

ENGINEERING, EQUIPMENT & TRAINING



The Issues

Engineering Department Inadequately resourced...

- External assessor identified and reported there are not enough mechanics employed to do the work required.
- Mechanics not supported with modern technology to adequately service modern trucks.
- Unrealistic pressures to get trucks back in service.
- No room for unscheduled breakdowns in daily work demands.
- Out-sourcing to private contractors creating more issues and work.

Lack of Equipment...

- Regional trucks and crews not provided with life-saving tools like thermal imaging cameras.
- Not enough equipment to adequately stow and maintain spare trucks.
- Fire crews left to "make do with what you have".
- Incompatibility of equipment stowage across trucks.

Access to Training...

- Lack of resources to facilitate required training.
- Increased training pressure to ensure on-going up-skilling to maintain a modern fire service striving to meet world's best practice.
- Diversity of rescue response requires adequate training to ensure safety of first responder crews.

What we need

Adequately resourced engineering department...

- Significant investment in bolstering number of trade professionals required to meet modern day practice and heavy vehicle fleet management.
- Provision of technology to better service and support modern trucks.
- A clear and agreed fleet management/asset replacement plan that includes ongoing maintenance costs.
- Long-term investment into SAMFS engineering positions to reduce costly out-sourcing (Apprenticeships?).

Equipment to get the job done...

- Greater investment to ensure all firefighters have access to life-saving equipment.
- Ensure enough equipment is available to ensure spare trucks are "response ready".
- Improved transparency and on-going costing of equipment asset and replacement program.

Adequately resourced training department...

- Greater investment in training department to assist the delivery of high quality training.
- Recognition of the requirement to adequately train all staff to ensure WHS standards.
- Government to support and recognise world's best practice training systems.

