



Matt Wrack General Secretary
Bradley House, 68 Coombe Road,
Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 7AE
fbu.org.uk | @fbunational
020 8541 1765 | office@fbu.org.uk

«NameLine1» «RegionBrigade» «StationCode»
«OtherName»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«Address3»
«Address4»
«Address5»
«Address6»

Circular: 2025HOC0003MW

Date: **08/01/2025**

To: **All Members**

Dear Brother/Sister,

DECON campaign: firefighters' exposure to fire contaminants at Grenfell Tower

This is to inform you of further developments in the union's DECON campaign.

New independent research, assisted by the Fire Brigades Union, has been published finding that over a quarter of surveyed firefighters who attended the Grenfell Tower fire are now suffering from long-term health disorders.

The research, carried out by Professor Anna Stec and the University of Central Lancashire analysed available data from 524 of 628 firefighters who attended the disaster in its early stages.

The report, over two papers, can be found in full, here:

[Firefighters' Activities and Their Exposure to Fire Smoke and Heat](#)

[Toxic Effluents and Assessment of Firefighters' Health Impacts](#)

The research, published in the Journal of Environmental and Occupational Medicine on 3 January found that:

- 136 firefighters who were exposed to toxic smoke at Grenfell are now suffering from occupational diseases
- 1 in 4 Grenfell firefighters surveyed have reported life changing health effects since, including 66 cases of digestive diseases, 64 respiratory diseases, 22 neurological diseases and 11 cancers
- Firefighters were exposed to smoke and particulate matter at far higher levels than the limit set by the Health and Safety Executive

- Over three times as many firefighters who were exposed to smoke during the incident reported digestive and respiratory diseases in the three years following, compared to those who were not exposed.

The report also warns that the full health impact of the Grenfell Tower fire is still unknown, with many cancers and diseases likely to take years more to develop.

Firefighters who attended Grenfell report similar health symptoms to the firefighters who responded to the collapse of the World Trade Centre. Following 9/11, a life-long health monitoring programme was set up for emergency responders and the local community, which has enabled early diagnosis and treatment of cancers and other diseases, saving lives.

The papers make a number of recommendations:

- Emergency services need better preparation for dealing with predictable and unforeseen incidents such as the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Detailed logging of activities and conditions endured during major incidents, together with immediate health symptoms and longer-term health outcomes, need to be routinely recorded.
- Detailed health monitoring of all exposed emergency service personnel should be undertaken over an extended postexposure period (a minimum of 10 years).

Please read and discuss the reports on all branches. The findings and recommendations further illustrate the urgent need for the union's DECON demands of prevention, health monitoring and legislation to support and protect firefighters from these occupational diseases.

The union will be meeting with the Home Office later this month to discuss the report and its findings. We also expect to have the final data from clinical testing carried out by Professor Anna Stec's team which has analysed 1000 blood and urine samples taken from Firefighters.

Further updates on the next steps in the DECON campaign will follow in due course.

Yours in unity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Wrack', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matt Wrack
General Secretary