

Summary of UFBA Representation on FENZ Groups

Updated: 16/01/2025

Project	Status of Group	Date of Report	Key Information
Decontamination Project	Active		Nothing to report  From the Portal: Update: September 2024 - Station Trials In March and May 2024, we conducted trials to evaluate and refine low-water/no-water decontamination techniques. These methods are now being tested in Station Trials. Station Trials: October 2024 - April 2025 The upcoming Station Trials will assess the effectiveness of the recommended detection equipment and decontamination methods in real incidents and simulated exercises (Simex). This will validate whether these solutions are operationally viable and if our staffing models need adjustment. What Do Station Trials Involve? We will test low and no-water decontamination methods in real incidents and up to three Simex, including: Hazardous Substance Contamination Triage Flowchart (Quick Decider), Dry emergency decontamination, Wet emergency decontamination, Contamination reduction. Safe doffing process (cut and peel), Air decontamination, ERDSS software, Clearance screening Who Will Participate in the Station Trials and When? Station Trials will run from October 2024 to April 30, 2025, across two key locations: Metropolitan: Kilbirnie Station, Wellington – training begins September 2024. Provincial: Napier Station, Hawkes Bay – training starts November 2024. District Supporting Stations: Additional training will be provided to select supporting stations within each District, conducted by Working Group members and designated Station Representatives. Approach The Trials will enable operational firefighters to utilize the recommended equipment and decontamination methods at actual incidents. Given the typically low frequency of hazardous substance incidents at any station, we will also incorporate Simex to enhance testing opportunities. Participants will receive training on the equipment and methods prior to implementation. These trials mark a significant shift in our decontamination practices. Your support and feedback are essential to refining this process and ensuring its success.
Donated Asset Policy Review	Active	5/12/2024	This work stalled due to the project manager going through the appointment process for their position. Aiming for policy discussion in the first quarter of 2025.
Eke Taumata Internal Advisory Group	Active	6/12/2024	5 year volunteer brigade leader development and review process finalised and launched as per Portal. Volunteer Engagement Model update in January 2025.
Emergency Management Programme	Active	5/12/2024	Nothing to report  From the Portal: Fortnight ending 15 November 2024 Significant progress has been made in developing the Gen1 festive roster for Coordination Centres, which will provide a consistent approach to on-call arrangements this Christmas and New Year. We're now working with each Region's Business Operations Managers and the National and International Response team to put the roster into effect. We've been consulting with a group of subject matter experts on concepts for activating Coordination Centres at all levels. The concepts have been developed after looking at what nine other national and international agencies have shared with us. The feedback from our SMEs and the Emergency Management Programme Working Group will help consolidate the concepts into proposed thresholds and triggers for activations.
Equipment and Logistics	Active	5/12/2024	Nothing to report
Fleet Replacement Project	Active	5/12/2024	Project steering group meeting and ToR have been set. This work will continue in the New Year. Type 1 and Type 2 project will be separate to ensure that the cabinet circular approval process is complied with. A short survey to those brigades with Type 1 and Type 2 appliances will go out shortly. The suggestion from the UFBA is that the survey goes to the brigades CFO but any member of the brigade can make comment. The survey should be open all of December and January and allow for free text as well.
Future Methods of Operation Governance Group	Active	15/01/2025	Proof of Concept workshops coming first half of 2025.
Gas Detection Equipment Replacement and Capability Extension Project	Active	27/11/2024	Currently waiting on the results of a firefighter behaviour study before further decisions regarding the rollout of equipment. Of note, in the next stage of the rollout of the Personal Gas Monitoring (PGM), 100% of the career appliances will have these devices that are required to meet health and safety at work (general risk and workplace management) regulations 2016: sections 28, 29 and 30 but only 5-6 volunteer stations will receive them. Furthermore, the standardised FENZ approach of only equipping appliances for standard career crews does not allow for, or cover, the volunteer world where appliances regularly respond with 5 or 6 crew members.
Incident Management Project	Active	3/12/2024	The Incident Command Structure Working Group has been running for over 2 years. It is pretty much finalised and has been sent to SDLT for approval, adoption or changes. In the meantime, it has moved into an accountability project which is a procedure for recording everyone who is on an incident ground. There have been two trials - one in Napier on the 10th April which I attended and one in Wellington on the 11th. This is ongoing. There are several incident reviews for Cyclone Gabrielle from different agencies that are due to be published in March. We already know that there are likely to be some learnings regarding the role and responsibilities of coordination centres, and other aspects of ICS. Because of this, we have paused the progressing of the new ICS Reference Guide for the time being to allow us to address any issues and make any resultant changes that fall out of those reports.
Kia Toipoto Advisory Ropu	Active	27/11/2024	No update.  From the Portal: As part of our commitment to Kia Toipoto, we have published our pay gap data and an analysis for the 2023/24 financial year. Providing transparency around pay gaps is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure our workforce better reflects the communities we serve. We know these pay gaps do not exist in a vacuum, and instead develop due to processes and lack of policies. We are taking a holistic approach to diversity and inclusion and are focusing on both process and outcomes.
Level 2 PPE Procurement Project	Active	5/12/2024	The future state of L2 gear. Progress has been made with potential suppliers who can accommodate the different shapes of our people and futureproof for development design and ongoing technology. The preferred supplier will be announced next week.
Medical Response Focus Group	Active	3/12/2024	Our meetings are being done online for now due to cost-saving efforts by FENZ. There was a meeting in early November with no more until next year. The latest MOU was signed by FENZ and HHSJ and has been rolled out. HHSJ and FENZ have assured us that despite media coverage of Police not responding to some mental health calls, Police will respond to mental health calls where our crews are involved and need support. There have been some comms come out from FENZ following signing of the MoU stating fire first response units should only travel at road speed for orange calls - that was in the fine print of the previous MoU and was briefly reviewed but never discussed in depth by our committee regarding issues or changes. Position changes are underway.

National MVA Forum	Active	5/12/2024	As part of the future capability project, there was a 3-day training forum at NTC. Topics discussed were: Battery tool evaluation purpose and discussion Battery tool practical applications Technical discussions and training Rescue gear types - light, medium, heavy Future tool selection Training program and gap for ongoing training and skills maintained
National Safety, Health & Wellbeing Committee	Active	4/12/2024	The Committee has just decided that reps will be added to the agenda to raise any specific concerns. We have certainly started to make progress.
Paearu Mahi Framework	Active	3/12/2024	Rep has had no contact with this group.  Update from the Portal: This programme, including all of the development, learning and assessment steps for future cohorts, is being piloted and evaluated between September and December 2024 before it's finalised and handed over to BAU in early 2025. This is an opportunity to test and evaluate the programme's products, tools and processes developed with input from Service Delivery and Learning and Development subject matter experts. The pilot participants will complete the programme's development and pre-learning steps in September, attend the 5 day residential course at NTC in October, and undertake a
Public Safety Network Working Group	Active	22/11/2024	Vehicle and station installations continue Functional LMR testing based out of Timaru has started We will be gathering additional locations of interest information to inform our own coverage testing for the next test phases Made good progress on the LMR and mobile equipment allocation approach and this week submitted the high-level Allocation Model to our Agency Programme Board for review and endorsement Functional testing of the PSN Cellular Priority service was completed in October - goes live on 8 November
Review of P3 POP and SOP	Active	4/12/2024	We had our first meeting on the 16th of October with meetings to follow on a fortnightly basis. At this stage, we are still finding our feet as a working group as we come from very wide backgrounds. I am making sure the volunteer voice is heard as this policy will affect all OICs rural and urban. We are going through the current document line by line to determine if it is still fit for purpose or needs adjusting to meet the new legislation. Concerns raised by rep around training. It might also be useful if the UFBA pushes for this as we don't want to set our volunteers up for failure. As a working group we may be able to influence this through the policy.
Safe Person Concept and Dynamic Risk Assessment Review	Active	29/11/2024	This project was established as part of the corrective actions from the Muruwai landslide review. While final outcomes haven't been confirmed, the general view is neither the SPC or DRA are fundamentally broken, rather the issues lay with the [absence of] initial and ongoing training, formal assessment and implementation of the concepts during incidents. Many of the outcomes from this review will likely sit with National Training to resolve, including updating stand-alone training material for the SPC/DRA and embed their principles into other training materials as part of in-parallel training reviews. As this first stage of the process comes to its conclusion, there will need to be consideration to the further steps and the UFBA's involvement in the downstream projects to ensure there is sufficient representation and outcomes are fit for purpose for the diverse range of brigades in Aotearoa. Currently, waiting on the final recommendations draft and planning to arrange a catch-up with UFBA Management to review.
Training Standards Committee	Active	5/12/2024	This a high level governance group meeting. Topic of interest for volunteers was the program document for emergency response drivers. A workshop was held in Auckland several months ago but it was felt that given the lack of attendance, the full benefit of input was not reached and more work needs to be completed in this area. The document did not fully understand the role of non-BA wearers and brigade support personnel who drive appliances and tankers.
Working at Height and Line Rescue Techniques & Equipment SME Group	Active	3/12/2024	The level 3 lines package is being organised. All WAH level 1 kits are being replaced with in-date gear as required. There is still ongoing plans to review the way all levels operate once money allows.
Incident Capability & Payments Alignment Project	COMPLETED	2/12/2024	Group is no longer operating UFBA should continue to monitor how successful FENZ pay volunteer firefighters that attend long duration events. Port Hills February 2024 still waiting on payments
Uniform Retender Project Reference Group	COMPLETED	2/12/2024	Group is no longer in operation The tender process for FENZ uniform supplier has been completed. FENZ are running a wearer-working trial for volunteer and career stadd. Ashburton and Feilding are the volunteer bases with four different paid locations trialling gear from October to June 2025. David Lattimore is aware of this and working with Warren to ensure we get to have a fair representation
Working Safely in Water Project - Reference Group	COMPLETED	3/12/2024	The Working Group has wrapped up as the project has basically been implemented. Feedback received on overall process of the operation and purpose of this group for UFBA Management to highlight with FENZ
Carcinogen Control Project	Unclear	19/06/2024	Post-fire management kits rollout to start before the end of this year. Busiest brigades first. Time of rollout will depend on availability of product. Training material has been developed and is with the learning design team. Learning will be done via an online module only due to funding constraints. The CCP group collectively is not in favour of this decision as we feel culture change cannot be implemented via an online module/video. It was mentioned some face-to-face could be delivered in the future. There was no commitment to that. Project team finishes on 30/6/2024. In the process of handing over now. Unsure if this group will continue. It is frustrating that due to funding the only training offered is an online module. As the only method is online, it is important UFBA promotes the completion of the module and the uptake/use of the incoming post-fire management system. It was unclear what is happening with this group from here.
Hazardous Substances Response Capability Development Programme	Unclear		Status update pending.
Research and Evaluation to Inform Arson Reduction Strategy and Future Programme Development	Unclear	5/12/2024	No meetings been held - unsure if the group is proceeding
Respiratory Protective Equipment Improvement Programme	Unclear	6/12/2024	No contact from group