

# BULLETIN

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TO: ALL UFU MEMBERS

## FIREFIGHTERS STOP TO HONOUR FALLEN COLLEAGUE

Following yesterday's tragic loss of an ACT Fire Brigade firefighter in Victoria, the peak body of Australia's 13,000 firefighters has respectfully requested each platoon to observe a minute's silence to mourn his passing. His death is the first firefighter casualty of Victoria's bushfire crisis.

Mr David Balfour was killed when a large branch fell on him while connecting a hose to his strike team's tanker. Mr Balfour and his crew were responding in the fire zone east of Marysville. Other members of the crew appear to have been unharmed. Further details of the circumstances surrounding the firefighter's death are still under investigation.

Mr Balfour was a well respected elected officer of the United Firefighters Union, ACT Branch who served his fellow fire-fighters and the community at the highest level," UFU National Secretary Peter Marshall said.

"He was a strong advocate for the reform of the ACT Fire Brigade, which has lead to increased community safety. It is extremely sad that a person with such a strong record in promoting community safety has paid the ultimate price for its protection," Mr Marshall said.

Mr Balfour 46, from Gilmour ACT, was a professional firefighter of 10 years service with the ACT Fire Brigade and he leaves behind a wife and three children, aged 9 -15.

"On behalf of 13 000 firefighters nationwide, our deepest sympathies go out to his family, friends and colleagues," Mr Marshall concluded.

### **For more information**

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*Authorised by:*

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