BUILDING A STRONGER MORE RESILIENT CANBERRA

Wildfire arson investigation courses, community first aid training and keeping Canberrans informed during emergencies through social media are just a handful of the innovative and effective practices that were recognised by Attorney General, Simon Corbell, at an award ceremony today.

Mr Corbell presented the annual Resilient Australia awards to recognise the achievements of organisations and individuals that are making our communities safer, more disaster resilient and better prepared to manage emergencies.

“When disaster strikes, government, businesses, communities and individuals all play a role in working together to protect both people and property and it’s great to see some of this collaboration and innovation on show through these awards,” Mr Corbell said.

“Prevention is better than a cure when it comes to managing emergencies and through investment in our emergency services personnel and informing the wider community; we can aim to lessen the devastating impact of disasters in the Territory.

“The ACT Government has placed a high priority on disaster resilience, committing $42.4 million in additional funding for frontline emergency services to boost personnel and resources in 2012-13.

“This funding will boost the capacity of ambulance services by 15 new staff and two new vehicles over four years, a new fire and ambulance station in Charnwood, and an upgrade to the Emergency Service Agency’s Triple ‘O’ emergency phone and communications infrastructure over four years.”

“I am pleased to be able to recognise and commend each organisation for their work in making Canberra a more disaster resilient community,” he said.

“These initiatives will maintain the quality and effectiveness of emergency management across all services in the ACT.”

Twelve nominations for projects across the ACT were received for the awards across four categories – state government, volunteer and community groups, education and training, and federal agency.

The full list of winners is listed on the following page.

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**Resilient Australia Award Winners**

**State Government:**
- Highly Commended – Tri-Service links to Mass-Casualty Response by the ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Ambulance Service, and St John Ambulance
- Highly Commended – Forensic Medicine Centre by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Government
- Winner – The Single Point of Truth (SPOT) – Keeping Canberrans Informed During Emergencies by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)

**Volunteer & Community Group:**
- Highly Commended – ACT SES Joint Venture Training
- Winner – Project Survival by the St John Ambulance, ACT Community Care Branch

**Education & Training:**
- Highly Commended – ESA Training Centre by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)
- Winner – The Masters of Natural Hazards and Disasters Program by the Australian National University

**Federal Agency:**
- Winner – The Wildfire Arson Investigation Management Course by the ACT Rural Fire Service

**Certificates of Recognition:**
- ACTEW Corporation
- ACT CCTV Advisory Group by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Government
- Mapping and Planning Support (MAPS) by the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and Queensland Red Cross
- Resilient and Prepared – ACT Aged Care Sector by the Health Directorate, ACT Government