



## BULLETIN

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TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

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# UFUA Delegation Heralds Valuable Redmond Symposium

Through the UFUA's membership of the Global Alliance of Firefighting Unions, we were invited to attend and present at the International Association of Firefighters' (IAFF) "John P Redmond Health and Safety Symposium and Dominick F Barbera EMS Conference" in August.

The Redmond Symposium is usually held every two years, however COVID 19 caused a delay to this event which was held over from 2021. The Symposium was held in New York and was attended by 1400 delegates and 1500 guests from USA and Canada, as well as representatives from Global Alliance members New Zealand, United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, & Norway. The symposium theme – Excellence in Action, created a foundation for an outstanding array of presentations aimed at putting evidence, science and lessons learned into action – with the objective of preventing line of duty deaths, injuries and illnesses.



Pictured are the members of the UFUA delegation, alongside Fire & Rescue Victoria representatives (and proud UFUA members) Mick Tisbury and David Hamilton who presented on their world leading work on PFAS remediation (L to R Mick Tisbury FRV, Neil Mangelsdorf UFUA WHS Coordinator, Tom Nolan UFUWA Industrial Officer, Greg McConville National Secretary UFUA, Leigh Hills National President UFUA, David Bridgford ACT Branch Junior Vice President, David Hamilton FRV and UFU Vic President).

UFUA National Secretary Greg McConville presented at the Global Alliance roundtable at Redmond, alongside IAFF General President Edward Kelly, IAFF Trustee for Canada Alex Forrest, Confederation of Swedish Firefighters Anders Cederberg, New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Secretary Wattie Watson, and Fire Brigades Union (UK) National Officer Riccardo La Torre. Included in Greg's presentation was a video on the work done in Australia in the field of firefighter presumptive cancer laws, which picked up from the point at which former National Secretary Peter Marshall told Redmond delegates in 2019 that all Australian jurisdictions had attained coverage. Since 2019, 8 additional cancers have been legislated in the Commonwealth, ACT, & Western Australia, while 9 cancers are currently before the Tasmanian and Victorian Parliaments. The video presented to Redmond can be found at <https://youtu.be/2vv-dr8pLEs>.

The Australian delegation at Redmond obtained a wealth of information of benefit to Australian firefighters, in areas such as cancer prevention, fire service diversity, electric vehicles, decontamination of trucks and fire station design. In coming weeks members of our delegation will share with you at least some of what was learned. We will also provide access to presentations from the Symposium to delegates and WHS representatives via the UFUA website portal.

*Authorised by National Secretary Greg McConville*