

The OH&S Committee last met a week after the last VFVB meeting and the next meeting is this coming week so any issues need to be with me by Monday 14/2/11. Issues discussed at the last meeting, distribution and measuring of structure gear, new firefighting appliances, the coming cold weather jackets for non firefighting incidents, safety instruction prior to training exercises, and the return of spare vehicles with missing gear.

At the OH&S Facilitators meeting held on the 7/2/11 at Montrose the following issues were raised, firstly from from business arising from the previous meeting.

1. Correct use of structure gear — some mix and match has been reported.
J.F
2. All MFB now supplied with wildfire gear — Montrose.

New business raised from the meeting

1. Ambos attended 14 ladder incidents (not fire service related) as a result of the recent storms including one death, extreme caution should be taken with unstable surfaces in these conditions.
2. Hep B, ensure all members are up to date, contact catchment officer.
3. Possibility of vols coming under Workcare in the future Montrose asked about who will cover any cost for rep training if it occurs— presumably the CFA.
4. Increase in female membership requires toilets and changing facilities, as a result of previous experience concern if we pay who will be responsible for the maintenance. Gruyere Not strictly an OH&S issue however brigade to discuss with Catchment Officer and I will bring it up at the committee meeting.
5. Can the OH&S Committee minutes be sent to the Facilitators— Kalorama. I will check with the Committee JF
6. Planned new brigade owned vehicle— Kalorama. Go through Catchment Officer. Be wary of going without approval as the project may well not pass final inspection.
7. Ex member injured 3—4 months ago is now claiming Sth Warrandyte—Be sure to record and save all records. Hazard and Incident report forms should be on the safety board for all to access.
8. Three OH&S incidents in the last few months more care needed. Sam Ryan and the CFA have been very supportive to those involved— Warburton Minutes show current forms to use.
9. What options for cold weather coats—Kallista —Hillcrest reports Highvis jackets with CFA logo will keep the weather out, information on Brigades on Line
10. With the new radios what happens with the intercom.—Kalorama— It is

a separate system however all questions should be directed to the radio training teams.

11. Funding to motorise the station doors due to weight has been reversed— Belgrave— JF will take to committee.
12. Favorable comment on page on contaminated water hopes any future similar problems will be advised by pager— Lilydale.
13. Plastic couplings will be removed as of 6 Feb. New vehicles will not be supplied with them.— Rangers Group.
14. Need more drinking water but not available — Macclesfield.— Should be available contact Catchment Officer. Refer back to JF
15. This is the second time 'H2O' water has been recalled last in 2006. — Little Yarra —This was contaminated not out of date. JF

Any of the above issues that were not resolved at the Facilitators meeting will be taken to the OH&S Committee Meeting set for the 15/2/11

What did come out at this meeting is that some brigades are still using outdated Hazard and Incident forms Every Brigade has been issued with the current forms. Your Facilitators have the information, please check with them. Archive any used forms, this may help with future claims relating to old injuries.

John Felstead.
OH&S Delegate