reports from brigades were received for 96.9 per cent of the 10,164 incidents responded to by the Service. All graphs and tables are based on incidents with completed reports.



Firecomm

- The collation and dissemination of operational and media information for multi-agency incidents is being coordinated by Firecomm.
- Increasing use was made of the TFS website for dissemination of continually updated fire situation information. The high number of web site hits was evidence that the information was found very useful by both the media and general public.

Work commenced on the development of a training framework for Firecomm call taking and dispatch functions along with the development of a fire specific certificate and diploma qualification within the nationally accredited Public Safety Training package. Accreditation should be completed by November 2001. National emergency services have shown considerable interest in this development.

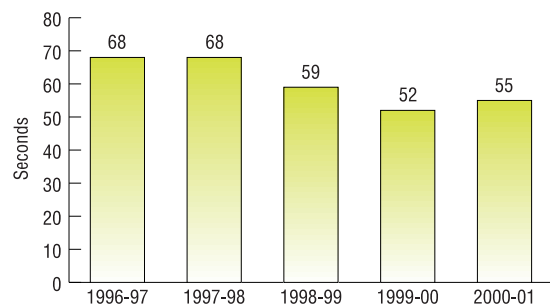
Call handling

Objective:

To improve the speed with which responding brigades are notified of emergency incidents.

The median call handling time for 2000-01 was 55 seconds and was two seconds longer than the 1999-00 figure. The reasons for this small increase above the 1999-00 figure has not been determined, however, as can be seen from the following graph the median call handling time continues to remain well below previous results. This reduction has dramatically improved the speed with which brigades are notified of emergency incidents. The performance target for this objective was to decrease the call handling time by at least 2.5 per cent from those achieved in 1998. The 2000-01 result equates to a 19 per cent reduction in the handling times since 1998.

Median Call Handling Times



Emergency Response

Objective:

To provide brigades with the capacity to manage their risks.

A working party is developing criteria to classify brigades based on risk. This project is one of the major areas of review for the TFS and may have an impact on brigade training and resourcing. Due to delays in compiling data the completion date for this project has been extended to June 2002.

Objective

To promote within our community an understanding of our response capabilities.

The TFS conducted a survey to establish the level of community awareness of our response capabilities. Survey results indicated the community is confident of our ability to adequately respond to emergency incidents. The Community Fire Safety Division continues to develop and implement fire safety initiatives throughout the State.

Fire Investigation

The Commission has a statutory responsibility to investigate and determine the cause of all fires. A fundamental responsibility of the officer in charge of a fire incident is to determine the cause of the fire. Where the cause cannot be determined and/or any of the following circumstances exist a formal fire investigation will be undertaken by a full time Fire Investigation Officer:

- A major fire*.
- Where a fatality or serious injury** has occurred.
- Where a coroner or Police requests that it be investigated.
- Where the fire is apparently deliberate, suspected to be deliberate and the fire causes or has the potential to cause major damage.

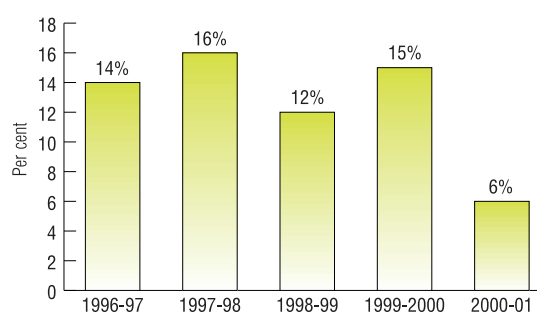
- Where the cause is not known and the fire causes or has the potential to cause major damage.

*Includes fire(s) of significant financial or historic loss and/or of political or public.

**Where the injury may result in the eventual death of a person.

Fire Investigation Officers investigated 172, or 3.7 per cent of all fires, during 2000-01. The percentage of formally investigated fires where the cause remained undetermined continued to decrease down from 15 per cent in 1999-00 to 6 per cent in 2000-01. This significant decrease reflects the continued improvements made by Fire Investigators in their investigation processes and their training.

Fire Investigations - % of Cause Undetermined



During 2000-01 Fire Investigators facilitated training for career and volunteer personnel, Tasmania Police and Antarctic expeditioners. As a result of fire investigation training courses provided to TFS personnel the percentage of total fires where the cause is undetermined has decreased from 35% in 1999-00 and to 32% in 2000-01 (due to the elimination of "suspicious" as a fire cause previous year's data is not comparable). This is an important positive outcome of the training program and helps the TFS to more readily identify and address the major causes of fire in the community. Continuing efforts will be made to reduce the number fires where the cause remains undetermined.

Planned Outcomes/Achievements 2001-02

- **Complete the development of a comprehensive risk classification model for brigades. The model will provide the basis for more accurately identifying brigade resourcing and training requirements.**
- **Research Australian best practice procedures regarding call handling and mobilisation times to identify possible areas for improvement. This and the above project will target a number of the objectives for the Emergency Response Key Result Area.**



Community Fire Safety

GOAL STATEMENT

To have a Tasmanian community that is able to manage fire risks and respond safely to fire.

OBJECTIVES

- *To deliver programs and services that reduce fire risks in the community, and enable people to act safely when fire occurs.*
- *To ensure the community complies with its fire safety obligations.*



Objective:

To deliver programs and services that reduce fire risks in the community, and enable people to act safely when fire occurs.

TFS has identified groups in the community who are most at risk from fire, and has established a broad range of programs to assist these people to prevent fires and minimise the impact of fires when they occur. Responsibility for programs addressing fires in the home and in the workplace rests with the Community Fire Safety Division, while this Division and the Fire Management Unit collaborate to address risks presented by bushfires.

Improving fire safety in the home

In 2000-01 domestic property fires represented 75% of all building fires in Tasmania. Approximately one third of domestic fires started in the kitchen with another third beginning in lounge-rooms.

Research has shown those most at risk from fire in the home are people dependent upon others for assistance; the greater the degree of dependence, the greater the risk. These people include young children, dependent elderly people, dependent people with disabilities, and those whose faculties are affected by alcohol, medication and other drugs. People in low-income households are also disproportionately represented in home fire statistics. The majority of the Division's programs target these more at risk sectors of the community to maximise the results achieved in targeting the objectives of reducing fire risks and educating people to enable them to act safely when fire occurs.

Children

The School Fire Education Program reached 20,227 primary school children in 2000-01. These children learned about fire safety in and around the home, prepared a home evacuation plan, and learned what to do if a fire occurs.

The Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program provides counselling for young children engaged in unsafe fire-lighting behaviour. Seventy-one children (median age 8 years) participated in the program during 2000-01. A survey of parents revealed that 92% of children completing the program during the year had not re-offended. Approximately the same percentage of participants did not reoffend in 1999-00. These consistently outstanding results are a positive outcome in addressing this important social problem and reducing fire risks in the community.

Dependent elderly and people with disabilities

Project Wake Up! seeks to improve fire safety in the homes of people with disabilities and elderly people, with a focus on the dependent elderly. The Program offers free home fire safety checks and free smoke alarms where necessary. Eleven community organisations working in the aged care field, as well as local

councils, assisted the TFS in identifying potential beneficiaries of the Program. During the year 331 households participated resulting in 218 free smoke alarms being installed. Similarly approximately 350 households participated during 1999-00. These results further increased the percentage of Tasmanian homes with an operational smoke alarm, particularly in the more at-risk groups of the community.

The development of a new program to inform carers who provide daily care to dependent elderly and disabled people about fire safety in the home commenced late in 2000. It is expected that these people will assist in significantly improving the fire safety of their clients.

In addition, smoke alarms in 3,550 housing units managed by Housing Tasmania and occupied by elderly people and people with disabilities were serviced during the year to ensure they remain in working order.

To ensure that the fire safety needs of people living in health-care facilities and group homes are addressed, site-specific evacuation plans were developed and care providers received accredited training in emergency response. Forty-one detailed audits of fire safety measures were carried out in health-care facilities to measure the extent to which these facilities meet health-care accreditation requirements.

Householders generally

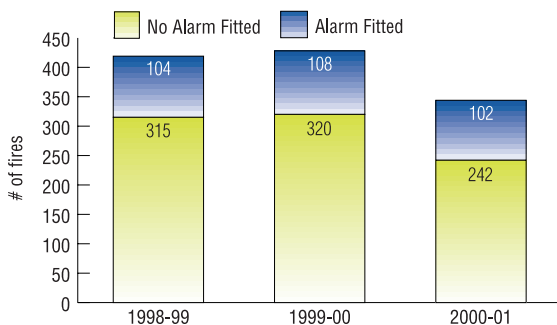
Following extremely positive feedback in 1999-00 Fire Safety Expos were again undertaken in 2000-01. The Expos, a joint initiative of TFS and Housing Tasmania, were conducted in Clarendon Vale, Devonport, Burnie, Glenorchy and Launceston in 2000-01. These Expos introduced attendees to the dangers of stove-top fires, demonstrated how to install and maintain smoke alarms, and how to use wood-heaters safely thus addressing two of the major causes of domestic fires and outlining the benefits of smoke alarms. The expos were augmented by demonstrations by fire brigade officers in malls and shopping centres in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport during winter 2000 highlighting the dangers of stove-top fires. These events received significant media attention and positive feedback from local communities.

Television and press advertising during winter months also highlighted the risk of stove-top fires and heater fires. Some of this advertising also focussed on the increased risk of fire in the home due to people being affected by alcohol.

Publicising the benefits of smoke alarms has continued. A concentrated smoke alarm awareness campaign conducted during June 2001 in the press and on radio encouraged householders to install an alarm, and to replace the battery at the end of the daylight savings period.

During 2000-01 TFS brigades attended 344 domestic house fires. Of these, 242 fires, or approximately 70 per cent, of domestic homes attended did not have a smoke alarm fitted. Since the data became available in 1998-99 the proportion of domestic house fires attended by the TFS where a smoke alarm was not fitted has been 75, 75 and 70 per cent for 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 respectively. Given that more than 80 per cent of all homes in Tasmania are fitted with smoke alarms, these results may indicate that for properties fitted with a smoke alarm, fires are often discovered early enough for householders to extinguish them without fire brigade intervention. Of the properties where TFS attended a fire that were fitted with smoke alarms the alarms were credited with playing a significant part in alerting occupants to the presence of a fire and potentially saving life in 62 instances or 60 per cent of the time. These statistics reaffirm the importance of smoke alarms in minimising damage to life and property from fire. At the end of 2000-01 82 per cent of Tasmanian households had an operational smoke alarm, an increase of two per cent over the previous year.

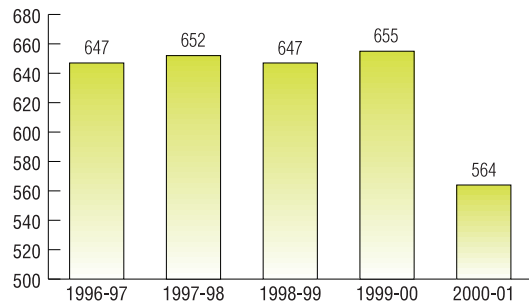
Domestic Property Fires



Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and fire blankets were offered for sale to the general public through outlets in Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport. In conjunction with initiatives from community-based organisations, these items were offered at discount prices at fire safety expos.

Information about fire safety in the home is included in brochures distributed widely in the community, as well as on the TFS website. A mobile community education display promoting fire safety was completed in early 2001 and was used extensively by brigades throughout the State to promote fire safety messages. The Service also maintains a free-call service for general fire safety enquiries. Approximately 1,800 calls were made to this number in 2000-01.

Number of Residential Structure Fires



There was a significant decrease in the total number of structure fires from 854 in 1999-00 to 752 in 2000-01. This reduction represents a positive outcome and suggests our fire prevention strategies are reducing the number of property fires experienced.



After remaining relatively static for the past seven years residential property fires substantially decreased from 655 in 1999-00 to 564 in 2000-01.

Improving safety from bushfires

Bushfires represent the most significant risk to the Tasmanian community from natural hazards. In the period 1967 to 1999, nearly 60 per cent of economic loss attributed to natural disasters in Tasmania was caused by bushfires. With a statutory responsibility to prevent and mitigate bushfire risks in Tasmania, the TFS has developed and implemented a range of measures to good effect over many years. Some strategies are still being implemented in regional areas so further improvements in safety from bushfires are expected. Despite a bushfire season stretching from November to March, no buildings were lost during 2000-01 as a result of bushfires.

Measures undertaken during 2000-01 to prevent bushfires and minimise their impact on the community include:

- Bushfire mitigation work undertaken by the 34 Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) established under Section 18 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. FMACs consist of local government and local fire brigade representatives and other stakeholders who assess fire risks, prepare fire protection plans, advise the Commission on fire permit periods and on the adequacy, efficiency and coordination of fire brigades, and advise local councils on fire hazards;

- Input into planning schemes to mitigate the risk from bushfires to new developments. The Fire Management Unit made a number of submissions to local government in relation to developments in areas at risk from bushfire. A number of appeals were also made, as well as amendments to planning schemes to incorporate appropriate bushfire safety measures;
- Training programs for local government officers to enable them to identify, analyse and treat local bushfire risks. A training program for eleven local government representatives was conducted in November 2000;
- Community development programs such as Community Fireguard, which encourages householders living in areas identified as high bushfire risks to work collaboratively with their neighbours to mitigate those risks and prepare for the bushfire season. Nineteen Community Fireguard groups comprising 296 members were established during 2000-01, bringing the total number of groups throughout the State to 78.

Improving fire safety in the workplace

Objective:

To ensure the community complies with its fire safety obligations.

Legislation

Fire safety legislation, in effect in Tasmania for several years, has contributed to the maintenance of appropriate fire safety standards in buildings in the State. The new and more contemporary *General Fire Regulations 2000*, that replaced regulations enacted in 1975, took effect on 1 January 2001. These regulations updated requirements for the testing, maintenance and repair of fire protection equipment, clarified the obligations of building owners and occupiers, including the requirements for evacuation plans for prescribed buildings, and provided for other improvements in fire safety measures in the built environment. These new regulations will ensure that appropriate fire safety measures not addressed by building regulations and codes will continue to be in place to protect people using buildings accessed by the general public.

Twenty-nine permits were issued to firms installing, maintaining and repairing fire protection systems in 2000-01. In order to ensure people installing and servicing portable fire protection equipment comply with the new permit regulations, seminars to inform them about their obligations have been scheduled for July 2001.

Inspection

The inspection of commercial and public buildings to ensure they are built and maintained in accordance with relevant fire safety legislation, codes and standards is a significant strategy to ensure building owners and occupiers comply with their fire safety



obligations. Three hundred and thirty building plans were assessed for compliance with fire safety requirements, and 239 buildings were assessed to ensure building work carried out had been carried out in accordance with building permits and the Building Code of Australia. During 2000-01 144 licenced premises were inspected and issued with fire safety certificates, having met all fire safety requirements. Forty-one health and aged-care facilities were inspected for compliance with fire safety regulations during 2000-01.

Training

The TFS offers 28 accredited training courses to people in the commercial and public sectors to improve fire safety in workplaces. These courses train people on how to manage fires and other emergencies, how to evacuate safely from buildings during an emergency, and how to work safely at height and in confined spaces. During 2000-01 723 courses were conducted with a total of 8,193 employees participating.

The increased level of training and building inspections is helping to ensure the community complies with its fire safety obligations; the second objective of Community Fire Safety. A performance indicator for this objective is a reduction in the fire death rate in the commercial and public sectors – there were no fire deaths in these areas during 2000-01.

Emergency response planning

Under the *General Fire Regulations 2000*, specified classes of buildings are required to have evacuation plans approved by the TFS Chief Officer. The Chief Officer approved 88 evacuation plans for specified buildings during 2000-01.

Equipment sales and service

Smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, fire blankets and other fire-fighting equipment is offered for sale to the general public through outlets in Hobart, Burnie, Devonport and Launceston. Significant resources are devoted also to the maintenance of fire protection equipment at approximately 7,500 workplaces throughout the State.



Planned Outcomes/Achievements 2001-02

- **Ensure TFS members are equipped to provide consistent fire safety information to the community by compiling information concerning fire safety issues and programs.**
- **Provide further information to at-risk sectors of the business community regarding their fire safety obligations.**
- **Inform the community about the the range of fire safety programs and services available from TFS.**
- **Increase vulnerable people's participation in fire safety programs.**
- **Improve the standard of fire protection equipment servicing.**

Our People

GOAL STATEMENT

To position the State Fire Commission as a productive and safe workplace, where members are able and willing to contribute towards the achievement of the strategic objectives of the organisation.

OBJECTIVES

- To comply with an initial level audit of occupational health and safety.
- To develop and implement a training and development system that meets our needs and the training needs of our members.
- To ensure our workplace operates on the basis of fairness and equity that values and supports our people.
- To ensure a workplace where there is trust, co-operation and tolerance between all areas and members within those areas so that they are both able and willing to work with other work groups to solve problems and maximise opportunities.
- To develop a system that enables the Commission to accurately forecast its required staffing levels in operational areas of the service for the next 5 years.
- To have effective internal communication mechanisms that are actively and competently used by all members of the Service.
- To develop and implement optimum systems, for member recruitment selection and promotion.
- To ensure that we provide all career members with access to both regular performance feedback and subsequent support and recognition.



Occupational Health and Safety

Objective:

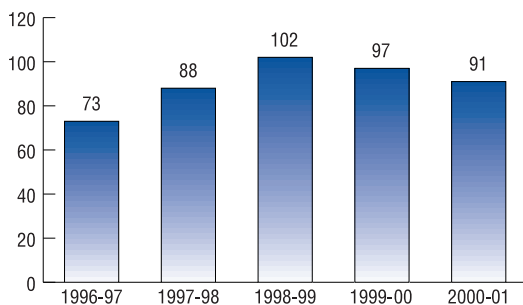
To comply with an initial level audit of occupational health and safety.

The TFS commenced a project to implement new and improved occupational health and safety systems two years ago. Significant progress has been made in implementing the new systems. An interim assessment against the 58 SafetyMAP (OH&S auditing tool) criteria was conducted in January 2001. The assessment showed that the TFS conforms with 31 of the SafetyMAP criteria and substantially conform with a further 15. In 1998, the TFS conformed with five criteria and substantially conformed with a further 11. Progress fell short of our target of achieving full compliance with the initial level audit by December 2000 due to the considerable amount of consultation and training required to fully implement each new system.

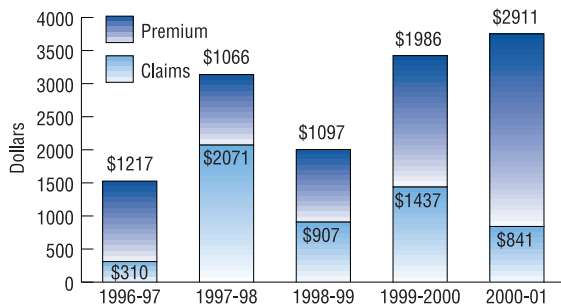
Workers Compensation

Our workers compensation performance has continued to improve with a decrease in the number of workers compensation claims lodged as well as a reduction in the cost of each claim per employee. The number of claims during the 2000-01 year and following years is expected to further decrease with the implementation of the new occupational health and safety systems. This outcome will be closely monitored in the future.

Number of Workers Compensation Claims



Cost of Workers Compensation per Employee



Training and Career Development

Objective:

To develop and implement a training and development system that meets our needs and the training needs of our members.

The TFS is continuing progress towards the adoption of the Public Safety Training Package which incorporates national firefighter training standards and will replace the modular training framework currently used in Australia. Qualifications in public safety have been developed to provide maximum recognition, flexibility and portability for persons employed full-time or part-time or in a volunteer capacity in the public safety industry.

The modules and associated resources currently used will continue to play an important role in assisting personnel to achieve the underpinning knowledge and skills required. The Public Safety Training Package has a greater emphasis on assessing units of competence focusing on practical demonstration of skills with direct application in the workplace or simulated situation.

Career Training

Training Services conducted two twelve-week recruit courses in 2001 to train 27 new firefighters to the TFS. Staff development is assisted by mentoring and the introduction of personal development plans. Training Services delivered a number of in-house officer development training courses.

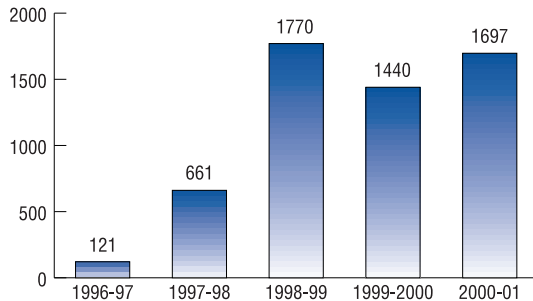
Career staff have gained greater access to assessment through the 'assessment register' delivered via the TFS intranet. The total number of Australian Fire Curriculum (AFC) modules achieved by career staff last year was 2,148 with 1,868 being assessed by TFS personnel and 280 assessed by TAFE.

Recording of skills maintenance will be further enhanced with the completion and implementation of 'RMS Train'. This program, which is currently under development, will enable comprehensive management of competency based training activities for career staff and volunteers throughout the State.

The number of qualifications awarded in 1999-2000 was 54. This number increased to 59 during 2000-01 which reflects the award of qualifications for ongoing training and assessment only and not recognition of current competencies. Similarly the total number of attendees AFC module training has increased from 1,440 in 1999-00 to 1,697 in 2000-01. The following graph reflects the increase in competency based training and assessment since the systems' inception in 1995-96. The increasing level and accessibility of training combined with qualifications that are both flexible and portable ensures the TFS is meeting this objective.

Our People

AFC Modules Completed by Career Staff

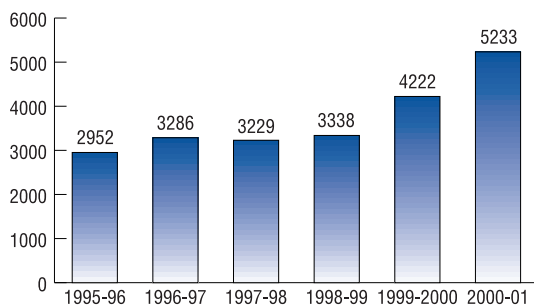


Volunteer Training

The expanding network of Volunteer Training Instructors (VTI) has enabled an increase in the number of volunteer firefighters trained during 2000-01 in comparison to the previous year. The total number of courses provided for the year was 665, an increase of 123 from 1999-00. People attending these courses totalled 5,233, an increase of 1,011 from the previous year. This is an increase of over 1,000 places for the second consecutive year.

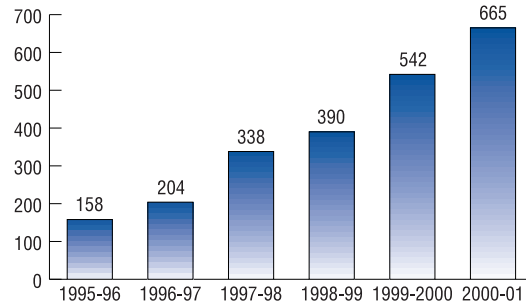
The continuing progress by TFS towards the adoption of the Public Safety Training Package had some new training packages piloted amongst volunteer members in preparation for a significant move towards introducing competency based training to volunteers. This project represents a significant departure from the previous training regime.

Volunteer Trainees



Of the total courses provided in 2000-01 approximately 38% were presented by career instructors, a decrease from 54% in 1999-00. The remaining 62% of courses were delivered by VTI's. These figures reflect the increasing number of VTI's used by the TFS in order to maximise the number of volunteer members receiving appropriate training.

Volunteer Training Courses



The TFS is endeavouring to take training to its members with the development of mobile containerised props well underway. Greater use of local fire station facilities for training purposes is being undertaken. A new major training facility at Youngtown was completed during the year. The site includes gas-firefighting facilities, an urban search and rescue simulation facility, breathing apparatus training area and plans for development of an off-road driving circuit.

Managing Diversity

Objectives:

- **To ensure our workplace operates on the basis of fairness and equity that values and supports our people.**
- **To ensure a workplace where there is trust, co-operation and tolerance between all areas and members within those areas so that they are both able and willing to work with other work groups to solve problems and maximise opportunities.**

The TFS continues to work to improve fairness and equity within the workplace. During this year, discussions have taken place with most career member workgroups regarding the need for workgroups to develop values, behaviours and guidelines to assist with managing workplace behaviour. The discussions have covered issues such as legislative changes, policy changes and organisational benefits to developing values and behaviours. A pilot workgroup was established in Launceston and the development deadline for the final set of values and behaviours has been extended pending its outcomes. In addition, presentations have been given at the TFS Conference and to Recruit Courses and Brigade Management Courses. Further information was disseminated in the TFS journal Fireground.

During 2000-01, one complaint of harassment/discrimination on the grounds of gender in employment was lodged with the Anti-Discrimination Commission. This complaint has been resolved without requiring a determination.

TFS Personnel

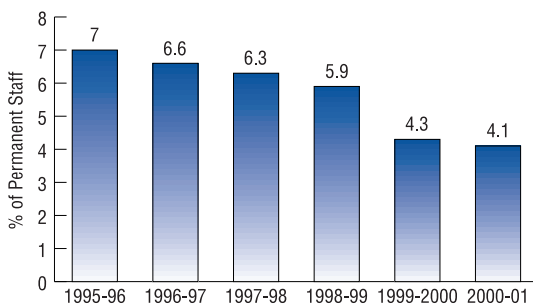
Objective:

To develop a system that enables the Commission to accurately forecast its required staffing levels in operational areas of the service for the next 5 years.

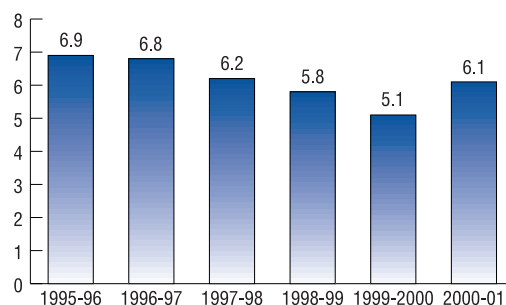
As at 30 June 2001 the TFS had 400 permanent employees, 22 fixed contract staff and approximately 4,900 volunteer personnel. The permanent and temporary staff equates to 420.1 Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) in comparison to 405.5 FTE's as at 30 June 2000. Average total staff for 2000-01 was 413 FTE's. Of the 400 permanent employees 252 were operational firefighters of the rank of Brigade Chief and below. Career staff turnover was 4.1 per cent for the year; a reduction from 4.3 per cent in 1999-00 and a significant reduction from the 1998-99 figure of 5.9 per cent and reflects a decreasing trend in this indicator over the past five years. Average sick days per career staff increased this year; up from 5.1 days in 1999-00 to 6.1 for 2000-01. This increase is primarily due to a small number of employees absent from work on long term sick leave.

Preliminary investigations into the development of a model to accurately forecast operational career staffing requirements for career members were undertaken. The investigations showed that there are too many variables in the working environment to enable development of a model that would provide accurate information. As a result, the TFS decided not to further pursue this objective.

Career Staff Turnover



Average Sick Days Per Career Staff



Internal Communication

Objective:

To have effective internal communication mechanisms that are actively and competently used by all members of the Service.

During the year Fireground, the TFS quarterly journal, was reviewed. It was decided that the journal be expanded and distributed to all TFS members. The initiative had proved very popular and beneficial to volunteer members.

The Information Systems Branch has undertaken a significant upgrade of the TFS intranet site as well as other developments and hardware upgrades all of which have increased the ease and efficiency of internal communications.

Career Paths

Objectives:

- **To develop and implement optimum systems, for member recruitment, selection and promotion.**
- **To ensure that we provide all career members with access to both regular performance feedback and subsequent support and recognition.**

Progress on these objectives has been minimal due to the focussing of HR activities on occupational health and safety and the management of diversity. The objectives have been incorporated into the 2001-02 Corporate Plan.

Employee Relations

Discussions with Engineering Services and Communications Services on new enterprise bargaining arrangements continued throughout the year with agreements nearing completion.

The enterprise agreement for uniformed employees will be due for replacement in the new financial year. Planning and preliminary discussions for a new agreement have commenced. The majority of items in the current agreement were successfully implemented, whereas absence management and performance feedback systems are still to be developed and implemented.

Awards and Medals

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)

The 2000-01 AFSM recipients were invested with their awards by the Governor of Tasmania. Recipients were:

John Streets – Regional Officer North West

Dale Britten – Brigade Chief New Norfolk Fire Brigade

Robert Atkins – Brigade Chief Wesley Vale Fire Brigade

National Medal

A number of National Medals are presented each year to members of fire services around Australia and include. In 2000-01 the following awards were received by TFS personnel.

Award	Number of Recipients
National Medal – awarded for 15 years service	97
1st Clasp to the National Medal – awarded for an additional 10 years service	52
2nd Clasp to the National Medal – awarded for a further 10 years service	9
3rd Clasp to the National Medal – awarded for a further 10 years service	1

Battered Branch Award

The Battered Branch is awarded each year to brigades who have demonstrated a high level of performance in both emergency fire operations and community involvement. Brigades nominated from all Regions are assessed on their performance during the year in the three representative brigade categories of career; vegetation and structural. The 2000-01 Awards were presented to the following brigades:

Career: B Shift – Burnie Fire Brigade

Volunteer Structural: Mount Nelson Fire Brigade

Volunteer Vegetation: Rowella Fire Brigade.

Competitions

The Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association held six competitions throughout the State during the year. Local and interstate teams competed in a number of events using both modern and traditional firefighting equipment. This year's State Championships were hosted by Franklin Fire Brigade and the Open Championships hosted by the Ulverstone Fire Brigade. Teams from Hobart and Devonport travelled to Bendigo to compete in the Victorian Championships.

The Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association conducts regional and State competitions using contemporary fire fighting equipment in a number of events simulating operational activities. This year's State Competitions were hosted by the Richmond Brigade.

Annual Charity Run

The TFS charity run was staged from the 27th to 30th March 2001. The beneficiary this year was the Alannah & Madeline Foundation.

The event raised a record equalling total of \$22,500 which can be attributed to the tireless efforts of the runners and collectors who jointly covered in excess of 400km over the four days.

TFS Annual Conference

The Annual TFS Conference held over a weekend in July 2000 in Hobart was again a great success. The Conference provides a forum for TFS staff and volunteers from all parts of the State to meet to discuss topical issues. The theme of the Conference was "TFS - The Team" and delegates were addressed by in-house and external speakers on a wide range of issues. An entertaining and motivational keynote address on communication and attitude was delivered by Robyn Moore. Other major addresses included Bushfire Entrapment, OH&S, The Role of Helicopters, The Dead Man Zone and Discrimination by Dr Jocelynne Scutt. The conference was attended by approximately 260 delegates.

Planned Outcomes/Achievements 2001-02

- Register enterprise agreements for employees in Engineering Services and Communications Services with the Tasmanian Industrial Commission.
- Certify a new enterprise agreement covering uniformed employees by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.
- Complete new policies on managing diversity and harassment and discrimination.
- Develop a plan to implement agreed values and behaviours and managing diversity principles.
- Continue development and implementation of new occupational health and safety systems.

Resource Management



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

GOAL STATEMENT

To provide a dynamic, sound and timely financial management system.

OBJECTIVES

- To provide finance staff and budget managers with appropriate financial management skills.
- To account for and record all financial transactions in the financial statements in a timely manner.
- To provide a flexible financial reporting system that meets the needs of end users.

Objective:

To provide finance staff and budget managers with appropriate financial management skills.

Appropriate financial skill levels have been determined for finance and operational staff. To facilitate training to operational staff TFS Finance Branch developed an Introduction to Budgeting module that has been accredited by TAFE as part of the Diploma of Firefighting Management. This module has been accredited for use nationwide.

Objective:

To account for and record all financial transactions in the financial statements in a timely manner.

The financial system was modified and tested to ensure all GST transactions were accounted for in the financial statements.

Objective:

To provide a flexible financial reporting system that meets the needs of end users.

Report capabilities of the TFS financial system are being fully tested and are expected to satisfy all outstanding user requirements.



Financial Overview

The Net Surplus for the State Fire Commission for 2000-2001 was \$1.4 million, compared to \$1.1 million for 1999-2000.

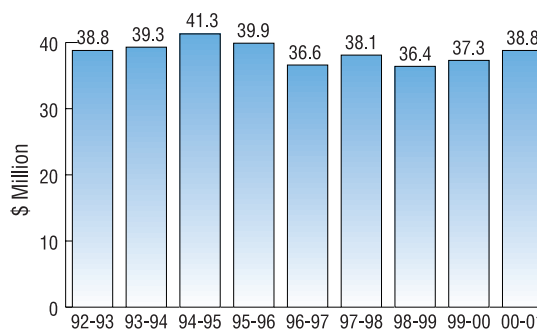
Revenue from Ordinary Activities for the twelve months to June 2001 was \$38.8 million compared to \$35.3 million for the same period last financial year. The major variations related to the Insurance Fire Levy, Fire Service Contribution, the State Government Contribution and Sundry Income that increased by \$0.7, \$0.6, \$1.3 and \$0.7 million respectively.

Expenses from Ordinary Activities for the twelve months to June 2001 were \$37.4 million compared to \$34.2 million for the same period last financial year. The major variations related to Salaries, Operations Expenses and Insurance which increased by \$1.7, \$0.9 and \$0.5 million respectively.

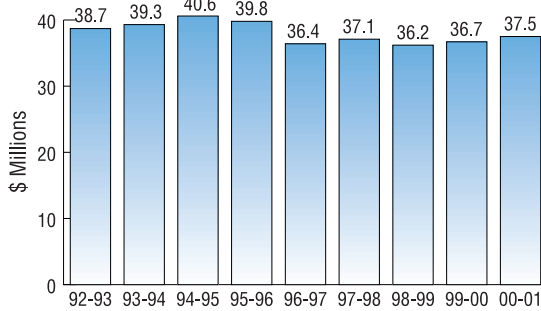
Net Assets for 2000-01 totalled \$46.5 million as compared to \$45.2 million for 1999-00, an increase of \$1.3 million.

An overview of the major revenue sources is detailed below.

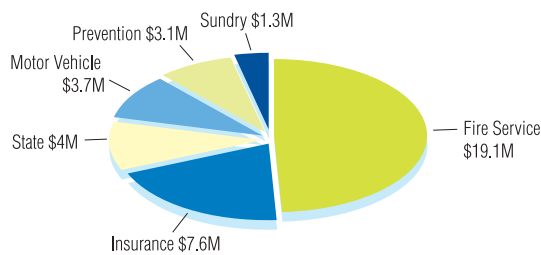
Total Revenue 2000-01 Dollars



Total Revenue Excluding Wild Fire reimbursements 2000-01 Dollars



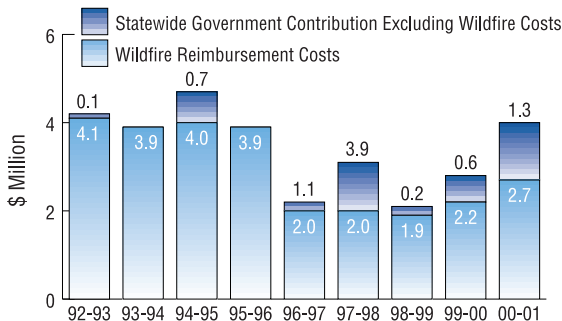
Revenue in 2000-01 (\$38.8 Million)



State Government Contribution

The Treasurer must pay to the Commission, out of money appropriated by the Parliament for the purpose, such amount as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards defraying the operating costs of the Commission. The contribution in 2000-01 was \$4.0 million and represented 10 per cent of the total revenue of the Commission for the year.

State Contribution 2000-01 Dollars



The cost of fighting wildfires is partly funded by the State Government. From 1 July 1987, these costs have been funded by the State Government in the same year in which the expenditure was incurred. By arrangement with the Department of Treasury and Finance, the Commission is required to meet the first \$35,000 for wildfire fighting costs and the State Government meets the remainder. In 2000-01, the State Government reimbursed the Commission \$1.3 million and this amount is included as part of the total State Government Contribution of \$4.0 million.

Commonwealth Government Contribution

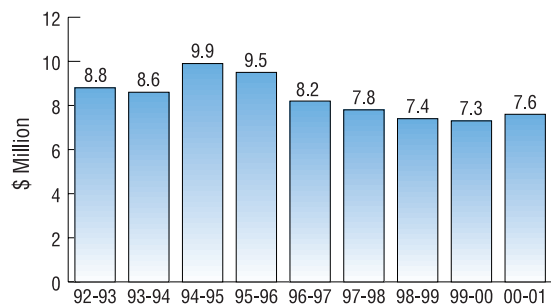
The Commonwealth Government provided a small contribution of \$184,000 which was less than one per cent of the total revenue for 2000-01. The purpose of this contribution is to meet the costs associated with providing fire prevention and protection to Commonwealth Government buildings and property in Tasmania.

Insurance Fire Levy

Insurance companies are responsible for the collection of the insurance fire levy. Collections for 2000-01 were \$7.6 million and equated to 20 per cent of total revenue. These funds were applied directly to operating costs. The contribution rate is an amount equal to two per cent of gross premium income on marine cargo insurance, 14 per cent on aviation hull insurance and 28 per cent of gross premium income on all other prescribed classes of insurance.

A significant change to the *Fire Service Act 1979* that was effective from 1 July 2000 resulted in the remittance of the insurance fire levy, from insurance companies, changing from a quarterly to a monthly basis. The impact of such a change has had a positive impact on the liquidity of the Commission.

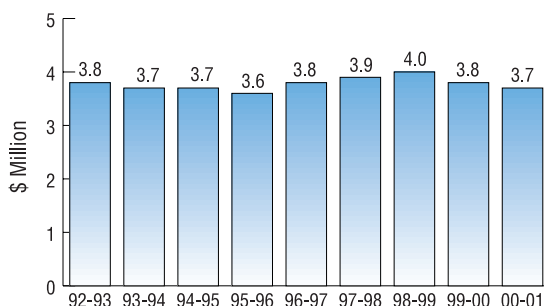
Insurance Fire Levy 2000-01 Dollars



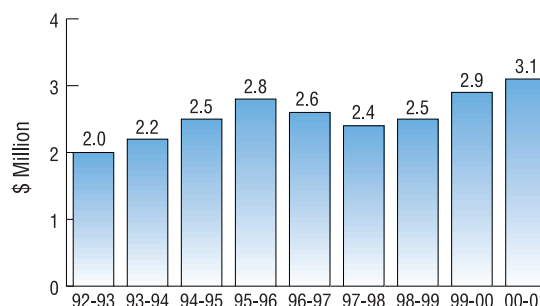
Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The motor vehicle fire levy contribution of \$3.7 million collected by the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources represents 10 per cent of total revenue. The general levy for motor vehicles is \$11 and for pensioners \$8 per vehicle and these rates were effective from 1 July 1996. Motor cycles are excluded.

Motor Vehicle Fire Levy 2000-01 Dollars



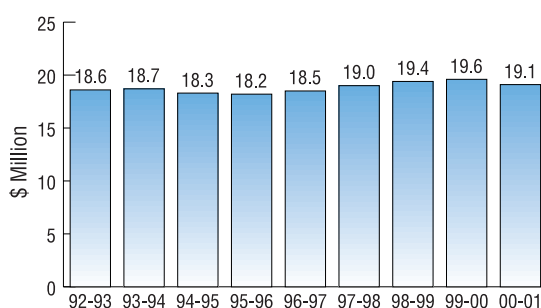
Fire Prevention Charges 2000-01 Dollars



Fire Service Contribution

The Fire Service contribution is collected by local councils on a fee for service basis on behalf of the Commission. Fire Service contributions on properties for 2000-01 amounted to \$19.1 million and represented 49 per cent of total revenue. The levels of contribution payable by ratepayers vary throughout the State according to whether the ratepayer is in an urban or country area. However, the objective of the demand on ratepayers is to ensure that an equitable contribution is applied to each ratepayer; based on the assessed annual value of their respective urban or country properties and the level of fire protection provided. Local authorities are paid a four per cent collection fee by the Commission and this amounted to \$770,000 in 2000-01.

Fire Service Contribution 2000-01 Dollars



Fire Prevention Charges

The Commission generates revenue through its community fire safety activities including the sale and servicing of fire safety equipment, commercial training, alarm rentals, inspection fees and avoidable false alarm fees. Revenue raised in 2000-01 was \$3.1 million or 8 per cent of total revenue and represented an increase of \$0.2 million over the previous year.

Sundry Income

Sundry income is derived from a number of sources including profit on sale of non-current assets, donations, interest received, rent and other sundry sources. Revenue raised in 2000-01 was \$1.2 million or 3 per cent of total revenue.

GST Implementation

Modifications to the financial software and operating procedures were successfully tested and introduced early in the financial year culminating in the electronic monthly remittance of the Business Activity Statement to the Australian Taxation Office.

Changes to the Fire Service Act 1979

- Local councils being provided with a choice of using either the financial formula, as defined under the *Fire Service Act 1979* or the formula under the *Local Government Act 1993* to collect the fire service contribution from land owners for the Commission,
- the reimbursement of the fire levy to the Commission from insurance companies including penalties imposed for non-compliance, and
- indexing the minimum fire service contribution payable by land owners.

Other Business Issues

The Commission is a non-profit statutory authority and as such is not required to make provision for income tax, sales tax, dividends or returns to the State Government.

External market forces and the ability of users to pay for services primarily determine the pricing policies of the Commission.

The major outside sources of revenue to the Commission are contributions from land owners, insurance companies, motor vehicle owners and the State Government. In addition the Commission raises revenue through alarm monitoring fees, plan approval fees, charges for avoidable false alarms, fire reports, the sale and maintenance of fire equipment, and the provision of training services to both the public and private sectors.

Pensioners and health card holders receive discounts on rates and motor vehicle levies from the Commission.

PHYSICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Building Program

During 2000-01 new fire stations were completed at Ross, Great Lake, Hadspen and Natone. Various upgrades of stations occurred throughout the State.

Engineering Services

Appliance Production

Engineering Services completed a significant fire appliance fabrication commitment of 16 units during 2000-01. Three crew cab composite pumper tanker units, five heavy tankers, one 4x4 medium tanker; three crew cab medium tankers and four 4x4 light tankers were completed.

New Generation Tankers

To introduce the latest tanker concept a Field Day was held on private property at Forcett on the 13th June. Eighty members from all areas of the State attended and were given the opportunity to drive the new units in both on and off road conditions.

New composite pumper tanker units were commissioned at St Helen's, Kingston and Penguin brigades with the three new tankers going to Rokeby, Glengarry and Wesley Vale brigades.

New Facilities

A new Engineering Services facility at Cambridge was completed in July 2000. The new facility houses combined mechanical and fabrication workshops. The move to the new facility is now complete with both areas contributing to cost efficiencies in the combined workshop.

Communications Services

Two major projects were undertaken by the Communications Services during the year:

Paging System extension

The paging system extensions included the installation of four new transmitter sites, three on the West Coast and one in the north east. The extra coverage enabled 250 additional pagers to be issued to volunteer firefighters across the State. These improvements have further increased pager coverage which fulfilled the target of having all the State's brigades included in the paging network. With the closure of the Telstra Paging System, the TFS took over paging services for King and Flinders Islands including a limited service to private customers to ensure the local communities had emergency contact with doctors, vets, Aurora emergency crews and other local emergency contacts.

Radio coverage improvement

An additional radio base was installed in the North East District to improve radio coverage in the Gladstone area. A radio site upgrade was also completed in Launceston at Juliana Street with the installation of a new tower. The TFS also installed an emergency radio station at Hells Gates at the entrance to Macquarie Harbour that gives fisherman an emergency contact point to Firecomm in Hobart. This replaces a Police radio link that is not provided by the new Police System.

Other items of note during the year:

- Fire Alarm System upgrades were completed at Oatlands, Bothwell and Campbell Town.
- Communications Services is working with the Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS) to completely upgrade their radio system. This project will facilitate sharing arrangements by allowing TAS to utilise TFS radio infrastructure and use TFS radio frequencies in rural areas. The project commenced in April 2001 and will be completed in December 2001.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

GOAL STATEMENT

To provide easily accessible, timely and accurate information to customers.



Objective:

To provide support, tools and training to information technology users appropriate to their needs.

IT competencies for operational staff have been developed and training modules for both operational and administrative staff are in place and continue to be reviewed. The development of e-assessment and e-training material now allows the viewing of training material and the printing and recording of assessments on-line through the intranet.

Objective:

To provide information technology users with accurate, timely and relevant information and to eliminate the duplication in electronic data entry.

The Information Systems Branch continued to develop and enhance e-reports and work flows on the intranet. The additional development and deployment of e-reports and associated functionality on the intranet allowed staff throughout the State to run queries on the corporate databases and to schedule reports to be sent regularly and automatically to internal staff and external organisations. A project to integrate the competency based training database into the corporate

operational database was initiated and the upgraded database will be going live in late 2001. This integration will allow statewide access and greater functionality addressing many aspects of the areas second objective.

Objective:

To provide an appropriate level of support and management of the information systems.

A new 000 caller line identification system was installed to assist Firecomm in dispatching brigades and in the identification of malicious calls. A pilot program to enable faster remote site access to the TFS network was successfully conducted with statewide implementation expected in late 2001.

Regular security updates, and where necessary upgrades, continue to be applied to this ongoing objective. Updated disaster recovery plans continue to be reviewed. A substantial server replacement program commenced in the financial year with completion date set for late 2001. This will increase the reliability and capacity of these servers and allow for the upgrading of server applications.

The ongoing upgrade of desktop hardware and software will also increase the speed of information retrieval and management.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Planned Outcomes/Achievements 2001-02

- **Complete IT desktop hardware and software upgrades for regional headquarters.**
- **Communications Services will work with Tasmanian Ambulance Service to completely upgrade their radio system.**
- **Major building projects for 2001-02 include the completion of new stations at Bagdad, and Karoola and new combined fire and ambulance stations at Great Lake, Dunalley, Strahan and a major upgrade of the fire and ambulance station at Devonport.**
- **A financial model for asset replacement and the allocation of repairs and maintenance budgets will be developed.**

State Fire Commission Members



John Gledhill BSc FIFireE AFSM

Chairperson of the State Fire Commission and Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service. Former Deputy Chief Officer and Regional Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service with 27 years experience. A Director of the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Pty. Ltd. and member of the State Fire Management Council and current President of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council.



Wayne Burn AFSM

Tasmanian Retained Firefighters Association (TRFA) representative on the State Fire Commission since 1990. President of the TRFA for the past 14 years. Former member of the Fire Service Advisory Council and member of the New Norfolk Fire Brigade since 1968.



Don Mackrill AFSM OAM JP

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA) representative on the State Fire Commission since 1989. Brigade Chief of the Bell Bay Fire Brigade since 1978. Former National Secretary and Vice President of the Australian Assembly of Volunteer Fire Brigades Associations. Former State President of the TVFBA. Member of Minister's Advisory Council 1984-1990.



William (Bill) Ryan AFC JP

Local Government Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Commission since June 1992. Served as a Councillor of the Clarence City Council for the past 20 years. A previous member of the State Fire Commission in the early 1980's.



Richard Bowden

Local Government Association of Tasmania representative on the State Fire Commission since June 1993. Former Warden of the Bothwell Municipality and currently Deputy Warden of the Central Highlands Council. Served as a Councillor with the Bothwell Municipal Council since 1976. Member of the Forestry Committee for the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association since its inception.



Leon Dewhurst

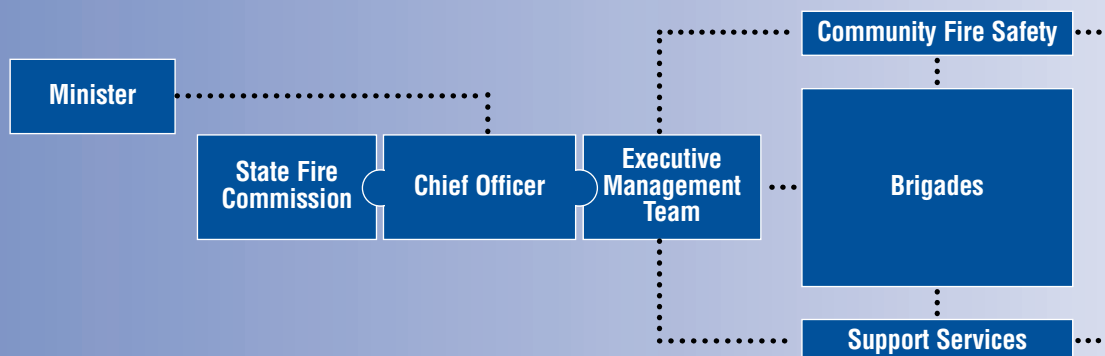
United Firefighters Union Tasmania Branch (UFU) representative on the State Fire Commission since June 1993. Career fire officer with 26 years experience with the Hobart Fire Brigade. Past President of the UFU.



Elizabeth Marchant Bsc BCom

Department of Treasury and Finance representative on the Commission since December 1997. Business Development Manager, Services Tasmania Project and former Senior Budget Analyst with the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Tasmania Fire Service Structure



State Fire Management Council

The State Fire Management Council is established under Section 14 of the *Fire Service Act 1979*. The Council's primary role is to develop a State vegetation fire management policy to be used as the basis for all fire management planning. The Council comprises:

Chairperson nominated by the Minister (Maurice Geard);

Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service (John Gledhill);

Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation (Evan Rolley);

Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Peter Williams);

Nominee of the Chief Officer, Tasmania Fire Service (Peter Alexander);

Nominee of the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Corporation (Dick Chuter);

Nominee of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife (Tony Blanks);

Nominee of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (Mike Crisp);

Nominee of the Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (Chris Deagan); and

Nominee of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (John Munro)

State Fire Management Council Annual Report

As Chairman of the State Fire Management Council (SFMC), I am pleased to report on the Council's activities for the 2000-01 financial year. During the year the SFMC met four times.

The Hon Judy Jackson, Minister for Health and Human Services launched the SFMC Web Site early in the year (www.sfmc.tas.gov.au). As outlined in the 1999-2000 Annual Report, the web site provides a resource for use by anyone seeking guidance on any aspect of fire use in Tasmania. The site simply and efficiently provides the latest information on fire use.

The SFMC endorsed the establishment of a specialist Fire Management Unit within the Tasmania Fire Service to work with other land managers to enhance statewide fire management.

As a member of the State Air Quality Policy Consultative Committee, the SFMC reaffirmed its commitment to work with the community to ensure that smoke from land management uses is better managed and has reduced negative impacts on the community.



M S Geard

Chairman

27 August 2001



S t a t e F i r e C o m m i s s i o n
F i n a n c i a l R e p o r t 2 0 0 1

**TASMANIA
FIRE SERVICE**



Certification of Financial Statements

The accompanying financial statements of the State Fire Commission have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the Fire Service Act 1979 from proper accounts and records.

In the opinion of the Commissioners of the State Fire Commission;

- a) the financial statements are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results and cash flows for the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and the statement of affairs at 30 June 2001 of the State Fire Commission;
- b) the accounts have been made out in accordance with the provisions of the Fire Service Act 1979, and
- c) at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Commission will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



J.B Gledhill BSc. F.I.Fire E.

CHIEF OFFICER



William Ryan AFC JP

COMMISSION MEMBER



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Members of the State Fire Commission

Scope

I have audited the financial report of the State Fire Commission comprising a Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and notes thereto, for the year ended 30 June 2001. The Commissioners of the State Fire Commission is responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the Commissioners.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements and applicable legislation so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the financial position of the State Fire Commission, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable legislation, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position of the State Fire Commission as at 30 June 2001, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended.

D W R Baulch
Deputy Auditor-General
TASMANIAN AUDIT OFFICE

Delegate of the Auditor-General

4 October 2001
HOBART

Statement of Financial Performance

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 20 JUNE 2001

	Note	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
REVENUES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Insurance Fire Levy	l(q)	7,601	6,938
Fire Service Contribution	l(r)	19,085	18,493
State Government Contribution	9	4,026	2,741
Commonwealth Government Contribution	9	184	168
Motor Vehicle Fire Levy	l(s)	3,674	3,640
Fire Prevention Charges	10	3,080	2,899
Sundry Income	11	1,175	450
Total Revenues from Ordinary Activities		38,825	35,329
EXPENSES FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES			
Salaries, Wages and Related Expenses	l(j),12	22,445	20,738
Public Relations, Subscriptions and Consultants	13	557	684
Training and Education		495	479
Operations Expenses	14	4,279	3,379
Protective Clothing and Uniforms	15	1,174	1,027
Depreciation	6	2,780	2,615
Financial and Other Expenses	16	1,885	2,095
Insurance		1,563	1,029
Borrowing Costs	17	474	584
Repairs and Maintenance	18	1,277	1,211
Equipment under \$1,000	19	473	374
Total Expenses from Ordinary Activities		37,402	34,215
Net Surplus	20	1,423	1,114
Non-Owner Changes in Equity			
Increase/(decrease) in asset revaluation reserve	21	(104)	(342)
Total change in Equity from Non-Owner related Transactions		(104)	(342)
Total change in Equity	22	1,319	772

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

AS AT 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash Assets	l(p),2	3,244	542
Investments	l(k)	-	1,500
Receivables	l(d),3	819	509
Other Assets	4	1,111	2,457
Inventories	l(c)	697	627
Total Current Assets		5,871	5,635
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Work in Progress	l(e), 5	2,688	1,968
Property, Plant and Equipment	l(f),l(g), l(o),6	52,629	50,122
Total Non-Current Assets		55,317	52,090
TOTAL ASSETS		61,188	57,725
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	l(n),7	3,843	1,897
Provision for Long Service Leave	l(h)	3,173	3,211
Provision for Annual Leave	l(i)	1,525	1,491
Interest Bearing Liabilities	l(m)	4,698	1,830
Total Current Liabilities		13,239	8,429
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for Long Service Leave	l(h)	451	249
Interest Bearing Liabilities	l(m)	1,011	3,879
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,462	4,128
TOTAL LIABILITIES		14,701	12,557
NET ASSETS		46,487	45,168
EQUITY			
Retained Operating Surpluses	l(t),20	45,229	43,806
Reserves	l(f), 21	1,258	1,362
TOTAL EQUITY	22	46,487	45,168

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash Receipts from Ordinary Activities		39,015	34,011
Cash Payments from Ordinary Activities		(32,096)	(30,131)
Interest Paid		(474)	(585)
Interest Received		88	75
Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	25(b)	6,533	3,370
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from Sale/(Purchase) of Investments		1,500	(1,500)
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment		912	1,567
Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment		(6,242)	(5,872)
Net Cash used in Investing Activities		(3,830)	(5,805)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		2,702	(2,435)
Cash at the Beginning of the Financial Period		542	2,977
Cash at the End of the Financial Period	25(a)	3,244	542

The Financial Statements are to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes to the accounts.

I. Statement of Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Financial Statements

The financial report is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards, Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views, and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board. It has been prepared on the basis of historical costs except for the revaluation of land and buildings, and does not take into account changing money values. Accounting policies used are consistent with those of the prior year.

(b) System of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements are prepared in accordance with the accrual basis of accounting that brings to account known assets and liabilities at balance date. All amounts shown in the financial statements are in thousands of dollars. The system of accounting complies with the requirements of the Fire Service Act 1979.

(c) Inventories

Consumable stores are expensed at the time of purchase. Stock on hand is valued at average cost. The amount of stock held as at 30 June 2001, \$697,008, includes \$486,655 held for issue within the State Fire Commission and \$210,353 held for sale to the general public.

(d) Receivables

Trade receivables are generally settled within 60 days and are carried at amounts due. The collectability of debts is assessed at year-end and a specific provision is made for any doubtful accounts. In addition a general provision of 1.2% of debtors outstanding is maintained. The carrying amount of trade receivables approximates net fair value.

(e) Work in Progress

Work in Progress is valued at the prime cost of material and labour for work to date and includes Capital Works Commitments incurred but unpaid at year-end.

(f) Land and Buildings

Freehold land and buildings are valued at cost or at fair value (municipal valuation). Surpluses arising from municipal revaluations of property subsequent to 1 July 1985 are transferred to the Asset Revaluation Reserve if and when initial costs are exceeded. Land and buildings are revalued progressively in a systematic manner by the Valuer-General and the process which is both independent and consistent follows the revaluation cycle of the Valuer-General. This results in a part of the class of assets being re-valued.

Where land and/or buildings have been purchased during the year, or are maintained in capital works in progress, it is policy not to adjust the value of the asset to reflect the valuation notices.

Costs incurred in relation to land and buildings subsequent to initial acquisitions are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits, in excess of the originally assessed performance of the assets will flow to the Commission in future years. Where these costs represent separate components they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their useful lives.

(g) Fire Appliances and Plant and Equipment

Most Fire Appliances are fabricated in-house. On completion they are revalued by capitalising internal labour used in their construction.

Plant and Equipment is comprised of Fire Fighting Equipment, Workshop and Other Equipment, Radio and Communications Equipment, Office Furniture and Equipment and Computer Equipment.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

Plant and Equipment is at cost other than certain Radio and Communications Equipment which has been revalued to capitalise internal labour costs.

Items of plant and equipment with a purchase price of less than \$1,000 are expensed at time of purchase. As from July 1996 items of plant and equipment with a prime cost of \$1,000 or more are shown at cost less depreciation and are written off over their expected useful life to the Commission on a straight line basis. Equipment is not depreciated until full operational status is attained.

Costs incurred in relation to plant and equipment subsequent to initial acquisitions are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefits, in excess of the originally assessed performance of the assets will flow to the Commission in future years. Where these costs represent separate components they are accounted for as separate assets and are separately depreciated over their useful lives.

(h) Provision for Long Service Leave

Provision for long service leave is made for all employees. No cash reserve has been set aside to meet commitments from the Provision for Long Service Leave. Commitments will be met as they fall due from revenue at that time. The current liability for long service leave represents entitlements for employees with service in excess of nine years. The non-current liability represents accrued leave for employees with service less than nine years and has been discounted using the rates attaching to national government securities at balance date, which most closely match the terms of maturity of the related liabilities.

In determining the liability for employee entitlements, consideration has been given to future increases in wage and salary rates, and experiences with staff departures. Related on costs have also been included in the liability.

(i) Provision for Annual Leave

The provision represents employee entitlements due and accrued as at 30 June 2001. The provision has been calculated on nominal amounts based on current wage and salary rates and includes related on costs.

(j) Superannuation

The State Fire Commission provided \$2,239,959 for superannuation in 2001.

The Commission, by virtue of the *State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Act 1994*, operates a fully funded superannuation scheme for employees of the State Fire Commission classified under the Federal *Tasmanian Fire Fighting Industry Employees Award*. This fund is managed by Financial Synergy Tasmania Pty Ltd.

In addition, the Commission makes employer superannuation contributions based as a minimum on the Commonwealth's Superannuation Guarantee rate for State Award employees. These employees may elect to have their contributions forwarded to any complying superannuation scheme. The total superannuation contribution provided in 2001 comprised:

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme	1,831	1,691
Retirement Benefits Fund	409	386
Total	<u>2,240</u>	<u>2,077</u>

Prior to 1 July 1986 the State Fire Commission maintained its own fully funded superannuation

scheme for Commission employees who contributed to the RBF. As at 30 June 1986 the provision had accumulated to \$2,447,447 and this amount was recorded in the Commission's accounts. As at 1 July 1986 accounting for RBF Superannuation entitlements was transferred to the State Treasury. A payment representing the provision as at 30 June 1986 of \$2,447,447 was made to the State Treasury on the condition that the Government would fund the current and future superannuation liability of Commission employees.

(k) Investments

The Commission conducts its investment and loan programs with the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation (Tascorp) and private investment managers.

Investments are carried at the face value of the amounts deposited. The carrying value of investments approximates the net fair value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

(l) Sick Leave

No amount is shown for non-vested sick leave. On the basis of previous experience, namely sick leave of 2,739 days per annum, the estimated liability of \$376,231 is not material in comparison with total liabilities.

The total average number of hours taken per person in 2001 was 42.2 as compared to 35.3 in 2000.

(m) Interest Bearing Liabilities

Loans are carried on the statement of financial position at their principal amount. Interest expense is accrued at the contracted rate and included in "Accrued Expenses."

(n) Payables, Accrued Expenses and Commitments.

Liabilities are recognised for amounts to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the Commission. Trade accounts payable are normally settled within 60 days. The carrying amount of accounts payable approximates to fair value.

(o) Provision for Depreciation

Items of property, plant and equipment, including buildings and land, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

All items are depreciated using the straight line method of depreciation at the following range of rates:

Asset Class	Range of Rates
Buildings	2.5% - 3.3%
Motor Vehicles and Fire Appliances	4% - 25%
Plant and Equipment	10% - 33.3%

Assets are depreciated from the date of acquisition or, in respect of internally constructed assets, from the time an asset is completed and held ready for use.

(p) Cash, Short Term Deposits and Bank Overdrafts

The Commission operates its own bank account and all cash transactions are recorded through this account.

Cash, short-term deposits and bank overdrafts are carried at face value of the amounts deposited or drawn. The carrying amounts of cash, short-term deposits and bank overdrafts approximates net fair value. Interest revenue is accrued at the market or contractual rate.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

(q) Insurance Fire Levy

Contributions are received from insurance companies in respect of premium income on certain prescribed classes of insurance where the risks insured are situated within Tasmania. Contributions are received monthly in accordance with an approved lodgment return. The current insurance fire levy is 28 per cent and this was last increased from 14 per cent in October 1990.

(r) Fire Service Contribution

Contributions are received from local Councils through a fire levy raised on properties. A minimum levy of \$25 has applied since 1991 in order to provide additional funds to re-equip volunteer brigades.

(s) Motor Vehicle Fire Levy

The State Fire Commission receives income raised through a fire levy applied to all registered vehicles. This is collected by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles via the vehicle registration fee and forwarded to the State Fire Commission. The current fire levy raised through vehicle registration is \$11 per vehicle and this was last increased from \$10 in July 1996.

(t) Changes in Accounting Policy

In previous years, an item called General Capital was included as a separate line item in the Equity section of the Statement of Financial Position. It represented the net assets taken up by the State Fire Commission on conversion to accrual accounting in July 1985. The value of this item was \$5,463,549. For reporting purposes it is now included in Accumulated Surpluses. Refer to Note 20.

2. Cash Assets

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash on Hand	8	8
Cash at Bank	3,236	534
	<u>3,244</u>	<u>542</u>

3. Receivables

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Trade Debtors	829	519
Less Provision for Doubtful Debts	(10)	(10)
	<u>819</u>	<u>509</u>

4. Other Assets

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Accrued Revenue	887	2,214
Prepayments	224	239
Unamortised Discount on Loans	-	4
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>2,457</u>

5. Work in Progress

Capital Works in Progress in 2001 represents capital expenditure to date of \$1,791,145 plus Capital Works commitments of \$895,903 and in 2000 they were \$1,967,898 and nil respectively.

6. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Land		
At Cost	503	452
At Independent Valuation	4,618	4,475
	<u>5,121</u>	<u>4,927</u>
Buildings		
At Cost	4,596	3,892
Accumulated Depreciation	(11)	-
	<u>4,585</u>	<u>3,892</u>
At Independent Valuation	22,104	21,944
Accumulated Depreciation	(2,240)	(2,084)
	<u>19,864</u>	<u>19,860</u>
Motor Vehicles		
At Cost	3,865	3,555
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,825)	(1,417)
	<u>2,040</u>	<u>2,138</u>
Fire Appliances		
At Cost	16,458	16,484
Accumulated Depreciation	(12,745)	(12,381)
	<u>3,713</u>	<u>4,103</u>
At Fair Value	11,919	9,873
Accumulated Depreciation	(528)	(451)
	<u>11,391</u>	<u>9,422</u>
Plant and Equipment		
At Cost	14,953	13,837
Accumulated Depreciation	(9,038)	(8,056)
	<u>5,915</u>	<u>5,781</u>
Total Property, Plant and Equipment		
Total Gross Value	79,016	74,513
Accumulated Depreciation	(26,387)	(24,390)
Net Book Value	<u>52,629</u>	<u>50,123</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2001

	Carrying Amount 30 June 00	Additions	Revaluations	Disposals	Depreciation	Carrying Amount 30 June 01
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at Cost	452	52	-	-	-	503
Land at Independent Valuation	4,475	-	143	-	-	4,618
Buildings at Cost	3,892	756	-	(52)	(11)	4,585
Buildings at Independent Valuation	19,860	714	(276)	19	(453)	19,864
Motor Vehicles at Cost	2,138	1,555	-	(1,198)	(454)	2,040
Fire Appliances at Cost	4,103	-	-	408	(798)	3,713
Fire Appliances at Valuation	9,422	2,233	16	(204)	(77)	11,391
Plant and Equipment at Cost/Valuation*	5,781	1,108	13	-	(987)	5,915
	50,123	6,419	(104)	(1,028)	(2,780)	52,629

Due to effects of rounding some totals may not cross balance.

* Refer Note 1(g)

Reconciliation of Property, Plant and Equipment as at 30 June 2000

	Carrying Amount 30 June 99	Additions	Revaluations	Disposals	Depreciation	Carrying Amount 30 June 00
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land at Cost	452	-	-	-	-	452
Land at Independent Valuation	4,879	-	33	(437)	-	4,475
Buildings at Cost	3,301	591	-	-	-	3,892
Buildings at Independent Valuation	19,994	1,223	(430)	(546)	(381)	19,860
Motor Vehicles at Cost	2,265	1,397	-	(1,108)	(417)	2,138
Fire Appliances at Cost	4,629	-	-	176	(702)	4,103
Fire Appliances at Valuation	9,479	53	26	(23)	(114)	9,422
Plant and Equipment at Cost/Valuation*	5,652	1,104	29	(3)	(1,001)	5,781
	50,651	4,369	(342)	(1,941)	(2,615)	50,123

Due to effects of rounding some totals may not cross balance.

* Refer Note 1(g)

7. Payables

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Accrued Expenses	1,003	1,093
Trade Creditors	1,906	804
Capital Works Commitments	896	-
GST Payable	38	-
	<u>3,843</u>	<u>1,897</u>

8. Additional financial instruments disclosures

The Commission's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate for classes of financial assets and liabilities for 2000-01 are detailed below:

	Non Interest Bearing	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest 1 year or less	Maturing Over 1 year to 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash	-	3,236	-	-	3,236
Receivables	829	-	-	-	829
Investments	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>829</u>	<u>3,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,065</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate		5.05%	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Bank overdrafts and loans	-	1,830	2,868	1,011	5,709
Payables	1,944	-	-	-	1,944
Accrued Expenses	1,003	-	-	-	1,003
	<u>2,947</u>	<u>1,830</u>	<u>2,868</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>8,656</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	-	5.45%	7.02%	6.15%	-

Comparative figures for 1999-00 are detailed below:

	Non Interest Bearing	Floating Interest Rate	Fixed Interest 1 year or less	Maturing Over 1 year to 5 years	Total
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Financial Assets					
Cash	-	534	-	-	534
Trade Debtors	518	-	-	-	518
Investments	-	-	1,500	-	1,500
	<u>518</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,552</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	-	6.28%	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Bank overdrafts and loans	-	-	1,830	3,879	5,709
Sundry Creditors	804	-	-	-	804
Accrued Expenses	1,093	-	-	-	1,093
	<u>1,897</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,830</u>	<u>3,879</u>	<u>7,606</u>
Weighted Average Interest Rate	-	-	12.5%	8.62%	-

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

Bank Overdraft

The bank overdraft of the State Fire Commission is unsecured and subject to annual review.

Loans

Since 1986, all loan raising has been arranged through the Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation.

All loans are recorded in Australian dollars and are unsecured. The loan amount in current liabilities comprises the portions of the loans payable within one year. The non-current loan balance represents the portion of the loans not due within one year.

Credit Risk Exposures

Credit risk represents the loss that would be recognised if counterparties failed to perform as contracted.

The credit risk on financial assets excluding investments, of the Commission, which has been recognised on the statement of financial affairs, is the carrying amount, net of any provision for doubtful debts.

The State Fire Commission minimises credit risk by undertaking transactions with a large number of customers and counterparties.

9. Contributions from State and Commonwealth Governments

Under Section 101 of the *Fire Service Act 1979* the Treasurer must pay out of moneys appropriated by the Parliament, such amounts as the Treasurer determines is appropriate towards the operating costs of the Commission.

The Commonwealth Government pays to the Commission an annual contribution towards the operating cost of brigades.

Funds provided to the Commission are detailed below:-

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
State Government Contributions		
General Contribution	2,723	2,105
Wildfire Fighting reimbursements	1,303	636
	4,026	2,741
Commonwealth Government Contribution	184	168

10. Fire Prevention Charges

Revenue is raised by the Commission's Service Divisions and Brigades through the sale, inspection, recharging and repair of fire safety equipment throughout the State. Revenue is recorded when the goods or services are provided.

Fire Prevention Charges comprise:-

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Sale of Fire Safety Services and Equipment	1,374	1,187
Less Cost of Goods Sold	<u>662</u>	<u>589</u>
	712	598
Alarm Rental	669	623
Avoidable False Alarms	86	132
Commercial Training	767	780
Commercial – Evacuation Planning	95	96
Inspection Fees – TasFire Equipment	634	558
Inspection Fees – Building Safety	117	112
TOTAL	<u>3,080</u>	<u>2,899</u>

11. Sundry Income

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Contribution by Tasmanian Ambulance Service*	267	-
Donations	18	8
Interest Received	88	75
Insurance Recoveries	114	41
Rent	78	89
Wildfire Fighting	150	-
Worker's Compensation Refunds	106	77
Other	354	160
TOTAL	<u>1,175</u>	<u>450</u>

*Provided by Tasmanian Ambulance Service to enable upgrade of Radio Base Sites around the State.

12. Salaries Wages and Related Expenses

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Salaries, Wages and Allowances	16,256	15,200
Payroll Tax	1,356	1,270
Annual Leave	1,875	1,706
Long Service Leave	718	485
Superannuation	2,240	2,077
TOTAL	<u>22,445</u>	<u>20,738</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

13. Public Relations, Subscriptions and Consultants

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Advertising	278	403
Grants and Donations	28	63
Functions	92	64
Professional Fees	62	68
Subscriptions	83	74
Other	14	12
TOTAL	<u>557</u>	<u>684</u>

14. Operations Expenses

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Printing and Stationery	164	160
Consumables	293	276
Electricity	322	325
Hire of Equipment	321	162
Office Cleaning	110	95
Municipal Rates	107	106
Rental of Premises	26	21
Wildfire Fighting Reimbursement	161	66
Motor Vehicle Expenses	835	728
Removal Expenses	8	32
Travel Expenses	218	188
Communication Expenses	984	911
Computer Expenses	604	218
Fire Suppression & Control	14	12
Other	112	79
TOTAL	<u>4,279</u>	<u>3,379</u>

15. Protective Clothing and Uniforms

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Protective Clothing	859	749
Uniforms	315	278
TOTAL	<u>1,174</u>	<u>1,027</u>

16. Financial and Other Expenses

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Loss on Sale of Non-Current Assets		
Gross Proceeds	912	1,567
Less Net Asset Value	1,028	1,941
Net Loss	116	374
Audit Fees	21	21
Fringe Benefits Tax	128	141
Local Government Collection Fees	770	740
Pensioner Rebates (Municipal)	572	513
Pensioner Rebates (Transport)	202	203
Stock Expenses and Write Offs	24	64
Other	52	39
TOTAL	<u>1,885</u>	<u>2,095</u>

17. Borrowing Costs

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Interest on Bank Overdraft	3	10
Interest on Capital Debt	471	574
TOTAL	<u>474</u>	<u>584</u>

18. Repairs and Maintenance

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Land and Buildings	345	390
Motor Vehicles	733	627
Fire Fighting Equipment	77	83
Communication Expenses	61	53
Office Furniture	17	21
Workshop Equipment	33	21
Computer Equipment	10	16
TOTAL	<u>1,277</u>	<u>1,211</u>

19. Equipment Purchases under \$1,000

	2001 \$'000	2000 \$'000
Computer Equipment	94	27
Fire Fighting Equipment	181	151
Office Furniture and Related Equipment	83	100
Communication Expenses	38	46
Workshop Equipment	57	39
Other	19	11
TOTAL	<u>473</u>	<u>374</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

20. Retained Operating Surpluses

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Accumulated Surplus at the beginning of the year *	43,806	42,692
Net Surplus for year	1,423	1,114
Transfers to and from reserves		
Accumulated Surplus at the end of the year	<u>45,229</u>	<u>43,806</u>

*Refer to Note 1(t)

21. Reserves

Asset Revaluation Reserve

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Accumulated Balance at beginning of year	1,362	1,704
Less Revaluation of Assets	(104)	(342)
Accumulated Balance at the end of year	<u>1,258</u>	<u>1,362</u>

22. Reconciliation of Total Equity

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Total Equity at the beginning of the year	45,168	44,396
Total changes in equity recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance	1,319	772
Total Equity at the end of the year	<u>46,487</u>	<u>45,168</u>

23. Remuneration of Commissioners

Commissioners not employed under the Tasmanian State Service Act 2001 are paid a sitting fee and are reimbursed for travel costs. The total number of Commissioners is seven and of this number three are State Servants.

The total remuneration of the Members of the Commission was \$24,000 in 2001 and \$24,000 in 2000.

24. Remuneration of Auditors

The audit of the accounts for the State Fire Commission is undertaken by the Tasmanian Audit Office. The total remuneration to the Tasmanian Audit Office was \$20,793 in 2001 and \$20,675 in 2000.

25. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand and at bank. Cash as at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:-

	2001	2000
	\$'000	\$'000
Current and Term Call Account	3,236	534
On hand	8	8
	<u>3,244</u>	<u>542</u>

(b) Reconciliation of Net Surplus to net cash provided by Operating Activities

Net Surplus	1,423	1,114
Add (less) non-cash items:		
Depreciation	2,780	2,615
(Profit)/Loss on disposal of assets	116	374
Amortisation of discount	4	19
Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	-
Net cash used in operating activities before change in Assets and Liabilities	<u>4,323</u>	<u>4,122</u>
Changes in assets and liabilities during the financial period		
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(310)	(140)
(Increase)/Decrease in accrued revenue	1,327	(675)
(Increase)/Decrease in inventory	(70)	(25)
(Increase)/Decrease in prepayments	15	166
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors/accruals	1,050	(300)
Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	198	222
Net cash from operating activities	<u>6,533</u>	<u>3,370</u>

(c) The State Fire Commission has access to an overdraft facility of \$2,500,000. As at 30 June 2001, none of this facility was utilised.

Photography Credits

In the Line of Fire, The Mercury Newspaper 9.6.2001 - Photography Kim Eiszele - Front Cover
Fire Training, The Mercury Newspaper - Photography Raoul Kochanowski - Page 3
Fighting School Fire, The Mercury Newspaper 10.4.2001 - Photography Kim Eiszele - Pages 8 & 12
Firefighters, The Mercury Newspaper 12.02.2001 - Photography Tony Palmer - Page 10
Fire Rescue - Photography Leila Williams - Page 15
Bush Fire, The Mercury Newspaper - Photography Tony Palmer - Page 17
Community Safety - Photography Leila Williams - Page 19
Fire Fighters - Photography Leila Williams - Page 24
Resource Management - Photography Leila Williams - Page 29
Scrub Fire, The Examiner Newspaper 7.02.2001 - Photography Geoff Robson - Page 37

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