

[REDACTED]  
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To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Service Reform Submission

My name is [REDACTED]; I am a Station Officer with the MFB. I have spent the greater part of my 35 year career stationed in Western District and during this time I have on numerous occasions responded to fire calls and incidents with volunteers from surrounding CFA Brigades.

Our population boom and rapid growth in expanding suburbs demands an emergency service that can provide a professional full time emergency response capability and able to deliver a timely range of emergency competence apart from fire, such as EMR, car entrapment rescue, Urban Search and Rescue, High Angle Rescue, Trench Rescue, Hazmat.

The following two examples are instances where the interoperability of CFA Volunteer Brigades and MFB career crews have impacted operational response. Emergency response to secured facilities (Prisons) require specific procedures to be followed, such as, two fire appliances to be on scene prior to entry into the prison grounds. On many occasions there have been delays in the response from the surrounding Volunteer Brigades which has delayed "on scene "arrival time at the seat of the fire or area of alarm which then potentially impacts the safety of prisoners as well the fire or emergency possibly developing into a more significant incident.

The second instance that I have been involved in includes volunteer attendance at structure fires where the attending volunteers wear no Breathing Apparatus (BA) or are not qualified in BA which then precludes the implementation of effective and safe on-scene BA procedures. The consequences to this operationally when confronted with a lack of BA Qualified firefighters from Volunteer Brigades is that the career firefighters already involved in fire fighting have to spend longer periods wearing/operating in B.A., thereby potentially increasing their exposure to hazardous atmospheres containing what are now known to be life threatening carcinogens. The only safe way for reducing increased risks to firefighter's health is to ensure the minimum standard of seven trained fire fighter in two fire appliances are responding and arrive on-scene at a fire or incident or any other emergency events.

[REDACTED]

Station Officer, MFB Western District

[REDACTED]

Please keep my identity confidential

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