



IN BRIEF



STOCK.XCHNG

Code concern

Changes proposed for Australia's Building Codes could make fire scenes far more dangerous for firefighters. "They will affect Members' safety," says National Secretary Peter Marshall. "If implemented, firefighters will have to fight fires from the footpath."



STOCKXPRT

Horror stat

30,000 Australians will die from mesothelioma between 2000 and 2050. "There needs to be an urgent improvement in asbestos regulation and tougher enforcement of laws," says ACTU President Sharan Burrows.



VASSO ZANGALIS

May Day

UFUA banners featured in May Day marches across Australia this year. "It's a great opportunity to reflect on how much the union movement and working people have achieved," says Peter Marshall.

CONTACT

Peter Marshall
 UFUA National Secretary
 410 Brunswick St, Fitzroy 3065
 Ph: (03) 9419 8811
 Fax: (03) 9419 9258
 email: officeadmin@ufuvic.asn.au
 website: http://www.ufua.asn.au



NOT FORGOTTEN / D LANE

Zero target

With thousands of Australian workers at risk, the ACTU has launched a national campaign targeting work related cancers

Australia has the world's highest recorded rates of asbestos related cancer, mesothelioma; in 2005 (the latest statistics available), over 500 workers died from the disease. It's these shocking statistics that have prompted the ACTU to begin a three year 'zero occupational cancer campaign'.

"This is a particularly important campaign for firefighters," says Peter Marshall, UFUA National Secretary. "We face exposure to carcinogens every day. It doesn't matter whether its diesel fumes or asbestos, the simple demand is that members' lives must not be cut short because workplaces are unsafe."

ACTU President Sharan Burrow launched the campaign on International Workers' Memorial Day. It will cover research, advocacy, policy development and legislation to support the estimated 1.5 million Australian workers who currently face exposure to occupational carcinogens. "The UFUA has already got the ball rolling with our presumptive legislation campaign," says Peter Marshall. "We must also move quickly to identify all toxic substances faced by members at work, get better protective equipment and act to keep all firefighters safe from work related cancers and other disease."

ATHERTON CLUSTER

A second round of testing has begun at Atherton in North Queensland, following the finding of a cancer cluster among local firefighters. A Queensland Health investigation identified the cluster after the Union raised concerns about five firefighters diagnosed with a range of cancers. Sadly, two of members affected have died.

"Environmental testing will attempt to identify the cause of the outbreak," says Peter Marshall. "We're very concerned about the health of our Atherton members and our sympathy goes out to the families of those who have succumbed to the cancers."

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service is also cross checking all Queensland firefighter records, part of an Australia-wide study of cancer in firefighters by Monash University.