



WORD BACK

No.31/2018
9 November 2018

A B C D Day Retained

Acting Up to Station Officer

Your UFU State Council is deeply concerned about the risk Senior Firefighters are exposed to as a result of the Act Up of Senior Firefighters provision, introduced in the last Enterprise Agreement.

As members know, the additional payment to SFs arising from the EA negotiations, was intended to reward and acknowledge those Senior Firefighters who successfully complete the study and training to become qualified as a Leading Senior Firefighter (LSF) and to provide a second step in this classification, consistent with all other classifications under the EA.

While the new provision that LSFs had to be prepared to act up to Station Officer, inserted by MFS management in the EA negotiations, has been implemented and honoured, it is increasingly clear that Leading Senior Firefighters are not currently provided all the necessary training to safely perform the range of functions and responsibilities of a Station Officer.

This is not a criticism of the Learning and Development Department or anyone else, but rather a legacy and resourcing issue. We understand that L & D are also keen to move from time/resource-based training to content-based training, focused on preparing firefighters to carry out the job you are training for.

As previously advised, the UFUSA is involved in a joint working party with the MFS, assisting in development of enhanced training for the role and we are committed to continuing this work, however we are very conscious that the work on the project including the consultation with the membership about proposed changes, will not be completed in the short term.

Yesterday's meeting of the UFU State Council heard a report from the Leading Senior Firefighter Working Party representatives on the progress of discussions.

We note there is agreement reached in principle on a number of matters including that there is a skills gap and that the MFS will embark upon a gap analysis to ascertain the magnitude and detail of that gap.

No agreements have been reached in relation to changes to the training; no deals have been done despite rumours to the contrary. Nor will they be until after there has been effective consultation with members.

This matter will be the subject of extensive consultation with the membership prior to any agreement being reached about changes. Such consultation will include an update and report to be provided and feedback invited at the Shop Stewards Meeting/Annual General meeting on Friday 30 November 2018 at the union office at 1030 hours.

At the meeting of the UFU SA State Council held yesterday the following resolution was unanimously passed.

Recognising the primacy of safety as a consideration, this State Council expresses our ongoing concern about the process relating to act ups of Senior Firefighters to Station Officer.

Currently, the only personnel with formal demonstrable ability to safely perform the act up role of Station Officer, are those who have attained positions on the Station Officer cab rank.

The UFU notes and applauds the agreement of the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service to carry out a gap analysis between the SDF and Station Officer.

Until this is complete however, and the issue is suitably addressed, the UFU will only endorse act ups from the Station Officer cab rank and we call upon the MFS to exercise its responsibility under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 as a PCBU accordingly.

The UFU will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of affected members.

It was agreed that this resolution will have an effect from 17:00 hours on Friday, 9 November 2018 and this has been communicated in writing to the Chief Officer together with an invitation to discuss this as a matter of priority.

The State Council understands that this decision may be controversial and require further discussion of operational needs and concerns. Accordingly, the following State Councillors have agreed to be available to members to discuss and work through issues which may arise, and to provide their contact details to the membership and for any calls on the issue to be diverted to them.

Shaun Goad 0439 849 539 Michael Riggs 0400 211 325

Jesse Virgo 0417 719 068 Steve Smithson 0417 084 829

You can also direct queries by email to us info@ufusa.com.au

UFU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 30 November 2018 (C shift) 1030 hours

UFUSA Office 148 South Road Torrensville SA

The AGM Agenda includes Financial Reports, update on the Leading Senior Firefighter Act Ups, Shop Stewards Report, PPC report and much more, so come along and find out about what's going on and have some input in the direction of your union. Members of the State Council and Shop Stewards will be present to address your issues and join in the conversation about our future direction.

All members including retired members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Members voted overwhelmingly for a change in our union so please do come along, participate and stay for a chat over lunch as the meeting will be followed by a BBQ lunch at 1230 hours.

Please RSVP on 83527211 or to info@ufusa.com.au if you can come.

UFUSA supports Paddle 4 Prostate Cancer Research

Another Trailblazer event approaches with Paddle for Prostate on 2 December.

Paddle 4 Prostate is a celebration of life on the water and we're planning to enter a UFUSA team in this event too. It's a *flotilla of fun* in the sun on West Lakes and paddle around Delfin Island or walk the Rowing SA Regatta Course Path (4km), to raise funds for Prostate Cancer research, awareness and to support men affected and their families. We'll provide more details soon.

PFAS – A FURTHER VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER!

An ongoing and important reminder to all members that MFS are providing FREE PFAS blood testing to all current and retired MFS personnel (full time and retained). The testing program dates have already been extended to capture as many members as possible and are scheduled to conclude 30th November 2018.

These are costly tests for which the MFS currently has been funded so there is NO cost to you; other UFU branches are still fighting to get a blood testing program initiated for members, so please don't take this for granted or delay further. Your participation may also assist others. Please do it NOW!

In solidarity

Max Adlam

UFU Secretary