



Our Ref: SW:SI  
Enquiries: Steve Warrington  
Telephone: (03) 9262 8311  
Fax: (03) 9262 8397  
Your Ref: 0303/06

22 July 2010

Ms Bridget Ryan  
Coroner's Registrar  
Coroners Court of Victoria  
Level 1, 436 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Ms Ryan

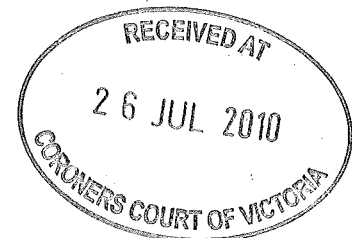
**Re: Court Reference number 0303/06**

I refer to your letter of 28 April 2010 and Court Ref: 0303/06 in which you have asked CFA to respond to recommendations under the *Coroners Act 2008* (Vic) (the Act) into the findings of Trevor Day.

Please find attached our written response in regard to the Coroners recommendations.

Yours sincerely

  
Steve Warrington  
Chief Officer



Coroners Recommendations	CFA's Progress
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the CFA review the Chief Officers SOP 12.03 Driving CFA Vehicles with a view to enabling the endorsement for driving CFA vehicles to suitably identified volunteers, on a temporary/interim basis only until such time as can be arranged for the volunteer to attend a formal accredited driving training course and that such endorsement be performed by accredited personnel outside of the volunteer's dedicated brigade.</li> <li>2. That the CFA review the ability and use of its briefing systems and, in particular, the use of radio communication, to accommodate and ensure effective communication about track safety/changes even in situations where the issuing of a Red Flag is not warranted.</li> <li>3. That periodic liaison occur between the CFA, and the Major Collision Investigation Unit (MCIU) and Mechanical Investigation Unit of Victoria Police with a view to identifying, reviewing and improving mechanical and/or engineering features of CFA vehicles for the purposes of improving the safety of the same.</li> <li>4. Noting that the CFA investigator has identified the potential preventative value of early rollover warning systems within CPA tankers, I recommend that the Minister for Police and Emergency Services allocate whatever additional discrete assistance is deemed necessary, to enable the CFA to expedite the program process to complete their research into early warning rollover devices with the aim of installing them into all CFA tankers.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The relevant SOPs will be reviewed to determine whether any amendments are required.</li> <li>▪ The review of SOP's will be completed prior to the commencement of the 2010/11 fire season</li> <li>▪ CFA have a number of qualified driver educators (career &amp; volunteer) throughout the State. These personnel provide driver education services to career and volunteer personnel. A recent review and discussion paper on driver training will be used to develop a State driver training strategy, taking into account the Coroner's recommendation.</li> <li>▪ SMEACS briefings are provided and intended to ensure that personnel involved in operations are aware of all critical issues including safety related matters associated with all operations. These briefings are provided to all levels of personnel.</li> <li>▪ The process of providing the fireline with updated safety information will be formalized and the need for dynamic information flow on the fireground will be reinforced during joint agency 2010/11 preseason briefings.</li> <li>▪ The CFA State Coordinator – Driving and Vehicle Operations has already established and maintains a strong liaison with these two VicPol units. This includes regular dialogue and liaison on issues affecting CFA driving and vehicle operations. In addition an ongoing opportunity exists for the State Coordinator – Driving and Vehicle Operations to undertake regular periods with these units for the purpose of enhancing training and experience. This relationship will continue in the future.</li> <li>▪ CFA is continuing to undertake research and evaluation into options for rollover warning devices and two units were installed in trucks as an initial trial. These trial systems are operating as expected during cross-slope conditions, but are experiencing other "false alarm" problems on the road.</li> <li>▪ CFA has not yet finalised its research and evaluation in regard to this matter. CFA is investigating options that will meet our needs including affordability and retrofit capabilities.</li> <li>▪ Anticipated completion of this research project is prior to the 2011/12 financial year</li> </ul>

Coroners Recommendations	CFA's Progress
<p>5. That the job description for CFA brigade captains include the responsibility for the endorsement and enforcement of the Chief Officer's Standard Operating Procedures.</p> <p>6. Other Issues: <i>Seatbelts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The current Chief Officers SO 2.00 states "The OIC Brigade shall be responsible for ensuring that the brigade meets the statutory responsibilities of CFA and that members comply with the directions of the Chief Officer." The Chief Officers SO &amp; SOP will be reviewed to determine if amendment is required to clarify responsibilities, having regard to the Coroner's recommendation.</li> <li>▪ Anticipated completion of this activity will be prior to the commencement of the 2010/11 fire season</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Seatbelt education campaigns:</i></b></p> <p>As noted by the Coroner in her findings, CFA developed a Seatbelt Safety pack, consisting of a letter to Captains from the Chief Officer, a 'Frequently Asked Questions' sheet, and three copies of a seatbelt safety DVD. This pack was distributed to the Captain of every CFA Brigade. The Seatbelt Safety Pack was also distributed to MFB, SES and DSE (fifty copies to each). The seatbelt video was also widely distributed to a range of organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AFAC OH&amp;S Committee (a number of member organisations requested further copies);</li> <li>▪ Wildland Fire Conference, Phoenix Arizona – one copy per attendee;</li> <li>▪ Victoria SES - requested one copy of the DVD for each Unit;</li> <li>▪ Online – YouTube version had ~21,500 views as of 30 April 2010; and</li> <li>▪ USA National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. The CFA video was distributed to ~33,000 fire departments across the USA as part of the 2010 'Everyone Goes Home' Firefighter Safety Kit.</li> </ul> <p>The CFA Seatbelt Safety Pack was recognised by the National Safety Council of Australia, as a finalist in the 2009 NSCA/ExxonMobil National Safety Awards of Excellence, in the 'GIO Best Communication of a Safety Message' category.</p> <p>CFA recognises the need for periodic reinforcement of the seatbelt safety message.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing seatbelt safety campaign, a statement on the</p>