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to the committee,

A submission with my name published.

It's called the State Emergency Services. It already exists. If there is a deficit then funding a greater number of paid positions, free training courses and high quality training courses with clear endpoints and pathways to obtaining those certificates and training endpoints would be best. The training certificates are plagued by internal branch politics that tend to reflect corrupt practices such as using the volunteer organization to train recruits for a separate private entity that provides identical services such as traffic control. Meanwhile you do your 80 active annual hours and the management just lose the ID photo resubmitted every week so you don't get your annual service certificate. Embezzling involving the transfer of assets obtained through fees for services or donations. Those at the top in responsible positions find ways to transfer assets with creative accounting while other volunteers work for free.

In terms of morale, the legislated enforceable powers under state laws to have the authority to give directions at events related to the safety of children would improve morale. Something that makes volunteering not fun is holding a child's skull together because a Gymkhana event manager decided that stirrup straps never break so children should finish a course by grinding to a halt in front of a wall at the end of a track. Something that makes volunteering not fun is watching responsible adults return a field to play while an injured child is still incapacitated on the field whether it be football or equestrian events. This sort of behavior should incur stiff mandatory financial penalties for organizations, league directors and individuals and requires greater attention with a specialized police task force required to investigate the scope of the problem of unsafe practices at high-risk children's sporting events and the child endangerment issues prevalent in the industry. This may be completely ineffective if not implemented with appropriate training because it's also not fun responding to an unconscious drunk barely pubescent girl at a town show and being asked by the seemingly perplexed constables patrolling the event why that puts their safety at risk and having to cause a scene to change their minds. I did not like volunteering because management were more concerned with 'building relationships' that led to revenue that could be embezzled than the child endangerment they were enabling. I will never volunteer again.

"Beyond the unfortunate occurrence of flood related fatalities, an enormous amount of time and resources are invested by emergency response organizations rescuing people who have entered floodwaters. ...The best advice of the Australian State Emergency Services to individual drivers which remains 'Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater'."

G P Smith, B D Modra, T A Tucker and R J Cox. Vehicle stability testing for flood flows. Water Research Laboratory. University of NSW. TR 2017/07, May 2017. <https://www.unsw.edu.au/content/dam/pdfs/engineering/civil-environmental/water-research-laboratory/publications/WRL-TR2017-07-Vehicle-Stability-Testing-for-Flood-Flows.pdf>

Fire gets a great deal of news coverage. When people think of natural disaster they're accustomed to dramatic scenes giant conflagrations but it's humble unassuming water that is the biggest threat to life. This is because people don't consider water dangerous. Unlike fire it can be swum or drunk. People die because they willfully and intentionally enter flood waters. People like home owners wanting to survey the damage to their homes do the same thing when fire subsides to enter poison gas filled depressions. There are often heavy cordons in place due to this behavior. Near construction sites bystanders will gather around a pile of bricks falling from a great height like doe-eyed lambs in wonder to observe their graceful descent until they are buried in collapsing masonry.

In regards to the operations of the S.E.S. feedback that I have frequently had from volunteers has related to responding to failed fording. These are dangerous rescues: wading into an active floodway. idiocy of the drivers puts volunteers at risk. I would suggest cash bonuses for each ford rescue, particularly the person wading out into the water to rescue idiots and their families. If education is to be the strategy pursued then stronger advertising law related to vehicles, prescribing what can be marketed as a an off-road vehicle, clear disclaimers in regards to AWD vehicle capabilities and point-of-sale dealership requirements to declare that non-passing vehicles are unsuitable for certain uses and disclaimers required to be published in 4WD publications explaining the deception and a ban on publication of dangerous behavior likely to lead to endangerment of life. The 4x4 glamor carefully framed shots are like the drilling your head magic shows for kids. The magic trick in this case is that the surface is solid and the water is an ankle deep puddle.

Make it a criminal offense to enter an active floodway. That way no insurance coverage can apply. criminal endangerment of a child will also apply. At the end of the rope should be a pair of handcuffs.

I reject the notion that emergency responses are an ideal target for youth engagement. This is primarily and ideally suited as a paramilitary role for ex-service personnel that can continue to put their extensive training and experience to good use. As such there should be greater attention to paid roles or flat fees for service for the most dangerous roles. I'm not familiar with all states or the current legislation but it was unlawful for S.E.S. volunteers to be penalized by an employer for skipping work to attend to declared emergencies. This allowed for rapid deployment during cyclone recovery while volunteers could keep their day-job.

Robert Heron