UNITED FIRE FIGHTERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA
STRENGTH IN UNITY
1974
AVIATION BRANCH
PROUD TO BE UNION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL MEMBERS
FROM: BRANCH SECRETARY
DATE: 2ND OCTOBER 2012
SUBJECT: CFB TRAINING

On the 21st September 2012 a memorandum was issued advising members that the Union's policy that participation in this training was on a voluntary basis and that any attempt by ARFFS to force anyone to compulsorily participate in the training would result in the Aviation Branch and the ARFFS being in dispute.

On the 30th September 2012 an email was sent to Andrew Werner, with a cc to Rodd Sciortino and Michelle Bennetts reiterating the Branch's position that as negotiated with Andrew Rushbrook, participation in this training remains voluntary as no new position has been negotiated with the Union.

While ARFFS have completed a "safety case" and proposed procedures which they believe have reduced the known risks associated with the training to "as low as reasonably practicable" [ALARP] there are still a number of questions which haven't been addressed to the satisfaction of your Union. Principle among them is the fuel product. Other questions relate to how their proposed procedures will be implemented because no detail about them has been provided and there hasn't been any consultation or negotiation with the Union on them and their implementation. For example, where are the shower facilities to be located? An obvious question with the proposed procedures and probably pivotal to the effectiveness of the rest of the proposed procedures. One little bit of detail that has been provided is that P2 Masks are to be used when handling contaminated PPE and when undressing and dressing between and after burns. There are questions around the appropriateness of these masks for the purpose intended. No other details of how the procedures will be implemented have been provided to the Union for discussion or negotiation.

It should be noted that a number of other Branches of the UFU of A have suspended the training due to health and safety concerns and that the issue is being worked on a national level within the UFU of A. If you exercise your right not to participate in the training you will be doing so on the basis of genuine and legitimate health and safety concerns. There is not enough scientific evidence available on this whole issue

On this basis, and in accordance with current Union policy and previous agreement between the Branch and Andrew Rushbrook, participation in this training remains voluntary.

Any member who ARFFS tries to coerce into doing the training or threatens with any disciplinary action for exercising their right to participate in the training should immediately contact their BCOM delegate or the Union office on 07 3846 5580.