

Edithvale CFA

## Robust, fit for purpose visual displays key to showcase fire station

### The Customer

The fully volunteer Edithvale Fire Brigade of 100+ members is one of over 1200 brigades within Victoria's Country Fire Authority (CFA). It not only responds to fires and emergencies within its own immediate assignment area, the Brigade also contributes to larger firefighting and emergency operations in Victoria and interstate when required. This includes the provision of emergency medical response to critically ill patients in support of Ambulance Victoria. Proceeds from extensive Brigade fundraising and bipartisan government support secured the \$4.5million funding to design, build and fit out a new three storey facility, with centralised communications room, at Edithvale.

### The Challenges

The project was future focussed as a showcase for best practice emergency service provisioning and resourcing.

A purpose built Volunteer Business Hub and community co-working space was incorporated for Brigade meeting, administrative, training and community group use. The modern business environment of the new facility allows volunteers - on whom the organisation depends - to perform their regular work duties or study while on standby.



### Overview

#### Industry

- Emergency Services

#### Challenges

- Fit for purpose display screens in critical emergency environment
- Commercial grade, 24/7 continuous operation reliability
- Pricing within fit-out budget

#### Solution

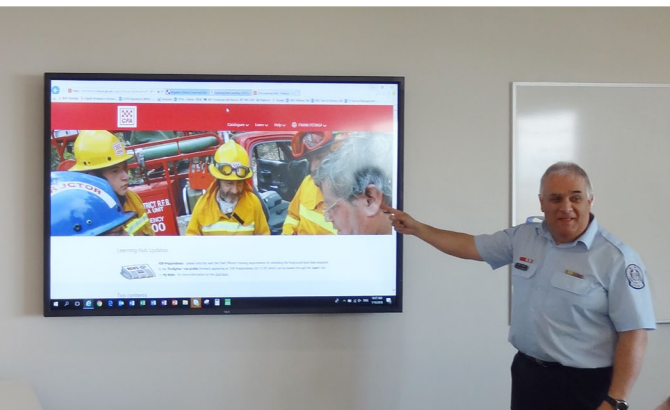
- 18 NEC displays ranging from 32, 40, 70 and 84 inch to match use, resolution, audio and mounting requirements

#### Results

- Clear, real time, critical incident information throughout the fire station cutting response times and providing advanced situational awareness and decision making capabilities for fire fighters
- Displays supporting Volunteer Business Hub/community co-working space communications, collaboration and training
- NEC ensured quality and pricing



CFA Edithvale Showcase Fire Station



“The Hub is a first of its kind, co-working space in support of volunteers. Our members ... can operate from the station. It’s a win for them and a win for the Brigade’s rapid response capabilities.”

**Graham Fountain, Brigade Captain**

Graham Fountain, Brigade Captain said: “The Hub is a first of its kind, co-working space in support of volunteers. Our members - university students, self-employed and those with flexible work arrangements - can operate from the station. It’s a win for them and a win for the Brigade’s rapid response capabilities.”

A range of visual displays was required to facilitate these various operational, training, business and other collaborative activities.

In assessing available technologies, the weighting was for robust, reliable and cost effective offerings in terms of total cost of ownership. The Brigade elected to invest in commercial grade equipment that would be reliable under 24/7 continuous operation and over a long life.

The placement of the screens in the critical operational areas - conveying to all crews the vital incident details, address, maps, weather, response times and other dispatch information - would be open to the elements and in high traffic areas which required them to have industrial level toughness.

For the visual displays installed in training rooms, the Hub and other community areas, the focus was on collaboration and communication capabilities.

Captain Fountain said: “We were looking for technology partners with a shared ethos in creating safer communities and proven understanding of the emergency management space.”





## The Solution

From the due diligence process, NEC was selected to supply 18 displays screens ranging from 32, 40, 70 and 84 inch - to match Edithvale’s use, resolution, audio, live streaming and mounting requirements.

The high impact displays were placed strategically and sized appropriately in operations control, change room and other operational areas to provide vision everywhere the volunteers are as they prepare for action.

“What NEC brought to the table was technological innovation from its community safety mindset. We are delighted with NEC’s alliance approach.”

**Graham Fountain,  
Brigade Captain**



“NEC was the front runner with its broad smart cities, emergency services capability and the demonstrable quality of its displays,” Capt. Fountain said. “What NEC brought to the table was technological innovation from its community safety mindset. We are delighted with NEC’s alliance approach. They were very generous in their support during procurement and commissioning of the project and continue to have an interest in working with the brigade into the future.”

## The Results

“The NEC products at Edithvale are contemporary, best in market AV equipment that are exactly right for each of the operational, training, business and community uses we set out to provide.

“Universally, the feedback from other brigades and the community that have visited the new station is amazement in the quality and quantity of the screens we have in the completed fit out of the station. This would not have been possible without the support of NEC.

“From a command and control perspective the screens are making a world of difference to our operational decision making efficiencies and situational awareness. I can get the initial stage intelligence information up while I assess the skills mix on the truck and get a snapshot of the weather conditions. Our fire fighters can view and respond to information from within their vehicles. Every second counts in time critical incident response,” Capt. Fountain said.

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