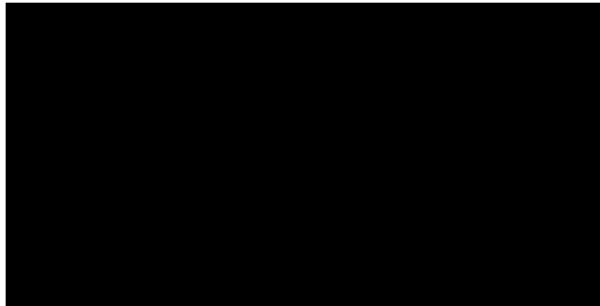




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19 December 2018



**Information Request – Injuries firefighters sustained on the job over the past four years**

I refer to your official information request dated 21 November 2018 asking for information about injuries to firefighters over the past four years including:

- the number of injuries that have occurred,
- what they were and how they were sustained,
- the severity of the injuries, and
- how much time was taken off work due to those injuries.

On 18 December 2018 you were advised of our decision in relation to your request. Your request has now been assessed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

The safety, health and wellbeing of our people is of paramount importance to us. Every person within Fire and Emergency NZ has a right to work in a safe and supportive environment with the tools, equipment and skills that will protect them from hazards they encounter in their roles.

We recognise that the nature of our work means our people encounter a wide range of risks to their physical safety, work-related health or psychological wellbeing. We provide support services that cater for different levels of needs our people may have.

Fire and Emergency is currently trialling a new reporting system in one Fire Region called Safe@Work, and in early 2019 we intend to replace the existing AERIK system nationwide with this. The following tables provide you with sets of data from both systems. Unfortunately, as will be evident, we cannot consolidate this data as information is captured differently.

The injury data provided from the AERIK and Safe@Work systems captures injuries to paid and volunteer firefighters. Injury claims data only captures information regarding paid firefighters.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or

freephone 0800 802 602. Note also that this response (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Fire and Emergency website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Bella Sutherland', with a large, stylized 'S' and a small 'B' at the start.

Bella Sutherland  
Director, Office of the Chief Executive

encl

<b>AERIK data</b>					
<b>Injury Type</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018 YTD</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Abrasion/Graze	59	79	46	63	247
Amputation		1	1		2
Bite/Sting/Puncture wound	17	23	16	27	83
Broken bone/Fracture	23	13	7	11	54
Bruise/Contusion	118	128	141	104	491
Burn	41	58	48	48	195
Crush injury	25	28	15	19	87
Cut/Laceration/Open wound	66	109	75	68	318
Dislocation	6	5	5	7	23
Head injury	19	21	26	22	88
Hearing loss	8	11	8	3	30
Heat stress / Exhaustion		5	15	25	45
Inhalation/Ingestion/Contact with hazardous substance	49	39	72	58	218
Loss of consciousness	11	7	1	1	20
Multiple serious injuries	1	3	3		7
Sprain or strain	742	803	787	736	3068
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>4976</b>

<b>AERIK data</b>					
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018 YTD</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Drill or training activity	246	305	276	319	1146
Office work/meeting area or similar	44	43	43	51	181
PCA related activity	2	21	6	25	54
Personal physical training	95	92	75	90	352
Public visits or displays	3	19	8	6	36
Responding to an incident	93	104	104	89	390
Routine work (not related to incident)	231	275	237	222	965
Social or other activities	13	14	22	11	60
Stand down	14	15	6	8	43
Travelling to or from work	32	25	28	29	114
Working at incident ground	412	420	461	342	1635
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>1266</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>4976</b>

<b>Safe@Work Data</b>		
<b>Injury type</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Abrasion / Graze	3	3
Broken bone / Fracture	1	1
Bruise/Contusion	12	12
Burns	1	1
Crush injury	1	1
Cut / Laceration / Open wound	1	1
Exposed/Impacted	43	43
Heat stress / Exhaustion	1	1
Inhalation / Ingestion / Contact with hazardous substance	5	5
Loss of consciousness	1	1
Sprain or strain	47	47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>

<b>Safe@Work data</b>		
<b>Activity</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>Non-Operational</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
Administration / office work	1	1
Community events	1	1
Operational readiness	2	2
Physical training	11	11
Routine Work	19	19
<b>Operations</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>
Controlled burn	1	1
Firefighting - other	10	10
Firefighting - structural	20	20
Firefighting - vegetation	1	1
Hazmat	2	2
Medical	12	12
Motor vehicle crash	11	11
Operation incident other	11	11
Rescue activity - animal	1	1
Routine Work	12	12
Special service	1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>116</b>

Injury Claims Data		2015			2016			2017			2018			TOTAL		
Incidents and Lost Days		Sum of Incidents	Sum of Lost Days		Sum of Incidents	Sum of Lost Days		Sum of Incidents	Sum of Lost Days		Sum of Incidents	Sum of Lost Days		Sum of Incidents	Sum of Lost Days	
Accidents caused by fire and flames								1	0					1	0	
Accidents due to natural and environmental factors					2	5		1	0		4	7		7	12	
Arthropathies and related disorders		1	0		1	56					3	8		5	64	
Burns		6	17		12	156		4	13		9	28		31	214	
Contusion (bruise) with intact skin		29	85		33	349		25	202		25	93		112	729	
Crushing injury		4	141					1	60		4	67		9	268	
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process		18	0		22	13		21	0		17	0		78	13	
Dislocations and subluxations		7	372		2	45		7	409		7	7		23	833	
Foreign body (FB) in orifice		7	2		5	1		3	3		2	1		17	7	
Fracture of lower limb		1	130		3	339		2	14		5	90		11	573	
Fracture of neck and trunk		2	3		3	63								5	66	
Fracture of upper limb		4	97		3	94		1	42		5	79		13	312	
Hernia of abdominal cavity		4	173		2	81		5	119		3	0		14	373	
Intracranial injury excluding those with skull fracture		2	15		2	8		2	10					6	33	
Non-medical agent causing toxic effects					1	2								1	2	
Open wound of head, neck and trunk		10	10		9	33		4	20		3	3		26	66	
Open wound of lower limb		3	6		1	0		4	16		1	0		9	22	
Open wound of upper limb		16	176		15	74		8	30		12	98		51	378	
Organic psychotic conditions								3	1019		1	14		4	1033	
Other and unspecified external effect causes											1	3		1	3	
Other skin subcut. tissue inflammatory conditions					1	0								1	0	
Peripheral nervous system disorders											1	0		1	0	
Rheumatism, excluding the back		4	95		5	3		5	0		5	34		19	132	
Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections		1	0											1	0	
Sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles		325	6925		371	7075		345	5721		333	3897		1374	23618	
Superficial injury		5	13		4	20		6	14		9	3		24	50	

Unspecified conditions	27	998	39	1014	54	363	43	212	163	2587
Vertebral column syndromes	6	99	3	51	3	9	6	39	18	198
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>9357</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>9482</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>8064</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>4683</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>31586</b>