

Firefighter dispute

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority has sought an urgent WA Industrial Relations Commission intervention to force firefighters to obey orders amid a heightening stoush over staffing levels.

Some firefighters have refused to go home at the end of rostered shifts in the past week so off-duty colleagues do not have to fill vacancies to prevent fire trucks being taken off the road.

But because FESA had told them to go home, they were not paid.

United Fire Fighters Union secretary Graeme Geer said yesterday that staff shortages had led to a fire truck becoming non-operational 24 times since July 1.

Lloyd Bailey, FESA's assistant chief operations officer metropolitan fire, has disputed the union's claims.