



Members of the Volunteer Marine Rescue Services (VMRS) play a significant and vital role in helping to ensure that the community is a safe place in which to work, live and play.

They serve the community on a voluntary basis by providing a commitment in time, knowledge and expertise in operational and non operational roles (eg. as a Support Member).

VMRS groups work in close liaison with the WA Police Service, coordinating and performing search and rescue missions at sea for the WA community.

This information leaflet explains what you can expect when joining the VMRS. It can also be given to your employer.

BENEFITS

- ongoing training
- personal protective equipment as required
- insurance cover when undertaking VMRS roles
- opportunity to use existing skills and gain new ones that may be useful in the workplace
- help others in the community
- opportunities to make friends
- FESA Support Services available.

ABOUT THE ROLE

Volunteers undertake various roles according to their abilities, interests, and what they are comfortable with.

The roles of a VMRS volunteer are diverse and include:

- crewing a marine rescue vessel
- radio communications
- chart reading and navigation
- boating and sea safety education
- administration
- training and assessment.

Volunteers undertake training, respond to emergency situations and may also involve themselves in marine educational activities designed to improve safety for the boating public.

INDUCTION

The induction process varies from group to group. Membership is granted by a committee, following a joining application.

Induction covers areas such as group history, FESA structure, training, and report forms. Individual VMRS groups may incorporate some specific local information.

TRAINING

Marine Rescue Volunteers are recommended to undertake marine-based training. Some groups require members to attend regular meetings. Training may depend on your level of responsibility.

Training may include:

- occupational safety and health at sea
- marine radio operation
- coastal navigation
- radar
- work team communications
- engineering knowledge
- senior first aid.

Being a volunteer and undertaking regular training means you can:

- develop new skills and knowledge
- apply existing skills and knowledge to different situations
- maintain your current skills and competencies
- take the opportunity to be creative and develop initiative
- develop leadership skills
- improve your interpersonal, communication and team-working skills.



YOUR COMMITMENT

VMRS members are expected to:

- be available to attend incidents (whenever possible)
- attend training as required
- carry out duties in a safe and professional manner
- demonstrate commitment to the ideals of marine search and rescue
- work effectively with other groups and agencies.

Because VMRS members work as a team, they are required to participate in activities such as regular maintenance and routine checks of vessels and equipment.

INCIDENT RESPONSE

The range of calls the VMRS may receive include:

- assisting the WA Police Service to search for missing people or vessels
- assisting stricken vessels to return to a safe haven
- providing a safety net through lodgement of sail plans.



VMRS groups are mobilised to incidents via pagers, telephones and SMS messaging. It is understood that some volunteers may not be available at various hours due to work or other commitments, and are encouraged to discuss emergency service leave arrangements with their employers.

EMPLOYERS

The benefits to employers for supporting employees as emergency service volunteers include:

- opportunities to create relationships with the local community
- increased awareness of community issues
- increased ability to attract and retain skilled staff
- increased staff productivity
- increased staff team working skills
- increased staff morale
- positive corporate image
- enhanced public relations through FESA's Employer Recognition Program.

For more information contact:

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or a Volunteer and Youth Services Branch member on 1800 628 141.



ARE YOU READY?

to join the Volunteer Marine Rescue Services

Information for prospective Marine Rescue Services Volunteers and their employers

