VBA takes action on unsafe site

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) has issued an emergency order in response to safety concerns about a Burwood building site.

The Burwood property has two units under construction, which had been damaged by fire. VBA’s Compliance and Performance Director Murray Smith said VBA inspected the buildings and decided they were dangerous so immediately issued the emergency order to ensure the safety of the public.

Mr Smith said the property owner had been ordered to erect a fence to restrict public access to the site by no later than Sunday, 24 November 2013. VBA staff will monitor the situation to ensure the work is completed on time.

“The owner has so far been cooperative, taking initial steps to address the situation. If the temporary fence isn’t in place, VBA will erect the fence and reclaim costs from the owner,” Mr Smith said.

He said that as the building industry regulator, VBA had taken action and would ensure public safety while improving consumer trust and confidence.

“VBA issued the emergency order after a building surveyor notified us of the lack of fencing on the site. Both buildings were badly damaged by fire in 2011, but nobody had done anything to restrict public access and we felt this was a dangerous situation.”

Mr Smith said protecting the safety of the public is a priority for the VBA and this dangerous situation will be fixed because someone notified the Authority when they saw there was a problem at the site.

“If anyone sees a building site or work that they believe is not safe, they should let their council or the relevant authority know straight away,” Mr Smith said.

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