



## BRIEFS



### Thorough job

The Royal Commission into the Victorian bushfires on February 7, 2009 sat for 155 days of hearings and received evidence from more than 400 witnesses. Its final report contains 67 recommendations.



### Awful toll

The Black Saturday bushfire in Victoria was the worst in recorded Australian history. 173 people died and 414 were injured. 7,562 people were displaced when 450,000 ha burnt, destroying more than 3,500 structures.



### National Union mag

The Australian Firefighter magazine is out now. Stories include One fire service, Buy local, Presumptive explained, Sir Mussa, Mannix and more. Get a copy from your Branch office or download it at [ufua.asn.au](http://ufua.asn.au)

## CONTACT

Peter Marshall  
 UFUA National Secretary  
 Mick Farrell  
 UFUA National President  
 410 Brunswick St  
 Fitzroy 3065  
 ph: (03) 9419 8811



# Gear check

In Queensland, the UFU is reviewing personal protective equipment (PPE) firefighters wear in hostile environments

The UFUQ Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator is reviewing the standing arrangements for Queensland firefighters to ensure the very best equipment, the latest technology, together with operational considerations in PPE design, maintenance and compatibility for UFU Queensland Members.

There have been a number of firefighter injuries that have direct links to the compression of PPE and restricted movement in some functional areas. Members have received half/full thickness burns; one needed skin grafts to repair the damage.

“Firefighters worldwide deserve the very

best personal protective equipment available,” says UFUQ Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator Chris Robinson. “We must do all we can to ensure firefighter safety when in a hostile environment.”

### Close call

In southern Queensland, Southport member Ricardo Murua was being treated for an ankle injury at a Gold Coast fire scene when he collapsed. Ambulance and fire crew applied CPR to restore his breathing and obtain a regular heart beat. Ricardo is now making a speedy recovery.

## VIC RC REPORT

The final report of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission has been released. The UFU Victoria Branch says the structural reform proposed for Victoria’s fire agencies by the Royal Commissioners should be supported to help address the lack of communication and duplication that occurred on Black Saturday 2009. The Commission found that no one person was in charge on the day.

It has recommended a new independent fire commissioner to oversee the state’s firefighting operations. UFU Victorian and National Secretary Peter Marshall says “this person will have operational expertise and be the person in charge of situations similar those experienced on February 7 last year. There will be one person in charge, not three different chief fire officers.”