



SIGNAL SEVEN

21 December 2017

Welcome to this edition of Signal 7.

Bushfire and Storm Enhanced Crewing

There is a long history to this matter. This week saw the UFU notify a dispute concerning this, after the policy introduced without UFU agreement in March was applied. The application of the policy, along with a reduction in tanker crewing from SO + 4 to SO + 3 created an urgent need to address the matter.

Following discussions, a new policy will be issued today. The primary focus of the UFU in dealing with this matter has been firefighter and community safety.

Compared to the old policy, the changes mean:

- Applying the same indicative FDI's to readiness levels as in other services:
- A reduction in 2 Tanker Crews (SO &4) on days of FDI 18 – 24 (Readiness level 1)
- Standing up all tankers from readiness level 2 and above (indicative FDI 25 and above. This means an increase in the number of CAFS and Tankers stood up from FDI 25 to 30)
- Stand ups for shorter periods one hour per day at readiness level 3 and above (Very High and above)
- A reduction of 1 Comcen operator on days of FDI 18 – 24.

In relation to the final point, the policy is clear that the relevant Operational Commander has the discretion to bring in additional ComCen operators earlier if ACTFR or RFS activity creates additional workload. Members are advised to request this if they consider it necessary.

Based on the above, the UFU has agreed to apply these arrangements for the remainder of the fire season, and to review them at the end of the fire season.

Members are requested to email the UFU Secretary if there are any problems that arise with the application of the revised policy.

The BCOM has approved this arrangement, and we consider that the increased resources being stood up earlier, combined with maintaining safe levels of crewing, represents a good outcome.

Commander and Station Officer Promotions

The UFU has been asked to provide nominees for Joint Selection Committees at Commander and Station officer level, for processes to be conducted in January. Members who are interested in performing this role on behalf of the UFU are asked to submit an expression of interest by email to the UFU Secretary.

This should come as good news for members who are pursuing promotions.

PPC

A further trial of PPC will be conducted in the new year. This relates to the next item...

UFU Submission for the Act Budget.

The UFU has made a submission to the Act Government seeking funding for a number of important initiatives, as follows:

- A complete rollout of new structural PPC for all firefighters;
- Funding an additional aerial pumper and crew
- A new city fire station
- Two additional recruit colleges in 2018 – 2019.

The budget submission is available by clicking on the link below.

https://www.budgetconsultation.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/1123941/77.-United-Firefighters-Union-of-Australia-ACT-Branch-ACT-Budget-Submission-2018-19.pdf

Stay Safe, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

At a time where some of our members are unwell, and in a year where there have been a number of bereavements in the firefighter family, its well worth contemplating good fortune, good health and the value of family and friends.

Whether you are working or not, the BCOM and I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. If you are working, look out for each other and make safety your first priority. Thank you for your support during 2017, and we look forward to doing our very best for you all in 2018.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.

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