



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

13 November 2020

After bushfires and pandemic, VICSES turns focus to family



Behind every brave and hard-working Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteer is a support network of people that help them achieve amazing things.

Black Summer was an especially trying time for north east Victoria in 2020, with Tallangatta deputy controller Zachary West grateful that his strong family connections kept him supported during an alarming and dynamic time for the region.

Zachary assisted with various logistical and support tasks in **Tallangatta** during the 2019/2020 bushfire season, and has also assisted in key road and flood incidents around **Wodonga** area, where he works.

The 29 year-old comes from proud VICSES stock, with Dad Neville, and brothers Nathaniel, Caleb, Daniel and Matthew all volunteers. Matthew and Neville have retired, with Dad clocking up 25 years!

Zachary has also praised his wife Rebecca for letting him fully commit to his unit, even with two kids under three. No matter what time Zachary is paged to a VICSES callout, Rebecca feeds and cares for Axel and Spencer – and gets their lunches ready and makes sure they get to childcare.

'YFOF' takes place on [14 & 15 November](#), and is an opportunity to thank the numerous people supporting every member of VICSES. They are the unsung heroes behind Victoria's first responders.

For more information, contact:

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Quotes attributable to Tallangatta deputy controller Zachary West

“It has been a really strange and difficult year in Victoria, but volunteering for VICSES has made me feel like I’ve made a difference. Having the support of my family means I can fully commit to the Tallangatta unit with no hesitation.”

“I am a Dad with two young kids, and my wife Rebecca does an incredible job of caring for our boys if I’m called to a job. One morning I was gone at 2am and back by 2pm because of two road rescues – but Rebecca covered every base at home, which I am so grateful for.”

“The ‘Your Family, Our Family’ campaign is about putting our loved ones in the spotlight and saying thanks for all they do to support first responders - especially after serious fires and pandemic.”