



Vale Comrade Michael Kidd

I have the sad duty of updating you on the tragic death of 900724 Retained Firefighter Michael Kidd of 082 Richmond, who was an FBEU Member and firefighter since 2010.

Firefighter Kidd was with 082 for his entire career with FRNSW, proudly serving and protecting his community.

As you're all likely aware now, Firefighter Kidd died while in attendance at a structure fire this morning. The death of any of our Comrades is tragic, however the loss of a life in the line of duty while on scene is even more shocking.

The FBEU sends our deepest condolences to Michael's family and friends and all those who knew him. The impact of this death will be felt across the firefighting community and our Union. We will continue to provide support to family, friends and colleagues as needed.

I can assure you that in the coming days we will be taking necessary actions to fully understand the nature of the events that occurred and to ensure that FRNSW take all and any action needed to keep us safe at work and avoid tragic incidents like that which occurred today.

Today however is a day of mourning for all in our Union. Vale Comrade.

Vale Comrade Kim Simpson

Today, we received this moving tribute to Inspector Kim Simpson from a member from the Sydney North Sub-Branch. We couldn't have expressed the enormity of Comrade Simpson's loss any better:

The impact to members after the loss of 6398 Inspector Kim Simpson is difficult to communicate in words.

His influence on staff that were fortunate enough to work alongside Kim throughout his near four-decade career is immeasurable as his compassion, empathy, good humour, respectfulness and kindness was at the forefront of his character.

Put simply, he made all of us better.

As a Duty Commander, he cared deeply for each firefighter under his command, constantly striving to the best of his ability to help any in need. Metro East 2 D Platoon saw Kim not only as their Commander, but as their support, confidant and friend. He gained loyalty and respect by giving it in spades.

Operationally, Kim was a calming presence in times of crisis. His competence and professionalism a welcome sight on any fireground.

Kim was a great leader, but an even greater man. A true gentleman.

We would like to extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Vale Kim Simpson.



An important message for all FBEU members

Like all of you, Firefighter Kidd and Inspector Simpson accepted the honour and responsibility of being a professional firefighter with pride. FBEU members are always ready to respond when our communities need us, and that often requires us to witness unimaginable loss and injury. However, this does not make the loss of our own any easier. I would encourage all FBEU members to check in on your mates, and open up to a Comrade or call the FBEU office if you need help coming to terms with these events, or indeed any other aspect of the job that is affecting your physical or mental health. Now, more than ever, we need to look out for each other, and be brave enough to tell someone when our state of mind is not what we want it to be.

Vale Comrade Kidd and Comrade Simpson. You will not be forgotten.

In Unity,

Leighton Drury
State Secretary