



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



QP 0125
01/06
A14

Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: **06/07/2011**

Statement of

Name of witness: **DORR, Gary John**

Date of birth: [REDACTED] Age: [REDACTED] Occupation: **Research officer
(University of Queensland)**

Police officer taking statement

Name: [REDACTED]

Rank: **Plain Clothes Senior Constable** Reg. no.: **4017815**

Region/Command/Division: **SCOC** Station: **State Flying Squad**

Statement:

I, Gary John DORR states:

1. I am a [REDACTED] year old male who resides at [REDACTED] McKay Street, Gatton, Qld, 4343. My mobile number is [REDACTED] The SES Lockyer Valley mobile number is [REDACTED] My landline phone number is [REDACTED].
2. I work full time at the University of Queensland as a research officer under the Faculty of Sciences.
3. I am also a volunteer at the State Emergency Service (SES). The SES is administered through the Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) South West region.
4. I am the local SES Controller for the Lockyer Valley council region. This area includes Laidley through to Withcott. It also includes Murphy's Creek, Mulgowie and Junction View to the South. This of course includes the Grantham area.
5. I started as a volunteer in the SES in 1993. I have been the local SES Controller for over a year. The SES Gatton headquarters are at 2 Golf Links Drive, Gatton.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **DORR, Gary John**

6. My responsibilities include overseeing SES operations in the Lockyer Valley area. This includes disaster management and training. I also deal with facilities and personnel.
7. The general SES state-wide phone number for assistance in Australia is 13 25 00. Members of the general public can call this number for assistance in any region.
8. The process for SES assistance is to:
 - a. Call the 13 25 00 number
 - b. Operator will give a call to the appropriate SES regional controller, however if the requests exceed approximately six calls they will divert to emailing EMQ regional office
 - c. An email is sent from the Operator to the EMQ regional office
 - d. Telephone call on SES mobile or emails are sent to regional controller
 - e. Tasks are then designated to local SES group. Jobs are overseen by the regional controller.
9. My email address that I was getting the requests through was [REDACTED]. The mobile phone number I was receiving calls was [REDACTED]
10. I do recall as early as December 2010 we assisted in the sandbagging in the Grantham area due to the heavy rain. There were a few minor floods in the Grantham area at this time. The water came up through the roads, being Harris Street and Anzac Avenue, Grantham. The water level was not much more than ½ metre high. The flood boats were not required at this time.
11. I remember Sunday 9 January 2011. It was 04:00pm, when I headed to the SES Gatton Headquarters. I was to provide assistance within the Lockyer shire due to the high level of rain. At this stage the area wasn't flooded.
12. On this date there were seven SES volunteers from Gatton including myself. Then later on in the evening there were two SES volunteers from Laidley

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **DORR, Gary John**

were called in. There were two SES flood boats on standby. They are commercial standards boats. They are 4.6 metres.

13. Prior to this I remember receiving phone calls from numerous members requesting assistance in the Shire, none of which specifically were from the Grantham area.
14. The procedure for SES volunteers is to sign on in the 'Official Attendance Register' situated at Gatton HQ.
15. I provided assistance to an elderly man in the Placid Hills area. He needed assistance to get home through the heavy rain from Placid Hills to Murphy's Creek.
16. After I provided assistance to this man, I then drove to the Council office and attended to the Local Disaster Management Group. (LDMG) This is headed by the Lockyer Valley Regional Council. (LVRC) This is situated on Railway Street, Gatton.
17. As the local SES Controller my responsibilities also involve me attending the LDMG committee. I received a phone call from the [REDACTED] who is the LDMG coordinator who advised that this LDMG had been set up for the floods in the Lockyer Valley region. This was the control centre.
18. All the representatives from Emergency services were in attendance at this committee. This included myself from the SES, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS), Queensland Police Service (QPS), Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and Lockyer Valley council staff (LVC).
19. It was a coordination of activities on how to manage the situations (flooding) that was occurring in the Lockyer Valley region. We knew that there was flooding in Grantham. The flood boats were not needed from Gatton to Grantham because the water levels weren't deep enough. The fire trucks were able to drive through the waters on this date.
20. My duties at the LDMG were to coordinate the SES personnel in Gatton and Laidley.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **DORR, Gary John**

21. Later in the evening I directed two SES officers to get the flood boat in to assist in the QFRS truck that was stuck in Grantham (central) in the flood waters.
22. I do recall that the SES personnel used the SES flood boat to rescue a family in Harris Street, Grantham. There were five people (two adults and three children). This was under the direction of the QFRS.
23. I stayed at this control room until 04:30am and then went home.
24. On Monday 10 January 2011, around lunch time I received a call from LDMG and attended the office. At this stage, information was coming in from QPS, QFRS and other agencies in the committee that there was mass flooding in Toowoomba, Withcott and Murphy's Creek area. At this stage there was no warning of flooding in the Grantham area.
25. I remember there being reports of cars being washed away by the floods in Toowoomba. In Withcott, there were cars and water rushing through businesses there.
26. I was monitoring from the control room the movements of the SES Gatton. There were only three SES Gatton personnel who started at 11:30am.
27. These SES personnel were called in to assist in the sandbagging of houses. I'm not sure which areas these houses were in.
28. I remember seeing a picture message on a Lockyer Valley council officer mobile. This picture message depicted flood waters over the toilet facilities at the Helidon Park. I think the council officer's name was Justin FISHER but I can't be sure.
29. This is when I realised that this flooding would reach Grantham. I did not realise however the devastation that it would cause.
30. At 02:30pm, I contacted the SES Gatton office and spoke to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Group leader SES) to instruct her that they should warn residents of Grantham of the potential flooding.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **DORR, Gary John**

31. From 11:30am till 05:00pm there were four SES personnel called in. From 05:00pm till 11:00pm there were three SES personnel called in. In total for the 10th January 2011 there were seven SES personnel on hand for the Gatton area.

I am able to produce the 'Official Attendance Register' of SES Gatton personnel for the 10/01/2011'

32. There are three SES Gatton vehicles – one Mazda 2 tonne truck, Toyota Troupe carrier and Toyota Hilux Dual cab. There were three SES flood boats available to us.

33. It was after this time that I am aware that Dawn instructed the three other SES personnel - [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to head out to Grantham.

34. I am aware that they left the office at 02:50pm. The initial plan was to use the Portable Audio system (PA) in the SES vehicle which is a Mazda two tonne truck. They were to use the PA system to drive through Grantham and warn residents of danger of the floods.

35. I am aware that the SES personnel drove to the Gatton side of Grantham to warn a few residents.

36. But before they could get into Grantham, the water was coming across the road and rising fast so they couldn't drive through and the PA system wasn't working.

37. The SES personnel would have kept in touch me with via mobile. At that stage, it was too dangerous for them to go any further into the flood waters so they drove back to the SES Gatton HQ.

38. About 5-7 minutes, when they arrived back at the SES Gatton HQ I instructed the SES personnel via mobile telephone to warn residents in the low lying areas in Gatton to prepare for the floods. In these areas I would have advised the SES personnel to tell the residents to consider evacuation.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **DORR, Gary John**

39. In the evening I am aware that an assistance call was received to provide assistance on the Toowoomba side of Grantham, being Gatton-Helidon Road, Grantham. This request was from the LDMG.

40. About twenty residents who resided in Grantham, wanted to get to the evacuation centre in Gatton Shire Hall, North Street, Gatton. The SES personnel went to the area to get them, but these people had already evacuated to the Helidon hall.

41. There were no assistance calls to the SES Gatton office to assist in the Grantham area as far as I'm aware.

42. As far as I'm aware none of my SES personnel were called or tasked to assist in the evacuation of any residents in the Grantham area on the 10 January 2011.

43. I know that there was a bit of a delay in getting some of the requests through the email via the 13 25 00 number. This is due to the way this process works.

44. I do have the emails of requests for flood assistance that I received through EMQ on the 10/01/2011 for the Lockyer Valley region. I'm not sure how many emails in total I would have received.

I am able to produce these emails that were received by EMQ on 10/01/2011

45. I do not keep a log of events.

46. At no time did I leave the control room at Gatton at the LDMG.

47. On 6 July 2011, I attended the Gatton Police Station and provided Plain Clothes Senior Constable Wendy POON of the State Flying Squad this statement.

.....
Gary John DORR

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)