



CFSVA Region 1 station survey

Completed February 2022

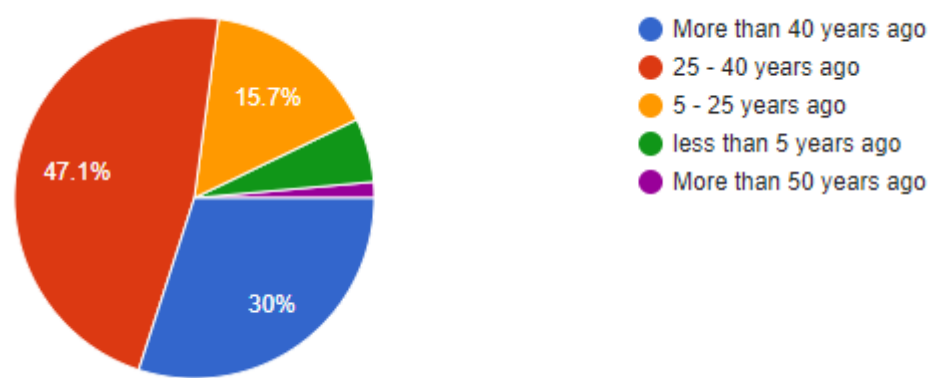
64 surveys were completed.

Most were completed online by the captain or CVSVA rep. Approx 15 were completed by visiting the station or calling the captain and filling out a survey for them.

After much consideration it was decided to anonymise the more detailed responses from brigades.

Many thanks to all of you that took the time to complete a survey.

Roughly when was your station built?



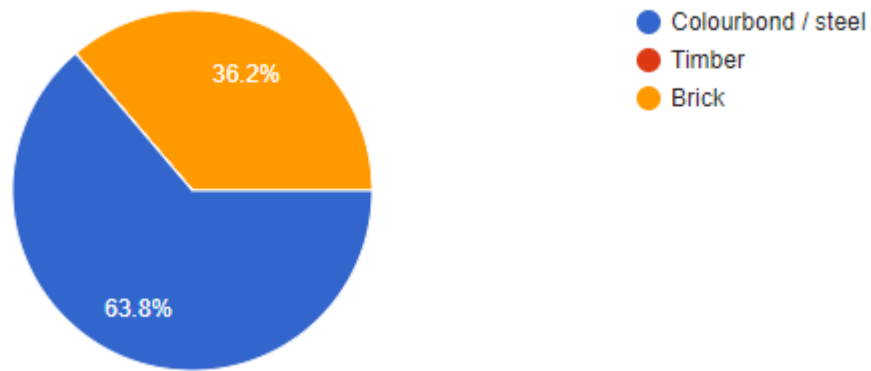
Who owns the station?

Local council or community	21
CFS	32
SAFECOM or government	9
Others	4

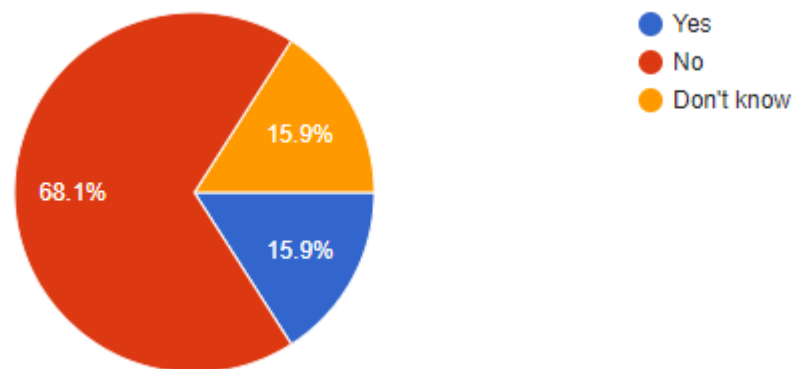
Who owns the land the station is built on?

Local council or community	49
CFS	8
SAFECOM or government	7
Others	3

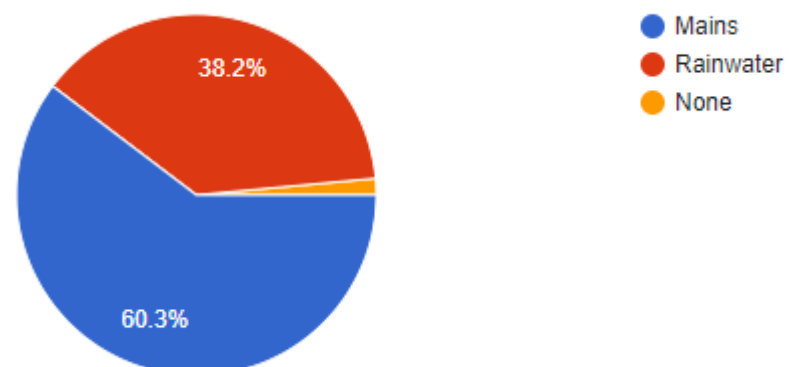
Construction



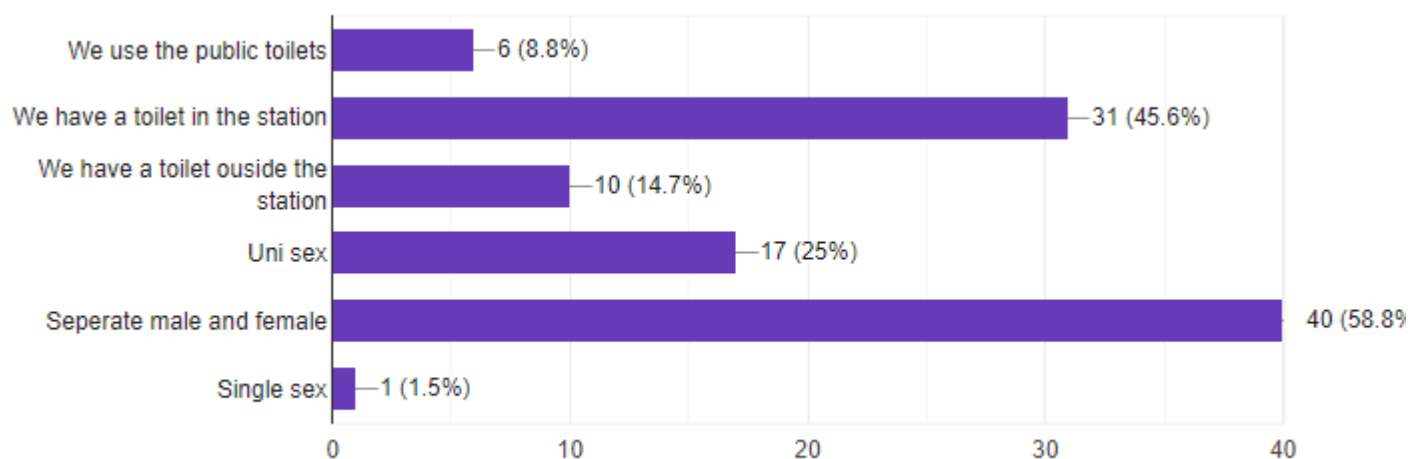
Does it contain any asbestos?



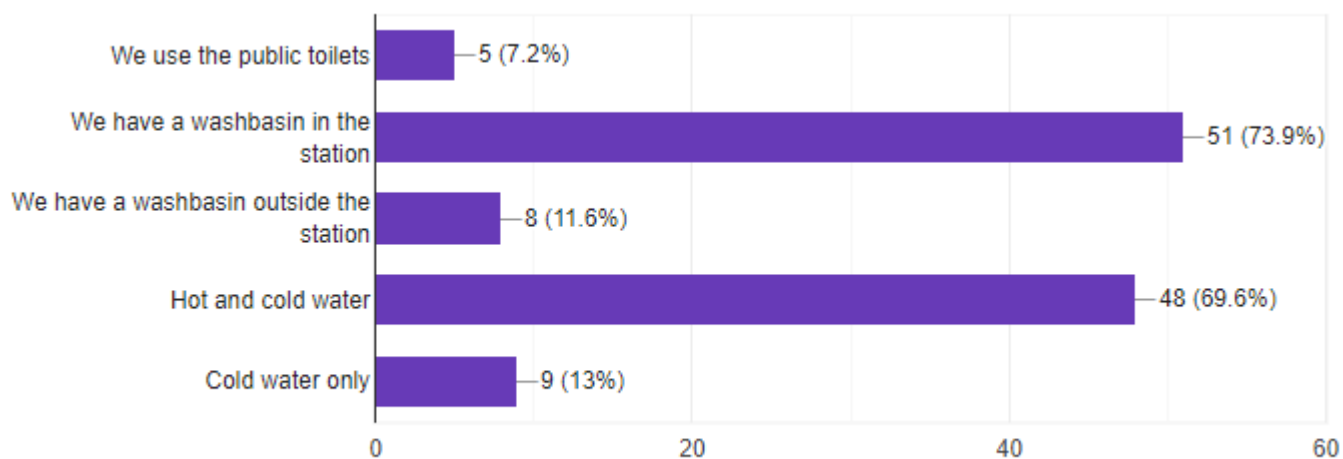
Water supply



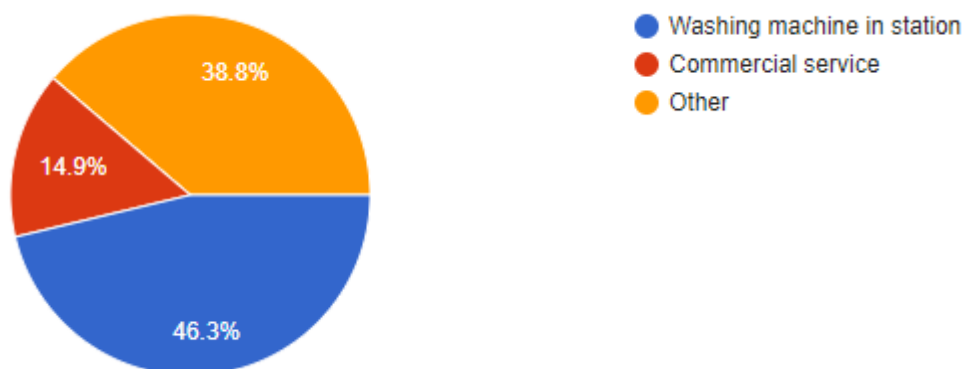
What sort of toilets do you have?



What sort of hand washing facilities do you have?

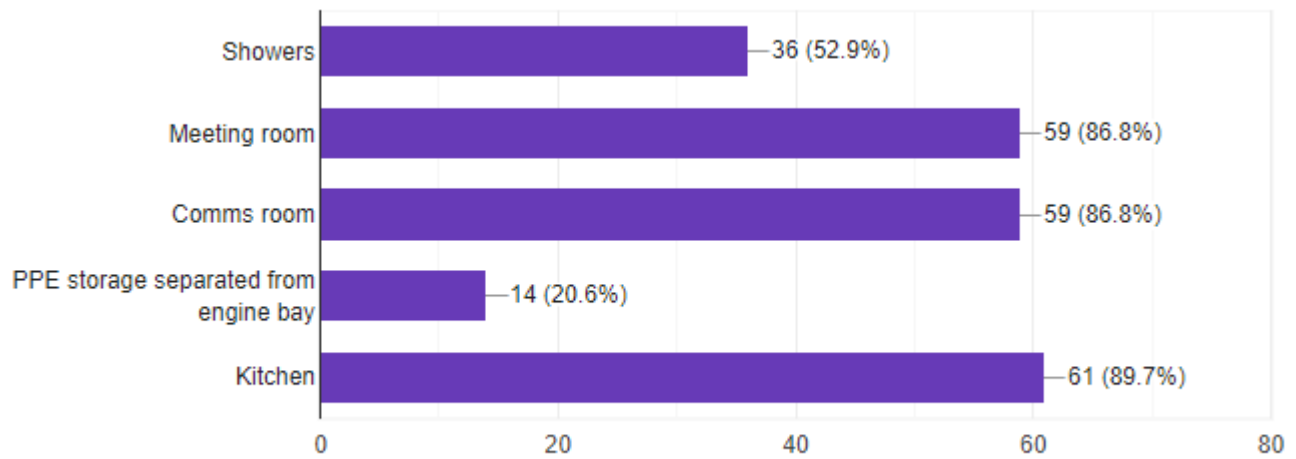


How do you wash your PPE?

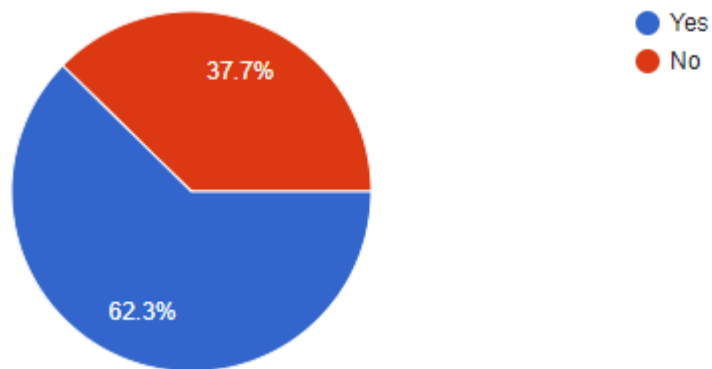


Other mostly meant they take it home to wash

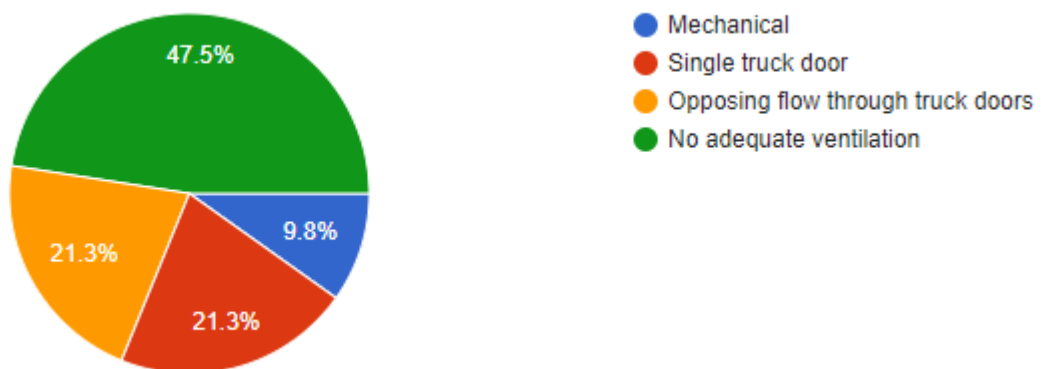
Do you have any of these?



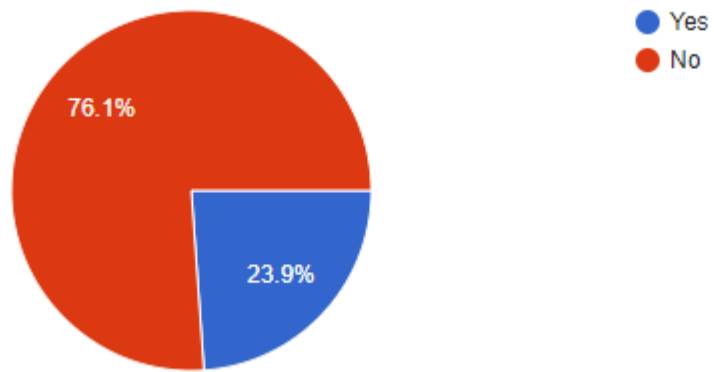
Is your engine bay large enough for the trucks you should have?



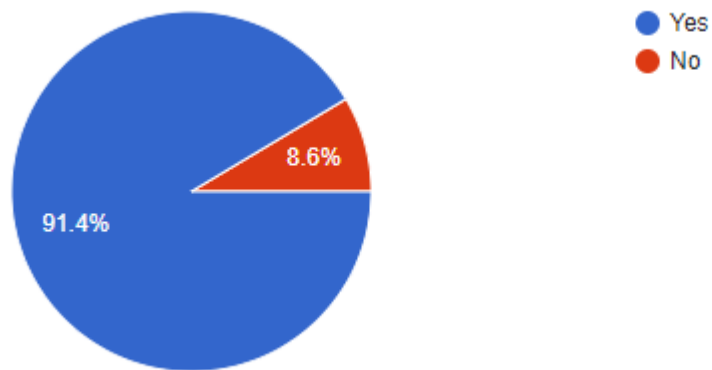
How do you vent your engine bay?



Is your PPE stored in a seperate room from the engine bay?



Do you have RC aircon?



Car parking

Adequate 20+ spaces	28
10 - 20 spaces	14
1 - 9 spaces	12
no parking	12

Comments

Unsealed grassy area.

None. Public carpark only

All on street or in adjacent public park.

Parking for 20 cars during night, shared with council so not available during the day.

no parking we park on the neighbours property

side streets

No dedicated parking; volunteers' cars parked on wide road verge

Call outs last year / average year

200+	10
100 - 200	17
50 - 100	21
less than 50	15

Other comments

Brigade 1

condition deteriorating

Brigade 2

It was designed and built under the guidance of the brigade with Councils input

Brigade 3

Is getting old would like a bigger station the station is in ok condition just need another bay for the growing amount of members and or response area is getting busy with the nursing home and the golf club getting bigger and with more members need at least some where to put our gear.

Brigade 4

The station could do with a separate area away from the appliances for members to get changed safely. Also an internal upgrade of facilities as they have been unchanged since being built in 1986.

Brigade 5

Bits of the station different construction, and different ages, as built at different times. There was not an option re toilets - we have access to the toilets at the adjacent Community Hall, but they are not strictly public. There is also a problem when we need to use the toilets, and there is a function at the hall....stinky firefighters wandering in to a wedding reception, to use the toilets!!

Brigade 6

There is currently no water supply, toilets, kitchen facilities or handwashing facilities at the station. We have an agreement to connect to the Almaljen water system but only for the purposes of washing trucks about which the neighbour is not supportive due to runoff. We are currently purchasing a freestanding hand washing station out of brigade funds. Group and Region have promised to pay for an outdoor toilet but this is a mixed blessing as it will occupy an external car parking space which are also in short supply.

We have no storage space at all for PPE. Members keep their PPE in crew bags that the brigade pays for. Members wash their PPE at home.

The exact position of the road boundary and the degree to which the shed infringes on the neighbour's land is currently under investigation by CFS HQ and the Council. We have heard nothing for months. There may be space on the neighbour's side of the shed (at the other end of the shed from the boundary infringement) to put on an addition that remains on the council road land. This could form the basis for an upgrade that includes a toilet, PPE storage and even modifications that might accommodate a 34. If this were to prove infeasible (for any number of reasons) the current site offers very little scope for improvement and a new shed at another site, perhaps the top of the Road, is the most practical alternative.

The truck bay is shrink-wrapped around the trucks, a QRV and a Hino 24. We are expecting a new 14 soon as a replacement for the 24. One of the reasons we did not get a 34 is it would not fit in the shed. So we have had to go backwards in water and stowage capacity, against the general CFS trend.

Brigade 7

The truck shed is separate from the station building. Truck shed is ready for demolition before it falls over. Station building is an old stone school house in need of repair. Whilst this questionnaire asks about the facilities it doesn't really cover the condition of those facilities. On face value we have everything we need, but it is far from pretty!

Brigade 8

Kitchen is inadequate to cater for large incidents. Difficulty getting funding and cooperation as the station is both CFS and SES

Brigade 9

No mains water, but have a town common water supply to the community assets.
Small comms/kitchen, 1 unisex shower and toilet.

Brigade 10

Toilets are not adequate

Brigade 11

Toilets in very bad condition. Urgently need removing. New extension will include ppe store and shower.

Brigade 12

Share community parking. Trucks fit but only just

Brigade 13

BA cleaned in kitchen- proposal to build new temporary station - stalled in planning - population growth and being in a water reservoir car park means new station elsewhere would make more sense long term

Brigade 14

PPE is stored in an area adjacent to the engine bay and is not in a separate room
PPE is laundered by Group

Brigade 15

Current office meeting room condemned due to termite infestation

Brigade 16

The station is lacking some “modern” things like hot water, change rooms. The front apron where the trucks roll out is in need of road base as one of the trucks is in mud and slippery ground. Have recently upgraded some of the features but better facilities would be good. We have 27 operational members and a mixture of male and female.

Brigade 17

No female changing area. Changing area in engine bay. Our station’s meeting room is not large enough to accommodate all brigade members at one time comfortably. Larger group require us to use the engine bay.

Washing of our PPE is done in station however the machine is located in the kitchen therefore contaminated PPE must be taken into our only food preparation area.

Current locker space in the engine bay is not suitable for current membership numbers, meaning some PPE & PPI Gold is exposed to Diesel Particulate Matter & in some case direct sunlight.

Current locker area is not large enough to house bigger lockers. It is also shared by male and female volunteers, whilst no members complain about this, it is not appropriate.

Our air conditioning is installed in our meeting room only. The coms/officers office has no air conditioning.

Brigade 18

Half our station was deemed not fit for human occupancy (condemned) in November 2019. Since then we have been operating solely out of the 34P bay, with emergency access to QRV bay, no access to toilet, meeting room, radio room, and office. Portable toilet has been put at our door as a ‘temporary’ solution.

Access to our station is through the 34P roller door only.

Brigade 19

Toilet / Change areas are adequate but not brilliant

Brigade 20

The brigade has 18 male and 9 female firefighters and 11 females in the Support Group. With one uni-sex toilet things sometimes result in female queueing with the males making other arrangements. Not ideal!

Brigade 21

We have been working hard to upgrade facilities with members labour and CFS support.

We still have our PPE in the engine bay but the ventilation issues involved in an enclosed room were considered and we opted for the purpose built racking option in the back quarter:

I removed our only deep sink to instal the washing machine so we needed a BA commissioning area that has just been installed: It’s all painted white with a tiled splashback along the sink now.

The toilets are adequate except for the current storage of BA cylinders in the disabled loo, which will soon stop when they move to be under the BA sink.

I think our station is shaping up nicely and we probably enjoy better conditions than many other stations. It has been a very good bonding exercise for the brigade to work together and improve our station as well.

I hope this helps you develop an overview of the situation.

Brigade 22

No adequate toilets, no parking, located on a bad corner of the Road, water ingress to rear of station, cannot fit a 34 in the station etc.

Brigade 23

Shared facilities with the football club under the same roof. Quite serviceable however new trucks are larger than previous, so only just serviceable

Brigade 24

Generally in good condition and well maintained by members. Historically, Regional funding grants have been utilised to undertake necessary major repairs and refurbishment over time.

Brigade 25

The community bought the land and started building the station in 1956 , this continued to about 2004 when the last extension occurred. This station is a mixture of brick and steel colourbond. Until recently the brigade paid for all maintenance however now the Region and the ET Group generally take care of the upkeep of station. small projects get funded now and again but it takes a lot of time to get the quotes and organize.

Major projects such as a generator to run the station in power failure, replacement of water tanks and building bush fire roof sprinkler system were funded by the brigade , this was done over 5 years and was a significant cost. Recently new PPC racks were bought at Brigade cost because Region deemed it outside the funding criteria, once again a significant cost to the brigade.

Brigade 26

What is designed as a 3 Bay Station is housing 5 appliances - 34P, A34P, BW11, QRV, Logistics Car. This makes for a very tight squeeze and means that in order for A34P and/or QRV to respond, the Logistics car has to be moved out the way first, which is not only an inconvenience, but also delays response times.

QRV is flagged for replacement in the next 1-2 years, likely with a 14 (or possibly a 34), which will make the current arrangement even harder.

The Brigade has been waiting since 2010 for an extension to provide a fourth appliance bay to allow us to safely and effectively house the appliances that we have. The Brigade originally submitted an extension proposal in 2010, but was declined. The Brigade re-submitted for Project Renew funding, but was also unsuccessful.

The Brigade has a washing machine, however this was NOT supplied by CFS. Brigade Volunteers had to spend their own time to apply for Government grants, which we were eventually successful with.

PPE storage racks (sufficient to store both rural and structural PPE) were NOT supplied by CFS. These were purchased using fundraising money (that Volunteers had to earn via fundraising events) and then constructed by Volunteers in our own time. Also, our PPE storage racks are located in the appliance bay (no room anywhere else in the station), so PPE is subject to diesel fume exposure. No proper ventilation is installed in the appliance bay to prevent accumulation of diesel fumes.

Believe new CFS stations built today aren't even supplied with any form of PPE storage racks or a designated/separate area/room.

Storage racks to stow spare operational equipment and spare sets of PPE also had to be purchased by the Brigade using fundraising money.

Brigade 27

Additional tall colourbond engine bay added to old shed about 7 years ago to accommodate 3.4 appliance. Existing old engine bay only suitable for 1.4 appliance - too low for 2.4 appliance. ATCO-style building added about 20 years ago as office/kitchen/toilet.

Brigade 28

The Brigade was expecting a new truck in 2013, we new it would not fit in the shed. So we worked with SACFS and Council to extend the shed by 4 metres. we received a grant to assist us but had to put our money and time and effort to do the work. Since then we have been planning for an extension to give us room for PPE storage and training. But with Covid and a slowness from SACFS we have not been successful in getting planning and building started.

Brigade 29

Our groups BWC is housed at our station. BWC Needs replacing, but station isnt high enough for a new BWC. We have three appliances (14 & QRV & BWC9) jammed into 2 truck bays. Need to build another truck bay alongside, which could be made higher. This would allow us to have one truck in each truck bay.

We have a unisex bathroom and a kitchen. The only other room we have is a combined training/comms/ppe/meeting room. With an additional truck bay, I could move the ppe lockers out of the meeting room, making it healthier for us. Currently we cant hold meeting due to the size of the small room, and covid density requirements dont allow us all in that same room at same time. Moving the ppe lockers out would free up some room. Currently there are only 2 seats in the meeting room, as the lockers take up the space and we need to keep them free incase we are responded, so we unstack chairs at every training/meeting and put them back again.

There are no seats to assist with getting dressed when responding to incidents.

Unfortunately, by building another truck bay, we would lose all of our parking spaces, making us all park on the street, away from the station. Street parking is restricted as we are on a residential street with homes immediately right next to our building.

Ideally, we need a new location, someone we can train without disrupting the neighbours, somewhere we can park on the property safely, somewhere with three truck bays, and somewhere we can have a meeting room, separate to the dirty PPE.

Currently we are all jammed in together and I feel this restricts us from getting new members as, when we are all in there together, either on a training night or responding to an incident, we all trip over each other. I have mentioned this to both Regional staff and also my Group Officers but we are no where near the top of the list to have anything even looked at.