



BULLETIN

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TO ALL UFUA MEMBERS

2019 IAFF REDMOND SYMPOSIUM

UFUA obtains important firefighter health and safety information, presents to North American delegates on our presumptive legislation journey

Recently, representatives from the United Firefighters Union of Australia attended the 2019 IAFF Redmond Symposium.

The Symposium, which takes place biannually, is a conference of the North American (USA and Canada) union for firefighters and paramedics, the International Association of Fire Fighters. The Symposium is the largest firefighter health and safety conference in the world. Dozens of firefighter and OH&S experts present at the Conference, both at the General Sessions and the specific Workshops and Information Sessions.

The UFUA was one of the international unions to be invited to the 2019 Symposium and it was an immense honour to attend as a special guest. Indeed, the Symposium re-affirmed the UFUA's global relationship with the IAFF and the importance of forging and maintaining a strong and mutually-beneficial alliance.

The Symposium offered a vast array of information sessions and workshops for Conference delegates, and these were well-attended by the UFUA. The information obtained will no doubt be used as a point of comparison, and a source for improvements, for UFUA members nation-wide.

UFUA Delegates participated in information sessions including, for example:

- "Drones and Firefighting"

- “Women Firefighters and their Occupational Health”
- “Cancer Research: What Fire Ground Exposures Are Revealing”
- “Wellness Fitness Initiative (WFI) 4th Edition”
- “Cardiovascular Disease in the Fire Service”.

In addition to the Information Sessions, UFUA Delegates were special guests to, and attended, the two General Sessions in which subject matter experts and union leaders presented on various topics, including:

- “The IAFF Centre of Excellence Two Years Since Opening”
- “National Cancer Registry”
- “Fire Ground Communications – Critical Issues”
- “Assault Presentation”
- “Australian Fire Service – The Australian Experience”
- “Response to Terrorism on New Zealand Shores”

The UFUA’s global colleague, the NZPFU, was invited to present at the General Sessions on the recent terrorist attack in Christchurch. Former UFUA National Industrial Officer, and now-NZPFU Secretary, Wattie Watson presented on the incident and how firefighter response can be utilised and improved moving forward.

UFUA National Secretary Peter Marshall was also invited by the IAFF to present on the presumptive legislation journey in Australia. The National Secretary spoke to the decade-long campaign undertaken by the National Office and the vital role the IAFF played in that campaign – inclusive of providing all scientific research and IAFF subject matter experts from Canada (Alex Forrest and Fire Chief Ken Block) in the 2011 Senate Inquiry. The UFUA is indebted to the IAFF for their assistance and guidance.

In June 2019, Australia became the first country outside of North America to achieve presumptive legislation coast to coast. This was well-received by our North American colleagues and the room erupted into a fierce applause upon hearing this news.

It cannot be overstated how immense an honour it was to be invited to the 2019 Redmond Symposium as a global guest of the IAFF. The international friendships and relationships that were formed and the information that was obtained was undoubtedly valuable to our Union and will be utilised to benefit UFUA members in future.

Authorised by National Secretary Peter Marshall