



BULLETIN

Bulletin No: 002

12 March 2015

TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO FISKVILLE TRAINING GROUND

UFUA IS ASSISTING MEMBERS TO MAKE SUBMISSIONS

All UFU Members who believe they may have been exposed to the pollution, soil and/or water contamination and any unsafe practices at the Fiskville Training Ground are encouraged to make submissions to a Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry.

The Victorian Government has established an inquiry into the CFA Fiskville Training Ground and has called for submissions. The UFU is asking all members who have trained or worked at Fiskville to fill in the below form for the UFUA to submit to the Inquiry.

- In 2011 it came to light that for many years the CFA had procured a range of unknown chemicals for hot fire training and buried drums of chemicals in various locations at the Fiskville training ground.
- In 2012, despite repeated assurances from the CFA that the water used at Fiskville was safe for training it was revealed that the water had repeatedly tested above safe levels for a range of bacteria including ecoli and Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The UFU demanded that all training and use of water on site cease. The MFB stopped training at Fiskville but the CFA continued.

The UFU continued to fight to have the appropriate investigation and testing of the site. The UFU also sought prosecutions and after a two-year delay due to the alleged consideration of a wealth of information, Worksafe notified the UFU in January that there was insufficient evidence for prosecution.

On the 2nd March this year the Fiskville Training Ground including all facilities and administration was shut down indefinitely after water testing revealed PFOS was in the main water supply.

Last week the Victorian Government demanded the resignations of Worksafe Board Chair and CEO after they were unable to guarantee the water had been tested at Fiskville when Worksafe deemed the site safe allowing work and training to continue.

The Victorian Government Inquiry into the CFA Fiskville Training Ground will be conducted by the Joint Environment and Natural Resources Committee. This is the first independent inquiry into Fiskville and members are requested to participate to ensure the Inquiry has the necessary information to consider.

The terms of reference of the inquiry are:

1. A comprehensive historical study of pollution, contamination and unsafe activities at Fiskville between 1970 and the present day;
2. A study of the health impacts on employees, residents and visitors between 1970 and the present day;
3. A study of the role of past and present executive management at Fiskville;
4. An assessment of the feasibility of decontamination/rectification of the training site; and
5. Recommendations as necessary to mitigate ongoing harm and to provide justice to victims and their families

The Committee has called for submissions to be filed by 27 March 2015 and there will be public hearings. The UFU will be providing a comprehensive submission.

The UFU is assisting members to submit their personal experiences at Fiskville and is requesting all members that have trained or worked at Fiskville to fill out the following form and email to ufunational@ufunat.asn.au.

If you have any queries about the Inquiry or need more information about providing the relevant information, please contact the National Industrial Officer Wattie Watson on 03 94198811 or via ufunational@ufunat.asn.au.

Name	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone contact	
Employer	

Current position/rank	
Do you agree to have this form submitted to the Fiskville Inquiry by the UFU?	Yes / No
Do you want your identity kept confidential?	Yes / No
Dates or years attended Fiskville training ground	
Reason for attendance at Fiskville training ground	
Position/Rank while attending Fiskville	
Did you undertake any hot fire training while at Fiskville?	Yes / No
Please list.	
Did you come into contact with water on the training pad?	Yes / No
Did you come into contact with water in any of the dams?	Yes / No
Please list the areas/types of water you came into contact with:	
Did you experience any medical conditions during or immediately post your attendance at Fiskville?	Yes / No
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f yes, did you have any of the following conditions:	
• Stomach pains	Yes / No
• Gastro	Yes / No
• Skin rashes	Yes / No
• Infections	Yes / No
• Other	
Did you seek any medical assistance for the above symptoms?	Yes / No
Do you have records of exposure and/or medical assistance you can provide to the Inquiry? Please outline and/or attach any documentation.	Yes / No
Post your attendance at Fiskville, did you or your partner experience any reproductive issues? Please outline and/or attach any documentation.	Yes / No
Post your attendance at Fiskville, did any of your children exhibit any symptoms or medical issues that may be attributed to exposure to toxins or contaminated water? Please outline and/or attach any documentation.	Yes / No
Do you have any personal knowledge of the quality of water at Fiskville? Please outline and/or attach any	Yes / No

documentation.	
<p>Do you have any personal knowledge of the testing or management of water at Fiskville?</p> <p>Please outline and/or attach any documentation.</p>	Yes / No
<p>Do you have any other information that may assist the Inquiry?</p> <p>Please outline and/or attach any documentation.</p>	Yes / No
<p>Please list and attach any documents that may be relevant to the Inquiry.</p>	
<p>Any other comment or information?</p>	
SIGNATURE	
DATE:	

Strength in Unity
READ OUT AT MUSTER AND PIN ON NOTICE BOARD
 Authorised by Peter Marshall, Branch Secretary

Authorised by National Secretary Peter Marshall