

FIRE BRIGADES UNION

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27 January

FIRE BRIGADE UNION CONCERNED OVER MOVES TO ARREST INCIDENT MANAGERS OVER DEATHS OF FOUR FIREFIGHTERS AT WARWICKSHIRE

The Fire Brigades Union says it is concerned by moves to arrest three managers over the deaths of four firefighters killed in a warehouse fire in November 2007. All three were involved in the incident command process and may face allegations of gross negligence manslaughter in relation to the deaths.

All three have been told, by letter, to attend a Warwickshire Police station where they have been told they will be arrested and interviewed under caution.

Matt Wrack, FBU General Secretary, said: "It is important for the families and colleagues of those who died to establish what happened. It is important that all fire services learn all the lessons from this incident and we support that aim.

"We are concerned at the move to arrest these individuals at this stage when all other key players have not even been interviewed. We understand that, even two years after the deaths, all very top corporate managers – who may have critical information - have still not even been interviewed.

"Evidence from our own on-going investigation suggests there may be systemic failings. Any systemic failings within Warwickshire fire service, if they are established, would be the responsibility of the fire authority."

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