



SIGNAL SEVEN

January 1 2020

Happy New Year

On behalf of the BCOM I am pleased to wish all members a happy and safe 2020. Together we will make this year a great success for the UFU and the Canberra Community.

Chain of command is critical to safety.

UFU members are reminded that operational directions can only be given through the chain of command. This is integral to the prevention of confusion and the maintenance of a culture of safety within ACT Fire and Rescue. Consistent with this, members are advised as follows:

COMCEN is accountable through the chain of command.

Directions to COMCEN Station Officers and Firefighters concerning the deployment of operational resources can only be issued through the Operational Commanders (North and South) and the Recall Superintendent. Members are not obliged to follow directions issued through any other avenue.

In circumstances where the Incident Control Room / Incident Management Room is stood up, the chain of command must be used. It is not appropriate for directions from an Incident Management Team to sidestep the Chain of Command.

Members are requested to immediately contact the UFU should any direction be issued other than through the chain of command

Deployment of Non ACTFR Resources to AFA's is not to occur

This has occurred on 2 isolated dates, without any prior notice or consultation with the UFU. In circumstances where this has occurred, it has been inconsistent with safe work practices for reasons including the following:

- Non ACTFR resources cannot properly assess the premises and determine conclusively the status of the alarm
- Any sitrep from persons other than ACTFR needs to be subsequently verified by ACTFR, and hence such attendance is an unnecessary duplication of effort;
- Non ACTFR attendance has occurred in circumstances where not all available ACTFR resources have been stood up.

Members are advised that any direction to deploy non ACT Fire and Rescue resources to Automated Fire Alarms is not a lawful or reasonable direction. Such a direction is a departure

from established work practices and has not been subject to any consultation with the UFU or its members. UFU members will be notified if and when any such consultation occurs.

Authorised by Greg McConville, Secretary, UFU, A.C.T. Branch.
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Read out at muster and pin on notice boards.