

**the**

October 2009

# **volunteer fire fighter**

Volume 1 No. 2

Official magazine of the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association



Liberal and Nationals  
commit to ensuring  
the RFS remains  
fully independent

After Black Saturday  
Brindabella Fire  
Abatement Plan 13  
– June 2009

Cow Cockies,  
Firefighters and  
Scientists

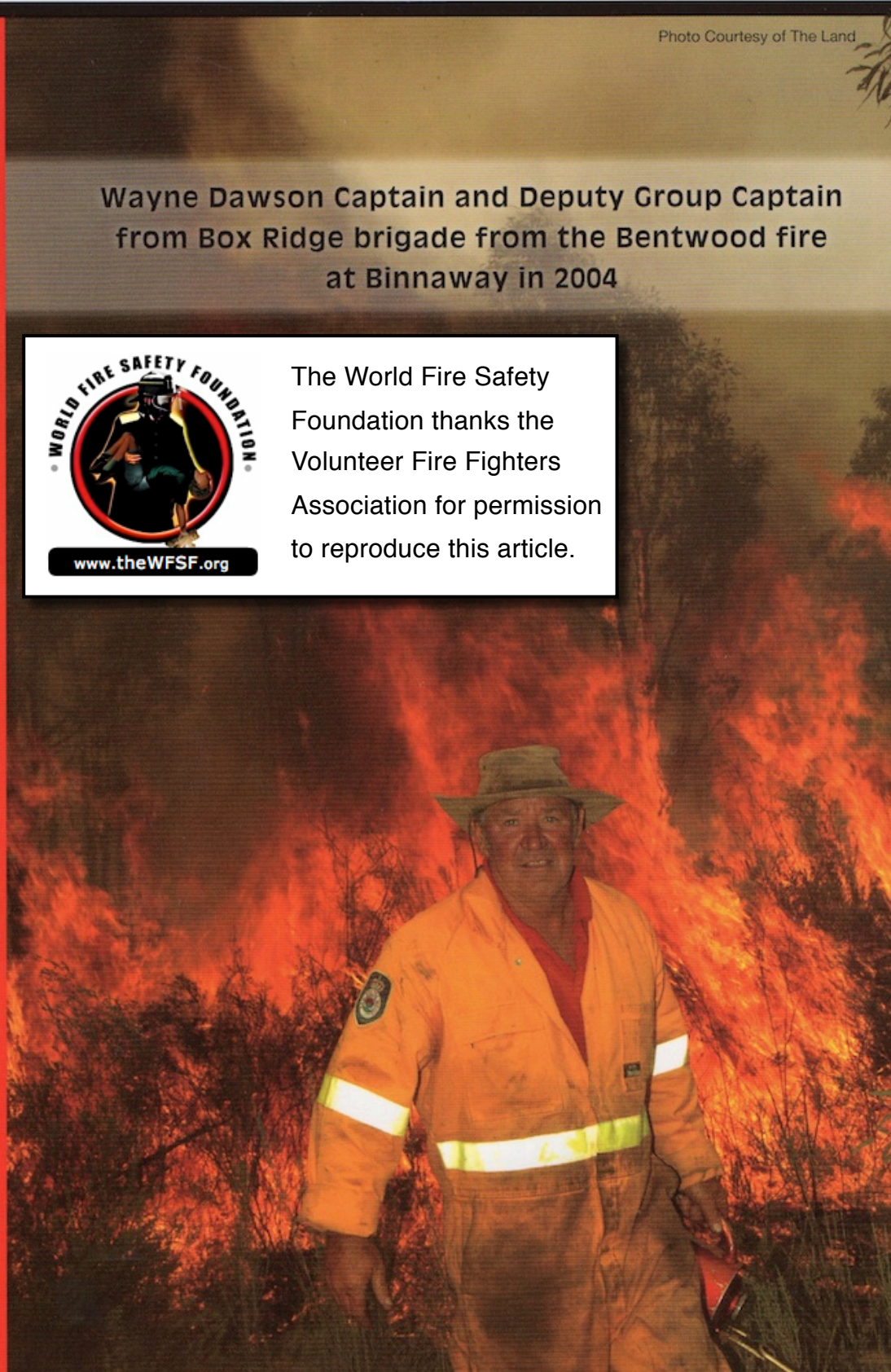
Welfare/Relief  
Fund for Volunteer  
Fire Fighters

Photo Courtesy of The Land

Wayne Dawson Captain and Deputy Group Captain  
from Box Ridge brigade from the Bentwood fire  
at Binnaway in 2004



The World Fire Safety  
Foundation thanks the  
Volunteer Fire Fighters  
Association for permission  
to reproduce this article.





It's Time to Warn the Public!

# THE KEY

R to Saving Countless Lives

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T



**Peter Cannon**  
Urging fire-fighters  
to find out the facts

**"Fire-fighters haven't been told the truth.  
Watch 'Smoke Alarm Recall' and see the  
facts about ionization alarms for yourself."**

Peter Cannon, President, Volunteer Fire Fighters  
Association, Australia Aug 2008

**"We have five million [ionisation]  
smoke detectors in this state  
that may fail in the time of need."**

State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson,  
Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Sep 2007



**SFM Roger Johnson**  
[Warning the public](#)  
in the State of Indiana



**Chief Jay Fleming**  
Warning Fire Fighters

**"Nationally the percentage of people dying  
when the [ionization] smoke detector  
works, but works too late, is forty percent."**

Chief Jay Fleming, Boston Fire Department  
WBX TV, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. Dec 2007

**"Using better [photoelectric] smoke alarms  
will drastically reduce the loss of life  
among citizens and firefighters."**

Harold A Schaitberger, International  
Association of FireFighters, USA. Oct 2008



**Harold A Schaitberger**  
General President, IAFF



The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks the **Volunteer Fire  
Fighters Association** for publishing this condensed, four page  
version of 'The KEY Report' in their October 2009 VFFA Magazine.

See the complete KEY Report at: [www.theKEYreport.org](http://www.theKEYreport.org)

Visit the **Volunteer Fire Fighters Association** at: [www.theVFFA.org](http://www.theVFFA.org)

# “It’s Time to Warn the Public!”

“ If you tell the public to buy photoelectric smoke alarms because “they’re better” - most people will do absolutely nothing.

Why should they?

Their smoke alarms go off when they open the oven or cook toast, so people think they’re safe.

However, **it’s time to warn the public** that almost everyone’s smoke alarms are dangerously defective\* - because *that’s* when they’ll replace them. ”

Adrian Butler, Chairman, WFSF  
Queensland, Australia August 2009

\*Ionization smoke alarms, the *type* in almost all homes, do not safely detect smouldering fires, the type of fire that commonly kills.



**Adrian Butler**  
Chairman, WFSF  
Former Fire Fighter

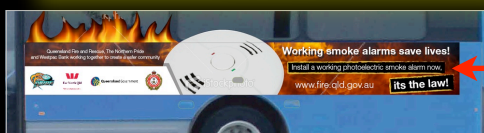


‘A Special Duty of Care’ (KEY Report page 20)

**Karl Westwell** CEO, Co-Founder, The World Fire Safety Foundation



Install a **working photoelectric** smoke alarm now,



**It’s on the Buses!**

Queensland Fire Brigade takes the lead (KEY Report page 13)

# WARNING!



**David Isaac**  
Standards Australia  
Committee FP-002

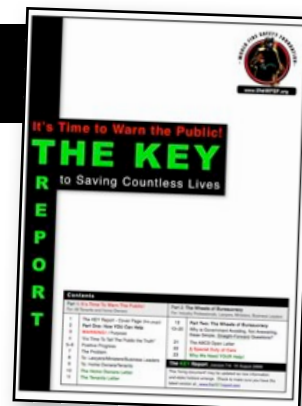
“ The average person buys a smoke alarm in the genuine belief that before their house fills with smoke from a smouldering fire, they will be given sufficient warning to safely escape. **Regrettably this is absolutely NOT what will happen if they rely on an ionization smoke alarm.** ”

Quote by Mr David Isaac, Standards Australia Committee FP-002 from the report, [‘New Zealand Fire Service - Saving Face or Saving Lives?’](#) sent to the New Zealand Fire Service, 25 May, 2006 page 3, para 3.

## The **KEY** Report - It's Purpose

The **KEY** Report (Aug 2009) follows up The **CAN** Report (Feb 2007) which warned Governments about the defective ionization *type* of smoke alarms found in almost all homes.

Despite new legislation mandating photoelectric smoke alarms in some US States and in commercial buildings in Australia, **the public (and fire fighters) are STILL not being warned about the dangerously defective ionization smoke alarms in their homes (whether they are new or old, battery or hard-wired).**

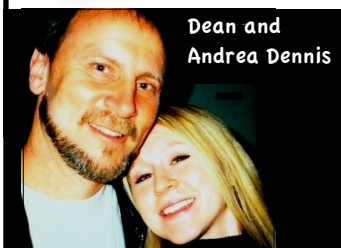


The **KEY** Report's purpose is to help you to:

- discover the truth about the smoke alarms in your home, and
- take simple, practical steps to properly protect your family.

**Is your family safe? How can you know for sure?**

- 1** Read the 'Personal Messages' (KEY Report pages 8 ~ 9)
- 2** Send your 'Home Owners' or 'Tenants' letter (KEY Report pages 10 ~ 11)



Dean and  
Andrea Dennis

**... It's Time to Warn the Public!**

**“If you put people on notice that there's a problem, and they ignore it, now they're liable . . .”**

Dean Dennis, 'Father's For Fire Safety', Sept 2009



**Roger Johnson**  
Indiana State Fire Marshal

# Attention ALL Fire Fighters

## We need YOUR Help

“ This may well be the most vital life-safety message of our time. ”

SFM Johnson after the Foundation's 'Aquarium Test' aired on Indiana State TV. 07 Sept, 2007, Indiana, USA

- 1 Read the KEY Report at: [www.theKEYreport.org](http://www.theKEYreport.org),
- 2 Check out the Fire Fighters pages and the 'Fire Chiefs Presentation' at: [www.theWFSF.org](http://www.theWFSF.org), and
- 3 Send your 'Home Owners' or 'Tenants' letter.



## Fire Chiefs Presentation

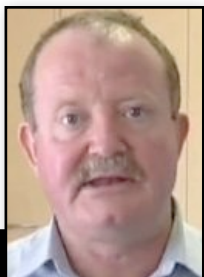
Find out how fire-fighters have been, and continue to be, needlessly killed and injured for over thirty years. See the 'Fire Chiefs Presentation' at: [www.theWFSF.org](http://www.theWFSF.org)



**Fire-fighter's**  
Discover the facts for yourself

**“It is truly alarming ... It is so stunning and so horrifying and it's so hard to believe it's something that people just don't know.”**

Courteney Stuart, 'The Hook', Virginia, USA. July 2008



**Adrian Butler**  
Chairman, former full-time firefighter



The World Fire Safety Foundation thanks the VFFA for helping spread the message



**Karl Westwell**  
CEO, Co-Founder



**'ALARMING' Exposé**  
Real-world fire-fighter testing reveals the horrifying truth about the smoke alarms in MOST homes!