



CABA LOCKER RISK ASSESSMENT

To	Northern Beaches District Manager		
From:	Tanker Standardise Working Group		
Subject:	Repositioning of CABA locker on Category 1 appliances		
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ISSUE

The Northern Beaches Rural Fire District (NBRFD) is implementing a standard tanker layout for Category 1 appliances and the Tanker Standardisation Working Group (TSWG) has determined that the current position of the CABA locker (rear left locker) on current appliances creates a hazard for NBRFD members.

BACKGROUND

The TSWG was established in 2016, and comprises of one (1) delegate from each mainland brigade. The TSWG have reviewed the current equipment positioning, purpose and frequency of use, to assist in determining a safe, consistent and effective layout which reduces the time spent deploying first attack firefighting equipment and minimises the potential of injury or near miss incidents.

The TSWG concluded that the most frequently used first attack equipment (hoses, branches, breaches) should be located on the left (Passenger) side of the appliance, due to the frequency of use, however, on the new Category 1 appliances, the rear left locker is fitted for CABA equipment. Therefore, not all hoses, branches and breaches fit within one (1) locker and instead are split between the left front locker and right (Drivers side) front locker. This creates confusion amongst members and potentially delays deployment of equipment.

Within the last three and half years (01/01/2014 to 30/06/2017), Northern Beaches Rural Fire Brigades (NBRFB) have deployed CABA 78 times over 28 incidents requiring CABA to be deployed, out of a total of 1981 incidents (statistics compiled on 06/06/2017, from NSW RFS Corporate Reports). Additionally, majority of these incidents where CABA was deployed was at a suburban structure fire and not on major roads.

- 2014: 32 times at 11 incidents where CABA was deployed, out of a total of 495 incidents.
- 2015: 15 times at 6 incidents where CABA was deployed, out of a total of 600 incidents.
- 2016: 29 times at 10 incidents where CABA was deployed, out of a total of 635 incidents.
- 2017 (01/01/2017 to 01/06/2017): 2 times at 1 incident where CABA was deployed, out of 251 incidents.

CURRENT POSITION

Members of the TSWG have undertaken a risk assessment in accordance with *Policy 7.1.10 Organisational Risk Management*, to determine the appropriateness of relocating the CABA locker from the rear left side locker to the right rear side locker.

Currently, there is a High (H3) risk rating if the CABA locker remains on the left side of the appliance, as members are regularly required to access first attack equipment from both sides of the appliance and therefore increasing the likelihood that members could be hit by motor vehicles, if they are working on the road.

Positioning the CABA locker to the right side would increase the consequence rating, however the likelihood of an injury would decrease, as over the past three and half years, the NBRFB's deploys CABA in 1 to every 0.1 incidents.

RISK MATRIX

Item	Hazard identification	Risk identified associated with hazards	Potential Likelihood	Potential Consequence	Risk rating	Control of risk	Revised risk rating
1	CABA locker located on left rear side of Cat 1 appliance	Delayed deployment of common first attack equipment due to people accessing equipment on either side of appliance.	Likely	Minor	M (M5)	Equipment standardised on all Cat 1 appliances, based on frequency of use however NBRFB's may modify layout.	Unlikely & Insignificant = Low (L10)
		Inconsistent placement of equipment on all Cat 1 appliances, causing confusion.	Highly Likely	Minor	M (M4)	Equipment standardised on all Cat 1 appliances, based on frequency of use, however NBRFB's may modify layout.	Possible & Minor = Low (L4)
		Members regularly accessing equipment from right side of appliance whilst on road.	Likely	Major	H (H2)	If members are working on road and require equipment from right side of appliance, <i>Safe Working on Roads SOP</i> implemented and appliance moved into defensive position, if required.	Possible & Major = High (H3)
						CABA locker relocated to right side of Cat 1 appliance and if members are working on road when CABA is required, <i>Safe Working on Roads SOP</i> implemented and appliance moved into defensive position, if required.	Unlikely & Major = Medium (M2)
2	CABA locker located on right side of Cat 1 appliance	Breathing Apparatus Operators (BAOs) accessing CABA from right side of appliance, whilst on road.	Possible	Major	H (H3)	If members are working on road when CABA is required, <i>Safe Working on Roads SOP</i> implemented and appliance moved into defensive position, if required.	Unlikely & Major = Medium (M2)
		BAO's donning / doffing CABA next to exhaust.	Unlikely	Moderate	L (L2)	As per BAO training, members are to don and start up in fresh area. Additionally, locker located furthest from exhaust on right side of appliance.	Unlikely & Minor = Low (L5)

Engineering considerations about changing placement of CABA locker

The NBRFD Mechanic has reviewed the current CABA locker placement located on the left rear side and does not have any perceived engineering issues about weight or damage to lockers and/or appliances, to relocate the CABA locker to the right rear locker, and then, reposition the extinguisher locker to the front right locker.

Furthermore, the TSWG and District Mechanic suggests that the CABA locker is located to the rear right locker, to minimise the potential of the CABA masks or BAOs being exposed to exhaust fumes, when donning / doffing the CABA apparatus.

The NBRFD Mechanic estimates the time required to relocate the lockers on a single appliance would initially be approximately one (1) day, however would decrease per appliance overtime due to refining the process. The District Mechanic proposes to relocate the lockers, when an appliance has its next maintenance inspection.

Potential risk matrix control measures

To minimise the potential of an injury or near miss incident occurring whilst Breathing Apparatus Operators (ABOs) are collecting the CABA apparatus from the right rear locker, the TSWG recommends that:

- The *Safe Working on Roads Standard Operating Procedures (Emergency Operations Recommended Traffic Management)* is circulated to members about potential emergency traffic management appliance positioning on roadways to assist with creating a safe working environment.
- BAO's are reminded to always don, start up, doff and shut down in a safe area with fresh air.

RECOMMENDATION

That the NBRFD District Manager endorses the repositioning of the CABA locker from the left to the right side of the appliance, to assist with standardising all Category 1 appliances if:

- NSW Rural Fire Service Engineering approves the repositioning;
- That the Senior Management Advisory Committee (SMAC) approves the repositioning and proposed standardised layout; and
- The District Advisory Committee (DAC) approves the repositioning and proposed standardised layout.

ENDORSED / NOT ENDORSED

District Manager, Northern Beaches Rural Fire District