

My name is George Bury, I was employed as a RAAF transport fitter and started at Amberley in 1973.

My full time employment was overhauling fire vehicles was involved in the conversion to PFAS .

We were advised at the time PFAS was No risk and most people wore shorts and T Shirts.

At the time at 3AD Amberley, there would have been 15 to 20 directly working on fire vehicles, also there would have been about the same number doing the same job at other units over Australia

I would also consider that in fact over the years hundreds of fitters would have had heavy skin contact with PFAS. Part of the servicing and testing was to drain ,clean and test the effectiveness of PFAS foam.

The way to test PFAS foam was to spray foam on the ground, then scoop an armfull up ,turn the foam upside down to test the Stickiness.

There was no set place at Amberley to spray the test foam ,but it was usually around the grass close to 3AD workshop.

During the 20years I was around Amberley, there was a fire training area on the edge of WARRIL CREEK. When fire training was carried out or when waste oil, kerosene, PFAS etc was dumped into the dam on the edge of the creek,it flowed down the bank .

One can imagine what happened to the pond when it rained, yes ,the waste would have overflowed into WARRIL CREEK, then onto the Brisbane River.

Most bases I visited,had a similar Area of dirty secrets and if there was an exercise, when fire vehicles had to have the PFAS and water tanks emptied it was dumped onto the ground.

It doesn't surprise me that Oakey and Williamstown were polluted with PFAS by over eager fire men, but the worst may yet to be seen.

There are likely more areas yet to be exposed ,such as Laverton , Point Cook , NT , WA and Wide Bay exercise area.

My concern is for all those fitters who worked on fire vehicles over the years ,who never received any warning about the PFAS danger.

I am aware of a health system for fire fighters but have not heard of any MT FITTERS getting help.

FIRE FIGHTERS, were always fully protected by their fire suits however the fitters wore t shirts and shorts.

I started working on fire vehicles in Feb 73 and since 1976 I have been suffering from ulcerative colitis. I have had two heart operations, now have diabetes and osteoarthritis I need about a dozen pills each day.

I did a blood test which showed at the time (a few years ago) I have PFAS in my blood. I submitted the results a few years ago, with no further communications.

Forwarded for your consideration

G Bury