

# TRAINING TALK

# HUET COURSE

By: Gary MacRae, CFS Volunteer Aircrew



Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter in action.

Fire bombing aircraft are well known as an invaluable firefighting tool, swooping from the sky to accurately rain down their fire-stopping loads of foam and retardant.

The pilots of these aircraft, along with our own CFS air crews, routinely fly in some of the most dangerous and inhospitable of conditions experienced in Australian aviation operations.

In recent years CFS Air Operations has expanded its role across the State, requiring many hours ferrying people from place to place, such as Port Lincoln.

This requires significant flight time over water.

As a result, the CFS has included Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) as part of the air crews' operational requirements.

In February four CFS Air Attack Supervisors - Wayne Atkins, David Pearce, Greg Stone and Gary MacRae - attended the specialised course which was run by RHO Aviation Training Services at the Adventure Blue Dive Centre, Glenelg.

During the course, skills needed to escape a submerged helicopter were practiced in a special training prop which looks like a small raft with a mock-up helicopter cockpit on top.

The crews were strapped in and then tipped upside down in a pool to simulate a ditching helicopter.

The trainees were then required to demonstrate correct procedures to affect an escape.

The HUET course markedly increases the chances of survival should an aircraft be required to ditch into the water...or on the land for that matter.



The HUET trainees take to the water. Going...



... going ...



... gone!

