



IN BRIEF



GLOBAL ALLIANCE OF FIREFIGHTERS

Founding members

The establishment of IFFUA, the global firefighter Union alliance was endorsed at the 2006 NCOM in Wellington New Zealand. Founding Unions include the UFUA, the New Zealand PFU, the UK FBU and North American IAFF.



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Search results

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights has identified 70 Unions around the world that represent firefighters. Peter Marshall says this research lays the groundwork for a global federation of firefighter Unions.



GREG MCCONVILLE

Getting the word out

Information and rehydration kits promoting the Global Firefighter Unions Alliance were distributed to firefighters at the 2007 World Police and Fire Games in Adelaide.

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AUSTRALIAN FIREFIGHTER CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE WILL BE CRITICAL IN THE FIGHT FOR GLOBAL FIREFIGHTER WORK STANDARDS AND PROTECTION/ MATT HAYES, FIRECALL.COM.AU

Gathering strength

The Global Fire Fighter Unions Alliance looks set for a big year in 2009

Unions representing firefighters in Ireland, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Georgia, along with the Trade Union of Quebec,

are now lining up to join the International Fire Fighter Unions Alliance (IFFUA). Following a mapping exercise of firefighter unions around the world, the Global

Alliance has expanded its contacts and received positive response. "We are calling on firefighter unions across the globe to join the Global Alliance to create a united voice in the fight

for global working standards and protection of firefighters' health and safety, wages and retirement benefits," says Peter Marshall.

The Global Alliance is planning an international conference early next year to look at these issues and discuss the development of a global federation of firefighter Unions. There are currently twelve international super Union federations representing workers in most industry sectors. "We would like to be the thirteenth global union," says Peter Marshall.

"This is indeed a historic occasion; we have collectively reached out and extended the hand of friendship and solidarity to every firefighting Union in the world," says UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall.

GOING GLOBAL A MUST

Effective representation for firefighters at an international level is critical for the promotion and protection of workplace entitlements and conditions. "It's a rapidly changing world," says Peter Marshall. "Pandemics, climate change, wildfire, terrorist attacks, are all issues where policy and standards are being established. Currently, there is no rank and file firefighter

input into what should go in those standards."

The response from the Georgian Union representing firefighters sums up the feeling. Union Vice-President Gocha Aleksandria told the Alliance, "conditions which the firefighters of Georgia work in are not the best ... International solidarity is one of the best effective ways to increase influence and provide support to those who are in need."