

<i>Name of Witness</i>	Mark Stanley RODERICK
<i>Date of Birth</i>	██████████
<i>Address and contact details</i>	████████████████████
<i>Occupation</i>	Boiler maker/welder
<i>Officer taking statement</i>	Det/Sgt A VLISMAS
<i>Date taken</i>	9 April 2011

Mark RODERICK states,

1. I am a married man █████ years of age and I reside with my family at Montville.
2. I am employed as a Boiler maker and welder for a private company.
3. I am also a volunteer rural fire fighter with the Montville Rural Fire Brigade. I have been a volunteer since 1989 with this brigade. Since starting with the brigade I have worked my way through the ranks and I am currently the First officer of the Montville Rural Fire brigade attaining that position in 2001.
4. My responsibilities are the operational management of the brigade and training of personnel. I am also the group trainer of the Maroochydore South Group which comprises of ten brigades. As the co-ordinator of group training I formalise the training for large scale operations where numerous brigades come together to manage and fight fires such as large scale hazard reduction.
5. I also deliver training packages which provides qualifications for nationally accredited rural fire fighting.
6. As a First officer of a brigade I report to a superior situated at Caloundra Area Office. This person's position is the Area Director of Rural Operations. I would also report to another person in the Area office who is responsible for overall training of the local area.
7. I am also called upon at times to provide a Strike Team normally comprising of 6 vehicles with a maximum of 18 crew members. Depending on the type of work tasked to us will determine the size of the vehicles used in the strike team.

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8. I recall January 2001 being a Saturday I received a call from our management to assemble a Strike Team of 6 vehicles and personnel for tasking to Brisbane to assist with flood clean and recovery. This team was assembled and ready for tasking by Sunday the January 2011.

*16th*

9. I recall receiving our instructions from the Area Director Gary SEAMAN to travel to Brisbane and attend to Sleeman Sports Complex and from there we were to take direction from an Urban Fire Officer in this case I think he was an Inspector of the QFRS. I don't recall his name.

10. I am not in a position to know firsthand if the flood recovery management process at a higher management level was effective or not, but from what I have heard it was good, given the scale of the disaster.

11. I only dealt with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) which was running its Incident Control Centre (ICC) from Kemp Place fire station. I believe there was another QFRS ICC at South Brisbane fire station and we only worked from the Kemp Place ICC. So on a smaller scale and from my experiences there is room for improvement. This will be addressed in more detail with the involvement of the Strike Team I led in Brisbane further in this statement.

12. From my experiences during the flood recovery and clean duties I feel that we were not effectively utilised for the following reasons:

- Away from a rural or semi-rural setting some organisations might not realise we exist therefore it could be some time before we are asked to help.
- Organisations not knowing our capabilities. Our core business is dealing with wild fires and hazard mitigation, but we do have pumps that shift water and hoses that can be used to wash down footpaths etc.
- Information about work not coming through the channels fast enough for our ICC to then work out the tasks for us. Remembering that the ICC will need to do up maps and instructions as well.

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- Budgetary constraints. Yes, we are volunteers but we still need fuel, food and accommodation, plus the organisation and planning prior to our deployment will be done by permanent staff.
  - I know of several brigades that had many volunteers wanting to help but couldn't this was because there wasn't any more Strike Teams were being deployed. I feel we could have done a lot more work.
13. On our first day in Brisbane both Strike Teams, one from Gympie and ours from Caloundra needed to go to the ICC for our tasks. This was a major hurdle trying to get 12 trucks parked in the narrow street at Kemp Place.
  14. The next day, both teams altered the procedure for logging on or off with ICC by leaving the rest of the strike team elsewhere while the team leaders continued in. A couple of days later the Gympie strike team found a park that would have made an ideal staging area (New Farm Park) only a few minutes away.
  15. Kemp Place as the ICC and the staging area wasn't a good decision. A staging area is a place where incoming resources (trucks and other equipment) can assemble prior to being sent out on their jobs. This is to avoid congestion and distractions at the ICC. Something that The Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) states is that as the incident grows then a staging area needs to be set up separate to the ICC.
  16. Our first task was at the Breakfast Creek Wharf where we had to pump out the below ground car park and do some hosing around the shops, which we completed by mid-morning on the following day (Monday). Our next task was to check out a sector to determine if any property owners needed help. This sector included the suburbs of Albion, Windsor, Herston and Bowen Hills. This was completed by early afternoon and our new task was to find out more information at St Lucia because there wasn't anything coming out of this area.
  17. Here we were to meet up with an Army Lieutenant to get this information but he didn't seem to have any real idea of what else was happening. After a look around I found a lot of people working very hard including the Army, Urban and Rural fire fighters but

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again the same thing, no one knew who was in charge. From what I could see this area would have benefited from someone in overall control and someone with authority.


18. I never got to report back to ICC at that time as we were responded to the Sherwood area with reports of dumped asbestos. We were to meet up with an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and hose down any asbestos they found as they did a rapid assessment of the area. This was soon stopped as it was realised that this job had already been done.
19. On Tuesday our task was to hose down part of the boardwalk at Southbank. At the end of the day the crews felt they had done something worthwhile and satisfying at Southbank. There was plenty of work to be done here but we were told we would be going home the next day.
20. The Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS), Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) use a command and control process called Incident Management System (IMS) this has been developed using the AIIMS structure. By keeping the basic AIIMS structure it allows us to interact with other agencies that use the AIIMS system. The benefits of this are that forms, worksheets and guidelines for managing an incident are similar.
21. Some other organisations that use the AIIMS system are:
  - State Emergency Service (SES)
  - Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service
  - Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM)
  - Great Barrier Reef Management Park Authority.
25. Also, AIIMS is used across Australia and New Zealand by all fire services.
26. It is my understanding that Brisbane City Council uses another system called Guardian.

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27. Recommendations and improvements:

- QFRS staging area will be handled through our own organisation but it should be noted for other organisations for any future disasters.
- Perhaps equipment registers so it is known what other organisations have and what their capabilities are.
- There was a problem with the delay from being asked to go on deployment to when we actually went. I don't know how this occurred but I do know it was outside of Caloundra Area Office control. This needs to be avoided with all volunteers as they will quite often delay doing other things so they can help.
- All emergency services and Disaster Management Groups need to be using the same command and control or management system. This will allow for a more seamless transition as the incident or disaster unfolds.
- The problems we encountered are quite minor except for what I think is the slow or no movement of information both down and up the channels. This is important as it can avoid unnecessary doubling up and making sure help gets out quickly.

M S RODERICK

<b>Justices Act 1886</b>	
I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:	
(1)	This written statement by me dated <u>9-4-11</u> and contained in the pages numbered 1 to <u>5</u> is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
(2)	I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.
	 .....Signature
Signed at <u>MONTEVILLE</u> this <u>10</u> day of <u>APRIL</u> , 2011	

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