

"D-11"

John Burrows

From: John Burrows
To: Tom Dawson; Remco Speekenbrink; Iain MacKenzie
Cc: Henry Lawrence; Mark Walker (QFRS); John Oliver; Glen Englart
Subject: RE: dumb luck
Attachments:

Tom,

Regarding this issue I wish to refer you to a series of meetings and agreements with the Local Branch of the United Firefighters

In addressing our manning concerns you stated that before further staffing increases can occur you need to explore the current required our cooperation to allow for the best chance of success in making them a reliable resource. The local branch in good fa nearly two years ago!

The second part of the equation was that if it was not successful then you're part of the agreement was that you would correspc for a further Manned Fire fighting Appliance/Station.

Can you please inform this Branch if you now intend to keep your end of the agreement?.

In In light of all this, the local branch executive has been talking with the UFU State officials and requires answers on the followi

1. Is the safety of QFRS crews paramount?
2. Are the Toowoomba Aux's a viable 3rd Pump response crew?
3. With 14 Aux's on staff at Toowoomba and a response of only 4 to incidents where is the value for money for the Service
4. Why has the State Response standard to "Special Risks" of 3 Pumps on initial turnout been diluted to 2 pumps without cor
5. Is it acceptable that a Fire-fighter who fell 4m and was injured at a incident should have to re-enter to rescue his fellow fi
6. Is it acceptable that the BAST crew is made up of Aux's who took 20mins to arrive "Code 8"?
7. How can 2 Pumps in Toowoomba [population 150,000] be classified as acceptable risk management by QFRS?
8. Why was a Aux used as a casual fire-fighter? This is in breach of QFRS' own Standing Orders/Policy.
9. Why was a un-qualified Aux fire-fighter placed on 311J as the driver, and with an S/O tasked with responding to any other
10. Isn't point 9 a change of work practice and a breach of duty of care? Why hasn't there been consultation at a local level c
11. With the size and growing risks within Toowoomba [population 150000] why haven't operational staffing levels increased

John Burrows
 UFU Toowoomba Branch President
 On behalf of Remco Spreenbrink
 Branch Secretary

-----Original Message-----

From: Tom Dawson
Sent: Sun 9/20/2009 9:43 PM
To: Remco Speekenbrink; Iain MacKenzie
Cc: Henry Lawrence; Mark Walker (QFRS); John Oliver; Glen Englart; John Burrows
Subject: RE: dumb luck

Remco

I will review your questions that you have raised and will provide my reply in due course. However the normal SHE report and V occur regarding this incident. The debrief will allow for not only operational tactics to be considered but also allow us to review the early hours of Saturday morning did not indicate any staff level issues or ESCAD problems . But as indicated I will review all of y

On your other issues regarding the current and future manning levels of Toowoomba I am glad continue our discussions at our i

Regards

Tom Dawson
AC-SWR

From: Remco Speekenbrink
Sent: Saturday, 19 September 2009 22:43
To: Tom Dawson
Cc: Henry Lawrence; Mark Walker (QFRS); John Oliver; Glen Englart; John Burrows
Subject: dumb luck

Tom

Again we have escaped, only through pure dumb luck, with the serious deficiencies in our safe permanent staffing levels. As you there have been sufficient crew for bast teams for safety support for the primary response crews.

Tom, in my email about a month ago I raised our members concerns for their safety due to the unsafe permanent staffing levels do a safety audit through the State UFU OH&S rep on our crewing levels the rate payers and risks of Toowoomba.

But wait there's more, ESCAD also managed to go down during this incident. As discussed at our last meeting, Auxiliaries are not to crew specials, but again an Auxiliary was crewing a special with an officer Auxiliary FF was expected to drive if another incident was to occur in our area (with a crew of 2).

The Auxiliary was then told to take up the spot of the injured FF for the rest of the shift, 3hrs (casual labour) instead of calling t

In 1956 the Toowoomba fire station was built with 5 engine bays, in 1974 Anzac Ave was built with 2 engine bays. In 2009 Too high risk buildings have increased, heavy vehicle & dangerous goods has increased.

Toowoomba has not had an operational permanent staff increase since 1974, but staffing levels of non-operational administrativ

Remco Speekenbrink
Toowoomba Branch Secretary