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I am making this submission as	Primary producer
Submission type	Personal
Organisation making the submission (if applicable)	Rural Fire Service
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	Southern Border Group Captain 72
Consent to make submission public	Public

Your story

I was one of the first responders to the Green Valley fire in steep bush country with weather 43 degrees and 60 km/hour wind we basically had no assistance from the RFS office in Albury. We asked for helicopter water bombing support which was denied due to no available choppers ,only to find out later a number of choppers were sitting in Wagga and Tumut doing nothing. We were then stopped from back burning for a number of days which hindered any stoppage of the fire, How are supposed to stop a fire in steep bush country without choppers and backburning a system i have been using for 30 years with 100% success, This is the first fire i have been involved in that has got away and didnt it do some damage to life and property.I was in the tornado on the murray river at Jingellic and i saw the Culcairn North truck on its wheels then on its roof, i saved 4 Cat1 tankers and a grader parked bumper to bumper with their fire blankets up and 3 metre high flames approaching by attacking the fire and knocking the flames down around the trucks.I saw the fire spotting from Mt

Jingellic in NSW to The Bluff 15 km into Victoria. The evacuation of Jingellic residents was a good idea but the disbanding of the Jingellic fire brigade without consulting the Rfs Group officers was a poor decision. For the Albury RFS to order RFS trucks off the fireground at Jingellic was the most ridiculous thing i have ever seen at a fire, I with others defied this order and we saved the township of Jingellic when it had been written off but we didnt have enough trucks to stop the fire jumping the road and burning out the Ournie Valley with big livestock losses. We saved every house in the Lankeys Creek area and we stopped the Green Valley fire in Pine plantation and bush on an 80km front in two and a half weeks while others burned for months and some never got put out.

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

Green Valley fire was caused by a lightning strike.
-35.90,147.57

1.2 Preparation and planning

Quick response from local brigades got a dozer track around 90% of the fire remaining 10% couldnt be done due to large boulders in steep country, there was no Preparation or planning from the Albury RFS apart from a spotting helicopter which circled for 4 hours and was useless to us. Why can they find a spotting chopper but not one to carry water.

1.3 Response to bushfires

The effort tended by all vollunteer fire figthers was exceptional, The assistance from Greater Hume Council was exceptional, The RFS office offered minimal help to the actual firefight.

1.4 Any other matters

I am very concerned that nobody in the RFS knows how to put out a bush fire, I hope we dont go down the path of other fire figthing agencies that see fire and run.
I will not be told when to leave a fire ground i will make that decision myself.

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