

Hi [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] spoke to me tonight about contacting you regarding a recent house fire I had and BA wearers.

I'll try to keep it short.

First of all, we had the luxury of having 4 on. Glad this was the case as the house was totally involved with exposures on both sides. One neighbouring carport attached to a house had caught alight. I had to split my guys so they were working by themselves, however they were being watched by myself and the Pumpy.

I was desperate for BA wearers, as you could imagine. With brigades failing to respond and others not being on Channel 343, I was getting a bit annoyed. Finally when people started to arrive, I had a wildfire fire fighter, useless. A fellow that appeared to be a BA wearer, to be informed by him that he would have difficulty with wearing a BA as he couldn't wear his glasses and hence wouldn't be able to see properly. My annoyance was rising. The next fellow said he could wear BA but in the next he said he couldn't wear it into a structure as he was BA External. It turns out BA external is for the likes of car fires, rubbish bins or footpath firefighting. This is a new one and a pain in the arse to manage. Finally my next BA hopeful in structural gear once turned around, had a beard. I ended up with a couple of BA wearers eventually on top of my crew.

I'm glad I had 4 on. I could have called Beaconsfield or Berwick without guarantee. I reckon if I end up in this situation again, I may well call Hallam or Cranny.

It does my head in what we have to deal with, glad I'm going on leave.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]