



Post Office Box 61

Clevedon

Auckland, New Zealand, 2582

Dear Chief Fraijo,

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I write on behalf of my fellow firefighters in the Clevedon Volunteer Fire Brigade to offer our condolences on the loss of nineteen of your firefighters at Yarnell Hill. To lose one firefighter is a tragedy; to lose nineteen firefighters defies words.

Standing up to protect one's own community is so worthwhile that dying when trying to do so can only be described as heroic. But all the training, preparation, planning and commitment can be undone in an instant by something as unpredictable as a wind shift. No-one ever said it would be easy.

But when the siren next sounds, you will respond and roll out a crew to deal with whatever emergency has arisen. It is dangerous work and somebody has to do it, and as firefighters we are trained for it, and that is what we do.

Our flag flies at half mast, and we stood in silence for two minutes at training this week to remember the men of the Granite Mountain Hotshots who lost their lives trying to protect their community. They are in our hearts and prayers as are the families and friends they left behind.

Please accept our most sincere sympathy,

Owen Alexander

Chief Fire Officer

Clevedon Volunteer Fire Brigade

Auckland, New Zealand

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "O Alexander".