



WORDBACK

No.09/2019
29 March 2019

A B C D Day Retained

PFAS REPORT

Thank you to all those of you who have participated in the UFU PFAS Survey following the receipt of your blood test results. As the number of survey participants grows our statistical results will highlight any further “clusters” of individuals with high level results and will provide a database of information for those of you who participate, should follow up action be required in the future.

If you have received your blood test results but not yet participated in the UFU Survey, please consider doing so. You can click on the link on the front page of the email that brought you this, or the last few, Word Backs. And it's not too late to participate in the blood testing program.

You can still 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 or Steve Pavlich on 0419 806 295 or by email steve.pavlich@sa.gov.au

So far, consumption of eggs and other produce on station as well as service on the MV Gallantry, appear to be the major factors in higher level PFAS contamination of members and our families. Early results show that there are stations where members have returned much lower blood test results, while their station itself returned a result higher even than Largs North Station. Data collected strongly indicates ingestion as the major pathway of contamination.

The UFU has scheduled a meeting for interested members to hear the latest reports and to discuss the issues from a union perspective. This will be held on:

Wednesday, 10 April 2019
09:30 – 11:30 hours
UFU Office, 148 South Road Torrensville

Please RSVP on 8352 7211 or by emailing info@ufusa.com.au

Meanwhile the UFU notes the production of the MFS PFAS newsletter yesterday and while welcoming the Service now providing written communication to employees, the content gives rise to some concern.

For example, the fact that there are “*MFS accepted PFAS levels*” is news to us. For a number of reasons, we do not believe these are appropriate levels, and they are not endorsed by the UFU.

Further, the issue of the rehabilitation of the Largs North Station has not been resolved between the UFU and the MFS, and we have not yet received the results of the further testing of the groundwater there.

Results of some of the MFS station testing program have been provided to us however there are concerns about the lack of consistency in the approach to the testing.

I'm disappointed there's been no consultation on these matters by the MFS and no meeting convened of the PFAS Consultative Committee as requested by the UFU as I believe the strongest approach is a cooperative one. The UFU will continue our efforts in relation to this matter.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE

Further to Word Back number 7, the UFU notes that the MFS Memorandum 15/2019 and the Gartan Travel Claim Help Sheet set out the new procedure for travel claims.

Members are advised that if this procedure is followed, then employees can no longer claim the actual kilometres you travel to get to various locations. This means you will not be reimbursed for travel in line with your entitlements under the Award, that is, the *actual* distance you had to travel (which must be "reasonable").

On the Travel Claim Help Sheet page 3 (item 6), employees are now instructed to simply put a 1 in the km field/box and the kilometres will be automatically applied.

This will obviously be at the shortest possible route, which will not always be correct.

Members are encouraged to continue putting the actual kilometres you had to travel into the claim field, rather than the value of 1, so that you get the correct payment in accordance with the Award.

The MFS have been advised that another Memorandum regarding travel should be generated to reflect that employees continue to put the actual distance travelled in that field. Your employer has also been advised that the shortest route should only be used by MFS to ensure that the actual claim by employees is "reasonable" as required by the Award, and in line with the advice provided to the union by MFS on 5 March 2019, which confirmed that Commanders have discretion to pay reasonable claims, as expressed by the Award.

RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS' TRAINING NIGHTS

As reported in Word Back number 7 of 15 March 2019, the UFU is advised by the MFS that training nights for Retained Firefighters will be returned to 3 hours with the additional .5 hour banked for special training. It appears that this has not yet been implemented however we've heard it will change from 29 April 2019, but this has not yet been confirmed by the MFS.

MOTHER'S DAY CLASSIC

Mother's Day Classic Details are as follows:

Sunday 12th May morning

Run or Walk, 4.5km or 7.4km from Peace Park (adjacent Adelaide Oval) or new this year 2.1km walk!
Early bird entries close 31st March - Log on and register now!

Pre/Post run/walk enjoy the fresh fruit or BBQ breakfast with your family - look for the UFU shade tents.

To register

1. Log onto the Mother's Day Classic website: www.mothersdayclassic.com.au
2. Select Event Location then Adelaide
3. Select Register
4. Register to Walk, Run or as a Family
5. Continue as instructed
6. **IMPORTANT - Click on 'join a team' and then type in SAMFS and at that stage ' SAMFS United Firefighters Union' pops up - click on that, then click on continue.**
7. Follow the remaining instructions to complete your registration(s) to our team.
8. Email your t-shirt or singlet size to info@ufusa.com.au

Your team captains this year are S/O Jo-Anna Kenney and S/O Carly White. They are happy to provide further information as you need it. Jo-Anna Kenney can be contacted on 0413 401 815.

OFFICE WORKING BEE

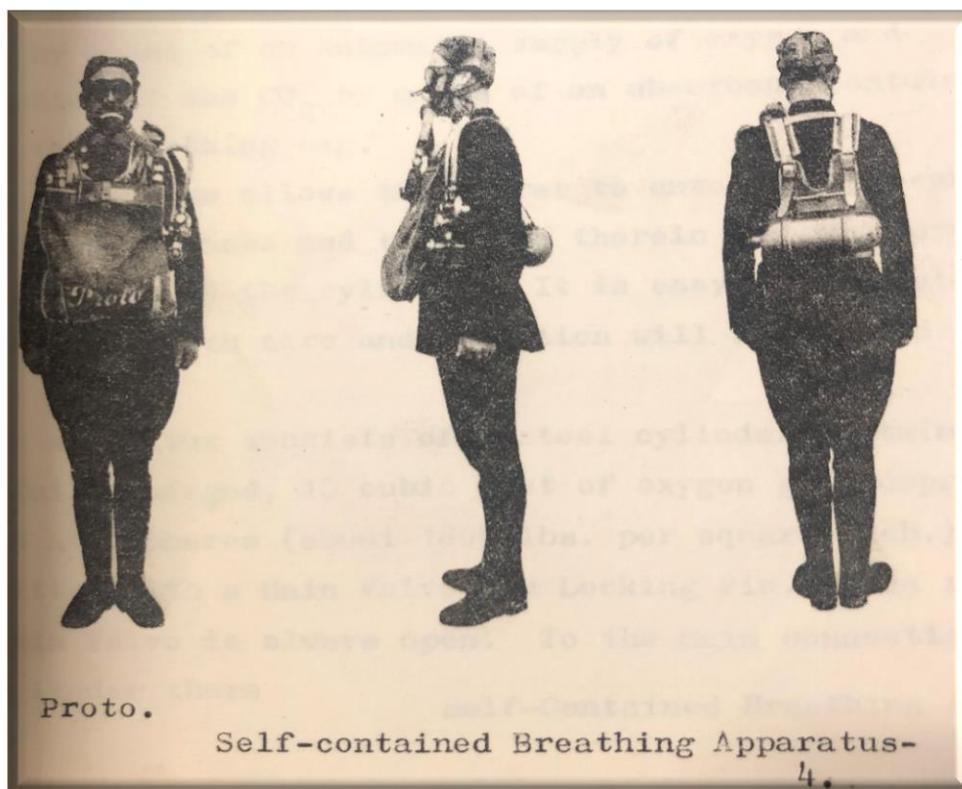
The end is in sight of Stage One of the upgrades to our union office with a working bee next Thursday 4 April 2019.

From 0930 to 1500 hours it'll be a 'hive' of activity so any time you can spare to help out will be greatly appreciated by your UFU State Council and Staff who are working hard for you. Contact Matt Watherston for details of the plan of works, tools etc on phone 0414 600045. Please call the office on 8352 7211 and let us know if you're coming so we can cater for the fantastic BBQ lunch provided.

In solidarity

Max Adlam
UFU SECRETARY

FROM THE ARCHIVES



South Australian Fire Brigade
Instruction and Drill Manual, 1961