

## **ROLL OUT PROGRAM:**

In the 12 months since commencement of the roll out program, approximately 1,600 members have been measured and 2,500 ensembles issued to 1,000 fire fighters.

The contracted garment supplier (Stewart and Heaton) has experienced two major fabric supply interruptions;

- Liquidation of key fabric supplier, Melba Textiles -

The sole Australian weaver of both PBI Gold and Nomex 3D Lime Green outer shell fabrics entered into voluntary liquidation, followed by eventual outright sale to Bruck Textiles in June of this year. This situation severely impacted the immediate supply of outer shell fabrics, particularly PBI Gold, and caused significant finished garment supply disruptions.

- Global supply shortage of Gore Airlock moisture barrier -

Major global supply chain issues arose during May 2009 due to the bankruptcy of a specialist process supplier to the manufacturer of Airlock moisture barrier. This situation is yet to be fully rectified with only limited quantities of Airlock being shipped from Germany. A full return to normal production is not expected until August.

CFA continues to work closely with Stewart & Heaton to maximise garment production and delivery performance during local and international events of such significance.

To better align the measuring program with actual garment deliveries, the measuring program has been temporarily suspended. It is planned for the second round measurement program (Brigades 56 – 100) to recommence in Region 14 within the next two months.

## **FIRE STATION STORAGE:**

The PPC project has procured a quantity of modular shelving units to assist the storage of spare sets of PPC at brigade locations. Provision of the shelving units will not be automatic, but based on demonstrated need. Regional Coordinators are providing consolidated requirement lists to the project office. The PPC project is not funded to provide fire station specific storage solutions.

## **UV LIGHT MITIGATION:**

Due to the UV sensitivity of the new garments, surveys will be undertaken across 500 fire stations to assess the levels of exposure of stored garments. Work is progressing well with over 340 locations surveyed and location specific mitigation strategies developed. Mitigation options range from protective film on glassed areas, UV rated door strips, diffusers on skylights and fluorescent lights to no action required. Trials of all different mitigation strategies have been undertaken to assess their suitability and acceptance. UV mitigation work has been undertaken on over 90 sites and continues to progress across the state.

## **Further information:**

The PPC Project office provides updates to Structural PPC Regional Coordinators, Brigades On-Line, CFA Connect and *The Fireman* newspaper. Both Brigades On-Line and CFA On-Line have new Structural PPC information pages. If additional information is required the Structural PPC Project can be contacted on **1800 112 528** or at [structure.ppc@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:structure.ppc@cfa.vic.gov.au).