

30 July 2015

INAUGURAL AERIAL FIREFIGHTING CONFERENCE FOR ALBURY



The Aerial Application Association of Australia (AAAA – four As) will be holding the inaugural Aerial Firefighting Operators Conference in Albury on the 4th and 5th of August.

The conference will have a strategic focus to enable the companies investing in the sector to identify ways of being more effective, safer and better able to protect the community in summer.

CEO of AAAA, Phil Hurst, said that the conference is an important milestone for the sector that demonstrates its maturity and professionalism.

“Aerial firefighting is a specialized area of expertise that involves both fixed-wing and rotary aircraft working together to protect the community, firefighters on the ground, assets and the environment.

“The use of aircraft saves the community millions of dollars every year by allowing rapid response to fires that otherwise might damage large areas.

“While the community might only hear of aircraft being used on large bushfires that burn for days, often in rugged terrain, the real success story is how aircraft can keep small fires small, protect houses and assets and provide another tool for firefighters.

“Australia’s aerial firefighting capabilities have improved significantly over recent years and this is in direct response to the effectiveness of aviation in providing a wide range of services to support volunteers on the ground.

“Firefighting capabilities range from sophisticated mapping and survey using the latest computer equipment and infra-red technology to helicopters efficiently moving people around a fire-ground or providing fire attack control to the fixed and rotary wing bombers that can lay down retardant for fire breaks or extinguish fires.

“The conference in Albury is the first step in what will hopefully become an annual event bringing together all facets of the aerial firefighting sector in Australia”, Mr Hurst said.

The Aerial Firefighting Conference is only open to *bona fide* operators working in the sector.

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