



dispatch

BRIEFS



National Office

The UFUA National Executive will meet in Adelaide mid month to discuss the implementation of the Union's National Office restructure. "This follows the NCOM meeting in March which endorsed a plan to strengthen the UFUA across 2010 and beyond," says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall.



Global Alliance

Firefighter Unions across the world have reaffirmed their commitment to the International Fire Fighter Unions Alliance (IFFUA). "In a recent phone hookup member Unions endorsed next year's budget - and a website strategy that will see the IFFUA site become a communications and document sharing hub," says Peter Marshall.



OH&S Alert

The UFUA's national OH&S Alert newsletter is published - and posted on the national website (ufua.asn.au) - every second month. Don't miss it.

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One extra fire crew member means faster response times and greater efficiency, producing a 50% increase in wildfire effectiveness says a US fire study: see the More crew, better job story below
 pic: stock.xchng

Must do!

In New South Wales, some firefighters face management imposed community safety activities quotas

Despite the lack of an agreement with the Union, management in One Zone is attempting to impose community safety activities quotas on firefighters.

Station Officers have a range of programs they, in consultation with their crew, can choose to deliver in their areas. However, given the growing number of activities being devised by management, no Member should be expected or required to deliver them all.

The Union is opposed to quotas; community safety activities programs should be taken on only in the context of the overall station's - and

Members' - workloads. A number of activities remain entirely voluntary and these include smoke alarm installations and kitchen fire simulators.

A station will often be a first point of contact by community members wishing to visit a station or be involved in a program. However, it's the role of the Community Safety Division to identify risk profiles and promote programs associated with those profiles for station areas.

If any Member is being pressured over community safety activities quotas they should contact the Union immediately.

MORE CREW, BETTER JOB

In the USA a California University study has found that if one extra firefighter was assigned to each engine, the effectiveness of the state's firefighters would increase by more than 50%.

"The extra firefighter means a 15 to 40 minute faster response time and more efficiency in fighting the fire," Matt Rahn, Director of Research and Education at

the San Diego State University College of Sciences told NBC San Diego. "15 to 40 minutes may not seem like a lot, but in the initial attack that is a lot of time and often means success or failure in a wildfire event." Larger crews and faster response contains fire size significantly and reduces the overall cost of fighting large wildfires, the research found.