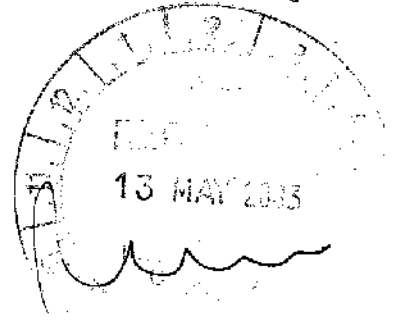


Submitted by: Paul Titterton



Date: 8/5/2003

Submission No. 263

INQUIRY INTO THE RECENT AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRES.

Dear Sir/Madam

The standard of CFA training is very poor. I am a CFA member and SES Controller. CFA 5 Year course is a joke for best training. CFA is approx 65 years old, SES 25 years.

SES have

① Training weekly	→	CFA	① Monthly
② Qualified training instructors.	→		② Nil at all
③ Use nationally recognised training courses with TAFE			

The problem is you cannot train once a month for 1 1/2 hrs and get a good result, if you miss 2 trainings, you haven't been for 3 months.

Please look at the training structure of the CFA and the SES and do a comparison.

The SES appoint a controller who selects his/her team - picks the Comm's officer, training off, safety officer etc on their merits and ends up with a team, it can make changes. The CFA has a "group vote" on all positions and it's out of control of the captain - it does not result in the best way of doing emergency work. It then takes the next 2 years to fix.