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THANK YOU FIREYS DAY

Today is Thank You Fireys Day – a day to reflect and acknowledge the incredible work of volunteer and career firefighters to help keep communities safe all around Australia, every single day of the year.

Also known as National Red Balloon Day, it is an opportunity to thank our very own firefighters as well as those across Australia for their commitment and dedication to protecting lives, homes and communities.

In Western Australia, there are over 1,200 career firefighters and more than 24,000 volunteer firefighters from the Bush Fire Service, Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service and Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services.

Our firefighters respond to a range of natural disasters and emergency incidents across our vast State and dedicate countless more hours to training and development – all in the name of helping to make Western Australia a safer place for us all.

Our current high threat period has been an important reminder of the critical service firefighters provide. Since November 2023, Western Australian firefighters have defended five million hectares of land and attended hundreds of other emergencies, including road crashes, rescues and hazardous material incidents. This is a testament to the dedication, skill and resilience that volunteers and career firefighters demonstrate every single day.

I am incredibly proud of the way volunteer and career firefighters work so tirelessly to protect lives and homes. The invaluable role they play is recognised and I hope all firefighters feel the enormous appreciation of the Australian community.

For more information on Thank You Fireys Day, visit
<https://www.thankyoufireys.org/home.html>.

**DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER**