



## IN BRIEF



WARREN FREY

### ISO Structure

Work on firefighter protection standards is over sighted by a Subcommittee (SC14) of ISO Technical Committee 94. Five working groups (WG) cover structural firefighting, wildland firefighting, hazardous materials, rescue and general requirements.



MATT HAYES

### The Brief

The ISO SC14 Working Groups are based on the different risks firefighters face. Each WG is working towards developing a single standard for PPE that, when used, will protect the firefighter against the risk.



### Source

Thanks to Mick Smith's (South Australia) article for the background (published in ISO Focus July-August 2004) and Mark Gribble for the update.

## CONTACT

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



IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS AND A TOUGH CAMPAIGN BEFORE AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ABOUT NEW PPE FOR VICTORIA'S MFB FIREFIGHTERS/MFB

## Global protection

As work on worldwide standards for firefighter protection progresses, there's a need for more firefighter input

Access to the right gear is key to firefighter safety and survival. However, hundreds of thousands of firefighters across the world have no national - or even industry - PPE standard for the clothing or equipment they use. "It's crucial that firefighters get involved in the work of the International Standards Organisation (ISO)," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "Mark Gribble is the UFUA's delegate to ISO and is doing a tremendous job on the technical committee and working groups that focus on firefighting."

"In some extreme cases overseas, standards

are set by what is currently for sale in the market place," says Mark Gribble. "While the ISO Committee for firefighter's PPE is lucky to have the expertise of people from testing houses, purchasers and manufacturers, there remains a distinct lack of adequate end-user representation."

In fact Mark is it! However, as the International Fire Fighter Alliance (IFFUA) strengthens, Mark believes New Zealand, North American and UK Firefighter Unions can be encouraged to provide expertise and help progress the work on ISO standards for firefighter protection.

### THE PRESSURE IS ON

Global standards for firefighter's ppe and ppc have never been more urgent. As the impact of the world financial meltdown will last for some time, funded services, like Fire Services, will come under even more severe budget constraints. "In many countries, firefighters are already being pressured into taking on additional tasks that have a business output or income

generation focus," says Peter Marshall. "This can compromise time available for training and even result in lowering safety standards". Last month, Mark Gribble attend an ISO committee meeting in Helsinki. "We worked through data on ppe metabolic heat release and the retro-reflectivity in high performance visibility," says Mark. "I'll be reporting back to the December NCOM meeting in Hobart and to Standards Australia."