

Fire attracts more than on-lookers

By Grant Sherlock

WAS it an unidentified flying object in the night sky over Tulka or is there a more simple explanation?

That is the question that UFO Research South Australia is trying to answer following a report of a strange formation of lights in the sky during the Tulka wildfire.

A resident from the Port Lincoln area is so convinced what they saw during the Tulka fires is worth investigating they wrote to UFOR-SA to report the sighting.

"What they saw was essentially a formation of what appeared to be lights over a bushfire," UFORSA member Alan Jones said.

"We're trying to get a clearer picture of what happened."

The fires swept through Tulka, SA Water land at Uley Basin and

SA water land at Oley Basin and the Lincoln National Park in early February, blackening more than 13,000 hectares.

UFORSA is calling on anyone who saw anything unusual during the fires to contact them.

"We're trying to get any reports of anything unusual in the area," Mr Jones said.

"If we only get other people's reports of seeing something in the sky the best we could do is contact them and get some sort of direction (it was travelling in)."

"You get as much evidence as you can, (collect) the evidence and come to some sort of conclusion - at this stage it's quite early times."

UFORSA has declined to release specific details of the reported sighting in the hope of avoiding copycat reports but it is hoping others will be able to verify the earlier report.

Mr Jones said UFORSA would search for logical explanations for

the sighting.

"The fact it's unidentified doesn't mean it's exotic it may even be something mundane," Mr Jones said.

"At the time there were fires in the area so that could have been reflections off a cloud.

"It's common in that people do see lights in the sky

lights in the sky.

"(But) it's not common in the (form) that was there, I haven't experienced that before in South Australia."

As part of its investigation UFORSA plans to contact the Port Lincoln airport and emergency service agencies to assess air traffic in the area at the time of the sightings.

"This is one thing we haven't done at this stage," Mr Jones said.

For those thinking the lights may simply have been firefighting aircraft Country Fire Service regional commander Neil Ellis said while numerous aircraft were used during the day while the fires were being fought no aircraft were used at night.

"We certainly didn't operate any aerial operations at night time," Mr Ellis said.

Mr Ellis also said he had not heard reports of strange lights in the sky from any of the firefighters who battled the blaze.

Whatever the response UFORSA is hoping the truth is out there.

UFORSA is looking for reports of anything unusual in the area about the time of the fire, including strange sightings or noises, unusual radio or television interference or strange odours.

People can write to UFORSA at Reply Paid 31 PO Box 281 Blair

Reply Paid 31, PO Box 281, Blair Athol, 5084 - all replies are in confidence.