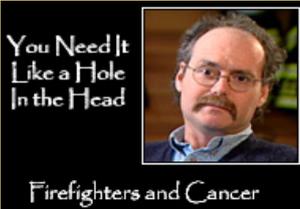




IN BRIEF



Cancer story

NCOM has authorised the distribution of *You Need It Like A Hole In The Head* to Members. This DVD tells the story of North American firefighter Mark Noble, highlighting the threat that hangs over every firefighter – work-related cancer.



Safety targets

NCOM has also agreed to assist UFUA rep Mark Gribble pursue his work on the adoption of safer ppe and ppc standards at the International Standards Organisation and with Standards Australia.



The Australian Firefighter

A new edition will be out soon. Climate change - the firefighter challenge, Branch News, Truss Risk, Tour of Duty, GFC bites, Carbon Sink, food, travel, sport, Sir Mussa and more. Don't miss it!

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Workplace exposure to hazardous and toxic materials is a core concern for firefighters

Action stations

Government recognition of firefighter work-related cancers is a top priority for the UFUA

Protection of firefighters from cancer – and better support for those who contract it – is one of the most important OH&S issues for Australian firefighters. “At the Union’s National Committee of Management (NCOM) meeting in Perth earlier this month, delegates set the pursuit of increased protection, including the enacting of presumptive legislation, as a priority,” says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall.

Delegates heard a report from the Queensland Branch about firefighter cancer studies and the campaign for recognition of work-related cancers among firefighters. “The meeting decided to

pursue presumptive legislation as a priority for the national Union,” says Peter. “These laws are widespread in North America and they identify a range of cancers and other diseases that are automatically acknowledged as work-related for firefighters.”

The first steps will include obtaining advice from the IAFF (the North American Firefighter Union), research into state government attitudes and legal precedents, as well as the value of participating in a Monash University cohort study. Queensland Branch President Steve Bunney will co-ordinate the UFUA’s strategy and campaign.

QLD DATABASE

The Union’s Queensland Branch has setup a Personal Exposure Reporting (PER) database for Members. It will be used to record, store and retrieve UFU members’ personal occupational exposure information. “This data will help provide evidence of links between firefighters’ work and the diseases or illnesses they contract,” says Peter Marshall. “Thanks to the Queensland Branch, this

will be a key tool in building our case for legislative and statutory recognition of firefighter cancers.”

Queensland Members can access their records via a secure web-based link to document exposure of any type: for example, smoke (from a grass, car, chemical or house fire), toxic materials and gases, biological and radiological hazards or trauma such as psychological exposures.