

# TestSafe News

December 2009

## TestSafe's lucky escape!

December 17th started out as an ordinary day for the staff at Londonderry. By 10am the mercury had risen above 36 degrees with humidity dropping below 20%. What staff didn't realise was that a bush fire was raging only 4 kms away.

We first realised the thick black smoke bellowing into the air at 11.15am, with temperatures rising above 40 degrees by



*Convoy of fire trucks arrive*

11.30am. Staff were anxiously watching the plumes of smoke rolling quickly towards TestSafe. Fire engines were screaming past along Londonderry road one after the other with over 200 fire fighters trying to fight the blaze.

By lunch there were five helicopters including the well known 'Elvis' in the air trying to help the fire fighters get the blaze under control. However, soaring temperatures and blustery winds were hampering them. By 2pm Police had closed off most of the arterial roads leading into Londonderry and advised TestSafe to start our Bush Fire Evacuation procedures. Within 30 mins all buildings had been closed and staff had been evacuated safely from the site.



*View from the 1st floor balcony at TestSafe*

By lunch there were five helicopters including the



*Helicopters very low going overhead*



It was reported that the fire burned through 430 hectares of bushland with no loss of homes and only a couple of sheds and a caravan being destroyed. This was due to the quick thinking of fire fighters such as Michael Kovacs of TestSafe (Captain of the Londonderry Rural Fire Service) who seeing the smoke early in the day was one of the first firefighters to arrive

at the scene. TestSafe and WorkCover would like to thank both Adrian Rietdijk & Michael Kovacs for their dedication and bravery in fighting the bushfire.

*Fire declared a state emergency, pictures show fire fighters at the forefront of the fire*

