

I, Mark Haddow of [REDACTED] Highfields, Senior Fire Fighter for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service state on oath solemnly and sincerely affirm and declare that:


1. On the day of the 10<sup>th</sup> of January requests for more level 2 technicians weren't denied, that is incorrect. Contact was made or tried to be made to senior management on the day for a request for further level 2 technicians on the day however those contacts were unable to be made. The Inspector on the day wasn't answering his phone, we made at least two or three attempts to contact him by phone on that day, on his mobile and I believe we left messages but am unsure but we attempted to ring the phone and he wouldn't return the calls.
2. We later found out during the day as the events unfolded that information leading to the floods as far as a weather event, the evacuation of the Oakey Army Base things like that, none of that information was made available to us at station level. The ROCC had information that the army base was evacuated, none of that information was handed to us at station level. At station level we received no warnings whatsoever from anyone in management as far as any sort of warning, any sort of weather event. We've since been told in the debrief that certain members in those areas of the ROC were actually watching the weather system approach Toowoomba and stated how a large red mass on the radar was approaching Toowoomba again. At station level we were uninformed at all of anything about to unfold.
3. We also finally had a debrief about two weeks after the event. The Inspector on the day was not present at that debrief or any other meeting since that debrief in regards to what unfolded on the day.
4. Point of interest also is that station 11 which is on the eastern side of Toowoomba, for the first approximately 30 to 40 minutes of the flash flood, the eastern side of Toowoomba had no appliances available. Both of the appliances were out of the city area. The main pump was heading north to go down into Murphy's Creek from Murphy's Creek Road and the rescue vehicle that I was on proceeded down the range to a swift water incident down the range.
5. We were unable to make it to that incident and approximately made it back inside the CBD or in the Toowoomba approximately half an hour after that so really the eastern side of

Toowoomba was left without any emergency response vehicles at all for at least the first 30 minutes of the flash floods.

- 6. So in conclusion it's surprising for us at station level to understand that if major facilities in the area had been evacuated due to an impending event that that information seemed to have stopped at the Regional Coordination Centre.
- 7. As I stated earlier no information from the evacuation of the army base or any impending weathering event was passed down to us at station level. In hindsight if it had of been we could have prepared ourselves better as far as possible road blocks. We know that East Creek across the road from the station the water levels do rise in that after a heavy storm. If this was a warning of a significant change and more heavy rain in the area that was already saturated we could have possibly had some sort of operational assembly points in place.

I swear/~~solemnly~~ and sincerely affirm that the facts and circumstances stated in this statement are from my knowledge except those which are from information only.

Sworn/Affirmed by **Mark Haddow** on *2nd June 2011* at *Toowoomba* in the presence of: *PACIA NEWMAN*

Signed:   
Mark Haddow





Witness

Commissioner for Declarations