

Fire and Emergency NZ Working Group Report

This report should be completed within two weeks of a working group meeting and forwarded to memberservices@ufba.org.nz

Name of the UFBA Representative

Brendon Cameron

Date

13/11/2020, NHQ Wellington

Name of the working group or project

Medical Response Focus Group

Purpose of the working group

The key function of the Medical Response Focus Group is to discuss and advise on matters that will continue to contribute towards building a unified response to medical incidents for Fire and Emergency. They will promote a collaborative forum for recommendations of change, helping to improve the performance of Fire and Emergency for medical response through the review of policies, systems, processes and outcomes, interagency communication and training. They will monitor the implementation of the conditions described in the Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) between each organisation and Fire and Emergency and will advise on changes that may be required for the MOU moving forward.

Key outcomes/progress since last report

- Updated MOU is about to be signed by FENZ and issued out
- New MVC code to be created in CAD – any vehicle incident not assigned as RESC will become MVC instead of MIN – this allows for local response plans
- Clarification that Comcen SOP for RESC events is any MVC where an occupant is still in a vehicle (regardless of whether reported trapped or not), if in doubt Comcen treat as RESC.
- Covid-19 learnings discussed, latest update from Covid Response Committee reviewed
- Discussion on Covid Committee position that face masks be worn at medical calls at Level 1 – feedback that this may not be happening in some areas. WFA and St John mask up based on risk assessment. FENZ maintaining higher threshold. Strong support for masking when with unconscious/unresponsive patients. Concerns that the policy sits well for purple calls, but not necessarily for First Response calls. To get UFBA feedback.
- Automation work on Purple responses progressing well, works and currently being tested
- Issues nationwide with delays on scene waiting for St John to attend
- Discussion following recent first response calls in Auckland region where St John ultimately decided they couldn't attend – in any circumstance where ambulance decides not to attend when FENZ is on scene the OIC Fire should contact ambulance Clinical Desk who will make the decision for the crew to leave the patient and return to station.
- Feedback requested from UFBA on its position to a suggestion of restarting OSM traffic lights for CPR, AED and Oxygen skills for First Responders in the absence of CCE

- CCE for First Responders – still no face to face training by St John until 1/7/2021, online modules still haven't been made available by St John, ongoing issue
- Concerns raised about delays once CCE resumes and how long it will take to get around all brigades, and how no new First Responders can be trained during this time
- Additionally no new FFRUs will be agreed upon for now by St John
- St John Territory Managers have been advised to support First Response stations with training needs in the absence of CCE, including face to face visits – if brigades not being supported then this is to be raised to Cam Grylls asap.
- Drawing up of medicines by FENZ personnel discussed, including risk and liability, comms to go out
- All brigades encouraged to use the Medical Response Feedback Forms for all relevant matters or concerns – these not only capture issues for MRFG but show trends/patterns
- Issues with some 111 calls direct to FENZ for lift assists – procedures to be enforced to Comcens that these jobs be bounced to Ambulance Communications to see if we are required (so a FENZ response is at their request)
- Positive news from Wellington Free, who report an increase in PURPLE call survival to discharge from 13% to 18% when FENZ appliances arrive first

Next steps

UFBA Feedback Required on the following:

-Wearing of face masks at Covid Level 1 for medical and medical first response calls
The Membership Advisory Panel's advice is to follow what Fire and Emergency operating procedure. Under COVID level 1 crews are to wear masks at all times.

-Suggestion of restarting OSM traffic lights for CPR and Oxygen for first responders in the absence of CCE

The Membership Advisory Panel's advice is that Brigade members who are first responders, ensure that they tick the standard OSM at the brigade level to show that they are keeping competent in AED, CPR and oxygen therapy.

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th January 2020

Related matters you feel the UFBA Board and/or management should be aware of

The MRFG Chair role has now been taken over by Aaron Waterreus, Specialist Response Manager. Former Chair Gavin Travers is remaining for now in a transitional support role (and is National Comcen Manager).