

Fire Services Submission

Commander David McCurdy

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Regional Coordinator Operation South East Metro Region MFB

Assist Operational activates for 18 MFB stations in the S/E region.

Incident controller, Strike team Leader, Intelligence officer and Safety advisor.

Former roles in the office of the Chief Officer and Operations Commander in Western, Southern and Eastern districts.

Commander for 13 years with total MFB service of over 31 years.

As an incident controller I have been frustrated when attending incidents with the CFA as there is no certainty in:

Timely attendance – In maintaining a safe fire ground it is vital to have a minimum of seven fully trained F/Fs. On numerous occasions this has not occurred as the CFA uses different response tables to cover up their response inadequacies. This causes extra resources to be sent from the MFB which can create shortfalls in MFB response.

Numbers attending – As an incident controller it is vital to understand the amount of physical resources they believe will attend an incident. The current CFA response does not give the incident controller any certainty of physical resources attending.

Attending without a fire fighting appliance – One of my officers recently reported to me a lone CFA F/F turn up at a fire alarm at a nursing home and approached the MFB officer for tasking. A F/F with no equipment is of little value.

Who is in charge from the CFA when the incident is in CFA area – On numerous occasions when I have arrived on scene it is difficult to understand who the incident controller the Captain is or the fully trained Operations officer. As a liaison this has safety implications for MFB crews.

What skill sets CFA crews have? – Not all CFA volunteers are Breathing Apparatus trained this becomes an issue for the incident control when allocating tasks.

Equipment differences – Breathing Apparatus refilling and exchange is currently not possible between the services.