



"KEMP, Richard" [REDACTED]  
06/07/2017 08:37 PM

To Consultation/DTF@DTF  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Fire Services Bill Select Committee  
2017

1 attachment



RKemp HART

My name is Richard Kemp. I am a Station Officer in the MFB. I have 29 years of Brigade service, the last nine as a Station Officer on "B" Platoon, predominantly at Richmond Fire Station.

I have a High Angle Rescue Technicians qualification after completing a four week course in 2010.

I am also a qualified Confined Space Rescue operator as an adjunct to my HART qualification.

These specialist qualifications require constant skills maintenance training sessions. These are facilitated on Richmond Fire Station's dedicated six storey purpose built training tower.

I and my HART Team at Richmond, have received formal recognition for a successful rescue performed in Melbourne in 2012. See attached.

I am currently stationed at Broadmeadows Fire Station in the north of Melbourne. Some notable hazards within my realm of responsibility include CSL on Camp Rd Broadmeadows and Broadmeadows Detention Facility adjacent to Maygar Barracks Camp Rd Broadmeadows.

The Broadmeadows area has a broad mix of industrial and residential premises. These present their own individual risks and hazards.

As an Officer, I have confidence that the training my crew have received is uniform and adequate to provide the correct skill set to allow them to tackle a variety of tasks. When responding to an "Alarm of Fire" within the MFD (Metropolitan Fire District) I know, as an officer in charge, what resources are available and approximately how long until additional resources can be responded. This is due to the strategic positioning of MFB Fire Stations and hard and fast assignment rules allocating and responding the nearest available resources.

Assignment rules within the CFA seem to be of a more make shift nature. I cite an example of a CFA Captain at Craigieburn who was feuding with the CFA Captain at Greenvale (neighbouring stations) and the Craigieburn Captain having the assignment rules changed in order for the two to never be responded together. The ramifications of this action required the MFB Appliance at Tullamarine to respond in Greenvale's stead, providing the farcical circumstance of an MFB appliance driving for 7-8 minutes passing Greenvale Fire Station to respond to TIME critical "Alarms of Fire".

As it currently stands my CFA permanent paid colleagues don't enjoy the same resourcing as the MFB and lament the fact that their volunteer counterparts are sometimes (through no fault of their own) unavailable to respond. Or, the volunteers that

do respond have differing qualifications, ie not Breathing Apparatus (B.A) qualified. This means these unqualified firefighters are unable to safely effect urban firefighting search and rescue operations or internal structural firefighting. These expectations of minimum qualifications are required within the growing URBAN environment that has become the reality of the outer regions of the Greater Melbourne area.

I am dismayed by the VFBV's leadership and the VFBV's inability to offer a legitimate solution to having the CFA Enterprise Agreement settled. The Fire Services have become a political football and the VFBV silence, more recently has been deafening! What is their actual position?

I believe the Fire Services Reform should be implemented in order to provide the circuit breaker needed to cease the damaging effects of constant disputation between firefighters and their management.

Interoperability between the MFB and CFA, since 2009 Black Saturday, has come a long way, due in no small part to the introduction of the Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley. I respectfully implore you, as the committee, to allow us to build on the mutual respect the CFA and MFB have for each other and allow us to once again have a Fire Service we can be proud of!

Richard Kemp.  
Station Officer  
Broadmeadows Fire Station

[Redacted contact information]

*The MFB is committed to minimising its impact on the environment.  
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**WARNING**

*This email and any attachment may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient you are not authorised to copy or disclose all or any part of it without the prior written consent of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board.*

\*\*\*\*\*