SitRep 43/2026

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT RESPONSES – UPDATE #2

Members will recall SitRep 8/2026 where we noted that the FRNSW Act and the Hazmat Policy meant that all Hazmat incidents statewide required a FRNSW response, no matter the location. This was then refined in SitRep 39/2026 as a result of a request from the Department and members to review MVA Fluid on Roadway incidents.

Since SitRep 39/2026, the Department has failed to implement the MVA Fluid on Roadway response in Mutual Aid Agreement areas, with MVA Fluid on Roadway incidents being resourced by RFS only, just metres outside of Fire District, in breach of the agreement reached.

As such, I advise members that the position outlined in SitRep 39/2026 is to be disregarded by all members, including Comms Operators.

The position in SitRep 8/2026, requiring a FRNSW response to all Hazmat incidents statewide, is to be followed by all members, including Comms Operators.

RETAINED REFORM UPDATE

We have received troubling indicators from Macquarie Street this week that suggest the NSW Government may be reconsidering its support for investment into the Retained Reform package that is being negotiated between the Department and the FBEU.

We are still seeking clarity on this, but with the Expenditure Review Committee meeting being pushed back to next month, these are not the indicators we expected to see at this stage.

We are working with the Department to remind the NSW Government that this reform is key to improving retention and recruitment, and that failure to move forward with reform will see the overtime bill become even more unsustainable in the years to come.

We will not accept the Department attempting to take measures to control the overtime expenses that would impact community or member safety, so getting this reform back on track is critical.

HEALTH SCREENING INITIATION RULES

We have become aware of the Department failing to adhere to the Health Screening clauses from the Permanent and Retained Awards.

To remind members, Health Screening occurs every five years after the anniversary of an employee's start date with the Department. Members must be contacted, in writing, at least 12 months prior to the five year anniversary, advising them of the requirement to complete a Health Screen by no later than the anniversary date.

Importantly, the Awards say that if the Department fails to provide the 12 month lead time, the Health Screen will not need to be completed until the subsequent five year anniversary.

Should this requirement not be met, members should inform the Department that they will not be participating in the Health Screen due to the Award breach. Should the Department insist, contact the Union Office for assistance.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION ACTIVITIES – VOLUNTARY – UPDATE #1

In SitRep 31/2026, we reminded members that Community Risk Reduction activities are voluntary. Since then, members continue to report undue pressure being placed on them by management, to complete these activities.

I would like to remind all members, management included, that we will not tolerate any members being placed under pressure to complete activities that are voluntary.

State Committee met this week and is considering the best way to respond to this undue pressure campaign, with a position being finalised. Should the Department not change course quickly, expect to hear more in this space.

In Unity,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary