



## FOR PSA MEMBERS: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT (DOT)

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14-07-2025

# What is happening at DOT?

## Fire breaks out at the Struben Street Forum building

It was reported that the first floor of the head office building caught fire on 28 June 2025. There were huge amounts of smoke which came out of the windows. It was reported that the fire was caused by the malfunctioning of the air-conditioning system. Subsequently, another fire broke up on the fourth floor. On 8 July 2025, the PSA held an urgent meeting with the management and the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) committee. In that meeting, the employer reported that the incident was caused mainly by the wiring faults, and they procured an Electrical service provider to fix the problem. The employer indicated that the landlord installed an electrical isolator, so that the air-conditioners do not pull electricity directly from the plug sockets. The PSA was not happy with the report and raised concerns about the safety of employees in the building.

It was discovered that the smoke detectors and the alarm system were not working properly. There is no evacuation plan to follow in incidents such as a fire outbreak. The PSA immediately contacted the Department of Employment and Labour and requested that they conduct an assessment to determine the severity of the danger and issue a contravention notice where possible, since the fire posed an immediate high risk. The matter was allocated to a Labour Inspector for investigation. The PSA demanded that the employer allow employees to work from home until the problem is solved. The PSA further urged the employer to fast-track the relocation process to an alternative building, so that employees could start to work in a safe and secure building. The employer noted the concerns raised by the PSA and requested to engage with their principals about the "*working from home*" demand and provide feedback in due course. Members will be informed about the way forward as soon as the feedback is received from the employer.

The PSA will continue to protect employees against any contravention of the *OHS Act* in the workplace and hold the employer accountable for any potential harm or danger to the employees.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

Reuben Maleka  
GENERAL MANAGER