



Newsletter Date

SAFETY SIREN

April 2012

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"HEALTH AND WELFARE"

HIGH VISIBILITY and the FIREFIGHTER

As UFUQ Health & Welfare Officer, I am currently reviewing Australian Standards "*High Visibility Safety Garments*" with UFUA ISO Delegate Mark Gribble at Australian Standards.

This Australian Standard currently specifies the visual requirements for high visibility safety garments to be worn by people who are exposed when directing traffic or other activities in the workplace.

There is currently no standard and/or coverage for firefighters in this Australian Standard when firefighters are working on roadways at emergency incidents >Road Crash Rescue / Motor Vehicle Fires / Wildland Fires near and/or adjacent to roadways.

What the UFUQ Health & Welfare does not want implemented is the use of "**SAFETY VESTS**" over the structural firefighting ensemble at any of the emergency incidents detailed. [Road Crash Rescue / Motor Vehicle Fires / Wildland Fires].

As a member of the Australian Standards Committee, we are reviewing the Australian Standard 4602 "*High Visibility Safety Garments*" and UFUQ Health & Welfare is assisting to develop a part 2, directly relating to:

"Firefighters Working on Roadways"

The hazard identified for a firefighter is working in smoke / night time / In-climate weather at emergency incidents on roadways and the real danger of being exposed to oncoming traffic.

UFUQ Health & Welfare is representing UFUQ members state-wide to address identified deficiencies in workplace health and safety when working in their "workplace" i.e. emergency incidents with limited visibility of firefighters

**Health and Welfare Officer
United Firefighters Union of Australia, QLD Branch**

LAST LINE OF DEFENCE

**Your Structural
Firefighting
Ensemble, Helmet,
Gloves, Flash Hood,
and Top Boots,**

***CONTAMINATED
AND/OR SOILED by
carcinogenic***

substances as a result
of everyday firefighting
activities

Your PPE / PPC
They're not

FIT FOR DUTY

**SEND THEM TO THE
LAUNDRY NOW**



"HEALTH AND WELFARE"

working in these very dangerous conditions.

UFUQ Health & Welfare will advise UFUQ members of the outcomes in Addressing our members safety when working on roadways.

Please forward your comments directly to UFUQ Health & Welfare Officer

WILDLAND / [RTC] ROAD TRAFFIC CRASH ENSEMBLE

Requirements & specification for QFRS, urban and rural firefighters for Wildland & [RTC] Road Traffic Crash ensembles.

[Urban >specific colour ensemble and Rural >specific colour ensemble]

March 20, 2012 Project Team Meeting - Wildland / [RTC] Ensemble Specifications now completed and to be released shortly for public submission to "Manufactures" to submit their wildland / [RTC] Road Traffic Crash ensemble for evaluation and pragmatic tests.

The Wild-land / RTC ensemble is a single layer jacket and single layer over-trouser and is replacing the current QFRS bushfire jacket.

Under Workplace Health Safety Act 2011, the introduction of an alternative ensemble addresses Workplace Health Safety & Wellness in relation to Firefighter Fatigue, Heat Stress Management.

UFUQ Health and Welfare is aware the heat stress buildup and firefighter fatigue concerns when wearing your structural firefighting ensemble at structural fires.

To wear a structural firefighting ensemble at [RTC] Road Traffic Crash and Wildland fire/s is not a practical workplace Health and safety consideration for UFUQ members.

< Collaborative working relationship >

UFUQ Health & Welfare / QFRS State are working together to ensure UFUQ members receive the most appropriate uniforms, PPE & PPC.

APPLIED ERGONOMICS and the FIREFIGHTER

Air Management and Physiological responses during simulated firefighting Tasks in a high rise structure

UFU members state-wide will encounter emergency situations in high-rise buildings in which it is necessary to enter the fire while breathing from their self-contained breathing apparatus [B/A], if not lift viability, climb several flights of stairs, perform fire suppression or emergency search and rescue

**Health and Welfare Officer
United Firefighters Union of Australia, QLD Branch**

MENTAL HEALTH

Proactive

NOT

Reactive

**Contact a Peer
Support Officer for
Mental Health
Support**

LAST LINE OF DEFENCE

- !) Always Hydrate
- 2) Before your shift
- 3) During your shift
- 4) After your shift

**Have a drink of
WATER NOW**



"HEALTH AND WELFARE"

operations and be able to safely exit the building to the B/A entry point.

To date only [1] one study has been has measured oxygen uptake [VO₂], while using Breathing Apparatus but firefighters did not report on "air consumption" for different tasks and the data were not able to inform on an Air Management strategy.

The study was intensive but I would like to summarize for your referral:

Simulations of two high-rise firefighting simulations of continuous stair climbing, plus exit & [5] fifth floor search & rescue task that individual firefighters could use air at a rate causing their whistle warning device to activate in as little as 8:14 minutes & that 50% of firefighters could have their whistle warning device sound within 11-12 minutes when working at a rate the firefighter self s elected as their normal effort.

If you would like copy of this study report, Please contact UFUQ health & Welfare and I will forward to a copy either electronic and/or hard copy.

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY ACT 2011

New terms that will impact on you through WHS ACT 2011

"CEASE WORK"

Under the new term "**CEASE WORK**", a worker may cease, or refuse to carry out work if the worker has a reasonable concern that to carry out the work would expose the worker to a serious risk to the worker's health or safety, emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard.

A worker's work entitlements are to be preserved during any period of ceased unsafe work.

Your [HSR] Health Safety Representative and/or [DHSR] Deputy Health Safety Representative may direct a worker who is in a "workgroup" represented by the representative to cease work if the representative has a reasonable concern that to carry out the work would expose the worker to a serious risk to the worker's health or safety, emanating from an immediate or imminent exposure to a hazard.

Prior to cease work, the [HSR] Health Safety Representative and [DHSR] Deputy Health Safety Representative must make effort to resolve the work health Safety issue with the relevant person conducting the business [DCS / QFRS State].

So what does that mean to you as an employee in a "workgroup", if you feel there is a deficiency in OHS / WHS that will directly impact on your immediate and/or long term health and safety, you must step up and advise your [HSR] Health Safety Representative and/or [DHSR] Deputy Health Safety Representative.

**Health and Welfare Officer
United Firefighters Union of Australia, QLD Branch**

LAST LINE OF DEFENCE

Your Structural Firefighting Ensemble, Helmet, Gloves, Flash Hood, Top Boots, if they're not **FIT FOR DUTY**

REPLACE THEM, NOW

Contact us:

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"Advanced Diploma of OHS"

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Each Month, I will highlight areas of the new Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011, that will directly and/or indirectly impact in your "workplace" and offer advice and assistance to UFUQ members.

Please forward your enquires by email and/or mobile phone and I will endeavor to address your concerns in relation to UFUQ member's health and welfare.

UFUQ State Secretary Commitment to Members State-Wide

UFUQ State Secretary John Oliver has defined UFUQ Health and Welfare mandate for UFUQ members state-wide for the financial year 2012 / 2013:

- **Minimum [2] Two structural firefighting ensembles**

Each member to have as minimum [PPC] > [1] one PBI Gold Matrix structural firefighting ensemble [2011] & second ensemble no older than ADA Generation 3 [2007]

- **Minimum [2] Two sets of [PPE] Personal Protective Equipment**

Each member to have as minimum [PPE] > [2] Two structural firefighting helmets, [2] flash hoods, [2] sets of structural firefighting gloves

- **Review of the [PPC] Personal Protective Clothing LAUNDRY Process**

UFUQ Health & Welfare to address unacceptable timeframes in LAUNDRY of PPE / PPC turn round times state-wide for our members

- **Review of structural firefighting boots > Bunker / GP's**

UFUQ Health & Welfare AUDIT of UFUQ members state-wide to ensure our members have been provided with the appropriate footwear for structural firefighting and an external review of the most appropriate footwear for [RTC] Road Traffic Crash and Wildland Fires.

In Solidarity

Robbo

Chris Robinson "Advanced Diploma of OHS" UFUQ Health & Welfare Officer

FIREFIGHTER HEALTH + SAFETY = WELLNESS

Authorised by John Oliver State Secretary United Firefighters Union of Australia Union of Employees Queensland

**Health and Welfare Officer
United Firefighters Union of Australia, QLD Branch**

