



# WORDBACK

No.05/2019  
26 February 2019

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## SAMFS ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

The *South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Enterprise Agreement 2017* will expire on 1 January 2020. As negotiations for a new agreement will commence no later than 6 months prior to the expiry, it's time to talk about and to prepare our log of claims.

Full-time and Retained Firefighters are encouraged to discuss matters of concern which you'd like included in the log of claims, and to raise them with your Shop Steward.

Meantime the UFU will be meeting with the MFS in the near future to discuss the progress towards the next mid-term pay increase. Members will be kept informed.

## SHOP STEWARDS' MEETING

Thank you to all the full-time UFU Shop Stewards and proxy Shop Stewards who attended the meeting held on Friday, 22 February 2019 at the UFU office. Draft minutes will be distributed in the near future to assist in report back to members and follow-up actions.

It was a meeting with a big agenda which included reports and discussion on the Firefighter Health and Well-Being Project, PFAS, FSCU, Acting Up and GADs, Hydration And Fire Ground Welfare, the forthcoming Marine Review, the new Noarlunga Station, upgrades at Christie Downs Station, the Engineering Centre of Excellence, the proposed Retired Members Association, union staffing and finances, SOIL, the Leading Senior Firefighter (SF level II), to name a few. Shop Stewards requested that further consideration be given to the issue of acting up on 9's and accordingly this matter will be remitted to the next meeting of State Council on 14 March 2019.



A new UFU WHS Committee is proposed to be established with WHSRs from various areas to discuss, consider and advise the UFU State Council on matters arising in relation to WHS. This will enable greater involvement of WHSRs in the business of the union. The proposed structure will be distributed to WHSRs/Shop Stewards for comment in the near future.

Dates for the next WHSR training are 20 – 24 May 2019. It would be appreciated if all WHSRs would consider your availability and let us know if you'd like to attend by contacting us at [info@ufusa.com.au](mailto:info@ufusa.com.au)

## BROADSPECTRUM EA

Negotiations are continuing for the next enterprise agreement for UFU members employed by Broadspectrum at the Edinburgh RAAF base and at Woomera where members are both firefighters and ambulance officers. The issue of pay increases under the new agreement has been discussed between the parties, however no quantum is yet on the table.

## RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS

UFU Members working as Retained Firefighters for the MFS are reminded of clause 33.1 of the *South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Enterprise Agreement 2017* which reads:

*Retained firefighters are required to attend their station for training/drill sessions/station and appliance maintenance/cleaning on the scheduled training night once per week for three and one-half (3.5) hours duration. Of the 3.5 hours, the 0.5 hours per week can be accumulated and used in a block for specific training as approved.*

Members at some stations have raised concerns about this provision particularly in relation to how agreement may be reached to accumulate the additional half hour for specific training. For many, the extra half hour on a training night adds considerably to the fatigue experienced from working a day job before attending training that night only to then get up early to go to their day job the next morning.

If you're in this situation, please raise it with your Station Officer and/or Commander for discussion and let the UFU know if you encounter any difficulties.

## WORKING BEE – THANK YOU

A big shout out and huge thanks to all of you who came along to the working bee on the union office recently. I can't tell you how much it means. There is already a significant difference for those of us working in the building every day and finally the leaks in the roof have been repaired. Operation 'Reclaim' will ultimately provide a resource for members to use in your union office, but we do have a way to go yet. So, if you couldn't join us, there will definitely be more opportunities in the future. Thank you again!



## Any electricians out there?

The UFU State Council are seeking any members qualified as electricians who are interested in tendering for electrical work required on the union office. If that's you, please contact Matt Watherston on 0414 600 045.

## PFAS REPORT

### UFU & MFB PILOT WORLD-FIRST PFAS STUDY FOR MFB FIRE SERVICE PERSONNEL

The UFU in Victoria has today announced that the union has partnered with the MFB in a world first PFAS study for MFB fire service personnel. Macquarie University's Faculty of Medicine has been commissioned by the MFB to undertake clinical research over a 12-month period with a study sample of 350 firefighters, workshops and corporate staff. This study will examine whether PFAS levels in the bloodstream can be reduced by regular blood or plasma donations. It is well-known that PFAS exposure can have negative health impacts on humans and the environment. Many Victorian firefighters have been exposed, and continue to be exposed, to PFAS in their line of work. This study looks at how that exposure can be reduced in the interests of firefighters' health and the environment.

Currently here in South Australia, we await a report on the testing of groundwater at Largs North Station due at any time. Crews continue to work out of the Police Academy and interim arrangements are in place while the MV Gallantry is being decontaminated. Commander Mick Tisbury of the MFB is undertaking work for the MFS and making recommendations about future directions.

A reminder that we continue to urge all UFU members and retired members to participate in the PFAS Testing Programme. You can get the referral documents for the PFAS blood test from the MFS through Clara Cipriani 0436 406 905 or by email [Clara.Cipriani@sa.gov.au](mailto:Clara.Cipriani@sa.gov.au) or Steve Pavlich on 0419 806 295 or by email [steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au](mailto:steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au)

Due to the higher numbers now participating in the testing program, delays are being experienced in receiving results or the interpretation of those results however if you have any difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact the UFU office on 8352 7211 for assistance.

**Members in country areas are advised that you are able to have blood taken for testing at a number of regional locations, rather than have to come to Adelaide – please email [steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au](mailto:steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au) to make the necessary arrangements and obtain the written referral.**

Once you have your test results it would be appreciated if you would complete the UFU survey so that we can continue to look for any other clusters of high results and take appropriate action. All information will be kept confidential.

## **MOTHERS' DAY CLASSIC**



Yes, it's almost that time of year again – get your runners out and start warming up for the Mothers' Day Classic!

The planning and work for our MDC team has already commenced with Chas, Jo-Anna and Carly set to make this one the biggest ever with the assistance of the UFU Office team.

Please put the date - Sunday 12 May 2019 - in your diary and watch out for the forthcoming WordBack for directions on how you, your family, friends and workmates can participate in the award winning UFU/MFS Team.

In solidarity

**Max Adlam**

**UFU Secretary**