

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 1318**  
**Asked on 31 October 2006**

Ms Carolyn MALE, Member for Glass House asked the Minister for Emergency Services (MR PURCELL) -

**QUESTION:**

How will the \$3.5m in the emergency services budget for 2006-07 to provide rural fire vehicles improve the firefighting capability of our volunteer rural firefighters?

**ANSWER:**

Construction is underway on approximately 55 emergency response vehicles for rural operations which will comprise 40 medium attack units, five heavy attack vehicles and eight light attack vehicles and two vehicles whose configuration has yet to be finalised. However, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service always remains responsive to the needs of the brigades and may change this composition if there are changes in the needs or risks of brigades.

They will be distributed to brigades throughout Queensland over the coming 12 months.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Rural Operations recently completed its five-year veteran replacement program on ageing vehicles. With that program now complete, these new vehicles will add to the fleet and ensure that volunteers are supplied with the latest equipment and technology.

Across Queensland there are more than 1,500 rural fire brigades. They are currently in the middle of what is shaping up as a longer than usual bushfire season, with the current dry conditions suggesting that they will be busy for some time yet. In fact, since early August these volunteers have attended more than 550 bush and grass fires throughout the state.