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**From:** Lauren Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 July 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** Floods Committee  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** CM: FW: Select Committee on the Response to Major Flooding across New South Wales in 2022 - Post-hearing responses - 15 June 2022

Good afternoon

The NSW Rural Fire Service was asked on notice:

**The Hon. MARK BANASIAK:** *Just to close the loop on the swiftwater rescue, can all the agencies table their risk assessments that they do before they send the boats out? I note in the plan that SES does a risk assessment, and it would be handy for the Committee to have that.*

The NSW RFS response is below:

RFS members are regularly deployed using 4x4 vehicles and boats to assist with storm and tempest emergency operations, which can include flood events. In addition, the RFS has helicopter search and rescue (SAR) capability which can be used to support flood operations.

While the RFS does not have swift water rescue capabilities at this time and therefore does not have a specific risk assessment, the Agency does have a number of supporting doctrine regarding methods to identify, analyse, evaluate hazards and mitigate risks.

Current RFS fire boat training packages (Fire Boat Crew and Fire Boat Skipper) educates members about techniques such as Crew Resource Management (CRM) and Safety Management Systems (SMS), which assist with safe operations and reducing errors and risks.

- CRM is a technique of error and hazard management consisting of making the best use of all the available resources including people, equipment, supplies and information.
- SMS is a tool used to help keep people, vessels and the environment safe. It encourages the development of a safety culture where safety becomes second nature. An SMS includes a set of documents about how a vessel is operated safely and how risks are controlled. It details the policies, practices and procedures for operating a commercial vessel. It states what is done on a vessel and how it is done safely. It becomes part of the way people do their jobs, within accepted practices.

I confirm the NSW RFS has no corrections to the transcript.

Please contact me if you have any queries in relation to the above.

Kind regards,

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