



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

26 March 2021

VICSES: celebrating resilience, togetherness for Neighbour Day



- Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is taking part in national Neighbour Day celebrations on **Sunday, 28 March**. Victorians are encouraged to celebrate by saying 'g'day' over the fence or across the road.
- It's been a challenging 12 months for the emergency services with: a pandemic, flooding, tornados in Geelong and Horsham, bushfire recovery in the east, plus local incidents.
- Research shows those who have strong relationships with their neighbours are more likely to help one another and have better outcomes when faced with emergencies.
- It might be a neighbour that phones triple-zero (000) or 132 500 in an emergency, it might be that they provide initial first assistance whilst emergency crews are on their way, or they may even be an SES volunteer or trained emergency responder themselves.
- At VICSES, we pride ourselves on being a part of our communities. That's why VICSES is supporting this campaign – an annual celebration of community with the aim of fostering strong local connections.
- For more info: <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/media/campaigns/neighbour-day> or <https://neighbourday.org/>
- Audio grabs / spokesperson available on request

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer (6am-10pm)
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au



Quotes attributable to VICSES Chief Officer Tim Wiebusch:

“Victorians have showed extraordinary resilience in the last year, with Neighbour Day a chance to celebrate those valuable connections next door, or across the road. In an emergency, those people may save your life, your home, or become life-long friends.”

“VICSES is proud to take part in this national campaign. When you have strong connections around you, you are more resilient and are better-equipped when an emergency occurs.”

“Victorians have faced a pandemic, floods, tornados, bushfire recovery and more over the last 12 months. Now is a time to come together to celebrate all that we have achieved together, as neighbours.”

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