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## WORK INJURY COMPENSATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS!

It's pleasing to report to members the successful amendment to the *Firefighting Industry Employees (South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service) Award 2007* to introduce an exemption for firefighters from the cut off provisions of the *Return to Work Act*.

The SA Government's commitment to provide the exemption was won in our campaign in 2017 for our new SAMFS Enterprise Agreement; the detail of the wording of the necessary amendment to our Award remained to be agreed. This is now finalised.

On 22 February 2018 the application by consent between the parties, was heard in the SA Employment Tribunal with the Commissioner making the order for the amendment.

In practical terms this means that there is now an agreement in place to provide vastly improved protection for most of our members employed by the SAMFS from the consequences of work injuries sustained while protecting our community.

Eligible injuries under the agreement may arise from an actual or apparent emergency situation while at work, undertaking training or otherwise, or when responding to an actual or apparent emergency situation when not on paid time.

Where a member has an accepted workers' compensation claim for an eligible injury under the new provisions, you will be exempt from being cut off from income maintenance on the second anniversary of your date of injury and exempt from being cut off from medicals after three years.

The new provisions relate to those employed under our *Firefighting Industry Employees (South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service) Award 2007* which includes Firefighters and Officers, Marine Station Staff, Communications Centre Staff, Breathing Apparatus Technicians and General Hands. The provisions specifically also include Retained Firefighters and Officers.

Retired Members with accepted claims may also be eligible and the Union will be seeking to contact those of whom we are aware; any assistance you can provide with alerting Retired Members to this matter will be appreciated.

Please contact the UFU Office on 83527211 if you think you may have a claim or if you have any queries or concerns in relation to this matter.

Greg Northcott

**UFU Secretary**