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### **Govt denies ACT Fire Brigade chief has quit. 08/03/2007. ABC News Online**

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## **Govt denies ACT Fire Brigade chief has quit**

The ACT Government has disputed Opposition claims a senior officer from the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has quit because he is disgusted with the management changes announced this week.

Chief Fire Officer David Prince has worked in the ACT's firefighting ranks for 26 years and has decided to retire at the end of June.

Mr Prince is the fourth senior ESA staff member to resign since the agency came under the Justice Department.

The Opposition emergency services spokesman, Steve Pratt, says Mr Prince is resigning in protest to the Fire Brigade, Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service (SES) now all reporting to a single commissioner.

"This is a clear example of senior experienced people with principle, voting with their feet," he said.

"I believe the Minister [Simon Corbell] is foolishly out of touch," he said. There's no doubt in my mind that from the feedback that I've got from rank and file that David Prince has resigned in disgust with the changes that were rent upon the emergency services."

But ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Simon Corbell, denies that is the case.

"It's quite wrong to draw other parallels with that," he said.

Mr Corbell says Mr Prince is retiring for personal reasons and that Mr Pratt is unfairly politicising his resignation.

"It's been very undignified of Mr Pratt and others who are making that sort of comment to draw David Prince into the political debate in this way," he said.

"David's taken the decision to retire after 26 years of service - we should be thanking him for his commitment, his leadership and his significant contribution."

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