Working together to save lives
Road crash rescue and medical response
Fire Services Review: Advocating for a clear road map

The UFBA continues to support the Government’s overall reform goals for New Zealand’s fire services. We intend to play a constructive and positive role in the reform process while at the same time ensuring the reforms are in the best interests of the communities served by volunteers and of the volunteers themselves.

Full day Board workshop

On 8 March, the UFBA convened a full day workshop of the Board to consider a report prepared by UFBA Director Bill Butzbach and consultant Murray McKee on the progress of the review from our members’ point of view and to identify matters of importance in the work to date.

We believe following this course will enable us to assist the Review Team—a group of representatives from the Government, NZFS, National Rural Fire Authority (NRFA) and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)—during the transition design phase to a new fire service.

Clear road map required

At this stage, many of the proposals on policy issues have a low level of definition, rather than a precise road map with specific routes, waypoints and milestones.

We have engaged with the Review Team in the lead-up to the preparation of Cabinet papers on high level policy decisions, and we have strongly indicated that detailed policy work is required before the UFBA can form comprehensive views on the merits or otherwise of many of the reform proposals.

We will continue to contribute during the next phase of detailed transition design planning, which affects how the high level policy decisions will be deployed.

Responsibility for the more detailed work will shortly pass from the Review Team to the Board of the new fire service entity.

A voice for volunteerism

Under the current model of engagement, volunteers are engaged by their local brigade on conditions set out in the brigade’s rules of association.

We consider this engagement model is central to the ethos of volunteerism, community resilience and local participation. I assure you the UFBA plans to assess the full implications of any changes for volunteers.

We intend to work with the new Fire Services Review transition team to ‘flesh out’ the detail of an engagement model that will work for all parties including our member brigades and rural fire forces.

The UFBA is encouraged by the many positive sentiments expressed by the Government including the need to retain the identity and role of local fire services and for volunteers to still come together in ways much like brigades and rural fire forces do under the current structure.

However, we do seek to understand how these sentiments will be given practical effect in the reforms. The UFBA will continue to provide a strong strategic voice for the cause of volunteerism.

UFBA welcomes new Fire Service Commission Board

The Minister of Internal Affairs Hon Peter Dunne has announced the appointment of the Hon Paul Swain as Chair of the New Zealand Fire Service Commission Board with effect from 1 April 2016.

The UFBA is delighted with the appointment of Mr Swain as Chair. He has a good understanding of the issues facing our fire services and, in particular, the matters that affect volunteer firefighters.

Of note is Mr Swain’s role as Chair of the 2012 Fire Review Panel that recommended changes to New Zealand’s fire services including to legislation, funding and the mandate regarding non-fire services brigades now provide.

On 17 March, Minister Peter Dunne announced the members of the Board who will join Mr Swain—Dr Nicola Crauford, Peter Drummond, Te Arohanui Cook and current member Angela Hauk-Willis.

The UFBA Fire Services Review Submission made in July 2015 asked for legislation to require the appointment of at least one person to the Board who is well qualified and experienced in volunteer matters.

We are pleased with the appointment of Peter Drummond. He has extensive experience with the matters that affect volunteer firefighters and was a member of the 2012 Fire Review Panel.

Peter was Chair of the United Fire Brigades’ Association for five years. This involvement will have provided pertinent insights and understanding into how our advocacy organisation represents the interests of member brigades and rural fire forces and the impact of our strong ‘collective voice’.

Te Arohanui Cook is Principal Rural Fire Officer for Central Hawke’s Bay District Council. Her understanding of issues relating to our rural colleagues will be of great value as we transition to a new unified fire services organisation.

Dr Craford has been appointed as Deputy Chair. She has strong governance skills, knowledge of the volunteer and rural fire sectors and fire engineering experience.

Angela Hauk-Willis has been re-appointed for two years. She has held senior change management and governance roles.

We thank the Rt Hon Wyatt Creech, David McFarlane, Rangi Wills and Vicki Caisley for the contributions they have made while serving on the Commission and for their support of our firefighters.

The UFBA looks forward to working with Mr Swain and the new Board as we continue to represent the interests of our members during the review.

To keep up-to-date with the Fire Services Review visit www.dia.govt.nz/Fire-Services-Transition or www.ufba.org.nz/fire_services_review/actions
The Fire Service has recently developed a medical first responder badge, to recognise those firefighters who are qualified to deliver medical first response.

This is an important initiative as firefighters attend more than 9000 medical callouts every year.

Paul Turner, NZFS Strategic Management Advisor Medical Response, says the badge has been well received by those qualified to wear it, and other brigade members are looking forward to the training to enable them to wear the badge.

What does the badge mean?
The Māori translation is:
- Ringa: Hand
- Whakahauora: Rescue or to give life
- Tuatahi: First

So the badge means: the first helping hand to rescue or give life.

Paul says the badge will be available on the workwear group shortly for those volunteers who have qualified to wear it.

“If you’re a volunteer who’s completed the course, your CFO will be able to order the badge for you,” he says.

How do you qualify to wear the badge?
If you’ve successfully completed the St John four day First Responder course, you’re eligible to be medical first responders. Ongoing clinical education is provided by St John and this is eight hours every six months.

Being a first responder means you’re an adequately qualified resource that’s dispatched to provide patient care, until a more qualified ambulance resource arrives to continue the management of the patient.

At the moment, the badge is only for Fire Service personnel in accordance with the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with St John. However, the NZFS is working with Rural and St John to align Rural to the agreement.

Who can complete the course?
The First Responder courses are being delivered only to the 56 Brigades listed as First Responders in the agreement with St John. In December 2014, the Fire Service and St John signed the MOU, formalising changes to practices since the two organisations signed their first such agreement in 2005.

The changes related mainly to the introduction of a co-response service to supplement the first-response service provided by the two organisations. The purpose of the revised agreement is faster response times and better outcomes for patients.

For more information on the Medical Response work being done with St John, refer to the NZFS Firenet section or contact Paul Turner on 09 354 5138 or paul.turner@fire.org.nz

UFBA involvement
From Nigel Lilley, UFBA Director, CFO Rolleston Volunteer Fire Brigade

The UFBA along with the NZPFU has been fully involved with the Enhanced Medical Response Working Group from the start, initially under the guidance of Brian Butt, later replaced by Paul Turner seconded to the position to work on it full time.

The public are often startled when a ‘big red truck’ arrives, often before the ambulance. We decided at a steering group meeting that ‘fireys’ had to be recognised at a medical event.

We jointly came up with the idea of a patch to be worn on the uniform. Paul agreed and took it to the boss. National Commander Paul Baxter fully supported the idea, and even took it one step further—he decided that we’d also brand the trucks.

As well as serving its purpose to show the public we’re medically trained, the badge will be useful at the likes of a motor vehicle accident. An ambulance officer can quickly identify our additional skill set and put it to use to assist them if need be.

It’s long and hard work educating the public around Fire Service first and co-response, but we’ll get there.
Following outstanding Regional Challenges in Westport and Whanganui, competitors at the UFBA National Firefighter Combat Challenge took full advantage of Wellington’s superb weather and a fast track to set many new personal bests. First timers also made their mark.

**Regional Challenges**

Westport were fantastic hosts for the South Island event on 5 December, working hard to make sure the show went well. It was not surprising no one could catch Steven Maw and the Canterbury teams. However, with 27 competitors new to the Challenge, we had some surprises with a number of first timers ranking in the top three of their categories.

Steven (Southbridge) took the Open Male title. First time competitors UFBA Vice President Alan Kittelty and Hayley Rossiter (Darfield) took out first place in the Co-ed Tandem category. Hayley also shined in the Open Women’s competition where she took first place.

Hosted by Whanganui in conjunction with their 150th year celebrations, the North Island event on 27 February was the largest Firefighter Combat Challenge ever held in New Zealand. We had 105 individuals registered, with a total of 130 people competing including a massive 55 new competitors.

These numbers exceeded those usually attending Nationals, which are held over two days. The Whanganui Committee was tireless and along with an early start and the hard work of Officials, we completed the Challenge in one day.

Dave Shaw (Te Awamutu) took the top place for the Open Male while Kathleen Penny (Bulls) won Open Female.

**Nationals**

Spectacular weather on the Wellington waterfront set a wonderful stage for the Nationals on 18-19 March. Hosted together with the Wellington Provincial Fire Brigades’ Association, the two adrenalin-packed days thrilled competitors, their supporters and a large contingent of public spectators.

Ed Jackman (Cust) took the top placing in the Open Male from his good friend Steven Maw with Dave Shaw third (he ranked first in the Over 40 Male). Sean Jackman won the Over 50 Male category while ‘Uncle Tom’ Reid again claimed the Over 60 Male title.

At her first time at the Nationals, Hayley Rossiter blitzed the field to take the Open Female title followed by Kat Penny and Amelia Wood (Lincoln). Tanja Grunwald won the Over 40 Female category.

**Lion’s Den awards**

Outstanding competitors who meet the time criteria at regional or world championships join the elite club known as the Lion’s Den. We congratulate the three Kiwis who qualified at this year’s UFBA National Firefighter Combat Challenge.

The first recipient of the highly sought-after Lion’s Den medal was Neil Gardiner (Takaka). Needing to complete the course in 2:00 minutes or less for the Over 40 Male category, his time was 1:58.29.

At her first time at the Nationals, Tanja Grunwald (Whanganui) was installed into the Lion’s Den with her time of 3:18.80, easily beating the 3:30 time required for the Over 40 Female section.

Just a couple of runs later, Hayley Rossiter entered the track. She smashed the Lion’s Den requirement of 3:00 for the Open Female category, punching out an impressive time of 2:44.41.

**Event continues to grow**

Our thanks to all the host committees, Officials, Technical Panel and Challenges Committee for supporting this year’s UFBA Firefighter Combat Challenge season and ensuring all three events were such a success.

We also salute the competitors and their brigades for their commitment to the months of gruelling training needed to compete in this physically demanding Challenge. We were thrilled to see so many newbies take part and succeed. It’s encouraging to have a 50% growth in the Challenge, which is attracting more and more competitors each year.

With the continued support of the Fire Service, the UFBA is meeting our aims of building the fitness of our firefighters and demonstrating the rigours of the profession to the public.

We’re now into planning the 2017 season with the national event set down for late April in Wellington.

For the results of our Regional and National Firefighter Combat Challenges see www.ufba.org.nz/news/2016_UFBA_firefighter_combat_challenge
The 2016 UFBA Road Crash Rescue Challenge season is not far away.

The season in New Zealand starts with a South Island Challenge in Milton on 15-16 April and then the North Island Challenge in Greytown from 30 April-1 May. Registration is now closed for these two events but is still open for the National Challenge in Inglewood, Taranaki on 19-21 May.

These three events this year will lead to three successful teams travelling to the Australasian Road Rescue (ARRO) Challenge in July.

The ARRO challenge will once again be held in Warragul (just outside Melbourne) and is a fantastic opportunity for our teams to test their skills on a wider arena and learn new technical skills.

New teams welcome

New teams are welcome to all of our challenges. We still have capacity in the National Programme to accept new teams that did not attend an Island Challenge. You don’t have to be an expert team or provide your own gear. And it’s a great opportunity to meet other rescue teams and to talk and learn about techniques and skills.

Trauma Challenge

A growing part of the RCR Challenge is the Trauma Challenge. In this separately scored Challenge, teams of two medics test their skills in ‘live’ scenarios. Although dummies are sometimes used, most of the scenarios use real people so you have the added test of dealing with actual people expressing emotions and pain in ways that you cannot get with a static dummy. There is no better way to practice your skills.

Criteria for entering

To enter a team, all you need is brigade or rural fire force membership to the UFBA, a team of six, some knowledge of how to use extrication gear and some basic medical experience.

Register now for the 2016 UFBA National Road Crash Rescue Challenge in Inglewood, 19-21 May at www.ufba.org.nz/events/list/category/rcr_challenge

“Massive thank you to the UFBA for putting on such a well organised event, also to all the officials over the weekend who made things run smoothly and efficiently. Awesome effort from all competitors who created an environment where the bar was set incredibly high.”

Hayley Rossiter, Darfield
Three New Zealand Fire Service USAR teams provided disaster relief in Fiji following the catastrophic Cyclone Winston on 20 February.

Deployed in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and the Ministry of Health, NZFS USAR teams Alpha and Charlie traversed the coastline from Suva to Rakiraki and Fiji’s second-largest island Vanua Levu. Bravo Team operated from HMNZS Canterbury into the Northern Lau Group of islands.

All three teams received high praise from the Prime Minister of Fiji for conducting more than 100 damage assessments, and restoring hospital or village water supplies to help Fijians return to normalcy. Young Fijians have also been able to return to school, thanks to Fire Service USAR teams who have rebuilt or repaired 13 schools with building materials supplied by the NZDF.

Magirus prototype purchase

In recent years, the Fire Service has built a number of prototype vehicles, for example the Light Response Vehicles and most recently the Type 1 4WD.

Mike Moran, Fire Service Fleet Manager, says the key elements when considering this new appliance, were innovation and automation.

“The work we do is changing and the mix of incidents we attend make it important to source appliances that suit both our current and future needs,” says Mike.

The Fire Service has purchased a one-off prototype. It is a fully built-up appliance from Europe—Magirus HLF 10—built on an Iveco cab chassis. The delivery date is October 2016.

Why are we trialling the Magirus?

Buying an off the shelf appliance that’s used by European fire services, gives us the chance to look at trialling certain operational features.

In particular, we’re interested in the pump control system, the custom crew cab and the equipment layout and locker features. These are notable differences from our current appliances.

Where will it be trialled?

The appliance will be trialled by a number of brigades, locations to be determined. We realise there is a need to get a wide range of feedback from operational personnel on the appliance features.

After the trial, the appliance will be at a station. All the lessons learnt from the trial will be incorporated in future appliance specifications and the procurement processes.

To find out more about the Magirus look at Firenet, or contact Mike Moran on 04 439 7845 or mike.moran@fire.org.nz

Take a look at recent enhancements on www.ufba.org.nz designed to make it easier to find information.

New Membership Section

Located in the top menu of our website, the new Membership section provides quick links to access UFBA resources on:

- Membership Support
- Safety, health & wellbeing
- Updating brigade details
- Secretaries & Treasurers
- Membership Services
- Honours & Awards

Fire Services Review

See a summary of the actions taken by the UFBA on behalf of members during the Fire Services Review at www.ufba.org.nz/fire_services_review/actions

Health and Safety at Work Act

The new Health and Safety at Work Act comes into effect on 4 April 2016. See NZFS monthly updates at www.ufba.org.nz/membership/safety

NZFBI Member Diploma

See the details of this new diploma at www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbi/exams/member
Exam structure

From Brendon Wood, NZFBI President

The New Zealand Fire Brigades’ Institute has been embarking on a drive to modernise and update its examination structure.

This has come about due to falling numbers of candidates—which can be attributed to the changing needs of firefighters and the ways and means in which people gain skills and qualifications. The old format, which was introduced in the 1980s, met the needs of the day and was a much better format than its predecessor, first set up in the 1940s. But it failed to keep pace with learners’ needs and expectations.

New exam structure

The NZFBI council was mandated at the Auckland conference in 2013 to establish a new structure and this has been phased in over recent years.

I was conscious of the impact in changing structures and pushed for a phasing in period where both structures ran in tandem. This would allow candidates midway through their qualifications to complete their progression, without losing the hard work they had done.

A phasing in period was also needed as it would take time and effort to produce a new structure from scratch.

The new Associate paper is into its second year. This year will see the first round of the new papers for the Member Diploma. These exams are topic specific and focus on a broader range of subjects, including rural to cater for our non-urban colleagues.

There are compulsory units which apply across all sectors and Continued Professional Development (CPD) hours which prove the candidate is actively continuing their self-paced learning.

“The NZFBI diploma examinations are a fantastic way to build on your firefighting knowledge. Anyone who’s thinking about sitting the exams should, as they will help you to upskill, which can only make you a better firefighter.”

Quinn Le Cheminant

Newlands Volunteer Fire Brigade

The examination panel has been working hard to produce syllabi and reading lists for the new Member papers.

Once audited and moderated, we will place these on the UFBA website for candidates to access and refer to when preparing for examinations.

The Associate syllabus is unchanged and the current format will remain.

Benefits of NZFBI exams

I encourage every firefighter who is striving to advance and seek knowledge, seeking promotion or looking for further qualifications to consider the NZFBI exams as a suitable option.

There is monetary reward for NZFS volunteers and promotional incentives for career staff.

It is also a timely reminder for those yet to complete a course of study to tidy up those loose ends before the transition period ends.

For more about the NZFBI exam structure visit www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbi/exams

The exams will be held on 3 September and applications close on 1 August. For application forms see www.ufba.org.nz/nzfbi/exams/applications

Congratulations to the following members who received 50 Year and Gold Star medals up to 29 February 2016.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the Fire Service and your communities.

50 Year Medal

Waiuku  CULPIN Michael

Gold Stars

Mangaweka  MCCANN Aaron
Pukekohe  LITTLE David
Richmond  LAMMAS Nigel
Runanga  DOBSON Kelvin
Runanga  KING Richard
Titahi Bay  CARRIDICE Richard
Waitotara  FORESTER Sylvia

Nigel Lammas from Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade was presented with his Gold Star award by UFBA Past President Barry Bridges
Drones near vegetation fires

From Ian Millman, Manager Rural Fire Resource and Development

Flying drones (remote-piloted aircraft systems) near vegetation fires, without the proper approvals from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and Fire Incident Controller, creates a hazard for manned aircraft fighting the fire.

While the vast majority of drone operators fly safely, as the popularity of drones increases, so too does the likelihood of them being flown when it’s not safe to do so.

There has been no reported incidence of this happening in New Zealand (however, there have been several incidents in America and Canada where firefighting aircraft were grounded due to drones in the vicinity).

What’s the problem?

Without aerial firefighting, the ability to put out vegetation fires is seriously limited, which may put lives at risk. Unauthorised drones in the area could result in:

- **Mid-air collision**: A collision between a drone and a firefighting airplane or helicopter could lead to a catastrophic accident. Drones are difficult to see by pilots as they blend with the ground view and smoke conditions.

- **Grounding**: unauthorised drones flying near a vegetation fire will lead to aircraft being grounded by the Fire Manager to avoid the drone. This could lead to the vegetation fire getting out of control.

If a drone is seen in the vicinity of a vegetation fire and is believed to have put aircraft or firefighters at risk, the Civil Aviation Authority can investigate. If a breach of the safety rules is identified, a fine can be issued.

If you’re flying we can’t

The National Rural Fire Authority wants everyone who flies a drone to understand the importance of keeping away from vegetation fires and other emergency situations at all times, unless they have the appropriate approvals from CAA and emergency services.

All drone operators must ensure they have read and understood the relevant CAA rules, especially Part 101 operating rules, which can be found at [www.caa.govt.nz/rpas/](http://www.caa.govt.nz/rpas/)

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Secretaries & Treasurers Workshop

Are you a new Secretary or Treasurer to your brigade or would you like to enhance your skills? This comprehensive workshop will strengthen your skills and help you gain insights into key responsibilities of your role.

A Secretaries & Treasurers Workshop will be held in Whangarei at the Kaipara Area Office Training Room on Sunday 15 May. Find out more at [www.ufba.org.nz/events/secretaries_treasurers_workshop_May16](http://www.ufba.org.nz/events/secretaries_treasurers_workshop_May16)

To register your attendance, please email Jane at [membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz](mailto:membershipsupport@ufba.org.nz) with your name, brigade, your role at the brigade and mobile phone number.

If you would like a workshop held in your area, please contact Jane. A minimum of 15 participants is needed.

Leadership & Governance Workshop

This UFBA workshop on 7-9 April in Wellington is fully subscribed. Designed to enhance leadership skills, this is the ideal course to learn from experts in the field, develop new leadership and coaching techniques, and gain valuable insights into the key elements of governance.

If you are interested in attending or nominating someone for the following UFBA Leadership & Governance Workshop in October, email Hayley at [hayley@ufba.org.nz](mailto:hayley@ufba.org.nz)

Provincial Meetings

The round of Provincial meetings for this calendar year is underway with the Otago Southland Provincial Association AGM held on 5 February in Clyde. Chief Executive Officer George Verry, President Russell Anderson and Technical Panel Convenor Ian Lindsay attended. This Association is in good heart and there was a solid attendance from members.