



2024 Industrial Campaign

Important Industrial Campaign Information – Part 1

This document will be updated as the campaign expands & escalates. More information will be added relating to different campaign activities.

Campaign T-Shirts

We acknowledge that not all members have an FBEU t-shirt yet. We are working on replenishing our stocks so that stations can have our brand new style of shirt for the 2024 industrial campaign. Expect more information in the next couple of weeks on this.

You will note that the Code Red allows you to wear t-shirts that are not FBEU issued in case you don't have an FBEU issued t-shirt.

All FBEU t-shirts are made out of 100% cotton to meet the same fire-resistant standards that FRNSW supplied t-shirts adhere to.

Any shirt that you wear must be 100% cotton. Do not wear any shirt that is made from synthetic material or anything other than 100% cotton. Contact the FBEU Office if you need clarity on this.

Talking to the public

We all know that when Firefighters talk, people listen. During the last industrial campaign, our t-shirts and slogans on trucks were a great talking point for people in our communities and gave you the chance to explain what we're fighting for. This time will be no different.

Below are some key messages we encourage you to use when talking to members of the public who might be interested in why you're wearing a Union t-shirt or why you're going 'casual Friday'.

1. Health and Safety

Firefighting is an inherently dangerous workplace. We face risks to our health and safety every day not just when responding to an emergency event but also at our stations and other workplaces.

Scientific evidence supports the fact that firefighters have increased risk of certain cancers and other illnesses due to things we are exposed to daily in our job like carcinogens, and other chemicals.

There are things we can do in workplaces to reduce the risk. This includes ensuring things like proper clean/dirty areas so we don't take dirty gear into clean areas of the fire station, proper diesel exhaust capture systems in our engine bays reducing our exposure to diesel emissions, ensuring we only train with clean water that's of a potable standard etc and making sure we are regularly screened for the illnesses we know our job causes like cancer.

We are seeking the listing of additional cancers that are strongly linked to being a Firefighter in our workers compensation legislation to allow injured Firefighters to access support without needing to fight the Government while also fighting cancer.

2. Fair Wages and Conditions



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Like all of you, firefighters have been feeling the pinch of increased cost of living pressures. We all know that life is getting more expensive. From housing, to child care, to groceries we're all struggling to keep up.

What you might not know though is that firefighters took wages freeze in 2021 of 0.3%. This was supposed to apply across the public sector but ultimately only applied to certain industries. This has left us falling behind other public sector jobs.

Likewise, our job has particular challenges and costs associated with it. Could you imagine finding childcare to account for ever changing shift patterns? How do you pay for housing near your work when you are required to work in central Sydney?

This is the reality of our job, and we only ask to be properly compensated with fair wages and conditions that keeps us on track to meet our cost of living pressures and bring us into line with other fire services across Australia.

We haven't received a pay offer yet

Professional firefighters have been on the front line of every major emergency in the last 5-6 years. From the 2019/20 bushfires, multiple flood events, cyclones, and the Covid Pandemic, we have gone to work and protected our communities. It's insulting that the Government won't even put an offer on the table.

If any member is concerned that any of these activities pose a risk to your own health and safety, the safety of a colleague, or any member of the community, you should immediately stop and contact us immediately.

In Unity

Leighton Drury
State Secretary