




1961- 1964

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|  |  | CAPTAIN DEPUTY CAPTAIN |  |
| 1961 NSW Bush Fire Brigades screen printed patch (logo with blue background surmounted by small King's crown) | 1963 NSW Bush Fire Brigades screen printed patch and rank identification (logo with blue background surmounted by large crown) | | 1964 NSW Bush Fire Brigades screen printed patch (logo with white background surmounted by large crown) |

1965- 1982

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|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1965 NSW Bush Fire Brigades screen printed patch (logo with red tree trunk and white background surmounted by large crown) | 1965 NSW Bush Fire Brigades non-reflective transfer and rank identification for vehicles and helmets | 1966 NSW Bush Fire Brigades non-reflective vehicle door decal (logo with blue background surmounted by large crown) | 1966 NSW Bush Fire Brigades screen printed patch with woven edge (blank space for Brigade name) | 1967 Fire Control Officer octagonal woven patch |
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| 1968 NSW Department of Bush Fire Services patch | 1968 NSW Department of Bush Fire Services reflective door decal | 1970 NSW Bush Fire Brigades patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform | 1970 NSW Bush Fire Brigades patch with dark blue border for 'fatigues' | 1972 NSW Bush Fire Services patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 1972 NSW Bush Fire Brigades oval patch with green border (blank space for Brigade name) | 1973 NSW Bush Fire Brigades white rectangular woven patch | 1977 NSW Bush Fire Brigades reflective door decal | 1977 NSW Bush Fire Council of NSW reflective door decal | 1982 NSW Bush Fire Council of NSW woven patch |

1983-1996

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| 1983 Bush Fire Brigades patch Addition of the green laurel leaves | 1983 Fire Control Officer patch (red writing) | 1984 Fire Control Officer patch (white writing) | 1984 Fire Patrol Officer patch | 1984 Fire Prevention Crew patch |
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| 1984 Bush Fire Council of NSW patch | 1984 NSW Bush Fire Council of NSW, Regional Officer patch | 1986 White NSW Bush Fire Brigades patch for white overalls. These were also made in yellow for the yellow overalls and light blue for the light blue dress shirts. All were manufactured with King's and Queen's crowns | | |
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| 1988 NSW Department of Bush Fire Services patch | 1988 NSW Department of Bush Fire Services reflective door decal | 1990 NSW Bush Fire Brigades patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform | 1990 NSW Bush Fire Brigades patch with dark blue border for 'fatigues' | 1992 NSW Bush Fire Services patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform |
|  |  |  |  | |
| 1992 NSW Bush Fire Services reflective door decal | 1993 NSW Bush Fire Service patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform | 1993 NSW Bush Fire Service reflective door decal | 1995 NSW Bush Fire Service Chaplain patch | |

Worn with Pride: The NSW RFS Crest

1997-2011

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| 1997 NSW Rural Fire Service patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform | 1997 NSW Rural Fire Service patch with dark blue border for "fatigues" |
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| 1997 NSW Rural Fire Service Chaplain patch (withdrawn from Service in 2003) | 1997 NSW Rural Fire Service plastic patch for leather jackets (unofficial) |
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| 1997 NSW Rural Fire Service reflective door decal | 2009 current NSW Rural Fire Service patch with white border for overalls and dress uniform (logo corrected to remove full stops in NSW as per government style guide) |
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| 2009 current NSW Rural Fire Service reflective door decal | |



Worn with Pride: The NSW RFS Crest



WORN WITH PRIDE...

The NSW Rural Fire Service Crest 1961- 2011

While the history of volunteer bush firefighting in NSW dates back to 1898, the use of the official Crest only began in 1961.

By Chief Superintendent Alan Brinkworth,
AFSM, Manager State Operations

The story of the Crest, like many stories within the NSW RFS, has become folklore. As legislation and the needs of the day determined, the name of our organisation has evolved from Bush Fire Brigades, then Bush Fire Services, Bush Fire Service and in 1997 we became the NSW Rural Fire Service. There were also many versions of the

associated advisory bodies culminating in 1988 in the formation of the Department of Bush Fire Services.

As well as the official changes, there has also been the unofficial evolution of the Crest. Personal taste made its mark with some Districts designing their own variations to the Crest for use on their uniforms and trucks.

We have pieced together anecdotes and evidence about the Crest and have determined that there were four main phases in the development of the NSW RFS Crest and these are shown below.

The following liftout pages show the many versions, changes and evolution of the Crest over time.

1961



It began with a firefighter in the Heathcote area south of Sydney. Ray Watchorn is celebrated as the creator of the original Bush Fire Brigades Crest - a burning tree with a blue background surmounted by a small crown (Imperial or Tudor).

The crown is traditionally used to signify authority and credibility. The burning bush represents the control and management of fire to protect the people and the landscape of the Australian continent.

Mr Watchorn was a foundation member of Heathcote Bush Fire Brigade and later became Fire Control Officer in Sutherland. He was instrumental in the growth of bush fire brigades in the area south of Sydney, introducing improvements in laws and equipment that benefited not only the Shire, but in many instances, the whole State of NSW. He was well qualified to dream up the logo that would represent all brigades in NSW.

In 1963 the crown was enlarged. Later as various patches for use on uniforms were manufactured, two different crowns appeared on the Crest, the Imperial or Tudor Crown, commonly referred to as the King's Crown and the St Edwards Crown also known as the Coronation Crown or Queen's Crown.

1965



In 1965 it was proposed that the cloth insignia for use on the shoulder, chest or a cap would be available free from the NSW Bush Fire Committee. In July 1965, the new transfers and rank identification for vehicles and helmets became available at a cost of 15 shillings per 100. The crown used in these official Crests was the St Edward's Crown.

1983



In 1983 a wreath of green laurel leaves was included on the Bush Fire Brigades Patch. In the mythology of ancient Greece, the god Apollo's favourite tree was the laurel tree and this came to symbolise a heroic act or victory. The green leaves also symbolise growth and regeneration that follows the management of fire.

1997 | 2009



The NSW Rural Fire Service was established by an Act of Parliament in 1997 and the Crest was adapted accordingly. More recently in 2009, the Crest was adjusted slightly to remove the full stops in NSW to bring it into alignment with Australian Government style guidelines.