

| 1800s | |
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| 1874 | Firemen exempt from Jury Service (exemption lifted in 1982). |
| 1878 | Founding UFBA meeting in Christchurch 17 December 1878. The nine founding brigades were Christchurch, Dunedin, Kaiapoi, Littleton, Mornington, Port Chalmers, Rangiora, Timaru and Waimate. |
| 1880 | First Annual Conference in Dunedin. 26 of the 36 brigades in New Zealand belonged to the UFBA at this time. 23 of those were represented at the conference. At this conference, the 5-year medal was introduced, but the certificate was only discussed. |
| 1882 | First UFBA Valour Medal Awarded. |
| 1885 | The first National Waterway Challenge was held in Dunedin. The winner was Napier. |
| 1885 | First 3 Year certificates were printed and awarded. Certificates were ordered in 1885 and received in 1887. |
| 1887 | First technical lecture was given at a conference, delivered by Wellington's Captain R. Page and titled "The Duties of a Fireman". |
| 1889 | One of three years the Annual Conference was not held. The others were 1922 and 1932. An AGM was still held in these years, but not a full conference. |
| 1891 | UFBA Gold Star introduced, recognising 25 years of service. The first recipient was Captain T.D. Cummins of Wanganui. |
| 1892 | Accident Assurance Society formed and was registered under the Friendly Societies Act (1882). It was disbanded in 1984. |
| 1900s – pre-WW1 | |
| 1900 | Two UFBA representatives selected to attend the Fire Congress in Paris. |
| 1900 | After the AGM, it was agreed that the UFBA rule relating to musters would be suspended for 12 months so far as it affected firefighters serving in South Africa. In 1901, this was further clarified to mean all such members to receive full credit for attendance in their respective brigades while on active military duty. This was first done during the Bull War, and carried on for every subsequent war. |
| 1901 | UFBA Funeral Ritual introduced, revised several times since, as customs change. |
| 1903 | First exhibition of firefighting equipment staged pre-UFBA Conference in Napier. |
| 1906 | First Fire Brigades Act – sets up local administration of brigades and their funding. The UFBA had fought for 25 years to get this enacted. |
| 1913 | Benevolent Fund formed. |
| 1918 | World War I ends. UFBA Conference honours 151 NX Firemen killed in action. |
| 1900s – post-WW1/pre-WW2 | |
| 1921 | UFBA establishes outlet selling fire equipment (hose and couplings, etc.) to member brigades. |
| 1926 | UFBA recommends that there be a suitable standard design for "motor fire appliances". |
| 1931 | NZ Fire Brigade Officers and Members Institute formed and incorporated. Name changed to NZ Fire Brigades Institute in 1952. |
| 1937 | Hand reel events at competitions are replaced by motor events. Fire engines are now more common, and a standard "motor hose box" is to be designed. |
| 1942 | UFBA Conference delegates see demonstrations of how to best deal with incendiary bombs (Wellington). |
| 1945 | World War II ends, UFBA honours 60 firemen from New Zealand killed in action. |
| 1900s – post-WW2 | |
| 1947 | Forty-one people die in a fire in complex of buildings used as Ballantyne's Department Store in Christchurch. The resulting enquiry sets a blueprint for fires services in NZ. |

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| 1949 | Fire Brigades Act. The UFBA has a representative on the new Fire Service Council, introduced to improve the efficiency of fire brigades throughout the land. |
| 1951 | The UFBA publishes its first news magazine "NZ Fire Service Review". The publication survived until 1995. |
| 1951 | First Chief Fire Officer (T.A. Varley) introduced as a direct consequence of the Ballantyne's enquiry. |
| 1951 | Redesigned Life Honorary Member medal introduced. First medal was introduced in 1885. |
| 1952 | Nationwide standard uniform, ranks, and badges introduced to the Fire Service. This was as a result of T.A. Varley finding out that every brigade did its own thing |
| 1953 | Instantaneous couplings adopted for competitions, replacing threaded connections. |
| 1955 | Queen's Fire Service Medal introduced. |
| 1956 | First Patron elected (C.A. Osborne, Onehunga). |
| 1956 | President's chain of office donated by the Fire Service Council. |
| 1970s >> | |
| 1972 | Fire Services Act. |
| 1975 | Fire Service Act (1975). A new NZ Fire Service Commission nationalises fire services, abolishing Fire Boards and local administration. Up to this time, the UFBA was the only national body representing fire brigades. |
| 1976 | New Zealand Fire Brigades' Long Service and Good Conduct Medal introduced. |
| 1979 | UFBA Centennial Conference held in Dunedin: delegates return to the venue of the first Annual Conference. |
| 1981 | After a three year legal battle Ann Barry becomes first female firefighter in the Commonwealth leading the way for women to have same rights as men. As of 2020 women constitute only 15% of volunteer firefighters and 5% career. |
| 1983 | New Fire Service badge issued. The eight-pointed star is retained with a crown surmounted (UFBA Gold Star included). |
| 1996 | Queen's Fire Service Medal is no longer awarded with Fire Service personnel now included in general list of Royal Honours. |
| 1997 | First Road Crash Rescue Challenge. |
| 1999 | First Breathing Apparatus Challenge. Because of unresolved difficulty, this event has not been held since 2003. |
| 2000s | |
| 2001 | International Year of the Volunteer medal issued (UFBA/NZFS initiative). |
| 2004 | 125th Annual Conference held at Dunedin. |
| 2004 | National Driving Challenge introduced. |
| 2008 | George Verry joined as Chief Executive Officer. Previously the Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Rugby Union and Master Plumbers Association. |
| 2011 | Hosted the World & Australasian Road Rescue Challenge in Upper Hutt, Wellington, in conjunction with ARRO - with teams from as far away as the UK. |
| 2011 | Launch of the UFBA Leadership & Governance workshops. |
| 2012 | Independent Review of the Fire Service by the Fire Review Panel August to December 2012 for the Minister of Internal Affairs. Report published December 2012. |
| 2013 | 135th Annual Conference held at Auckland. |
| 2014 | First NZFBI Scholarship awarded to QFF Judith Stanley for a youth study tour in Melbourne and district in August with the Country Fire Authority. |
| 2014 | SFF Scott Shadbolt was awarded a UFBA Valour Medal and 83 firefighters received UFBA Valour Certificates in October for their exceptional bravery saving human lives in the immediate aftermath of the 2011 Canterbury earthquake. Only the fourth time the medal has been awarded: 2014, 1908, 1891 and 1882. |
| 2014 | 136th Annual Conference in Tauranga. |

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| 2014 | UFBA commissioned Esperance Capital in November to provide an estimated valuation of the volunteer firefighter contribution to urban and rural communities in New Zealand - an annual value of \$529 million. |
| 2015 | On 27 May, the Government released a Fire Services Review Discussion Document to review and reform the structure, funding, legislation and organisation of urban and rural fire services. After extensive consultation with brigades and individuals, UFBA completed a well-received submission on behalf of members. |
| 2015 | A Youth in Emergency Services (YES) collaboration between UFBA and the Ministry of Youth Development, delivered training through FETS (Fire & Emergency Training Solutions) to students aged 15-19 years old. |
| 2015 | 137th Annual Conference in Wellington. Hon Peter Dunne, Minister of Internal Affairs, announced the future structure of the Fire Service at the Conference Opening. |
| 2016 | Launch of the inaugural UFBA North and South Island Waterway Challenges to complement the National Challenge that takes every two years. |
| 2016 | On Anzac Day, we remembered the contributions our firefighters made in the First World War 100 years ago including Feilding's Fireman Alfred John Shoebridge. |
| 2016 | The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill was introduced on 30 June to set up a single organisation responsible for urban and rural fire services. |
| 2016 | UFBA and the Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 7 July to make sure fire brigades and rural fire forces have a single united voice. |
| 2016 | UFBA and FRFANZ submitted a joint submission on the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill on 18 August to the Government Administration Committee. |
| 2016 | 138th Annual Conference in Christchurch. Historic for being the last Conference under the NZFS regime, the first following the UFBA/FRFANZ MoU and for a better reflection of the diversity in our communities through the record number of delegates. |
| 2017 | UFBA ensured the NZFSC, NZFS and FENZ Transition Team listened to the strong, united voice of all brigades—career, volunteer, urban, rural and industrial—during the transition to FENZ. See more on the work with FENZ on co-design projects and the positive outcomes of recommendations of the joint UFBA/FRFANZ joint submission on the FENZ Bill at Taking action for all brigades. |
| 2017>> (post-FENZ Act) | |
| 2017 | The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Bill was passed in Parliament on 4 May. Liaison between UFBA and FRFANZ continued to grow. |
| 2017 | From Day One of Fire and Emergency New Zealand on 1 July, individual volunteers could access advocacy and support services provided by UFBA/FRFANZ for any dispute, complaint or conflict, free of charge. |
| 2017 | George Verry retired as Chief Executive Officer. Chief Fire Officer of Martinborough Volunteer Fire Brigade, Bill Butzbach was appointed as Chief Executive Officer. |
| 2017 | UFBA hosted the Australasian Rescue Challenge (ARC17) in Hamilton with Kiwi teams taking out eleven accolades including Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade as Australasian Overall Champions. |
| 2017 | A major milestone was reached at the 13th UFBA Leadership and Governance Workshop in September with over 200 personnel graduated. |
| 2017 | Launch of the UFBA Leading Psychological Wellbeing Workshop with a pilot course in October. |
| 2017 | 139th Annual Conference in Auckland. Historic for being the first since Day One of Fire and Emergency New Zealand on 1 July and with major constitutional remits passed including one on a proposed merger with our partner FRFANZ. |
| 2017 | UFBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Volunteering New Zealand (VNZ) at Conference in Auckland to record the intention of both parties to work collaboratively to benefit volunteers and volunteering in New Zealand. |

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| 2017 | UFBA/FRFANZ were extensively involved in collaborative development of the Fire and Emergency NZ Blueprint 2017-20 with Fire and Emergency NZ along with other stakeholders including associations, unions and the Department of Internal Affairs. |
| 2017 | Pilot of phase of Xero implementation supported by Grant Thornton finance company. Xero training sessions rolled out across NZ. |
| 2017 | ARRO Australasian Rescue Challenge hosted by UFBA in Hamilton. Also Australasian Waterway Challenge hosted in Carterton with teams from Fiji, NZ and Australia. North Island Combat saw guests for Kuwaiti Fire Brigade. |
| 2018 | Appointment of Richie Smith as Chair and successor to Rick Braddock. Brenda Pilott succeeds former Volunteering NZ CEO Scott Miller as Independent Appointed Director. |
| 2018 | UFBA turns 140 years old |
| 2018 | Roadshow travels across country hosted by CEO Bill Butzbach and consultant Murray McKee and UFBA and FRFANZ representatives to discuss ideas and gain feedback on progressing with a merged association between FRFANZ and UFBA. |
| 2018 | Record breaking 670 attendees (including partners and exhibitors) to the 139th Conference (joint with FRFANZ) hosted in Wellington, TSB Arena. |
| 2018 | First dedicated Advocacy Advisor appointed to provide support with disputes, complaints and conflict. |
| 2019 | UFBA develops the Pathways to Fire and Emergency programme looking into developing a 'whole of childhood' approach to youth engagement and schemes to suit different ages and brigade capabilities. |
| 2019 | Fire and Emergency commission an Independent Review by retired judge Coral Shaw into workplace bullying and harassment. UFBA is named as a partner in recommendations to address issues. |
| 2019 | Nelson Pigeon Valley fires – largest since Port Hills in previous year. |
| 2019 | UFBA signs MoU with Institute of Fire Engineers (IFE). |
| 2019 | Think tank developed for Road Crash Rescue to consider future viability of the event. Plus consultation on Waterway Rules to encourage more engagement. |
| 2019 | National Waterway in Wainuiomata sees guest speakers Hon. Trevor Mallard (speaker of the House) and Hon. Tracey Martin Minister for Internal Affairs. |
| 2019 | Christchurch Mosque shootings. One attendee at UFBA leadership and psychological wellbeing workshops puts into practice learnings when caught with family in situation around Christchurch Mosque shootings. Combat challenge event in Cromwell cancelled on day of event in response to situation. |
| 2019 | 140th Conference in Christchurch sees historic remit passed by members to adopt and whole new and modernised constitution allowing the merger between Forest and Rural Fire Association (FRFANZ) and UFBA. Former FRFANZ exec committee members Kevin Ihaka and Tom Thomson introduced to UFBA Board under 3 year transition Board agreement. Board now at seven people. |
| 2020 | Australia sees worst fire season in living history. |
| 2020 | New peak entity Tāngata Matatau established to bring together non-brigade members. |
| 2020 | New Membership Advisory Panel introduced consisting of VP, President, Immediate PP and rural specialist from former FRFANZ Exec. |
| 2020 | Global pandemic of coronavirus Covid-19 forces national lockdown for 7 weeks and subsequent cancellation of UFBA workshops, NI and National Combat, Road Crash Rescue and Drivers challenges. |
| 2020 | AGM proposed to be taken online and workshops adapted for online delivery. UFBA introduces Kōrero webinar series featuring former NSW Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, Psychologist Nigel Latta and journalist Hilary Barry. |
| 2020 | UFBA welcomes first Pacific Island member – the Puaikura VFB on Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. |