



IN BRIEF



OHS coords meet

UFUA National OH&S coordinators were in Hobart during NCOM 08. They progressed work on a national strategy to tackle the major health and safety issues facing Australian firefighters.



Myer fire

Tasmania Fire Service District Officer, Gavin Freeman, took NCOM 08 delegates through the challenges faced by firefighters when they were called out to deal with fire at the Myer building in Hobart's CBD last year.



NCOM targets

NCOM 08 also endorsed developing minimum standards for fireground crewing, appliance establishments and response times, national standards for firefighter Emergency Medical Response (EMR), and the ACTU push for a national climate change audit.

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MARK GRIBBLE, UFUA DELEGATE TO ISO, TOLD NCOM 08 DELEGATES THAT MORE FIREFIGHTER END-USER INPUT INTO ISO PPC DISCUSSIONS IS NEEDED

Presumptive target

NCOM 08 endorses a new focus to the UFUA campaign for presumptive protection for Australian firefighters

The campaign for recognition, support and compensation for firefighters with work related disease was a major focus of this year's UFUA National Committee of Management meeting in Hobart.

"We need to fast track support for firefighters," says UFUA National Secretary, Peter Marshall. "NCOM decided to get the ball rolling by concentrating on those states and territories where legislation is not necessary to provide presumptive protection."

"We will now focus on jurisdictions where compensation can be achieved by regulation," says Peter. "The strategy will include support

for conditions such as cancers, heart / lung and blood-borne diseases in firefighters." NCOM delegates said that retrospectivity should also be pursued for retired firefighters who have these diseases.

It is only in Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth where actual legislation is necessary to put in place straightforward support and compensation for firefighters with work related disease. "There is no reason to delay," says Peter Marshall. "There is already enough evidence to justify statutory protection for firefighters."

TRAINING COLLEGE OHS NIGHTMARE

In Melbourne, the MFB has built a new training facility that can't be used. The Burnley complex has so many OHS problems, the only time firefighters have used hoses was to impress the media at a recent trainee graduation ceremony.

Water can't be recycled because the facility was built on polluted land. Also, there are engine bays that can't house fire appliances

and training tower windows that can't accommodate ladders.

"This is what Melbourne firefighters - and the public - have got out of this \$70 million project that's taken four years to get this far," says Peter Marshall. "We have set up a website at <http://www.firecrisis.com> where the public can log on and send their MP a demand for an inquiry into the MFB."