



Tuross Head Rural Fire Brigade

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

Perhaps just as amazing is when some people ignore simple words (correctly spelt) - like STOP! This fact occurred to members of your local Brigade when some people tried to go around a road block which was set up to protect them from live wires (11, 000 volt) which had been brought down on the Monday of the recent long weekend. Brigade members are taught that for an 11,000 volt conductor, a single phase to earth would be about 6,350 volts which would fan out from the point of contact, slowly dropping over distance. If you have one part of your body closer to the source than another part then you will receive a shock due to the difference in voltage (step potential). Typically this voltage difference would be in the region of some 850 volts which would be more than enough to fry several of your precious internal organs due to the large energy (which is proportional to the duration multiplied by the square of the voltage) available from the source. Therefore, always assume downed wires are live and do not get any closer than 8 metres from where a conductor touches the ground or any object in contact with the conductor. If you are still in the mood to experiment and return any, or all, of the following symptoms:

- Unconsciousness
- Difficulties in breathing or no breathing at all
- A weak, erratic pulse or no pulse at all
- Burns, particularly entrance and exit burns (where the electricity entered and left the body)
- Sudden onset of cardiac arrest

then you may finally decide that it wasn't such a good idea after all!

Other scenarios were recently practised by the Brigade when members undertook a bi-annual joint training exercise with other Brigades from what is known as Eurobodalla Group Central (Eurobodalla is divided into three Groups – North, Central and South, with Tuross Head, Mogendoura, Bingi, Deua, Moruya, Candlagan and the Catering Brigade comprising Group Central). Attendees considered the exercise extremely successful.

Next month, on 8 November, invited personnel will help celebrate the official opening of the Eurobodalla Hot Fire Centre at Mogo. Not only will the Centre be formally opened but some RFS members will be receiving Service Medals – congratulations to all recipients.

As we enter the “Bush Fire Season” remember that your Brigade is always in need of more members. If you are over 18 please feel free to join us in Drake Street, where training is undertaken every Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 and from 9am to noon, and the first Saturday morning of each month.

Michael Jones
Publicity Officer
44738671