

Police Station Infrastructure

Following an extensive submission and a significant lobbying effort by The Police Association, we have been advised that the Victoria Police Force has received a substantial grant from the Government to upgrade police stations. This grant is to facilitate the extra 1700 Police Officers and 940 Protective Service Officers being introduced into the Force over the coming years.

Approximately 100 stations will be modified and renovated over the next two years with the bulk of the money being targeted at those areas expected to bear the greatest impact.

We commend the Government for the allocation of the funds necessary for these works to proceed.

We also remind members that these funds will not be directed at general improvements but solely at modifications needed to accommodate the extra members.

City West Police Complex

Members currently performing duty at 412 St Kilda Road, 452 Flinders Street and City West Police, Station Street will be relocated to the new City West Police Complex at the corner of Spencer and La Trobe streets. The aim is for the new complex to be opened by April 2015.

Members should take full advantage of the consultation period for this new building. Consultation will include lunch time meetings with the architects, online discussions and consultation within your business units. It is important to note that in order to keep on schedule the Force is obligated to submit final plans by February 2013. HSRs should encourage members to make their views known before this cut-off date.

To assist HSRs, click on the following to view two relevant WorkSafe Victoria publications: [Working Environment and Workplace Amenities Compliance Code](#) and [Officewise](#). These publications describe the minimum standard of office accommodation allowed in Victoria.

Fiskville

The Country Fire Authority has released an independent investigation into the use of donated chemicals used as part of its fire fighting training at Fiskville. Some members may be affected by the report due to undertaking CFA training at Fiskville or having attended Fiskville as part of their policing duties.

The report found that, *"...viewed from the perspective of modern day health, safety and environment standards and regulations, Fiskville's acceptance and use of donated fuels posed substantial risks which would be unacceptable today.*

It can be argued that, during the 1970s and much of the 1980s, the general level of industry standards and of regulatory requirements in relation to the management of hazardous materials waste was low.

However, by the early 1990s, that situation had changed and the CFA's own staff responsible for assisting industry to comply with dangerous goods regulations could readily identify that Fiskville was not compliant with regulatory requirements."

That is, between 1974 and 1996 the CFA created degrees of risk to various groups of its staff because it allowed its employees to be exposed to unknown chemicals during fire fighting training. The highest degree of risk was encountered by full-time CFA Instructors. The report measures the risk of chemical exposure to trainees as 'low'.

What does this mean for police members? If any member was required by their policing duties to undertake fire fighting training at Fiskville in the 1970s, 1980s or early 1990s they should:

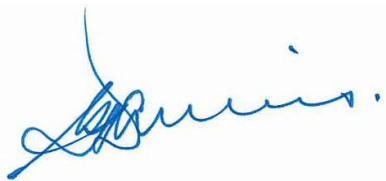
1. Advise their doctor that that performed duty at Fiskville so he/she can undertake a risk assessment in relation to any illnesses you present with; and
2. Lodge an "Incident Notification" on HR Assist to remind the Force that you were potentially exposed to unknown burning chemicals at Fiskville. We have previously written to the Force about the potential exposure of members. However, members should be aware that data collection from a minimum of 20 years ago will be problematic to retrieve.

HSR Training

We can proudly announce that WorkSafe Victoria has now approved The Police Association's week-long HSR training course and has certified the Association as an independent provider of that training. We congratulate Michael Clark on the work he has done.

This means we now deliver the only police-specific HSR training in the state. We are also confident that our training course is the most price competitive course available.

Any untrained HSR or HSRs who last underwent OHS training before 2005 can register their interest online in doing our course. Simply go to our website, www.tpav.org.au, click on the OHS link and follow the relevant links thereafter.



GREG DAVIES

Secretary