

Statement of Witness

I David |John Woods of [REDACTED] Station Officer with Queensland Fire & Rescue Service Solemnly and sincerely declare:

1. After the floods at Grantham I was deployed as a swift water rescue team of 2 from the ROCC (Regional Operation Coordination Centre) at Toowoomba to carry out searches of vehicles that had been involved in the floods. We attend the Police forward control point where we were tasked with searching and marking cars in wet areas shallow water & deep mud. While in attendance at Grantham I was contacted by a QFRS task force leader who was in the area doing reconnaissance for technical |& US&R rescue teams. He asked how I was in the area as it was a Police Cordoned Area and he had a team of I think he said 12 swift Water rescuers & a team of 30 US&R operators arriving that afternoon and they have not been allowed in to the area. I informed him that we had been requested through the ROCC at Toowoomba by QPS. I had requested through the Police forward control point that we get more swift water crews to assist as we had a large area to cover and further swift water rescuers would be of benefit. This was denied. It was also apparent that the US&R crews would be of great assistance in searching of buildings and also searching the build up of cars & debris beside houses fences and other structures. The specialist equipment & Search techniques that could be provided by the US&R teams would have made the search much more efficient.

2. I attended the Condamine Flood as a Swift Water Rescuer as part of a team of 4. Our duties there were to:

Standby & monitor people movement across the |Condamine River & its tributaries. Set up a pump in the Condamine River so a water supply could be maintained to the water treatment plant.

Lease with the Condamine Council and advice on what QFRS resources that could be supplied to assist the Condamine community. The areas we offered was the Flexible Habitat for accommodation, water treatment plant for potable water, man power to assist with set up of this equipment, clean up and relocation of town occupants.

3. I was the Regional Rescue Co-ordinator for the QFRS South western Region for 2.5 Years during this time requests were made for the purchase of Swift Water Rescue equipment and a proposal for the increase in L1 Technical Rescue disciplines including L1 swift water operators across the region this included the training of Auxiliary stations as the region was unable to supply permanent fire fighters with the skills in an appropriate time frame.

**Attached appendix: 1**

Strategic Plan to enhance Technical |Rescue in the South Western Region

**Attached appendix: 2** Equipment proposals for the purchase of equipment to enhance Road Crash Rescue & Technical rescue. Items 4 & 8 apply to swift water rescue.

The swift water equipment was not purchased.

4. The best way to overcome the equipment issues from region to region would be for State Special Operations to put together a standard minimum kit of equipment that would be funded from state & placed at rescue stations that have been identified in each region. Also a standard kit would be placed on all of the first responding appliances. This method is used for Road Crash Rescue equipment & standard equipment on Appliances in relation to Positive Pressure Fans, Thermal Imaging Cameras and ensures a standard list of equipment was in all regions.

The equipment supplied should meet the requirements set down by the risk scale L1 Yell Reach Throw/ L2 Wade Row GO Tow He low.

Signed..... [REDACTED] .....

Witnessed by..... [REDACTED] .....



5. In relation to deployment of L2 swift water Operators to areas that do not have L1 operators to assist the L2 operators there should be a minimum of 4 operators sent to these areas to ensure safe operations at all times.
6. There should be a program initiated to ensure that all emergency services and Police are aware of the capabilities, expertise & equipment available to ensure personnel are deployed quickly and efficiently in the case of this type of incidents happening again.
7. Auxiliary stations should be trained to L1 swift water with a commitment from state to supply equipment & maintain their skills.
- 8 The swift water classifications need s to be looked at so crews can enter non flowing water to perform a rescue with the correct training in relation to clothing and PPE that can be worn & the limitations in relation to the type of water that can be entered.
9. All PFD's in the Queensland Fire & Rescue Service be upgrade to the L2 type PFD's that allows the rescuer to release in the event of a life threatening situation occurring.

I solemnly and sincerely affirm that the facts and circumstances stated in this statement are from my knowledge except those which are from information only.

Affirmed by David John Woods on 01/06/2011 at Maroochydore in the presence of:

Signed: ..... [redacted] .....

----- [redacted] -----  
 Witness



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 Commissioner for Declarations/Solicitor/Justice of the Peace

Signed..... [redacted] .....

Witnessed by..... [redacted]





## MEMORANDUM

<b>Date</b>	30/11/06	<b>Reference</b>	311L Ver1
<b>To</b>	Area Director Bruce Smith		
<b>From</b>	SO David Woods	<b>Telephone</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Subject</b>	Equipment For 311Lima		

### PURPOSE

- Upgrade 311L's equipment to maintain its enhanced regional capabilities.

### BACKGROUND

- State RAR committee & Special Operations Unit has been researching & testing new equipment that will enhance our capabilities in rescue.

### CURRENT ISSUES

- The following items are items that have been approved for the new build of Medium Rescue & Technical Rescue Appliances.
- Technical rescue equipment identified to enhance our capabilities

### RECOMMENDATION

The following equipment be considered for purchase and placement on 311L

The Holmatro prices maybe negotiable as this equipment maybe part of a larger order.

- In the last 12 months QFRS has been trialing and are now purchasing Holmatro Power Shore equipment. This equipment has been purchased to allow QFRS to safely perform rescue operations in relation the Heavy Transportation Rescue. This equipment will considerably enhance the capabilities of 311L in the areas of Road Rescue extrication through its unique ability to provide Stabilisation and lifting capabilities in 1 piece of equipment  
The equipment is lightweight and compact allowing it to be moved by aircraft if required in our regions remote locations.  
Approximate Cost \$ 13000.00
- 24 volt Reciprocating Saw  
This saw was tested with the train exercise held in Brisbane and its lasting ability cutting power showed it up as a major tool in this type of incident.  
App Cost \$850.00
- Air Tools  
Trials have been carried out with the use of air-operated grinders for the cutting of stainless steel (Train & bus incidents). These trials have led to a recommendation to have these tools fitted to Lima's and Medium rescue appliances.  
Cost \$ 410.00

4. Line Throwing Device

- To enhance the technical rescue capabilities of 311L a line throwing device would allow line to laid across fast flowing water eliminating the need for F/F's to enter the water. This has been highlighted with the recent calls to swift water incidents.

App cost \$ 310.00

5. Hydraulic Rams

- 311L is fitted with 2 TR 3350 Rams the new medium, rescue kit is fitted with 1 TR3350 & 1 TR3340 ram this allows better space management. It maybe possible to link in with the purchasing of the next kits and swap the rams.

If we have to purchase

1 TR3340	Cost \$ 4636.12
Extension Pipe TR3340	Cost \$ 303.00
Extension Pipe TR 3350	Cost \$ 362.00

6.

- Accessory kit For RA Rams

Cost \$ 2591.00

7.

- Core Drill

311L 11 has a snake Eye camera fitted and to enhance the capabilities of this a core drill is required to make access to fit the camera through. This has been fitted to Lima's across the state.

Cost \$1360.00

8. Work Platform Swift Water

Approx Cost \$ 6000.00

Thank you,  
David Woods

**Regional Technical  
Rescue  
South Western  
Regional  
Strategic Plan 2000  
- 2003**



**Prepared for:** Commissioner – Darryl Pepper

**Prepared by:** Regional Technical Rescue Coordinator – David Woods

**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 2007

## ***Objectives:***

The objectives of this Strategic Plan are to provide high level strategic advice to the Regional Management Team regarding the training and subsequent financial implications of an expanded Technical Rescue capability.

## ***Strategies***

The Strategic Plan will outline a progressive series of strategies utilising the hub delivery strategy, as used with the Hazmat equipment. The plan is, to expand the capability over the next three financial years.

## ***Current Capabilities***

It is accepted that where the region has a compliment of full-time staff there are currently a developing number of competent technical rescue operators. Over the next 12-months staff in these areas will be provided with training in all aspects of Technical Rescue.

Limited equipment is required at these locations, with minimal cost to the areas. As more specialised equipment is available in the regions' Technical Rescue Trailer.

## ***Strategy One:                    2001 – Roma, Charleville, Goondiwindi & Toowoomba***

Due to the likelihood and potential frequency of incidents of this nature it the western parts of this region. It has been decided to initially hub Technical Rescue capability in four main centres (Rescue Stations). It is believed that this would ensure that the region is able to provide effective training and equipment to these specialist stations.

- It is planned to provide level one capability and training to these centres, enabling the Rescue stations to effectively respond to technical rescue incidents in their area. Also supporting the non-rescue stations, by responding to confirmed Vertical, Confined Space, Swift Water and Trench rescues throughout the region.
- As with the distribution of Hazmat equipment, we are initially suggesting that for specialist technical rescue capabilities, a 200 kilometre (two-hour) response would provide adequate coverage and response. (*refer map 1*)

The benefits of this first strategy are to enable the rollout of technical rescue in a controlled and managed manner. The region will not be overly disadvantaged financially and there is a high likelihood of success, as the training could be delivered and skills being maintained.

**Strategy One Budget**

<b>Technical Rescue Equipment – Strategy One</b>				
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Level 1 VR</b>	<b>Level 1 Trench</b>	<b>Level 1 Con Space</b>	<b>Swift Water</b>
Cordage Pack	\$1555.00			
Portable Flotation Devices (PFD)				\$370.00
Throw Bags				\$120.00
Blank Caps (64mm)				\$50.00
Tripod			\$975.00	
Verti-shore – <i>Optional for trench</i>		\$4100.00		
Evacuation Stretcher			\$550.00	
Gas Monitoring device			\$4200.00	
Helmets	\$280.00			
Sub total per station	\$1835.00	\$4100.00	\$5725	\$540
<b>Total equipment cost per station</b>				<b>\$8100.00</b>
<b>Total equipment cost for the strategy</b>				<b>\$24,300.00</b>

The equipment listed above is complimentary for all aspect of technical rescue and each discipline relies on equipment from another.

**Strategy One Training**

<b>Technical Rescue Training – Strategy One</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Staff numbers</b>	<b>Cost @ \$18/hr</b>
Level One – Vertical rescue	16 hr	45	\$12,960
Trench Rescue	16 hr	45	\$12,960
Confined Space	16 hrs	45	\$12,960
Swift Water Rescue	8 hrs	45	\$6480
USAR – Structural Collapse	8 hrs	45	\$6480
<b>Total regional wages cost</b>			<b>\$51,840</b>

The training listed above does not cover; Accommodation, Instructor or course administration costs. The training department is confident that this level of training is achievable in a 12-month period.

**Skills Maintenance**

This is an extremely complex and detailed issue; it is still unclear as to how the regional skills maintenance program will operate and be achieved. The more staff with technical rescue skills, the more dedicated AS/O Woods job becomes. It is not unreasonable to expect that in the oncoming few years AS/O Woods job will become solely Technical Rescue coordination, training delivery and skills maintenance.



**Strategy Two:****2002 – Cunnamulla. St George & Chinchilla**

- This compliments the first strategy by expanding the regions initial capabilities, the rollout of these three stations would reduce the response distance to 100 kilometres (one-hour). (*refer map 2*)
- The operational response capabilities would be the same as for the first three auxiliary stations.

<b>Technical Rescue Equipment – Strategy Two</b>				
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Level 1 VR</b>	<b>Level 1 Trench</b>	<b>Level 1 Con Space</b>	<b>Swift Water</b>
Cordage Pack	\$1555.00			
Portable Flotation Devices (PFD)				\$370.00
Throw Bags				\$120.00
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**Strategy Two Training**

<b>Technical Rescue Training – Strategy Two</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Staff numbers</b>	<b>Cost @ \$18/hr</b>
Level One – Vertical rescue	16 hr	45	\$12,960
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USAR – Structural Collapse	8 hrs	45	\$6480
<b>Total wages cost</b>			<b>\$51,840</b>

The training listed above does not cover; Accommodation, Instructors or course administration costs. The training department is confident that this level of training is achievable in a 12-month period.

**Skills Maintenance**

This would be the same as for strategy one.

**Strategy Three: 2003 – Quilpie, Mitchell & Dalby**

- This compliments the first strategy and builds on the regions initial capabilities; the rollout of these three stations would reduce the response distance to 60 kilometres in 95% of the regions' coverage area. The stations not covered within the 60-kilometre response distance include – Taroom, Injune, Tara & Augathella however, these would be covered within 100-kilometre response distance. (refer map 3)
- The operational response capabilities would be the same as for the first three auxiliary stations.

<b>Technical Rescue Equipment – Strategy Two</b>				
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Level 1 VR</b>	<b>Level 1 Trench</b>	<b>Level 1 Con Space</b>	<b>Swift Water</b>
Cordage Pack	\$1555.00			
Portable Flotation Devices (PFD)				\$370.00
Throw Bags				\$120.00
Blank Caps (64mm)				\$50.00
Tripod			\$975.00	
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<b>Technical Rescue Training – Strategy Two</b>			
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The training listed above does not cover; Accommodation, Instructors or course administration costs. The training department is confident that this level of training is achievable in a 12-month period.

**Skills Maintenance**

This would be the same as for strategy one.

This strategic plan is currently inline with the State Rescue Policy as developed earlier this year. Any changes made to the state policy would have to be reflected in this document.

***Appendices:***

1. Matrix of Primary and Secondary QFRA responses / capabilities for the region.
2. Matrix of Primary and Secondary CDRS responses / capabilities for the region.
3. Maps of all strategies, outlining response radiuses.