



10 October 2018

Mr Paul Baxter
Commissioner
Fire and Rescue NSW
1 Amarina Avenue
GREENACRE NSW 2190

Dear Mr Baxter,

Re: Urgent firefighter safety issues

I write further to the Union's letter of 4 September concerning the problems with the MSA airsets on issue to FRNSW firefighters, and to the numerous Safety Bulletins issued by the Department since.

The Union understands that not only have the problems have not been rectified, but that further problems have been identified. The Union further understands that at least some of these threats can not be mitigated by the measures advised in the aforementioned Safety Bulletins.

Can you please confirm the Department's assessment of the situation on these airsets as a matter of urgency, including precise information on the location and numbers of any sets still in service?

I also invite you to explain why the Union should not issue an instruction to its members at 5pm today to remove all of these airsets from their appliances and to consider them banned indefinitely. Your confirmation that you will be issuing that instruction yourself would obviously render my need to do so redundant.

Yours sincerely,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary



File ref. no: CC18/101
Doc. ref. no: FRN11/2

10 October 2018

Mr Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigade Employees' Union of NSW
1-7 Belmore Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

Dear Leighton,

MSA SCBA Devices

I refer to your letter of today's date that was received by email at 3.08pm.

As you know, FRNSW has been conducting further investigations as referred to in the *Safety Bulletin 2018-01 MSA AirGo SCBA demand valve failure*. As you were aware, further testing was undertaken today and results in relation to these investigations were provided at 4.54pm by our *Operational Safety Coordinator, Health & Safety Branch*.

Analysis of the results is ongoing, however, in the interim we are taking precautionary steps because Firefighter safety is paramount. The precautionary steps are:

- MSA sets are being removed from the Appliances until further notice; and
- Command staff are ensuring that operational capability is maintained, utilizing the Draeger SCBA previously rolled out.

Thank you for continuing to work with us collaboratively to ensure the safety of our staff and your members. Your continued support through this process is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PBaxter".

Paul Baxter
Commissioner