UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA
STRENGTH IN UNITY
1974
AVIATION BRANCH
PROUD TO BE UNION
Registered Office:
86A O'Shanassy St, Sunbury, Victoria 3429
Postal Address: PO Box 966, Sunbury 3429
Ph: (03) 9746 3722 Fax: (03) 9746 3766
Email: ufuavat1@bigpond.com.au
ABN: 96 533 521 914

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members

FROM: Mick Farrell – Branch Secretary

DATE: 17th December 2011

SUBJECT: CFBT

All members would be aware of the disagreement we are involved in with the ARFF regarding Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT). The UFUA is not convinced that currently, the hot fire component or the processes associated with this exercise are as safe as could be expected. **Therefore we believe member's health and safety may be compromised when undertaking the hot fire training section of the CFBT.**

In that respect we have had some disturbing news; that the ARFF have threatened to order members to participate in the hot fire component should an individual decide not to participate because, it could be dangerous to their health.

In response to that concern members are advised that if you do take part in that hot fire training, the UFUA cannot give any surety that your health and safety will not be endangered.

Therefore members are further advised; that we view any order or direction given to compel members to undergo this hot fire training exercise as an unlawful direction and therefore a breach of the employers "duty of care" under the OH&S Act, to provide a safe working environment. ARFF have been informed of our position on this**.**

Hence, members are advised that this is the point that should be made in this case. You have a legal right to refuse to work in an unsafe environment and the employer cannot legally force a member to do so.

We reiterate that your health and safety is potentially at risk to unnecessary exposure to carcinogens with the CFBT. All members should choose wisely.

In unity,