



JULY 2017 (EARLY ED)

The view from the Station Floor.



The United Firefighters Union (Aviation Branch) represents the majority of Aviation Firefighters across Australia.

The Union belongs to you, the members. To be strong, it needs **your** support and **your** actions. The bumper is your Newsletter, so read it, be informed, share it, and contribute to it. Speak Up and Have your Say!

ASIANA HELMET CAM F/F Video

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/oByXrMwIAV5n8dXJvejJuVU5aYUU/view?usp=sharing>

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From the Branch Secretary:

Recently the Queensland Fire & Emergency Services (QFES) released a Standing Order SO-Q-BM 3.39 with an effective date of 7/7/17, titled Perfluoroalkyl Substances Testing.

QFES has proactively developed a health program to support its paid and volunteer workforce that may have been exposed to PFAS through the use of aqueous film forming foams (AFFF). The program will include a consultation with an independent medical practitioner who specialises in occupational health. A blood test will be provided, if requested. The program will be available for staff and volunteers - past or present - who may have concerns or questions about their contact with AFFF. This testing is voluntary.

While QFES' health program is not expected to provide definitive advice about an individual's health, it will provide a baseline for individuals and QFES for future reference as further research is conducted on the health and environmental impacts of AFFF containing PFAS.

This Union applauds the QFES management for taking this action to ensure that its staff both past and present, paid and volunteers are able to access testing and counselling for their exposure to PFAS Chemicals. It is refreshing to see a Fire Service that actually cares about their staff and takes accountability for the mistakes of the past. Of course the QFES firefighters AFFF contamination is likely to be very minor in comparison to Aviation Firefighters as they rarely used it or trained with it.

Airservices on the other hand continues to show its true character and refuses to take any accountability for any damage done to our members.

Your Union will continue to fight for your rights and will continue to raise the possibility of a class action against Airservices for their contamination of our members with not just PFAS chemicals but also dirty training fuels and poor training practices.

Our article on the Tragic Legacy of ARFF firefighters shows another of our members Bevin Zimmerlie struck down in retirement with Bladder Cancer. If you are in contact with any of our retired members who may have contracted cancer please ensure that they are aware of the Presumptive Legislation. If they have any questions get them to call the UFU office on 07 3846 5580.

The Union continues to work with Airservices on the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. You have told your Station representatives and BCOM what you require and we have made that very clear to the Airservices Negotiating Team. The National Secretary of the UFUA has provided us with clear direction and strategies to use and we thank you all for your patience and support.



Given the state of industrial relations in Australia at the present these negotiations were destined to be difficult and it is not because your Union is making outrageous claims. We are not. Airservices are sceptical about your resolve to keep your current conditions. From what you have told your negotiators, we believe their scepticism is misplaced and your resolve shouldn't be tested.

Rather Airservices should negotiate a sensible position that leaves your current conditions intact and delivers a 2% per annum pay increase. Politicians got a 2% pay rise without loss of conditions as did the ADF. Why shouldn't you be entitled to the same treatment? After all, as they say, "What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander."

**In Unity
Henry**

Strength in Unity

Link to: QFES Standing Order

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByXrMwIAV5n8ZzUyUFIHYIpsNHM/view?usp=sharing>

Accelerate or Free Fall?

Airservices keeps denying that their current management team are hell bent on reducing the safety of our Aviation Rescue and Firefighting Service.

So just how many essential safeguards built up over years of operational experience, has Airservices and the so called safety regulator CASA removed, just to save a few dollars?



- ☠ The worst of all the changes fully endorsed by the executive and initiated via a business case out of the Chief Fire Officers office was the regulatory review with the benchmark of 350,000 passengers raised to 500,000.
- ☠ The review is not finished yet either because now these people also get the opportunity to help rewrite the 139H MOS. Not to effect safety enhancements or improvements, but to reduce the role of ARFF as much as possible and further allow cuts to the service and its capability.
- ☠ Unsafe staffing levels are already in place in Perth and they are hell bent on introducing these into Brisbane as well.
- ☠ In response to Airservices writing a SCARD on introducing the same unsafe staffing levels at our highest risk airport in Australia, your union took the unprecedented step of writing to these airports and the Australian Airports Association (AAA). In these letters the UFU warned them of this dangerous compromise of already inadequate staffing levels just to save a few dollars on Airservices Overtime expenses.



The UFUAV congratulates the Fire Commanders in Sydney who took a stand to argue against this unsafe and ill-considered cut to service, which all operationally focussed staff know will seriously compromise the safety of the airports, the passengers and the firefighters left with inadequate resources to do their job effectively.

If you look at the damage inflicted on ARFF under the current management, it is very easy to see just how little regard they have for safety both of the travelling public and your safety as an operational firefighter tasked with attending a major crash. A major aircraft crash here in Australia will be one of the biggest peacetime disasters faced by emergency services. A fact often glossed over and not considered in ARFF risk assessments.

Yet in the face of all this Airservices still expect you to put your life in harm's way. Recently the FBU in the UK raised a vote of no confidence in their management. Perhaps this will be something the UFUAV needs to seriously consider.

Sydney Airport

Your Union has been busy ensuring that all the airport owners are aware of Airservices plans to reduce staffing and safety at the four highest risk airports in Australia. We will continue to ensure that Airservices is held to account so that when lives are lost because of their cost and service reduction everyone will know why and who is responsible.

6 July 2017

Mr Henry Lawrence
Branch Secretary
United Firefighters' Union of Australia
(Aviation Branch)
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Via email: branchsecretary@ufuav.asn.au

Dear Mr Lawrence

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the aviation rescue firefighting (ARFF) services provided by your members.

I apologise for the delay in responding.

First, let me say how much we value the professionalism and commitment shown by your members at Sydney Airport and, indeed, at other airports around Australia.

With 42 million passengers passing through this airport in 2016, and around 29,000 people working here, we especially appreciate the skills and experience your members demonstrate to the travelling public and airport workers each and every day.

We have an excellent relationship with ARFF services here at Sydney Airport and I am keen to ensure this is maintained into the future.

We investigated the issues raised in your letter and have been advised by the Australian Airports Association that Airservices has not changed its policy with respect to how it responds to on-airport incidents and that ARFF will continue responding to calls for emergency first aid, as well as its regulated functions of responding to aircraft accidents, incidents or fires on airport.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, or if there are any other Sydney Airport-related issues you'd like to discuss, please feel free to contact Sydney Airport's Head of Safety, Security and Service Delivery, Mr Matt Duffy, on (02) 9667 9262.

Yours sincerely

Hugh Wehby
Chief Operating Officer

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Link to:
AAA Letter
Sydney Airports Corp
MelAir
Perth Airport
Brisbane Airport Corp

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ByXrMwIAV5n8U2t1a2xocDZDUTA?usp=sharing>

Life Member-UFUA



On Wednesday 26 June 2017, Comrade Glen Barker was presented by Comrade President Jon Vaughan with life membership with the "UFU of A Aviation Branch" where many Past and present Comrades attended.

Glen joined the ARFF 39 years ago in 1978 where he worked in Darwin, Adelaide, back to Darwin and finally settling in Adelaide.

His interest in fairness and "the right thing" led him to become Darwin's Station Representative from 1988 - 1995, which led Glen to become the Branch Committee of Management Delegate for The Northern Territory.

In 2007 Glen became Adelaide's Station Representative.

From 2015 to the present Glen has worked with Wes Garrett as the National Deputy National WHS Co-ordinator.

Glen has always worked tirelessly for the Union movement and even now in retirement his vast knowledge will always be an asset. Glen's greatest win was his determination to get the Entire ARFF Tender Fleet checked/fixed for cracks within the chassis.

Glen also worked very hard with trying to get ARFF to burn safe, non-or close to non-carcinogenic products within the CFBT program.

Glen has helped and supported many of our present and importantly past members through court hearings, illnesses and to Comrades in palliative care and then support to our past Comrades' loved ones.

Glen has done all of these things not expecting an ounce of thanks and with the support and love of his wife Georgie. Thanks Georgie.

From all of us within the United Firefighters Union of Australia Aviation Branch, a big Thank You Comrade.

Cheers and all the very best of health and happiness to you and Georgie in your retirement.

The Tragic Legacy of an ARFF Firie!

Meet Station Officer Bevin Zimmerlie (Ret).

After spending 5½ of his 6 year Airforce career as an RAAF Firefighter Bevin was honourably discharged in 1967. Bevin's ARFFS Career commenced in March 1968.

Bevin served at the following ARFFS stations: Brisbane, Coolangatta, Mount Isa, Archerfield, Rockhampton, Mackay, and also the Queensland Regional Office in Brisbane.

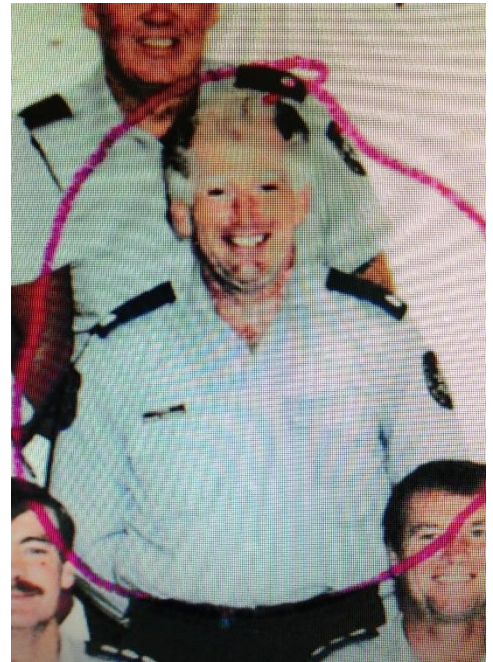
Ranks Attained:

Station Officer Gr 1 (Station Officer)

Station Officer Gr 2 (Fire Commander)

RSO AFO Gr 3 (Inspector)

Bevin retired from ARFF while serving at Brisbane Airport as a Station Officer in August 1998. A distinguished fire service career of 30 years in ARFF and over 35 years as an Australian firefighter. Bevin is fondly remembered by the older members at Brisbane station as a great bloke, who would go out of his way to help you any way he could.



Bevin said that: During my early fire service training with the ARFFS we were taught how to move through buildings and structures in smoke conditions, this smoke was generated using straw; wooden boxes; old tyres some of which contained pieces of plastic which gave off acrid chemical fumes, this training was conducted without the use of breathing apparatus to help us to survive in smoke filled buildings and it was jokingly said to teach us how to "to eat smoke".

Waste liquid fuels such as waste thinners; aircraft cleaning products; contaminated aviation fuel and old tyres were used for aircraft training fires, fumes burning liquids were sometimes inhaled in my earlier training years. These bad practices were later corrected and only safe theatrical smoke, clean aviation fuels and breathing apparatus were used as it was decided that health and safety measures be employed.

As I moved through my career I attended incidents involving building fires and aircraft accidents some of which involved toxic situations. One such turnout was a large incident with burning electrical capacitors which caused the full emergency evacuation of the Brisbane Airport old international terminal building. This incident gave off huge amounts of toxic fumes, which I was exposed to, in our efforts to extinguish the fire and save the building. There were other incidents involving electrical fires in the power house buildings on airports.

Bevin was diagnosed with serious cancer and operated on for Bladder Cancer in 2007. Fortunately, Bevin was able to claim this as a compensable work injury under the Presumptive Legislation. The UFUA has successfully campaigned to have presumptive legislation recognising 12 cancers for Federal firefighters (those working in the ACT and Aviation) and in Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.

Sadly Bevin's initial operation was unsuccessful and he had to then endure another 7-hour operation removing his bladder and modifying his body. He was left suffering severe pain constantly for over 3 months.

Bevin added that he is now encumbered by a permanent urinary bag and night drainage system which inhibits his peaceful sleep every night, a hernia also developed as a result of weakened stomach muscles and he is frequently in pain.

He added that; my personal intimate relations with my wife are non-existent and if it were not for the exceptional support and understanding on her part, my life would be in tatters.

My physical ability has diminished as a result of the operation and has restricted my ability to perform lifting tasks and consequently I have to engage paid help to achieve these tasks.

The point the Union wants to make to our members firstly is to protect yourself at all times. Don't take risks with your health and safety. If something appears to be wrong, than most times, it is wrong. It is far better to go overboard with safety practices and be cautious of things that may impact your health later in life than to blindly follow approved operational and training practices that have been proven to be very wrong in the past.

Your Union calls upon Airservices to be accountable to its loyal employees who have devoted their life to the fire service and their career and who are now suffering the consequences of very bad historical practices that were fully approved and promoted by Airservices and its predecessors. Regular screening for cancer needs to be provided to all ARFF members past and present.

Back to the Basics for Emergency Responders (IAFF)

Fire fighters and paramedics need to take measures to prevent the spread of the flu virus by wearing gloves, goggles and masks if they are responding to a suspected case of flu virus. The flu can be passed to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most healthy adults can infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick.

Practicing decontamination procedures will protect you, your crew and your family from secondary contamination. Viruses and bacteria can live for up to two hours or longer on surfaces such as radios, doorknobs and equipment. Washing your hands frequently will help reduce contamination from common surfaces.

But the single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. The most common side effects following flu vaccinations are mild, such as soreness, redness, tenderness or swelling where the shot was given.

Get Vaccinated

- Be vaccinated against seasonal and novel flu

Before the Run

- Ensure that you have your PPE readily available (respirators, medical gloves, face/eye protection, gowns or garments)

During the Run

- Assume patients with respiratory symptoms have the flu
- Don your PPE before entering the patient area
- Strictly limit the number of crew members having direct patient contact
- Put a mask on the patient
- Create or promote good ventilation

After the Run

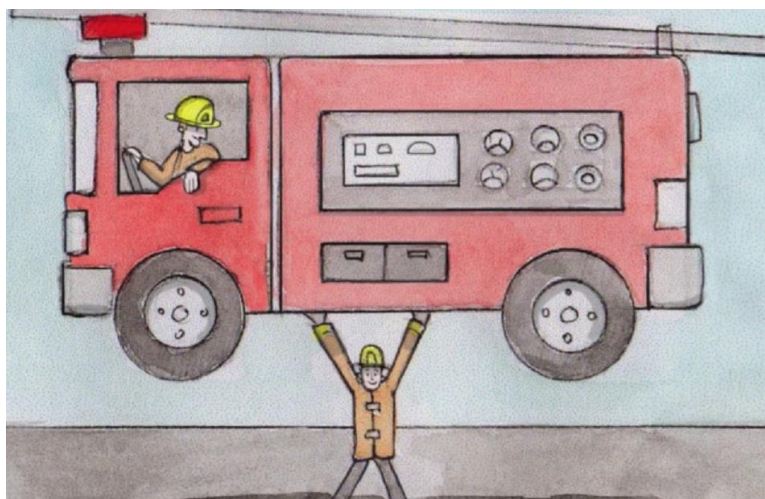
- Properly dispose of/clean exposed PPE
- Sanitize or wash your hands
- Properly clean/disinfect reusable medical equipment
- Decontaminate other equipment and vehicles
- Do not continue to wear contaminated clothing, and do not take any contaminated items, **including uniforms, home**
- Take care of your physical health (diet, rest)
- If you are exposed, report it

And Finally

Do not go to work if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms

The Firefighter who fought Depression

Firefighter Peter Kirwan explains how he overcame his fear of seeking help for mental illness and his journey to recovery. Illustrated by Matthew Johnstone, this award winning clip was developed by the Black Dog Institute for NSW Fire and Rescue.



<http://www.flashover.com.au/video-depression-firefighter-fought/>



The Naming Competition is done and dusted. Fire Commander Michael Gant from the Sunny Coast is our winner with the very creative new title FLASHPOINT. Well done Mick we will be in contact soon to deliver your prize.

FLASHPOINT: (Noun)

1/ the lowest temperature at which a liquid in a specified apparatus will give off sufficient vapour to ignite momentarily on application of a flame.

2/ a critical point or stage at which something or someone suddenly causes or creates some significant action



Expressions Of Interest

With Glen Barkers retirement there is now an opportunity for one of our members to step up into the role of Deputy WH&S Co-ordinator. WH&S is extremely important and this Union is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of our members.



In this very interesting and vital role you will get to support Wes Garrett from Adelaide in ensuring that all major WH&S issues get the proper attention they deserve. Working with BCOM, the Station Organisers and the 26 WH&S representatives and Deputies at station level. This is a real opportunity to make a difference. If you are keen drop us a line at SME@ufuav.asn.au.