

FIREFIGHTERS working to current standard operating procedures (SOPs) reach dangerously high body core temperatures, recent research has revealed. It exposes serious flaws in the assumptions upon which SOPs are based

At meetings in January the FBU's national IRMP board and regional IRMP coordinators group considered the potential impact of recent research reports from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Building Assessment Disaster Group (BDAG).

BDAG was set up to consider the interaction of fire service procedures and equipment with buildings following the 9/11 terrorist attacks with a view to improving this interaction through improved building design.

However the research findings showed that the assumptions on which current standard operating procedures are based are flawed for some types of incident which firefighters are required to attend.

The research found that when working to current SOPs firefighters reach dangerously high body core temperatures before they can complete firefighting and rescue tasks. In simple terms this means that assumptions about what is 'humanly possible' and upon which current SOPs and emergency response planning are based are wrong.

These results have major implications for the fire and rescue service and the risk and task analysis systems that brigades should be adopting as part of the



**Post-9/11 research reveals serious concerns over current UK standard operating procedures**

## Research reveals serious flaws in standard operating procedures

move to integrated risk management planning.

Driving forward proper and risk-based emergency response planning that is based on the growing body of evidence that is

available to inform this planning is a major element in the FBU's current IRMP strategy.

■ To find out more about the FBU's IRMP strategy visit the FBU website: [www.fbu.org.uk](http://www.fbu.org.uk)

## Matt Wrack elected assistant general secretary

MATT Wrack has been elected Assistant General Secretary in a full postal ballot.

He defeated National Officer John McGhee and EC member Dean Mills.

Matt, who is currently London Regional Secretary, will take up his position in September following the retirement of Mike Fordham.

The ballot, run by Electoral Reform Balloting Services, closed at 2pm on 4 February.

The independent scrutineer's report was as follows:

Number of voting papers returned: 14,205

Number of papers found to be invalid (blank/spoil): 437

Thus, total number of valid papers to be counted: 13,768

Result (1 to elect):

Bro Matt Wrack 6,260 ELECTED

Bro John McGhee 5,527

Bro Dean Mills 1,981

The ballot papers will be stored securely for a period of 12 months before being destroyed.

Nominations for the position of General Secretary were opened in the week beginning 7 February.

That ballot is scheduled to take place in April.

## MPs take stand against cuts and closures

MPS have tabled two early day motions (EDMs) calling for London and North Yorkshire fire authorities to halt potentially life threatening cuts in fire cover.

The firefighters group of MPs has tabled EDM 551 that calls for the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority not to proceed with the closure of Manchester Square Fire Station in the City of

Westminster and the removal of fire engines from Westminster, Knightsbridge, Kensington, Euston, Acton, Bethnal Green, Clerkenwell, Dockhead, Greenwich and Islington.

MPs Andrew Dismore, John McDonnell, John Cryer, Karen Buck, Kate Hoey and Neil Gerrard tabled the motion.

An EDM has also been tabled

demanding the withdrawal of proposed cuts in Harrogate (North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority), including a reduction in night cover.

EDM 569 was tabled by MPs Phil Willis, Bob Spink, Ann Cryer, Mike Hancock, Andrew Dismore and Alice Mahon.

An EDM is a kind of petition that allows MPs to put on record

their opinion on a subject and canvass support for it from fellow MPs, and can force a parliamentary debate on issues that would otherwise not be discussed.

■ Members are encouraged to urge their own MP to sign these EDMs. E-mail your MP by following the link from homepage of the FBU website.