



IN BRIEF



Job well done

“Victorian Members are grateful to OHS Reps Damien Raven (CFA Geelong City), Owen Tudball (CFA Caroline Springs) and Bruce Reynard (MFB Bundoora),” says Peter Marshall. “Their hard work and dedication in serving the PINs on the employers is really appreciated”.



Talks required

FairWork Australia noted that current industrial agreements with the CFA do not recognise the position of the AOC in the career structure and that negotiations between the parties would be required.



The Australian Firefighter

There are more OHS news stories and features, plus sport, travel, food and Sir Murray Rivers in the new edition of *The Australian Firefighter* Magazine. Out soon – don't miss it.

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PINs pulled

WorkSafe rules the overhaul of Victoria's emergency command and control structure is not an OHS issue for firefighters

Following the Black Saturday bushfires' tragedy, the ongoing Royal Commission and a review by the police commissioner, Victoria has overhauled its emergency management structure.

But no one spoke to operational firefighters or the Union about it. “As a result, our OHS representatives issued four separate Provisional Improvement Notices (PINs),” says Peter Marshall, UFUA National and Victorian Branch Secretary. “We challenged both MFB and CFA management over their failure to consult about their decisions that will have an impact on the health and safety of firefighters at work.”

However, after a hearing, WorkSafe cancelled the PINs. The Union's CFA OHS coordinator Andrew Marmion says “WorkSafe seems to be saying that the changes are at such a high level they will have no impact on, or implications for, ranks from Operations Officers and Commanders – and below.”

However, this view sends the Services the wrong message says Peter Marshall. “It suggests to us that WorkSafe is endorsing a segregated approach to the operations structure: it seems to have drawn a line between upper management and the ranks.”

NO TALKS WITH TRIAL

New controller positions have been created within Victoria's emergency command and control structure. The Union took the issue to FairWork Australia (FWA) under the EB's disputes resolution clause.

FWA recommended that eight CFA Area of Operations Controller (AOC) positions be established on a trial basis only – to be reviewed at the end of the fire season.

“Management was then obliged to discuss the trial with the Union and firefighters,” says Peter Marshall. “But instead they chose to barge ahead and single-mindedly implement the restructure.” Andrew Marmion says OHS reps understanding of the WorkSafe decision to cancel the PINs is that firefighters will not have to do any additional training to accommodate these upper level structural changes.