

THE QUEENSLAND AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTER

- ON CALL 24/7

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Official Journal of the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc (Qafa)



FIRE FIGHTER

QUEENSLAND
ON CALL 24/7

GET MORE FIRE POWER! WITH A CANTER 4X4

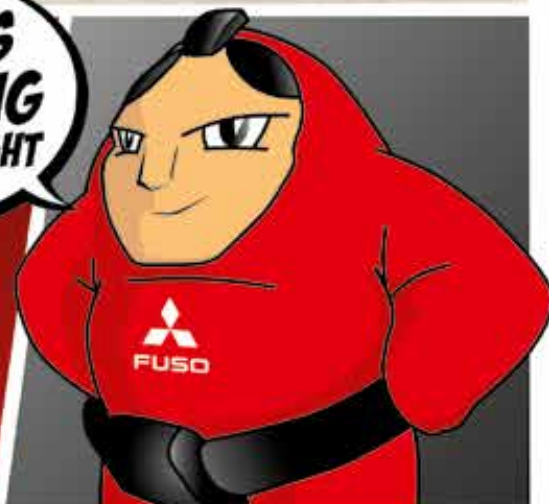


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President's Message

Rodger Sambrooks, President – Queensland Auxiliary Firefighter Association (QAFA)

Welcome to the first edition of our new Auxiliary Firefighter magazine. This magazine is for all Auxiliary Firefighters. I hope that you find it interesting and encourage you to support future editions with stories and articles. Don't forget, send us stories and photos of your station and crew as well as of incidents and training. Old historical photos of appliances and stations would be of interest to many.

Auxiliary Firefighters across Queensland provide a professional response to urban fire, rescue and emergency incidents as well as performing a wide range of other duties, on an 'as needed' basis by being on-call 24/7. Leaving family and work to respond to need in the community on very short notice requires a high level of commitment and dedication.

Comprising approx 50% of the QFES urban workforce, together with full time personnel, and working extensively with QRFS rural volunteers, auxiliary firefighters have a strong commitment to community.

2015 has arrived, and QFES has a new Commissioner, Acting Commissioner Katarina Carroll, and Queensland has a new government with QFES represented by Minister Honorable Jo-Ann Miller. Welcome, and we offer our support and look forward to developing a mutually supporting relationship over the coming weeks and months.

This year, our Charter and Memorandum of Understanding will again be tested and issues like 'Presumptive Legislation'; relating to workplace cancer risk, and the harassment review are on the agenda. If you have any issues, or need support in this area, contact us. An award for Auxiliaries is still slowly progressing. Putting aside the politics, we remember the risks of the job as demonstrated near Charleville when a truck crashed, caught fire then exploded, injuring four crew and others and destroying an as-new fire truck

QAFA remains ready and able to support our Auxiliary Firefighters members in many ways and continues to seek better outcomes across all areas of auxiliary firefighter employment.

I encourage all Auxiliary Firefighters to support your Association by becoming a member. Simply visit the website www.qafa.asn.au and follow the prompts to either renew your membership or to join.

Visit the website to access a range of documents, including Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7 Auxiliary Employment Conditions. These are regularly updated. QAFA has a range of merchandise also accessible on the website.

Stay Safe.



Minister's Foreword

Jo-Ann Miller Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

As the Minister representing auxiliary firefighters, I wanted to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for the vital work you do in keeping Queenslanders safe from fire.

Across Queensland there are over 2,000 dedicated auxiliary firefighters on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That is almost the same number as permanent firefighters in Queensland. That is an incredible figure.

Over the last few years we've had busy fire and storm seasons. I want to recognise the effort, dedication and sacrifice our auxiliary firefighters have shown, particularly when so many of you are already so busy with family and community commitments.

Your hard work does not go unnoticed. I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. The Palaszczuk Government is grateful for your dedication to the people of Queensland.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can in the coming months as I travel across Queensland.



Commissioner's Comment

Katarina Carroll APM, Acting Commissioner – Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



I would like to thank the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association for the opportunity to contribute to the first edition of its The Fire Fighter magazine.

Queensland's 2,000 auxiliary firefighters form an essential and integral part of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services response model across the state. They are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and take time out from their daily lives when required to respond to incidents. I thank you all for your continued commitment to your local community and to QFES.

QFES has been working closely with Auxiliary personnel in recent years to ensure mutually beneficial employment conditions and late last year the State Government agreed in principle that auxiliary firefighters should have your own auxiliary award. We will continue to work in the development of this award.

As a show of good faith during last year's negotiations the previous Commissioner approved the immediate passing on to auxiliary firefighters of the pay rise awarded to full time personnel. I can commit that any future pay rises awarded to full time firefighters will also be passed on in full to auxiliary officers.

Auxiliary Firefighters will also soon receive new uniforms as part of the move to a unified QFES uniform incorporating

the Fire and Rescue, Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Emergency Management streams. I expect the new uniforms will be available for Auxiliary personnel during the June rollout. As this is a new uniform, QFES will closely monitor this rollout to ensure future needs of staff are recognised.

The new uniforms form part of QFES' commitment to continue providing quality vehicles, stations and equipment to help Auxiliary Firefighters deliver quality fire and rescue services to their community.

Part of my responsibilities as Commissioner will be to implement reforms to processes and procedures recommended by Ms Margaret Allison in her report late last year into an incident involving QFES staff.

I know that the vast majority of staff are doing the right thing and do not tolerate discrimination, bullying or harassment in the workplace however Ms Allison did identify some things that need changing and these changes to policies and procedures will happen quickly.

I look forward to your support in the implementation of these reforms to ensure QFES is a modern and inclusive organisation focussed on innovation and the best delivery of services to Queenslanders.

Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc.

Representing all auxiliary firefighters in Queensland

The Auxiliary Firefighters Association inc. was formed in 1991. Previously the fire service was administered by local boards in various areas throughout the state. With the formation of the Qld. Fire Service it became apparent to Auxiliary members that they needed an organisation whereby they were able to liaise directly with their employer.

The Qld Auxiliary Firefighter Association Inc. was formed with a committee consisting of representatives from each region being appointed to a State Committee.

This committee meets regularly with the Q.F.R.S. to present recommendations in all aspects of auxiliary training, conditions, facilities, etc. in compliance with QAFA constitutional rules.

Benefits of Membership

By becoming a member and contributing a yearly subscription (deducted from your monthly pay) assists the QAFA State Committee to offset the substantial cost of operation.

The committee is then able to offer benefits to members by involvement in the decisions affecting Auxiliary Firefighters such as:

- Membership Card
- Merchandise (see website)
- Equipment, vehicles, clothing issues
- Workplace safety
- Policy direction
- Workplace support during issues

- Providing assistance through a Distress Fund for needing members
- Website support

Membership is available exclusively to Auxiliary Firefighters in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

Join Us

QAFA invites you to join us in the process of supporting our fellow Auxiliary Firefighters as we work for Queensland Fire & Rescue Service, in our Communities throughout Queensland.

QAFA encourages the participation of Auxiliary Firefighters at station, area, region and state level.

Our strength is measured by the commitment of our members from station level to the effort of the QAFA State Committee members who work voluntarily for ALL Auxiliary Firefighters.

QAFA is the organisation that CAN and WILL protect the interests of Auxiliary Firefighters. With Representatives in EACH of the QFRS Regions, QAFA has the State covered.

Simply complete the Membership Application, send it to the Secretary of QAFA and join us.

Visit us online

www.auxfire.org.au



Auxiliary Firefighters and QAFA

Auxiliary Firefighters are paid part-time employees of Queensland Fire & Emergency Services who respond to emergency urban and rural incidents across Queensland. They undertake professional emergency response training and are required to meet turnout response times. They leave jobs, businesses and family to respond in minutes to threats in their local communities.

There are approximately the same numbers of Auxiliary Fighters as there are Permanent Firefighters. i.e. approximately 2000 Auxiliary Firefighters and approx 2200 permanent firefighters across the State. Auxiliaries operate out of 196 stations across Queensland

Queensland Auxiliary Firefighter Association Inc (QAFA) is an Incorporated Association managed by a committee of Auxiliary Firefighters.

QAFA was formed at the recommendation of the then newly created Qld Fire Service, who recognized the need, after the restructure of shire Boards into one service. in 1991, for to representation of the interests and welfare of Auxiliary Firefighters in the workplace across Queensland. as it was evident the union had no interest. QAFA is an employee association whose only aim is representing Auxiliary Firefighters and providing workplace and welfare support.

QAFA support 'Auxiliaries' as follows:

- Provide workplace advice and support across the workplace.
- Intervening in various conflict situations (including bullying, intimidation etc)
- Provide/arrange financial support to members during hardship (funerals, medical)
- Provide/arrange legal support where appropriate
- Provide News & Information by Newsletter, Website www.qafa.asn.au, Facebook, and Twitter.

QAFA was a participant and major stakeholder in the creation and implementation of the Auxiliary Employment Policy which is the foundation for current employment conditions standing order.

QAFA has worked through the Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7 Auxiliary Employment Conditions with QFES to achieve a reviewed outcome to which QAFA will continue to seek improvements.

QAFA has achieved a Charter document and Workplace Memorandum of Understanding by negotiation with Queensland Government, through the Minister of Police and Emergency Services, as well as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. These documents set out the basis of the relationship between QFES, PSBA and QAFA. QAFA meets regularly with QFES to discuss and resolve various issues including employment conditions.

QAFA relies on membership fees to fund the administrative function of the Association. Management is by a committee structure of regional (matching QFES regions) representatives with a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer elected from the committee.

**QAFA IS AVAILABLE
TO SUPPORT MEMBERS 24/7.**

Auxiliary Firefighters

Auxiliary firefighters are paid part-time firefighters located in regional communities across Queensland and at a small number of stations in the outer suburbs of the “south-east corner”. They provide an efficient and effective service to Queensland communities in the preservation of life, property and the environment.

AuxFirefighter Just like full-time firefighters, they attend structural and environmental fires, road crashes, chemical spills and many other rescue scenarios. They also conduct building compliance inspections and community education activities.

Auxiliary firefighters are unique however, in that they are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Holding regular jobs within the community such as farmers, trades people, teachers, stay-at-home parents, truck drivers, nurses, factory or office workers and even accountants, they carry a pager and “down tools” when QFES receive a 000 call.

Being an auxiliary firefighter is exciting and rewarding. Auxiliary firefighters receive world-class accredited training, enjoy the camaraderie of a close-knit team and most importantly have the opportunity to make a real and worthwhile contribution to their local community.

Auxiliary firefighters are paid an hourly rate, commencing at \$22.68 per hour (effective 1 July 2014) to respond to emergencies, attend training and for other authorised duties.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who can become an auxiliary firefighter?

Auxiliary firefighters come from all walks of life and no experience is necessary. However there are some conditions that must be met before you are eligible:

- Be healthy & active
- Hold Australian Resident status
- Want to help your community
- Live or work within 5 minutes of the fire station
- Have or be willing to obtain a Medium Rigid licence
- Enjoy working in a team environment
- Keen to participate in ongoing training and development
- Able to respond to emergency incidents*

* It is highly desirable that your employer consent to releasing you at the time of an emergency incident.

Do I need to be available 24/7?

It is acknowledged that your personal or employment responsibilities will take precedence over QFES activities however, the more available you are the more useful you will be to the station in providing a service to the community. Where stations have the luxury of multiple applicants for vacancies, those who are able to meet the needs of the community best, will be selected.

The QFES expects all auxiliary firefighters to attend a minimum of 75% of training activities, including weekly core skills maintenance sessions, and 30-50% of emergency incidents depending on your hours of work.

Who can my employer talk to?

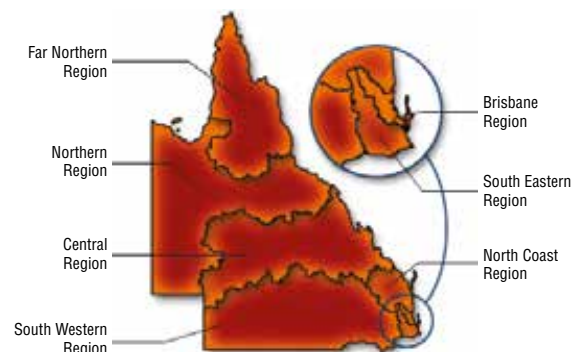
Your employer is encouraged to contact the local Area Director to discuss how your contribution as an auxiliary firefighter may impact on their business.

Please ask your local fire station for applicable contact details or contact QFES Recruitment on 3635 2289 or QFES.Auxiliary@qfes.qld.gov.au.

Where are auxiliary firefighters located?

Auxiliary firefighters are integral members of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and are located throughout Queensland. The majority are located at stations crewed entirely by auxiliary firefighters. Depending on their location, auxiliary firefighters may also work together with career or rural volunteer firefighters in the provision of fire and rescue services.

Unfortunately if you do not live within close proximity (about 5 minutes drive) to one of these stations, you will not be eligible for employment as an auxiliary firefighter. If you are still interested in making a contribution to your community in an emergency response environment please consider the State Emergency Service or the Rural Fire Service.



What type of training will I be doing?

Your training will be both operational and non-operational in nature and will include communication, teamwork, health and safety, equipment maintenance and usage and of course hands on firefighting and rescue techniques.

Delivery strategies will vary between locations using a number of different techniques such as instructor lead classroom sessions, self paced on-line and hardcopy workbooks, one-on-one and team based scenarios, DVDs and other multi-media. Much of your training will cross over into your other employment and personal life, enhancing career opportunities and giving you the confidence to tackle even the most daunting of tasks.

When will I go to my first emergency incident?

It is essential that all firefighters are adequately trained and equipped prior to responding to emergency incidents. It will be necessary for you to complete an extensive training program known as the Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program (ARTEP) prior to being eligible to “ride” the big red truck.

This is an in-house course, only open to QFES auxiliary firefighters, of approximately 80 hours. Training will most likely be conducted over a series of weekends and may require you to travel to a central location to train with new recruits from other stations. Once you have completed the pre-operational component of this course, you will be issued with your personal protective equipment (PPE) and pager.

Do I need to be physically fit?

The job of a firefighter is demanding, diverse and can require a high degree of physical fitness, agility and dexterity. However firefighters come in all shapes and sizes, so if you are healthy and active why not give it a go.

You will be required to undertake a medical examination as part of the selection process, in accordance with the QFES Medical Standards. You are encouraged to discuss your personal circumstances with your doctor however we ask that you do not undertake an examination until instructed to do so by the QFES.

Are there any age restrictions?

There are no specific age limits to becoming an auxiliary firefighter, with the exception of compulsory retirement at 65.

It is preferred that you have a manual driver's licence when you apply and obtain an MR licence within 12 months of appointment. Department of Transport and Main Roads require you to have held your C class licence for 12 months before you can be issued with an MR.

How do I apply?

Auxiliary firefighters live and work within their local community. So logically we recruit in the same manner. Please call your local fire station or drop in when you see the engine room door up.

What kind of experience do I need?

You don't need any special qualifications or skills to become an auxiliary firefighter. The QFES will provide you with all the skills, knowledge and equipment you need.

Safety is essential. New auxiliary firefighters are required to undertake approximately 80 hours of training prior to responding to emergency incidents. This can take some time – attending regular drill training each week and participating in other non-operational station activities will help pass the time and maintain your enthusiasm for the adventures to come. Further training is then provided throughout your employment applicable to the risks within your local community. All training is undertaken after hours and on weekends. Some travel may be involved depending on your location.

Who can I talk to if I have more questions?

The officers at your local station are in the best position to answer questions in relation to being an auxiliary firefighter in your local community or contact QFES Recruitment on 3635 2289 or QFES.Auxiliary@qfes.qld.gov.au.

Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association

Do I need to be an auxiliary firefighter before I can become a full-time firefighter?

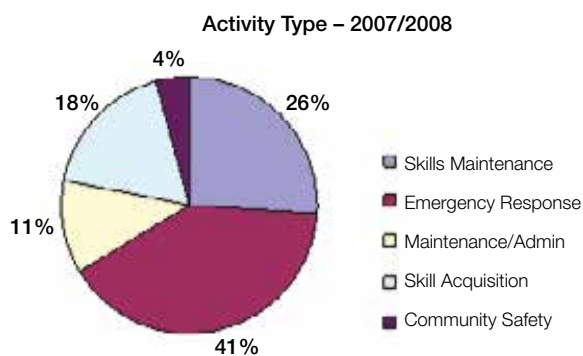
Being an auxiliary firefighter is a great way to experience every aspect of firefighting however it is not for everyone and is not a compulsory step toward becoming a permanent firefighter.

Auxiliary firefighters receive bonus points for their application after 3 years service and are often known to the selection panel. They must however undertake each part of the selection process and achieve a competitive result to be considered for appointment.

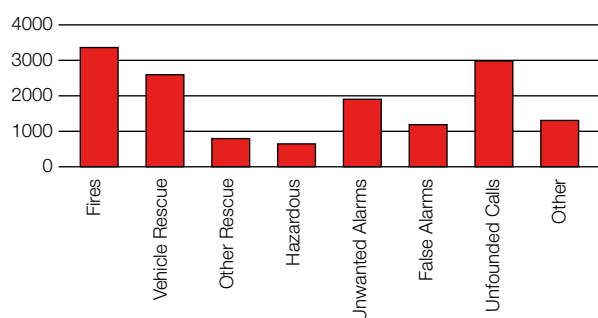
Auxiliary Facts

Effective November 2008

No. of Auxiliary Fire Stations	188
Auxiliary	156
24/7 Permanent + Auxiliary	13
7 Day Permanent + Auxiliary	6
5 Day Permanent + Auxiliary	4
Single Officer + Auxiliary	9
No. of Auxiliary Firefighters	2074
Male	1881
Female	193



Emergency Response by Type – 2006/2007



Last updated 27 November 2013

Source: QFES website

CANTER FG 4x4

The Fuso Canter FG 4x4 is a truck that will surprise many with its off-capabilities.

With a 110kw/370Nm four-cylinder engine, the high riding Canter is high on the list of operators wanting a versatile, go-anywhere truck with a multitude of applications such as rural fire services, tankers, communications, electrical and survey work.

Of special interest to the fire service sector is Fuso's 'R84 option' that allows trucks used in these applications to be ordered without central locking, air bags or power front windows.

The 6,500kg GVM has a GCM of 10,000kg. The Canter 4x4 can also be de-rated to 4,500/8,000kg GVM/GCM so that it can be driven by anyone with a passenger car license.

The Canter 4x4s class leading tare weight allows for more payload as the Canter is over 200kg lighter than its major competitor.

Featuring a variable geometry turbocharger (VGT) and air-to-air inter-cooler in conjunction with Bosch common rail, direct fuel injection, power and torque is delivered across an extremely useful 2,840-3,500rpm and 1,350-2,840rpm respectively.

The engine is both Euro 5 emissions standard and EEV (environmentally enhanced vehicle). It meets this standard through the use of a diesel particulate filter (DPF).

Making the Canter 4x4 even more practical in off-road conditions is a five speed manual transmission and a new two-speed (high and low) transfer box.

The addition of low range adds more flexibility to the truck when traversing the sort of terrain one encounters when off the road. The low-range feature is an excellent addition to an extremely capable and efficient truck.

A hill start system prevents the truck from rolling backwards when taking off, a handy feature drivers' will really appreciate in steep terrain.

The Canter 4x4 utilises steel semi-elliptical leaf springs - front and rear – and double acting shock absorbers along with 17.5X6.0 steel rims and tubeless 215/75R17.5 tyres.

As for cabs, operators have a choice of two; a single cab and a crew cab. The single cab is mounted by way of a hydro-elastic four-point system while the crew cab utilizes isolated six point mountings. Both standard and crew cabs meet the stringent ECE-R29 cab strength standard.

Unlike the Canter 4x4s major competitor, both cabs are generously fitted out with a suspended driver's seat with a left hand armrest, lumbar support and weight adjustment while the two-passenger bench seat in both models folds flat.



The Canter 4x4 is not devoid of some of life's luxuries you expect these days. It comes with satellite navigation that shows, as part of a three-year update no-cost option, maps with heavy vehicle weight, length, height and hazardous material restrictions.

All of this is displayed in a 150mm (6.1 inch) LCD touch screen, Bluetooth connectivity, CD/DVD player and digital radio with both AM/FM and DAB+ and, last but by no means least, a USB port for external devices.

The LCD display can also accommodate up to three cameras, either internal or external.

Fuso has ensured there is no shortage of storage within the cab either. Dual overhead storage pockets, lockable storage under the crew cab's rear seats, in-dash document storage, door storage pockets and a dash storage tray provide plenty of places to stow paperwork, mobile phones and personal belongings.

Brakes comprise hydraulic dual circuit drums front and rear with auto' slack adjusters, ABS and EBD (electronic brake distribution) together with an exhaust brake.

Class leading service intervals are every 30,000km or 12 months but that may be reduced if the vehicle is subjected to severe operating conditions. A three year bumper to bumper warranty is offered which covers 100,000km or 2,000 operating hours (whichever comes first) and three-year cab perforation, anti-corrosion warranty. However, currently at time of writing, Fuso are offering an extended manufacturers' warranty of 5 years/200,000km or 4,000 hours.



INEX FLOOR™

INEX RENDERBOARD™

INEX WEATHERBOARD™

INEX DECKING™

INEX > BOARDS™

The high performance **INEX** range of construction materials from UBIQ is based on UBIQ's unique Low Carbon Fibre Reinforced Engineered Cementitious Composite (ECC) Technology.

- INTERNAL / EXTERNAL APPLICATION
- BAL-FZ FIRE RATED
- DOMESTIC / COMMERCIAL
- LIGHTWEIGHT / HIGH STRENGTH
- SIMPLE TONGUE & GROOVE SYSTEM
- HIGH IMPACT RESISTANCE
- EXCELLENT IN WET AREAS
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- HIGH ACOUSTIC PROPERTIES
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The Impact of Climate Change on the Way We Build

Introduction

In Australia, where bush fires and floods have caused devastation, ruin and fatalities, climate change has a lot to answer for.

From 1967 to 1999, the total cost of floods was estimated at \$10.4 billion,¹ a figure that is exclusive of the most recent 2011 disaster in South-east Queensland which caused \$2.38 billion in damage.²

As a result, the building and design industry are under pressure from building and home owners to create homes using materials that are capable of withstanding Australia's changing climate, whilst remaining energy and cost efficient. Additionally, the long-term consumer demand for higher levels of sound resistance and tightening Building Regulations has created a demand for improved acoustic performance.

Traditional materials used for wall cladding and flooring, such as timber, concrete and plasterboard, provide solutions for some of these problems but none provide solutions to all.

Floods, Fires and Failure

When making decisions on product selection and replacement, primary importance must be given to the role that a construction product plays in the sustainability of the whole building throughout its life-cycle. Whilst a wall material like plasterboard is popular because it is easy to install, lightweight and a cost effective alternative to traditional fibre cement or concrete panels, it is extremely absorbent. When it comes to moisture in the home, caused by condensation and leaks, to the more extreme cases of immersion caused by flooding, plasterboard weakens substantially.³

The impact building materials have on the environment, from manufacture to disposal, is a concern for all, especially

governments and consumers. Plasterboard is damaging to the environment and can therefore be difficult for the building owner to dispose of.⁴ Further down the line, this raises questions of whether the cost effectiveness of the product is worth the cost of disposal and the damage it causes to the environment.

By comparison, wall and floor materials such as timber, pose less risk to the environment but can be expensive, difficult to source and can increase construction time considerably. Timber strip flooring does not fare overly well in moist environments and can result in cupping or rotting of the floor boards.⁵ Additionally, in order to meet the highest Bush Fire Rating Level (BAL-FZ), timber systems used for external cladding must also incorporate moisture resistant fire-grade plasterboard.⁶

Another cause for concern in the building industry is increased population. As metropolitan areas continue to be built up to squeeze in residents, noise complaints and disputes between neighbours have increased as a result. To tackle this problem, heavy, cumbersome and expensive concrete panels can be used, but they take much longer to install and can incur a significant cost increase.

When Disaster Strikes

In the wake of adverse weather conditions, materials like plasterboard that absorb moisture, can promote rapid mould development, warp and distort upon drying and in the worst case scenario, where wall linings contribute to total bracing capacity of the house, leave the house more vulnerable to horizontal loading.⁷ In most cases, where plasterboard has been immersed, it will need to be completely removed and replaced.

In the case of fires, either externally or internally, materials used in lining ceilings and walls can have a major effect on the spread of fire and on its intensity within buildings. It is therefore crucial to select construction materials with this in mind, especially in light of recent bush fire tragedies.



“From 1967-1999, the total cost of floods was estimated at \$10.4 billion...”



“Blue Mountains residents found themselves out of pocket by as much as \$200,000, as the cost to re-build homes in line with new BAL ratings...”

In events as recent as 2013, where NSW homes were destroyed in bush fires, many Blue Mountains residents found themselves out of pocket by as much as \$200,000, as the cost to re-build homes in line with new BAL ratings for the area, were much higher than the payout they were given on their underinsured home.⁹ Insurance pay-outs or lack of, have become a major driving force behind consumers pushing for high performing building materials at an affordable price.

The Solution

The high performance INEX range of construction materials from UBIQ is based on UBIQ's unique Low Carbon Fibre Reinforced Engineered Cementitious Composite (ECC) Technology.

The INEX>BOARDS range of floor, wall and weatherboard products offer an innovative all-in-one solution to these unresolved issues. INEX boards are 100 per cent recyclable, lightweight and high-strength, making them easy on the environment and simple to install.

Most importantly, INEX>FLOOR, INEX>RENDERBOARD and INEX>WEATHERBOARD products are water, mould and termite resistant, as well as BAL FZ approved- the highest bushfire attack rating.

Aesthetically, INEX Boards exhibit a solid 'masonry feel' that can be used as a final finish, with a demonstrated acoustic attenuation of Rw +7, higher than that of standard plasterboard. UBIQ's INEX boards are an essential solution based building material for all applications where value, performance and sustainability are sought.

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8. Sheedy, Chris, 'What brokers need to know about bushfire areas', Insurance and Risk Professional, February 2014.



WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY, ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT, SECURITY, ENGINEERING PERFORMANCE AND RETAINED VALUE SUBARU IS SIMPLY A SMARTER WAY TO ADD VALUE TO YOUR FLEET.



DNA is what makes Subaru different from every other car in the world, it's what makes a Subaru a Subaru. It starts with the heart and soul of every Subaru – Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, a horizontally-opposed Boxer engine and the maximum five-star ANCAP occupant safety rating.

Together, our technical innovations and safety credentials combine to deliver performance, environmental credentials, enhanced safety and consistently strong retained value for every Subaru owner.

The Fleet and Corporate Sales team are ably equipped to support business clients with their vehicle purchase needs. Our Fleet and Corporate Sales message is a simple one.

We offer:

- Commitment to our customers;
- Engineering performance;
- Environmental commitment and continuous improvements;
- Enhanced security features;
- Active and passive Safety; and
- Renowned Retained Value.
- 3 year unlimited kilometre manufacturer's warranty¹.
- 3 year Roadside Assistance².

Subaru is simply a smarter Fleet choice.

OUR ALL-WHEEL DRIVE RANGE

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Designed to give you the capability and flexibility you need to run your business whether it be in the city or country. All new Generation features economical Stop-Start technology which makes it ultra fuel efficient. In fact, Lineartronic™ CVT transmission models produce less than 188 grams of CO₂ per km. Also available in a Diesel variant with manual transmission.

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Impreza is packed with cutting-edge features, technology and style. Different from the ground up, it's the small car with a totally new perspective. It features economical Stop-Start technology which makes it ultra fuel efficient. In fact, Lineartronic™ CVT transmission models produce less than 160 grams of CO₂ per km.

TRIBECA - SUV

This spacious seven-seat luxury SUV combines the agility of a passenger car with the adventure of AWD.

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XV - SUV

XV breaks the mould, blending exceptional SUV capability with exhilarating handling, innovative design and electrifying lines. It features economical Stop-Start technology which makes it ultra fuel efficient. In fact, Lineartronic™ CVT transmission models produce less than 160 grams of CO₂ per km.

1. See subaru.com.au/warranty for details. 2. 3 years Roadside Assistance Program is standard upon activation with relevant Motoring Club in each state, conditions apply.



Fleet &
Corporate





NEW Smoke Signals & Activate magazine available online

Two copies of our April issue of Smoke Signals and Activate magazine will be mailed out to all Rural Fire Brigade Secretaries and SES Groups later this month, but you can view it online now at rfbaq.org.

We are always on the hunt for stories for our Smoke Signals publications. So if your Brigade has a story, great pictures or a topic that you would like us to cover we would love to hear from you. Smoke Signals is a volunteer and Brigade publication, so submit your story by email or mail to 101A Mary Street, Gympie Qld 4570.

For all SES stories, please email support@rfbaq.org.



Our next
issue will be
out in
September
2015.

Auxiliary at Work



Photo Gallery



Old Queensland Firetrucks

This Willys Jeep Fire Appliance started life at Pomona, near Noosa, then made its way to Tewantin and then Cooran. Now in Qld Fire Museum at Petrie.

The Queensland Government supplied a number of these units to small rural towns in the late 1950's and early 60's.

The vehicle came into service around 1957 or 58, has an O'Hare Pump, and its motor is a 'Hurricane 6' side valve. The body was made by Enoggera Motor Body Works.



Eight people injured in truck explosion near Charleville

Rhian Deutrom, Tom Snowdon – The Courier-Mail September 06, 2014



Photo courtesy of @QldFES

EIGHT people — including five emergency services officers — have been injured in a truck explosion 30km south of Charleville overnight.

The truck, believed to be carrying about 50 tonnes of ammonium nitrate, was travelling along the Mitchell Highway at Wyandra around 9.50pm when it crashed and caught fire.

The combination of the chemical and diesel petrol caused the large explosion, which was reportedly felt up to 30km away.

Police have closed the highway and have set up an exclusion zone of about 1.5km around the blast site while they secure the area.

A police officer who attended the scene has described the disaster as like a “war zone”.

Senior-Sergeant Adrian Rieck said the blast caused “catastrophic damage” to roads and infrastructure in the vicinity of where it occurred.



A fire truck damaged in the explosion.

Photo courtesy QPS Media.

“It certainly resembled a bomb blast – like you would see in a war zone,” he said.

“There’s quite a significant blast radius there and it’s catastrophically damaged a bridge and rail infrastructure. It’s irreparable.”

Snr-Sgt Rieck said two passing truck drivers were the first people on scene after the vehicle rolled down a creek embankment.

Reports suggest the men worked to remove the startled driver to safety. Their efforts were helped by fires who attended the scene shortly after the incident occurred.

Snr-Sgt Rieck said a police officer noticed the fire trucks responding to the emergency and followed them into the scene as he radioed for assistance.

However, before he could reach the site, the ammonium nitrate had already mixed with the diesel, setting off the massive explosion and causing damage to his vehicle, despite it being about 1km away. The officer was treated for shock and minor injuries.

Snr-Sgt Rieck said more police officers attended the disaster shortly after that and were able to help remove the injured to safer ground.

“They’ve driven into the blast scene, risking their lives, to get those people to a safe area,” Snr-Sgt Rieck said.

Residents in Charleville, about 30km north of the blast site, said they felt the ground shake at the time of the explosion.

“We didn’t know what had happened,” one resident said.

"At first we thought someone had run into the house. We ran outside to see what happened but couldn't see anything.

"It definitely rattled the house."

The explosion also claimed two fire trucks, which were said to be virtually destroyed beyond repair.

Paramedics said the driver of the truck received burns to about 35 per cent of his body, including his chest, abdomen and lower limbs.

It is understood four fire fighters, a police officer and two bystanders were also injured in the explosion. However, their injuries have been described by paramedics as "not serious".

One of the bystanders was reported to be a 57-year-old male who received a suspected fractured hip.

A nearby bridge was also reported to have been demolished in the blast.

The eight patients were taken to the Charleville hospital but two were later transferred to the Toowoomba hospital and another two were flown to the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

Geoscience Australia also detected a 2.0 magnitude earthquake in the area, initially thought to be due to the reach of the explosion.

Locals have taken to online platforms to contact friends and family and offer support.

"Please may there be no casualties ... thoughts are with the truck driver," one local wrote.

Rae Griffin also extended support to the victims of the accident.

"My heart goes out to everyone that has been affected by this horrible accident in a small town," she said.

Patients suffered multiple fractures, lacerations, head and chest injuries and deep burns from the explosion.

The town of Charleville has only three ambulance officers but a spokesman from the Queensland Ambulance Service said they were assisted by other emergency service workers.



Damaged fire truck.

Photo courtesy QPS Media.

"Everybody works together in these serious situations, we had three officers from Charleville on scene as well as fire crews and police," the spokesman said.

A spokesman from Geo Science Australia confirmed that an earthquake occurred in the same area of the truck explosion just minutes before.

"An earthquake recorded earlier this evening at 10.12pm local time, 50km south of Charleville," the spokesman said.

The quake recorded a magnitude 2.0 which was unlikely to cause "any type of damage".

"We had about half a dozen reports of people contacting us via phone, email or the web to let us know that they had felt the quake."



The bridge near Wyandra which was destroyed when the truck exploded.

Photo courtesy Qld Police.



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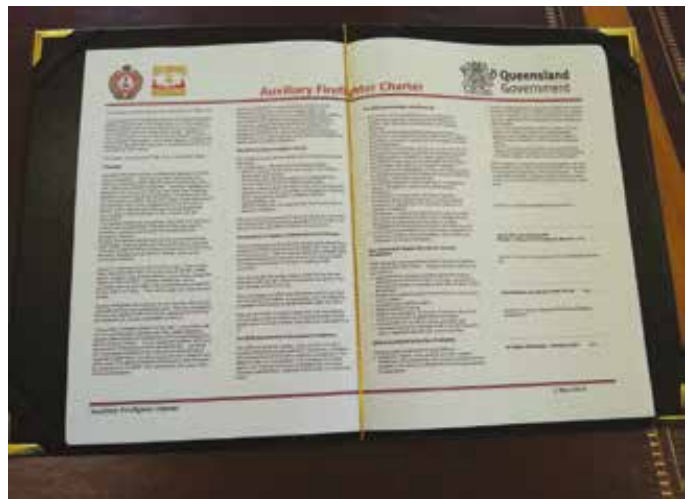
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Signing of Auxiliary Firefighter Charter





Auxiliary Firefighter

The Auxiliary Firefighter Charter was established on 6th May 2014.

The President of the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association (QAFA); Commissioner of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES); and the Honourable Minister for Police and Fire and Emergency Services, all signed the Charter "Agreeing to commit themselves to use and to apply this Charter in a spirit of mutual respect and goodwill, and to work together in that spirit to resolve any disputes that may arise in accordance with those key principles set down herein."

The Charter, as signed on 6th May 2014, is reproduced below.

Preamble

Auxiliary Firefighters provide a professional response to fire and other emergencies. There are currently 188 Auxiliary Fire stations, protecting communities throughout Queensland, with over 2000 active Auxiliary Firefighters. Auxiliary Firefighters are dedicated men and women who are paid, part-time firefighters located in communities across Queensland. In partnership with the community and QFES, they work to create a safer Queensland by providing a world class, professional Fire and Emergency Service, that is efficient and effective, servicing Queensland communities in the preservation of life, property and the environment.

The Auxiliary Firefighters provide their time, skills and training to protect lives and properties. They also actively promote fire prevention strategies and provide fire management and emergency response.

Auxiliary Firefighters attend structural and environmental fires, road crashes, chemical spills, and many other rescue scenarios. They also conduct building compliance inspections and community education activities and are active in disaster planning and community resilience.

Auxiliary Firefighters are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Many have jobs within the community such as farmers, trades people, teachers, stay-at-home parents, truck drivers, nurses and factory or office workers. Auxiliary Firefighters receive accredited training, and make a real and worthwhile contribution to their local community. They carry a pager and respond when needed.

Auxiliary Firefighters are supported by their families, their primary employers and the communities they serve. They are motivated to serve by the results of their contribution, personal achievements and development, and the camaraderie of service.

This Auxiliary Firefighter charter is to be read in conjunction with the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*, related legislation, relevant QFES policies and procedures, and the Queensland Public Service Code of Conduct. It is an agreement between QFES and the Auxiliary Firefighters and their representatives. Auxiliaries are fundamental to effective fire management and emergency response in Queensland, providing crucial services in Regional and Urban areas. The safety of Auxiliary Firefighters is, and will always be, paramount to the QFES. Their contribution and value in this role is acknowledged.

Auxiliary Firefighters' commitment to the protection of the Queensland community remains an integral part of the Government's response to our communities safety needs. Meeting the individual and collective interests and needs of Auxiliary Firefighters supports the safe and effective delivery of their services to the Queensland community. Consultation and engagement with them on issues that affect them as Auxiliary Firefighters, is an integral element of the relationship between the QFES, and the Auxiliary Firefighters.

The QFES Auxiliary Firefighter Charter

The Charter provides the framework for the relationship between the parties.

The relationship is informed by the following principles:

- Decision making is to be in the best interest of the safety of Queensland communities;
- Procedures are to be both practical and sustainable with a focus on efficiency and outcomes for Queensland;
- Decision making is to be founded on a fair, just and reasonable process and will include consultation and engagement between QFES management, Auxiliary Firefighters and their representatives; and
- Decision making will not inappropriately discriminate against Auxiliary Firefighters.

This is an enduring agreement to which all parties are committed. The Charter shall be reviewed by agreement of the parties or at the end of three years from its date of commencement.

The Auxiliary Firefighter's Commitment to its Partners

Auxiliary Firefighters will provide their services while maintaining a respectful and active partnership with QFES staff, other Agencies and the community. They will operate safely and undertake QFES accredited training and planning to ensure their personal safety and enhance the delivery of services in creating a safer community.

They will exercise the powers vested in them by the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990* and associated regulations in the best interests of the community.

They will engage with QFES both individually and through their representatives from QAFA, as appropriate, and will support the consultative mechanisms as agreed between QAFA and QFES.

They are committed to working respectfully with their partners and will seek to resolve differences of opinion through internal departmental channels wherever reasonable and practicable to do so.

The QFES Commitment to its Auxiliary Firefighters

The QFES will recognise, respect, value, promote and affirm Auxiliary Firefighters as core partners in the delivery of effective fire management and emergency response to Queensland. The QFES will take into consideration in its processes the diverse people who comprise its Auxiliary Firefighters and the widely divergent characteristics, needs and communities from which they come.



The QFES acknowledges and affirms its:

- Commitment to provide administrative, operational and infrastructure support to enable Auxiliary Firefighters to perform their roles safely and effectively within available resources;
- QFES will provide ongoing opportunities for Auxiliaries to participate in and complete accredited QFES training, enabling Auxiliaries to continue to support fire and emergency services across Queensland;
- Commitment, in partnership with the community and with the Queensland Government, to provide the necessary resources to enable Auxiliary Firefighters to deliver agreed services;
- Commitment to securing optimal advantage from the valued time provided to the QFES by its Auxiliary Firefighters;
- Commitment to the development of policy and implementation of change that supports and facilitates the Auxiliary Firefighters contribution, within their communities;
- Commitment to work in a timely way and in a collaborative manner with QAFA on matters which affect Auxiliary Firefighters;
- Commitment to consider fairly the views of Auxiliary Firefighters before adopting any new or changed policies, procedures or approaches which adversely impact on its Auxiliary Firefighters;
- Commitment, in partnership with the community, to provide the resources necessary to enable new or changed policies, procedures or approaches which impact on Auxiliary Firefighters to be implemented efficiently and effectively; and
- Commitment to provide fair and appropriate compensation in recognition of the on-call and hazardous nature of the work undertaken by Auxiliary Firefighters.

Non Operational Support Services for Auxiliary Firefighters

QFES recognises and respects the needs of Auxiliary Firefighters which derive from their service. Support services include but are not limited to:

- Legal assistance including protection against the financial consequences of extended litigation and legal representation following the delivery of services in good faith on behalf of the department;
- Procedures to address issues of discrimination in a fair, just and timely manner;
- Counselling and welfare support;
- QFES Accredited Training;
- Support and assistance for Auxiliary Firefighters who wish to pursue employment as QFES fulltime employees;
- Compensation for accidents, injuries and losses; and
- Insurance coverage for damage or loss to private equipment used in registered response and recovery activities.

QFES Commitment to Auxiliary Firefighters

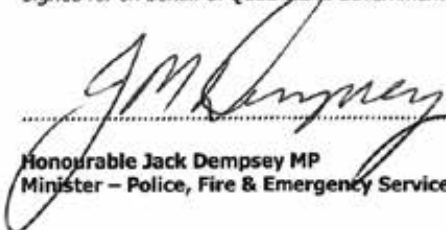
The Queensland Government through QFES will:

- Recognise, respect, value, promote and affirm Auxiliary Firefighters, their families and their primary employers as core partners in the delivery of effective fire and emergency services to Queensland;

- Ensure that QFES legislation recognises the needs and interests of Auxiliary Firefighters in the delivery of services and protects Auxiliary Firefighters, who provide their services in good faith, and their dependants from consequential financial losses and other liabilities;
- Consult with representatives of QAFA on matters that may impact upon Auxiliary Firefighters, including proposed legislation and the adequacy of resources and support, to enable Auxiliary Firefighters in QFES to deliver the agreed services;
- Reduce unnecessary administration where possible whilst maintaining legislative requirements and without diminishing the health, wellbeing and safety of Auxiliary Firefighters.

QFES and QAFA, on behalf of all Auxiliary Firefighters, will work collaboratively to give effect to the commitment to provide fair and appropriate compensation, training and support. This will include QFES and QAFA undertaking regular reviews of these conditions and ensuring that they are given the necessary legal status.

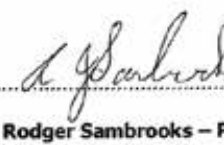
Signed for on behalf of Queensland Government by:


Honourable Jack Dempsey MP
Minister – Police, Fire & Emergency Services Date: 6/5/14.

Signed for on behalf of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services by:


Commissioner Lee Johnson AFSM FIFireE Date: 6/5/14

Signed for on behalf of Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association by:


Mr Rodger Sambrooks – President QAFA Date: 6/5/14

Memorandum of Understanding

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association

1. Purpose
2. Background and Objectives
3. Wage Increases
4. All Other Employment Conditions
5. Status of the Agreement
6. Ongoing Negotiations
7. Signatories to Agreement

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) is for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and Queensland Auxiliary Firefighter Association Inc (QAFA) to develop mutual understanding as described in the Auxiliary Charter Document, and to reflect agreement between QFES and QAFA on revised conditions of employment (Auxiliary Employment Conditions – Standing Order S)-Q-BM-3.7).

Background and Objectives

Since 1990, QAFA has had a relationship with QFES (and its predecessors) whereby QAFA has represented auxiliary firefighters' concerns in the workplace. QAFA was, in fact, formed by QFS in recognition of the need for such representation. In 2014, after long efforts to gain appropriate recognition, the Queensland Government, through Hon Jack Dempsey, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and QFES Commissioner Lee Johnson, signed a historic Auxiliary Charter Agreement with QAFA.

QAFA's objective is for a signed understanding with QFES to result in improved working conditions for Auxiliary Firefighters and to be able to continue to engage with QFES on matters of importance to auxiliary firefighters within the scope of this understanding.

Wage Increases

The parties agree that wage increases for Auxiliary Firefighters will continue to be linked to headline percentage increases to base wages, granted to full time staff for the life of QFES Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7.

All other Employment Conditions

Any amendments to existing conditions of employment contained within Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7 which are agreed between

the parties as described in this memorandum of understanding, shall be incorporated into formal amendments to the Standing Order.

Status of the Agreement

Both parties agree that this MOU is not a substitute for any legislative or industrial instrument and does not purport to prevail over such instruments to the extent of any inconsistency.

This MOU is subject to the principles expressed within the Auxiliary Charter.

Ongoing Negotiations

Any conditions being negotiated, but not yet finally agreed between the parties at the time of signing, shall be the subject of ongoing discussions at regular scheduled meetings.

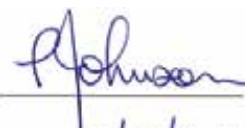
Once approved by the QFES Commissioner, Standing Order SO-Q-BM-3.7 will be amended to reflect the changes to any conditions.

When changes and amendments to SO-Q-BM-3.7 are proposed by QFES, QFES will consult with QAFA prior to the implementation of any changes.

Auxiliary Employment Conditions contained within SO-Q-BM-3.7 shall be reviewed on a regular basis, with the ideal review period not exceeding 3-year intervals.

• Signatories to Agreement

Lee A Johnson AFSM FIFireE
Commissioner


Date: 11/8/2014

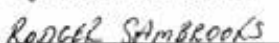
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

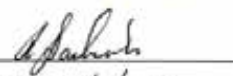
In the presence of:




Date: 11/8/2014

Signed for and on behalf of




Date: 15/8/2014

Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association

In the presence of:




Date: 15/8/2014

Training

QAFA has been a strong supporter of auxiliary training since the beginning of the Queensland Fire Service. We pushed very hard at the time for ATEP, which was supposed to be a development program through to Captain level, but this was never progressed.

Over time the fire service moved to competency based training, which was withheld from auxiliaries for many years. Due the persistence of QAFA, finally there is a training program in place which gives all firefighters the ability to get nationally recognised training through to a Certificate IV level. Certificate II is compulsory for all new recruits, and available to all existing firefighters.

Every auxiliary firefighter now has the opportunity to do 3 days at the Live Fire facility at Whyte Island, Brisbane. This is phase 2 of the Suppress Urban Fire competency, which is part of the Certificate III program. This is excellent learning, and fun ... every auxiliary should do this!

The old FATEP14 Tactical Incident Management for Auxiliary Officers is still available; it is still non-assessed, and now has prerequisite learning. Again, this is excellent learning conducted at the Live Fire facility. For the Live Fire program see the Auxiliary Training Calendar on DES portal.



Auxiliary Training Programs

FSCOE Auxiliary Firefighting Education

Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program (ARTEP)

Advanced Training for Auxiliary Firefighters (ATAP)

Office Training for Auxiliary Firefighters (OTAF)

Auxiliary Training Programs Prerequisite Table

Auxiliary Development Calendar

Enrolment Process for Auxiliary Training Programs



DAILY 4x4

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The Daily 4x4 leads the category with its combination of payload and off-road performance.

- The Daily 4x4 is built on a solid steel truck chassis, yet drives with the comfort of a car.
- Available in single or dual cab, with permanent all-wheel drive and a GVM up to 5.5 tonnes, the Daily 4x4 is a genuine off road vehicle.
- With front, centre and rear differential locks, 24 forward and 4 reverse gear ratios as standard, you can take the Daily 4x4 anywhere.

To experience the Daily 4x4 for yourself, call 1 800 4 IVECO to locate your nearest IVECO Dealer.

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Iveco with



Iveco Daily on duty with 'firies'

During fire season, Australia's rural firefighting bodies operate in some of the most dangerous and unforgiving conditions anywhere in the world. The teams of professional and volunteer firefighters may be amongst the most knowledgeable and best trained, but without the right equipment they can't perform at their peak. Aside from aerial water bombers such as 'Elvis', the next most important weapon for firefighting are ground appliances, namely tanker and pumper fleets.

Amongst vehicle fleets around the country are a selection of tough yet compact 4x4 trucks designed to conquer the roughest tracks and access locations full sized vehicles just can't get to.

Iveco's Daily 4x4 is one such vehicle that is ideal for these conditions – its narrow track coupled with generous payload and unequalled off road ability in its class, is seeing the model being put to work with many firefighting organisations around the country.

The Daily 4x4 is purpose-built for off road work and boasts GVM of up to 5.5 tonnes, towing capacity of up to 3.5 tonnes and front, centre and rear differential locks as standard, allowing the truck to crawl over just about any obstacle imaginable.

Available in single cab or dual cab variants (provides seating for the driver and crew of five), the Daily 4x4 is powered by a 3-litre turbo diesel engine producing 125 kW of power and a hefty 400 Nm of torque available from low rpm.

A manual transmission has long been the transmission of choice for serious off roaders largely due to the additional control provided, particularly on steep descents. The Daily 4x4 is equipped with a 6-speed synchromesh overdrive manual that offers slick and secure gear changes and gives the operator the ultimate level of vehicle control.

Unlike some other off road trucks that required manual engagement of the front hubs to activate four wheel drive, the Daily 4x4 is a fulltime four wheel drive, so there's no need to stop the vehicle and get out of the cabin when track conditions deteriorate.

The Daily's serious off road credentials are highlighted by the availability of front, centre and rear differential locks straight from the factory, ensuring all four wheels rotate in unison and provide high levels in traction no matter what the conditions. The diff locks can be quickly engaged by pushing dash-mounted switches.

An additional benefit of the Daily 4x4 is the availability of up to four power take-offs to drive external equipment via hydraulic pumps and cardan shafts.

Given the difficult conditions most Daily 4x4s will be operating in, the vehicle features a solid steel truck chassis with beams and cross members constructed from high strength tubular steel. The chassis package ensures that the vehicle can withstand the torsional stress and fatigue typical of extreme off road applications.

Front suspension is parabolic 3-leaf springs while the rear is fitted with parabolic 4-leaf springs, this is combined with telescopic shock absorbers and anti-roll stabilisers bars coupled to both front and rear rigid axles. The combination provides for excellent articulation and load carrying ability while not compromising on comfort.

The Daily uses front ventilated disc brakes and rear drums with ABS and Electronic Brake force Distribution (ABS disengages when the diff lock is activated).

User Profile

– Belgrave South Country Fire Authority

When Belgrave South CFA located in outer eastern Melbourne was looking for a capable 4x4 to undertake fire line work, it was difficult for long-term brigade volunteer, Aaron Carlton, to go past the Daily. As well as having served 30 years' with the CFA – several of which were as brigade captain – Aaron has owned and operated a 4x4 mechanical service and modification workshop for over 20 years. This combination of experience places him in an ideal position when it comes to vehicle selection.

The brigade's Daily 4x4 is fitted with a customised SEM fire and rescue body that includes a 700 litre tanker coupled to a PTO-driven pump capable of moving 850 litres per minute. Other features of the body include ample storage areas for equipment such as chainsaws and other hand tools.

Despite having only been in service for three months, Aaron said that the Daily proved itself on its first outing.

"On its inaugural call-out we had to get to a hard, difficult-to-access location, it was very steep and when we arrived we had to pump water through six lengths of hose, the appliance worked very well," he said.

"The Daily comes standard with a great driveline that requires no modification. We made some adjustments to the shock absorbers to better handle the high centre of gravity load but not much else was needed."

"The vehicle's compact dimensions also mean it's great off road and can easily handle the rough and narrow tracks we often have to cover."

As well as for directly fighting fires, Aaron said that the Daily is also a great all-round vehicle.

"It's ideal as a people mover for us as well, we use it on training nights and for change over crew movements," he said

"The Daily has already proven itself and the decision to acquire one has been well justified."



Focus on the Regions

Tropical Far Northern has four commands: Cairns or Central, North, South and West. There are only two stations without auxiliaries, Cairns and Smithfield. We have an isolated auxiliary station off the tip of Cape York at Thursday Island, with two appliances and support from a permanent station officer. At our extreme south, we have an auxiliary station at Cardwell – an area heavily impacted by Cyclone Yasi. To the west, we have stations like Herberton and Ravenshoe, auxiliary stations with large i-zone areas.

The western Tablelands has two composite stations, Atherton and Mareeba. The coastal zone experiences many road accidents on the Bruce Highway, cane fires and swiftwater rescues (often tourists caught out underestimating tropical flooding).

Cairns station has a large training facility adjacent, co-housed with Training & Emergency Management (the commercial arm

of QFES). Far Northern was the first to conduct the two week ARTEP utilising these facilities, which include a gas prop for a live fire experience. Regional auxiliary trainers teach the full suite of courses available, including First Aid, ARTEP, Driver Training, Pumps, PPV & TIC, Electrical De-energising and Road Crash Rescue.

One of the good, and bad things, about our region is its isolation from Brisbane. Although a small region in terms of auxiliary numbers, with just over 250, the region generally is innovative, self-reliant and the various agencies and organizations work well together. The tropical forest, amazing rivers and the barrier reef attract many tourists to the region, and we love living here too.

Far Northern QAFA representative, Rene van Raders, Malanda Station (rvanraders@qfes.qld.gov.au)



Malanda Flooding and Community Disaster Centre

Malanda auxiliaries have worked with Tablelands Regional Council in the development of a Community Disaster Plan for our town. Under the plan, the fire station provides a point of contact for communications/information and provides a deputy coordinator.

The centre provides sitreps to council (and LDMG), and of course, QFES. During the recent flooding, the second highest in recent memory, 9 houses and 2 businesses were inundated by the North Johnstone River, and 14 wash-downs were done to assist the local community.



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Welcome home to Oaks



Emergency Services Volunteers

Courtesy Mr Bryan Cifuentes – Acting Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Volunteers

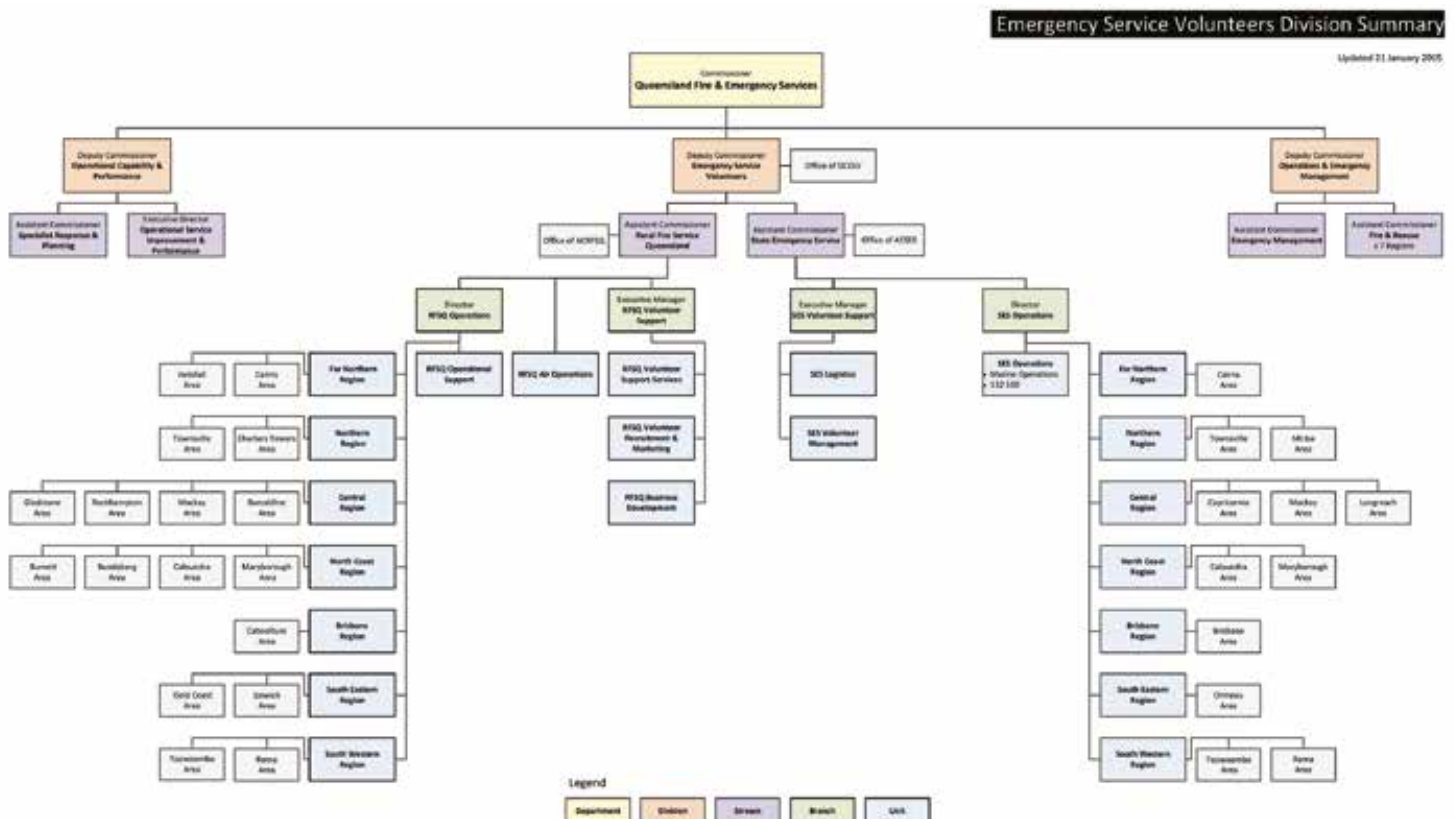
The Emergency Service Volunteers Division, along with the Operational Capability and Performance (OCP) Division and Operations and Emergency Management (OEM) Division, form part of the new structure under Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES).

QFES is a unique mix of over 35,000 Rural Fire Service Queensland volunteers, 5,900 State Emergency Service volunteers, approximately 2,200 permanent firefighters, more than 2000 auxiliary firefighters and supported by non-operational administrative support staff.

The ESV is responsible for providing overall strategic leadership, direction and support to the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ), the Queensland State Emergency Service (QSES) and associated marine rescue volunteer

agencies, including Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA), Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ), Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ). Total number of marine rescue volunteers supported is approximately 35,200.

The Division has a significant focus on volunteer partnerships, management and development, and provides high quality services, support and advice; thereby ensuring outstanding organisational performance and safer communities across Queensland. The outcome is a partnership in which the community is aware of, accepts ownership, and is able to manage and respond to risks to the maximum possible extent utilising the resources available from within the community.



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The use of a Bushmans water storage tank can be vitally important in aiding the protection of saving lives, communities, businesses and buildings. There are many locations and operations that require water storage to be available for fire fighting. The water stored in a tank is often the only water available where the location is remote and not connected to reticulated water.

Typical Applications

- Storage of water for use in fire protection in rural areas
- Storage of water in industrial facilities for use in fire fighting
- Water storage for use by the rural fire authorities

When installing a water tank for fire protection there are guidelines and fittings that must be included to ensure the tank and fittings setup is suitable for the application.

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- Bushmans tanks are simply and easily installed

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For more information visit www.bushmansindustrialtanks.com.au. BUSHMANS is an Australian owned company and has stood the test of time manufacturing plastic moulded tanks since 1989.



Fire Fighting Water Storage Considerations

**Did you know that over 50%
of all new sheds do not have a water tank installed!**

Readily available water is critical for successful firefighting!

So it is important to know that water stored around your property can be used to assist fire fighters.

Installation:

The installation of water tanks around the house and shed in regional areas allows rural fire fighters to quickly refill their tankers and get back to the job of putting out fires that pose a huge risk to people and property, especially in times of heat and drought.

Tank Fittings:

One of the keys to having available water for fire trucks and crews is to have the Stortz specialist fittings installed into the tank. These fittings allow the fire trucks' filling hoses to connect directly to the tank which enables fast filling of the tanker. The tanks can also be fitted with a vortex inhibitor which will help maximise the flow of water out of the tank.

Access:

Once the water tank is installed, it is important to ensure there is easy access to the tanks. The area next to the tanks should be able to accommodate two appliances or trucks with suction hose connections at a time.

It is important to keep the area around the tank clear of any vegetation or foliage that could ignite and block access to the tank during a fire. Regular maintenance and clearance of the areas around the tank should be undertaken. This access and clearance speeds up the refilling process and makes the site safer for the fire fighters.

How Much Water Should I Store:

If your property is in a higher bushfire risk zone you may want to consider connecting the tank to dedicated fire hoses or setting up a sprinkler system to protect your property. Remember if you do install a tank, a minimum of 10,000 litres is required.

Any tank that holds less than 10,000 litres of water will be insufficient to fill a fire truck or to be used around the house or other buildings. The hoses and fittings used should be able to withstand being dragged through an active fire.

If a tank is being installed for both firefighting water and for use around the property then a larger tank should be selected. The tank fittings can then be arranged to ensure there will always be water available for firefighting.

For example, a 30,000 litre tank could be installed where 20,000 litres is available for use around the property and 10,000 litres for fighting fire

Bushmans has a long term commitment to rural and regional Australia, having operated in these regions since 1989. Our manufacturing plants are in regional Australia and we have been proudly supporting the rural fire fighting service for over 26 years. Bushmans manufactures a wide range of water tanks for firefighting and their range includes tanks specifically made for industrial applications.

**For more information contact Bushmans on
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Above: Actual heat/fire damaged vehicles

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Firefighters risk their lives to save others, now who's saving theirs?

Hello, my name is Steve Bunney; I am the Director of The Firefighter Cancer Foundation Australia (FCFA). The FCFA is a registered not for profit charity (ABN 21 839 546 036). The FCFA is the first point of call for firefighters and their family members when a diagnosis of cancer is received.

The FCFA is currently helping a number of firefighters who have been stricken with cancer. Cancer that we believe they obtained from their occupation, these are Furies who may live and work in your area.

It is the objective of the FCFA to meet all requests by firefighters and their family members during this distressing time by providing ongoing support and assistance including but not restricted to, aid with hospital appointments, accommodation and everyday needs etc. We as an organisation also actively lobby for recognition of these work related illnesses and partner with organisations to make a difference to 'ALL' firefighters health and wellbeing.

The Deputy Commissioner of QFES has given special provision for ALL QLD firefighters to wear the Firefighter Cancer Foundation Australia pink t-shirts instead of the normal QFRS blue station wear t-shirts to help highlight the campaign of Cancer awareness for all QLD Firefighters in the month of September 2014.

To facilitate the "Real Furies wear pink" campaign a success, the FCFA is seeking to partner with the QAFA, to alert Auxiliary firefighters to the real unseen dangers of our occupation. As a long time campaigner for "presumptive legislation" I know that an organisations focus can become entrenched in achieving legislation for occupational diseases. Sadly due to our occupation, Firefighters are still being stricken with these types of disease and illness regardless of any legislation. It is only then do we realise that the only affirmative action that can save people's lives is their own Pro-action.

The "Real furies wear pink" campaign is an fantastic opportunity to raise awareness amongst the ranks of all firefighters but also alerts the general public as to the link that exists between the occupation of Firefighting and Cancer.

The FCFA has the QFES approved pink station wear t-shirts and a PINK polo shirt for anyone who wants more formal attire to actively support the campaign. All the money raised will goes directly to assist firefighters and their family's during the biggest battle of their life.

I urge all firefighters to put on the "pink" in September as spread the message "Real Furies wear pink".
I'll be in the Pink have you got what it takes to join me.

www.firefightercancer.org.au





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Legal Protection for Queensland Government Employees

Whats happening?

Queensland Government employees will be better protected from being sued for doing their duty

Legislative amendments passed by Parliament on 11 February 2014 will see the government accept liability for civil action taken against its employees.

This strengthens the 300 different types of protection currently offered to government employees.

Employees will also have clear guidelines for receiving indemnities and legal assistance if they are involved in criminal proceedings, inquiries and investigations related to their work.

When?

The changes take effect from March 31, 2014.

What does it mean for me as a government employee?

You will have automatic legal protection from being sued as long as you are:

- acting in good faith
- without gross negligence.

You will no longer need to apply for indemnity and legal assistance if you are sued.

The new protections support the public service values of empowering government employees to be innovative and proactive in delivering services and putting their customers first.

Read about the public service values

How will this work in real life?

Joe Bloggs works with a customer with complex needs. Joe identifies that the customer would greatly benefit from a service provided by another department. Joe sends an email to a contact in the other department, providing information about his customer to get advice on whether he/she would be eligible for the service. The email was intended to include only de-identified information, but Joe inadvertently included the customers name. The customer later sued Joe Bloggs for breach of privacy. Under the new protection, Joes department takes responsibility for his action.

Jane Smith is a paramedic who, in the course of her work, has to give cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) to a patient who is in cardiac arrest. In the process of saving the patients life, Jane breaks the patients rib. Under the new protections, if the patient sues Jane for breaking the rib, the government takes responsibility.

More information:

Contact your human resources team.

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Employee Number:	Shirt Size:
Shirt Size:	
Membership:	☐ January to July 2015 – \$60 ☐ January to December 2015 – \$120
Credit Card	☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Cardholder Name:
Card Number: _____	
Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____	
Signature: _____	
Direct Bank Transfer	Bank: Bendigo Bank Name: Qld Auxiliary Firefighters Association BSB: 633-000 Account No.: 150285419
By completing this application, I agree to abide by the rules of the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc., and remain a financial member of the Association by payment of the subscription as set by the Management Committee of the Association from time to time unless my written resignation is received by the Secretary of the said Association.	

QAFA MEMBERSHIP

Membership of Queensland Auxiliary Firefighter Association Inc is available to Auxiliary Firefighters across Queensland.

If yours is a new application, or if you are renewing your membership, our preferred process is via our website www.qafa.asn.au.

Simply go to the website and click on the new member or renewing member tabs (yellow and green) at the top of the home page and follow the prompts. Payment can be made by secure credit card payment or by direct deposit into our bank account.

As an alternative, please complete the form above and mail to Secretary. After making payment, please email reference details to QAFA.

The Secretary, Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc. – 28 Goodchap Street, Tewantin 4565. Email: admin@qafa.asn.au

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