

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 142**  
**Asked on 7 March 2018**

**MR S ANDREW** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (HON C CRAWFORD)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the rural fire brigade volunteers who provide a valued and professional service to rural communities—

Will the Minister advise whether these members/volunteers are covered by the rural fire brigade for public liability, professional indemnity and general insurance when conducting rural fire brigade operations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that all Rural Fire Service volunteers are covered with the relevant insurances, including public liability insurance, while they are undertaking approved Rural Fire Service activities provided the activity undertaken is a bona-fide brigade activity; in good faith; and without negligence.

QFES provides insurance coverage for brigade stations through the Queensland Government Insurance Fund and holds a comprehensive motor vehicle accident insurance policy that covers brigade appliances.

Bona-fide brigade activities include:

- Fire prevention
- Firefighting
- Hazard reduction burning
- Public awareness and education
- Running authorised fundraising activities
- Participating in fire management meetings
- Preparing and maintaining equipment
- Attending and delivering brigade or other training sessions
- Assisting the community at times of emergencies and disasters
- Such other functions that the Commissioner may direct.

RFS volunteers are considered to be 'workers' under workplace health and safety legislation which means they are covered by insurances like public liability and workers compensation.