

Media Release

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Website Hub to connect fire technicians across Victoria

FPA Australia is playing a leading role in the development of a new interactive website aimed at improving skills in fire protection industry practice.

Fire protection service technicians will use innovative web 2.0 technology to access and share best practice workplace examples on an interactive website.

The Hub website will also offer technicians the chance to develop information technology skills and create an e-portfolio to store evidence of their own work tasks.

The project is being led by FPA Australia, in partnership with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Fire Equipment Maintenance Division (FEM), Swinburne University of Technology and other members of the fire protection industry.

A simple online site will be created, where technicians will upload workplace examples using multimedia tools.

The technicians will be provided with phone and email support to learn how to send in and publish their photo, video and audio work examples on the web. Participants can choose whether to publish to the website housing workplace demonstrations, or to their own space to build an e-portfolio.

The photo, video and audio examples published on the Hub will be validated by technical experts from the fire protection industry. Technicians will use the website to update, maintain, demonstrate and share their fire protection industry skills at a time and pace that suits them.

The design of the website will encourage content collection and provide access to social networking features such as a blog or forum. It is hoped the site will become a useful resource to bring members of the industry located in remote, regional and metropolitan areas together to support and share comment on best practice examples of fire protection work.

It is a small budget, but we hope by creating and supporting the online space, the project will increase computer literacy among fire protection service technicians. The combination of web 2.0 skills and industry support can build confidence to use computers to generate and share information to increase workplace fire safety.

It is hoped that the overall project will lead to:

- * highly skilled and productive fire protection workforce.
- * confidence in the use of website tools in the fire protection industry.

If you have photos or videos of fire protection tasks that could be included on the website, please contact Katharine Ebbs on katharineebbs@fpaa.com.au or 03 9890 1544.

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The Fire Protection Association Australia is the country's peak body for fire safety, providing information, services and training to the fire protection industry and broader community. For more information, please see www.fpaa.com.au or contact FPA Australia – (03) 9890 1544.