

# Media Release

A photograph of two forest workers wearing yellow hard hats and orange safety vests, standing outdoors in a wooded area.

24 March 2016

## Forester Fights Fire in Rubicon

A VicForests Forester has helped to fight a fire near Rubicon State Forest.

On March 15, Jim Anderson stopped to help a couple of people on the side of Rubicon Road who were frantically trying to beat flames out in a grass fire with their shirts.

Thinking quick and concerned for their welfare, Jim pulled over to offer some assistance and noticed the fire was developing and spreading.

“After doing a quick risk assessment of the incident to help determine the best course of action, I hosed down the running edge of the larger fire, using the water contained in the firefighting equipment from the back of my VicForests ute.

“I then did the same with another fire which had started nearby by which time all my water was gone,” Jim said.

After putting out most of the fire, Jim contacted the Department for Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and the local Country Fire Authority (CFA) were called to black out the fire.

Blackening out a fire is done by making sure the area is safe after the fire has been put out by cooling down the affected area to stop more fires from starting.

CFA’s Thornton Fire Brigade 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Gary McMillan said “when we turned up the fire was already out so we added some more water to the burnt area before leaving.

“Jim did an excellent job extinguishing the fire so quickly and efficiently. We were only on scene for a short time because Jim had done all the hard work,” Gary said.

Brad Winthrop, General Manager VicForests said “We are very proud of Jim for his quick thinking and his actions in helping to put out the fire.

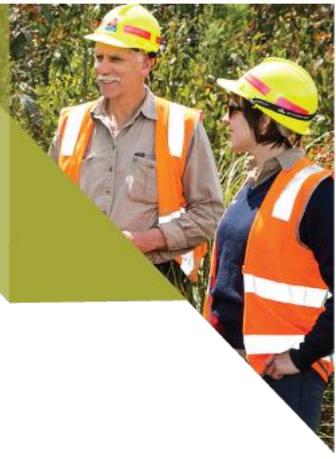
“In addition to our primary role of forest management, many of our staff and contractors also play an important role in fire management across the State.”

VicForests fire management roles include operational fire-fighting, incident management, logistics and information, and plant and aircraft support and our contractors provide heavy equipment operational experience.

“Wildfire is a significant threat to the State of Victoria’s communities and forests and VicForests is committed to the suppression of wildfire in order to protect communities, assets and environmental and cultural values including valuable timber resources,” Mr Winthrop said.

VicForests is part of Forest Fire Management which also includes CFA, DELWP and Parks Victoria.

As well as contributing to wildfire suppression, VicForests also support DELWP with fuel reduction burns throughout the year, with the aim of reducing the risk of wildfire spreading out of containable areas.



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**Image:** Jim Anderson, VicForests Forester