

Medals for *firestorm bravery*



Decorated: (from left) Constable Allan Bell, Constable Steve Cross, Sergeant Phil Spence and Senior Constable Rod Carnall all recognised for their efforts during the January 2003 Canberra fires.

- Photo: Ben MacMahon courtesy of The Canberra Times

AFP members have been recognised by Governor-General Michael Jeffery for the role they played in saving life and property during the January 2003 firestorm in Canberra.

The firestorm hit the western edge of Canberra in the afternoon and left in its wake four lives lost and more than 500 houses destroyed. Police were faced with a massive evacuation effort in the midst of several suburbs that were literally exploding around them.

Sergeant Phil Spence was awarded a bravery medal while Constables Allan Bell and Steve Cross and Senior Constable Rod Carnall were awarded bravery citations. A group citation for bravery included 35 AFP employees.

Sergeant Phil Spence divided his efforts between entering burning houses to evacuate residents and protecting buildings at the AFP's Weston complex as did the other awardees. Their actions limited the damage to the Weston complex to the loss of the firing range.

Sergeant Spence told *The Canberra Times* that he felt honoured, humbled and embarrassed at the same time.

The awards will be presented at Government House in April.

Group Bravery Citation

Constable Joanne Apostoloff
 Constable Allan Bell
 Senior Constable Martin Beresford
 Senior Constable Richard Breiner
 Detective Constable Andrew Campbell
 Constable Gavin Campbell
 Senior Constable Rodney Carnall
 Constable Tyrone Clark
 Constable Stephen Cross
 Federal Agent Jody Earl
 Sergeant Peter Fittler
 Constable Marcus Fitzgerald
 Sergeant Raymond Fitzpatrick
 Constable Peter Green
 Senior Constable Bruce Harris
 Constable Ashley Laidler
 Sergeant Allen Le Lievre
 Detective Superintendent Chris Lines
 Constable Jane MacKenzie
 Constable Colleen McKillop
 Constable Darren Mackereth
 Constable Daniel Meyer
 Detective Sergeant Christopher Morgan
 Detective Sergeant Gregory Mowle
 Sergeant Stephen Pereira
 Constable Angela Richardson
 Sergeant Michael Sek
 Constable Jason Smith
 Sergeant Philip Spence
 Federal Agent Michael Travers
 Constable Gavin Wall
 Federal Agent Glenn Warnes
 Acting Sergeant Andrew Warry
 Constable John Wong
 Constable Peter Young