

Firefighter

The magazine of the Fire Brigades Union

TICKING TIMEBOMBS

The hidden dangers of lithium batteries

See p8



**LABOUR + TUC:
CONFERENCE REPORTS**
See p10

**FIREFIGHTERS FEEDBACK
ON WILDFIRE SUMMER**
See p12

**FROM FOOTBALLER
TO FIREFIGHTER**
See p18

October-November 2026



www.fbu.org.uk

Pay reform remains the union's number one industrial priority, reaffirmed by FBU Conference in May – that work continues.

Our ambition is to build a pay and reward system that recognises firefighters' skills, enables pay and career progression, and properly rewards the vital role we play in keeping communities safe.

Significant work has already been undertaken through the National Joint Council (NJC) and with government. This includes looking at the future role of firefighters, career pathways, job evaluation and the wider case for investment in the fire and rescue service.

The NJC met on 8 October and negotiations continue at pace. While some discussions must remain confidential while they are live, be in no doubt: meaningful work is underway.

We will provide a further update following the NJC setting out how we'll further engage members (through the structures



Steve Wright

Building a better future

This is the opportunity of a generation, and I am determined that, together, we will seize it

of our union) as work progresses.

We remain focused and determined to deliver, shaping the role, protecting our profession for the future and ensuring a remuneration package that properly recognises the role firefighters play in our communities.

A new national pay framework: negotiated by firefighters for firefighters.

This is the opportunity of a generation, and I am determined that, together, we will seize it.

CONFERENCE SEASON

The union made a big impact at Labour conference and TUC Congress in September.

Not only did we gain formal support from both organisations for our demands around wildfire resilience and the recruitment of thousands more firefighters, but we also enhanced our reputation among government ministers, MPs and councillors from across the UK (see p10).

The message is always the same – invest in the fire and rescue service, recruit thousands more firefighters with the correct PPE, and create a society where we can all share in the prosperity that working people create.

WILDFIRE SUMMIT

Prime minister Andy Burnham agreed to chair the important wildfire summit, as we underlined just how important it is that we establish a pathway for achieving our 10 demands around wildfire resilience (see p12).

The cost of not being more wildfire resilient is more damage to our communities, to the economy and a real danger of injury and death for the public and firefighters.

GRENfell

The Metropolitan Police has submitted the Grenfell investigation file to the CPS with a view to taking legal action relating to 20 organisations and 54 individuals (see p5).

The trauma and anguish suffered by the bereaved, survivors and relatives of Grenfell must not be in vain, and the FBU will continue our relentless campaign alongside the victims' families to see all those culpable prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



EDDIE HOWLAND

Pay reform aims to give firefighters proper reward for wider responsibilities such as flooding



In this issue

October/November 2026

NEWS

- 4 Support after firefighter loses house to fire
- 5 Firefighting family, Grenfell charges
- 6 9/11 memorial, Gloucestershire night cover
- 7 News focus: More fires, fewer resources

FEATURES

- 8 **Fighting the unquenchable fires**
Is there a solution to the growing problem of lithium-ion fires?
- 10 **Labour movement conferences**
Your union at TUC Congress and Labour Party conference
- 12 **Under-resourced, undaunted**
Firefighters' feedback on the wildfire summer
- 16 **Ground zero for the environment**
How wildfires cause long-term damage to wildlife habitats and rare species
- 18 **Tackling a new career**
From footballer to firefighter

REGULARS

- 20 **Equalities** White Ribbon Day
- 21 **Meet the rep** Mark McManus
- 21 **What's new?** Wildfire drones
- 22 **Noticeboard** and President's Dispatch
- 23 **Station Cat** Dirty laundry
- 24 **Long service badges**

Firefighter

Published by the Fire Brigades Union,
Ken Cameron House, 171-173 Gray's
Inn Road, London, WC1X 8UE

www.fbu.org.uk

Production team: Alanna Gow,
Lisa Irving, John Millington, Adam Taylor,
Chris McLaughlin and Tom Walker

Cover image:
MAXPPP

Print: Walstead
Roche, Victoria
Business Park,
Saint Austell
PL26 8LX

Firefighter is mailed in
a 100% compostable
wrapper. Please do not
recycle the wrapper
but dispose of it in your
home compost heap,
your garden waste or
food waste bin.



PEFC
PEFC/16-33-582

PEFC Certified

This magazine is
printed on paper from
sustainably managed
forests

www.pefc.co.uk

NEWS

9/11 MEMORIAL

Northants firefighters join charity climb



P6

MORE FIRES WITH LESS

Breaking down the latest fire stats



P7

HOUSE FIRE



Firefighter Phil Morris and his family were away from the house when it set ablaze

Support after firefighter loses own house to fire

Firefighter Phil Morris sounds surprisingly upbeat for a man whose house went up in flames a couple of days after he'd spent a weekend fighting wildfires.

A month afterwards he reckons he and his family are beginning to see a light at the end of a very dark tunnel, thanks partly to help from the Fire Brigades Union.

Phil's remote fire alarm enabled him to alert the local fire station but nothing prepared him for the scene that opened before his eyes as he turned into the village lane leading to what was his home in Llangammarch Wells, in Powys, Mid Wales.

Only the four walls were

still standing among the smoking ruins. The family had lost everything. His only possessions were the clothes he was standing in. No ID, "nothing of all those things you and the family collect all your life".

Phil, 47, a divisional group manager for Mid and West Wales fire and rescue service with 26 years' experience, had spent 28 hours the previous weekend helping to fight wildfires in neighbouring Dyfed county. While he and his family, wife Donna and three children, were away from the house on various family duties, it appears an electrical fault sparked a blaze in the roof.

The traumatised family

were suddenly homeless and possessionless. "It was a very strange place to be in," Phil told *Firefighter*. "Our first thought was that we were all here together, and we'd just have to start again."

"The first two weeks were horrific as we were all split up, put up by relatives. But the support of the community, colleagues and the FBU has been overwhelming."

UNION HELP

FBU reps and officers agreed to allocate £2,000 for immediate help, allowing the family to buy clothing and basics. A stranger from the village launched a crowdfunding campaign

which had raised £30,000 by the end of September while another villager provided an unoccupied house, enabling them to come back together as a family.

Phil and midwife Donna have been granted leave from work while they get back on their feet, daughter Hari, 18, has headed off to university and Phil is optimistic.

"I've witnessed a lot of sadness in incidents and now I've experienced the other side of that, the biggest load of chaos and stress you can ever expect to experience.

But we've got to look ahead. "It'll take between 12 and 18 months to rebuild but we can now see light at the end of the tunnel."

Firefighting family tackle Fenland flames



CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

From left to right: Alex, Philip, Emily, Anthony and Jacob

For Peterborough firefighter Philip Gould, fighting the summer's wildfires was a family affair.

At one stage, he and four other family members were involved in the response to a month-long fire which tore through acres of Fenland in Cambridgeshire.

Philip, 59, with more than 25 years' FBU membership, has been joined in the fire service by his two daughters Alex and Emily, brother Anthony, and nephew Jacob.

"I am immensely proud... to know that the whole of your family, and especially your children, are following in a career which you've

had for most of your working life," Philip told the BBC.

Daughter Alex, 28, was out with her father tackling a wildfire at Holme Fen nature reserve, having switched from six years in a control room, while sister Emily directed operations at Huntingdon control.

Uncle Anthony, 61, is chief fire officer at Peterborough Volunteer Fire Brigade and cousin Jacob, Anthony's son, is a full-time firefighter at Dogsthorpe fire station.

Alex said: "Being able to experience my first shout alongside my dad was a unique experience."

GRENELL

Police seek charges over Grenfell

The Metropolitan Police submitted its final investigation file into the Grenfell Tower fire to the Crown Prosecution Service at the beginning of October.

The police are seeking charges against 54 individuals and 20 companies. Potential offences include manslaughter, gross negligence manslaughter, health and safety offences and misconduct in public office.

Kensington and Chelsea council and the Department of Housing are included in the referral. The CPS said charging decisions would be made before the 10th anniversary on 14 June next year.

FBU General Secretary Steve Wright said: "Progress is finally being made in prosecuting those culpable. The Grenfell families



MARK THOMAS

and our members have waited far too long for justice.

"The trauma and anguish suffered by the bereaved, survivors and relatives must not be in vain and the FBU will continue our relentless campaign to see all those culpable prosecuted to the full extent of the law."



Sounding Off

Not perfect, but it's ours

Maddy Radcliff from the Musicians' Union explains the critical role of the BBC in supporting UK music

Everyone has an opinion on the BBC. Many people focus on news or shows. But there's one aspect that doesn't get much airtime in the debate: music.

The BBC is the single biggest employer and engager of Musicians' Union members in the UK. It supports five orchestras and the UK's only full-time professional chamber choir.

From *Doctor Who* to *Hinterland* to *Match of the Day*, it's also the biggest commissioner of new music in the UK, making it an important engager of composers and session players. And who doesn't love the *Strictly* band on a Saturday night?

Radio is just as important to sustaining a career. That's because radio plays generate royalties for musicians, including session players thanks to something called 'equitable remuneration'. In other words, properly funding BBC Radio is one way to ensure our members get paid for their labour.

STOLEN WORK

This is all against a backdrop of low/no pay from music streaming, tech firms training AI models on stolen work, and a cost of touring crisis that is putting touring in the UK and internationally out of reach, particularly for young and emerging artists.

In that context, the BBC is a lifeline. Initiatives like BBC Introducing, Young Musician of the Year and Radio 1 Sound of... become more important than ever to getting early career musicians in front of audiences.

To do all of this, the BBC needs proper funding. The renewal of the BBC Charter offers an opportunity for the government to give the BBC the resources and make the reforms it needs to provide a quality public service, free from commercial or political interference.

The BBC isn't perfect, but it's ours. Let's make sure it stays that way – and protect the future of music in the UK.

9/11 MEMORIAL



The stair climb, in full firefighter kit, raised more than £17,000 for charity

Northants firefighters join 9/11 memorial and complete 110-floor charity climb

A team of eight Fire Brigades Union members from Northamptonshire travelled to the United States to mark the memory of the 343 firefighters who lost their lives in the 9/11 Twin Towers terrorist attacks.

They were among thousands of firefighters in the UK and worldwide who staged events to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the World Trade Centre outrage on 11 September 2001.

Many stations and crews in Britain

held a minute's silence in tribute to those lost in the atrocity and the more than 400 firefighters who have died with related illnesses, toxic emissions and injuries.

The Northants team – Mick, Carly, Dean, Dan, Ava, Ronnie and Toria – joined more than 200 firefighters, with each member climbing 110 floors at the Atlanta Braves' Stadium, the equivalent height of the towers, in full kit to raise more than £17,000 for charities.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alarm over risk to night-time cover

Firefighters in Gloucestershire have delivered a stark warning that the proposed removal of night-time cover risks lives.

The area has seen eight fire-related deaths already this year, most in early evening or overnight.

Yet 14 night shift posts are planned to be moved from Cheltenham West fire station to provide daytime cover elsewhere, leaving 16 wholetime firefighters at night serving a community of 650,000.

FBU county chair Kate Yhnell has called for an official explanation of how



the county council's responsibility for public health and safety fits with its statutory responsibilities for the fire service.

In brief

NEW FLOODING TASK FORCE MUST DELIVER MEANINGFUL ACTION

The FBU has given qualified backing to the government's new flooding task force, which aims to improve preparedness ahead of extreme winter weather.

General secretary Steve Wright has restated the union's long-standing call for flooding to be made a statutory duty for fire services in England, the only UK area where attending flood events remains voluntary.

He said: "The task force must now deliver meaningful action as proper national resilience cannot be built on goodwill alone."



FBU HONOURS A FOUNDER OF THE MODERN FIRE SERVICE

James Braidwood was the first superintendent of the world's first municipal fire service, founded in Edinburgh in 1824. He went on to lead the London Fire Engine Establishment and died at the Tooley Street fire in 1861, when a warehouse collapsed on him as he directed his firefighters.

Officials from the Fire Brigades Union attended a service at Inverness Cathedral on 6 September, alongside Braidwood's great-great granddaughter Diana Hamilton-Jones.

NEW FBU PRESIDENT ELECTED

Andrew Fox-Hewitt has been elected as the new FBU president, taking office in January. He said: "I want my presidency to be about bringing people together, strengthening our sense of solidarity but also our purpose, ensuring that the FBU remains a powerful, confident and member-led organisation."



The aftermath of the Stourbridge blaze

The latest government figures confirm firefighters are having to work harder to maintain consistent levels of service.

Against a continuing background of cuts, the data reveals that fire services are tackling more fires, with diminished resources.

There was an increase of almost 20% in the number of fires up to March this year compared with the previous year, up from 143,049 to 170,597. The summer wave of wildfires further strained service resilience.

The total number of incidents – including non-fires such as false alarms, malicious calls, road traffic collisions, flooding and animal assistance – was up by 5.8%, from 605,936 to 641,227.

RESPONSE TIMES RISING

The statistics covering England were announced at the end of July by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and were compiled by the Incident Recording System (IRS)



News Focus

More fires with fewer resources

until last November and afterwards by the Fire and Rescue Data Platform (FaRDaP).

They record a decrease in fire-related fatalities, with 254 deaths compared with the previous year's 280. But non-fatal casualties were up by

6.2%, from 6,449 to 6,848.

Response times went up amid warnings from the Fire Brigades Union this would be the inevitable result of cuts to the numbers of firefighters – 12,000 since 2010 – appliances and stations.

Average total response time to primary fires, the most serious type, was nine minutes and 25 seconds, 19 seconds higher than the previous year. The average total response time to secondary fires, small outdoor fires not involving people or property, was nine minutes and 58 seconds, up 36 seconds.

A long-term trend shows

the number of incidents rising since 2015 at the same time as cuts were reducing crew and appliance numbers and closing stations, or operational levels at stations.

Fatalities had been on a steep decline since the early 1980s but began to rise again after 2012, spiking in 2017 with the deaths of 72 people in the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

UPWARD TREND

Over the period covered by the MHCLG statistics, fire services attended 695 fires in purpose-built high-rise flats or maisonettes (defined as 10 or more storeys), up 4%. But this was a decrease of 5% compared with five years ago and 11% compared with 10 years ago.

Medical incidents were down by 6.4% to 10,602, part of a long-term trend since a peak of 45,762 in March 2017.

The report concludes that over the past 10 years “the number of incidents attended by FRSs in England has been on a gradual, if fluctuating, upward trend” but at roughly two-thirds of the level seen at the start of the century.

Against a continuing background of cuts, the data reveals that fire services are tackling more fires

Fighting the unquenchable fires

Is there a solution to the growing lithium-ion fire problem? **Chris McLaughlin** joined members of the FBU health and safety committee in search of the answer

The question goes to the heart of an increasing risk to firefighters' safety: how do you put out a lithium battery fire? The answer is not yet reassuringly conclusive.

But thanks to groundbreaking research, tackling fires caused or exacerbated by lithium-ion batteries can be a lot safer for firefighters. The key is knowing what they're up against. That's where expert Martin Brown comes in.

He is an engineer consultant at the MIRA (Motor Industry Research Association) hub, based in an 850-acre tech village near Nuneaton, Warwickshire, who tests lithium batteries to destruction in experiments which show the hidden dangers that can catch firefighters unawares.

Members of the FBU's health and safety committee gathered there to find out more about one of the most

dangerous forms of lithium-ion fires, electric vehicles (EVs). An eye-opening presentation from Brown showed dramatically how EV cars are liable to go up in flames, with high-pressure gas vents creating blowtorch-like flames and explosions. And how firefighters might more safely approach these and other lithium-ion incidents in the future.

The relatively new power source – "new energy vectors" in the industry jargon – has soared over the last 10 years, powering most rechargeable devices including mobile phones, toys, vapes and, most notably for fire hazards, electric vehicles, e-bikes, and e-scooters.

Crews across the UK are facing fires sparked by lithium batteries at a rate of one every five hours. They burn hotter, faster, spontaneously, explosively and with greater unpredictability than many



Fire blanket use to control an EV fire

conventional fires.

Confounding experience of conventional fires, lithium-ion batteries can reignite days, weeks or months after being extinguished. And they emit a wide range of toxic gases. There's no standardisation. That means a lot of unknown unknowns at different incidents, with differing types, components, reactions and toxic outputs.

SUDDEN EXPLOSIONS

In the UK in 2025 incidents involving electric vehicles rose over the previous three years by 133% to 279; e-bikes tripled to 520 fires. Almost half of all incidents occurred in homes and garages.

Figures disclosed by the BBC in August suggest 18 people have died and nearly 700 injured in lithium battery-related fires. Lithium batteries are prone to ignite suddenly when they overheat due to damage, such as piercing or dropping, overcharging, short-circuiting or heat from another source creating a "thermal runaway" and a point of no return.

They create their own oxygen, making them difficult to extinguish.



FBU health and safety reps attend training with HORIBA MIRA



Brown shows the effectiveness of fire blankets in initial suppression of flames but only extraordinary amounts of water – more than 10 times the amount a fire appliance can carry – will subdue the fire, not always put it out for good.

Brown refers to “ticking timebombs”, where a fire may come alive ages after it’s first apparently put out. He says insufficient concern is given to the dangers of lithium-ion batteries – banned on some public transport systems but not, for example, on passenger ferries.

Firefighters should be alert to a sweet smell, pops, bangs and creaks and wear breathing apparatus in all cases.

Reps welcomed the knowledge gained at the seminar, which they said would be shared widely with members.

FBU Vice President Peter Smith said: “This information helps people on the ground know more about what we are confronting.”

PRACTICAL BENEFITS

Rebecca Lewington, a control room firefighter and executive council member, said: “It’s definitely of practical use to controllers. It helps us decide what resources are necessary



Martin Brown (HORIBA MIRA)
speaks to FBU reps at FBU
Health and Safety Summit

**"You can't leave
a car on the side
of a motorway
just in case it goes
up again"**

and to advise callers if there are signs of a lithium fire, like popping. There’s only one thing to tell them if they hear popping: run.”

Another said it showed there was “still a lot to be learned about how to actually put these things out. You can’t leave a burnt-out car sitting on the side of a motorway for days or weeks on the off chance it might flare up”.

Wayne Anderson, from North West region, believes the information provides a “healthier fear of what we’re up against” but that more needs to be known about how to fully extinguish such fires.

National officer Adam Taylor, who organised the event with Brown, summed up:

“This is critical work for the safety of firefighters dealing with these incidents. It helps reps spread vital information to crews throughout the country.

“It also highlights the need for new laws covering lithium-ion batteries in vehicles to make them safer for passengers and firefighters.”

Your union at the labour

FBU delegates and officials have been pushing forward the key agenda of the union at both the TUC Congress in Brighton and Labour Party conference in Liverpool in September. The union's new communications and campaigns manager **John Millington** reports

Grenfell TUC

Almost 10 years after the Grenfell atrocity, the FBU won unanimous backing from the TUC to ensure that all those responsible are brought to justice.

FBU President Ian Murray told Congress in Brighton: "Seventy-two people tragically lost their lives in that fire.

"Our union has dedicated itself to getting justice for Grenfell and the bereaved, relatives and survivors.

"Still today, no one has been dragged before the courts and prosecuted."



Climate emergency TUC

Climate change and its effects on the intensity of further wildfires were extensively debated at TUC Congress.

A composite motion which included a call for thousands more firefighters with the right equipment was passed.

Black and Ethnic Minority Members representative Dwight Williams said: "Firefighters responded to more than a thousand wildfire incidents in England and Wales alone.

"In Scotland, more than 500 firefighters tackled wildfires in the Cairngorms for more than a month.

"Let's be clear – the scale and intensity of these wildfires are caused by climate change."



Contaminants TUC

General Secretary Steve Wright led the charge at Congress with delegates unanimously supporting the commitment made by ministers to increase health monitoring for firefighters, through a Concordat.

Wright told Congress: "The World Health Organisation has now classified firefighting as a class one carcinogenic occupation.

"We need real change in every fire station, control room, training centre, HQ and workplace across the UK.

"That means the right equipment, procedures, and investment to prevent exposure to contaminants."



Delegates and officials at the FBU stand in Brighton

"The FBU won huge support from Labour conference and the TUC"

movement conferences

Insourcing **TUC**

The FBU also spoke of the need to bring the Fire Service College back in-house during a debate on the outsourcing of essential resources and the need to bring them back under democratic control.

Maria Buck, FBU LGBT Secretary, said:

“In 2013, the Westminster government sold the world-renowned Fire Service College to Capita.

“Ministers are considering the creation of a new College of Fire and Rescue.

“But it must be publicly owned, publicly funded and democratically governed.”



Resilience **Labour**

The union got huge support from Labour conference for its 10 demands on wildfire resilience and the need for thousands more firefighters.

Moving the successful motion, General Secretary Steve Wright said: “We saw our control rooms inundated with 999 calls.

“We saw firefighters working long periods without proper relief and without any welfare facilities. We saw fire engines being taken out of service because there simply were not enough firefighters to crew them.

“These are not rare events anymore. This is the risk that we now face in the UK, and it is being made worse and worse by climate change, so we have to prepare now.”



Insourcing **Labour**

The FBU showed solidarity and support for the successful insourcing motion at Labour conference. National Officer Adam Taylor said: “The experience of the Fire and Rescue Service over the last three decades gives us a pretty clear answer.

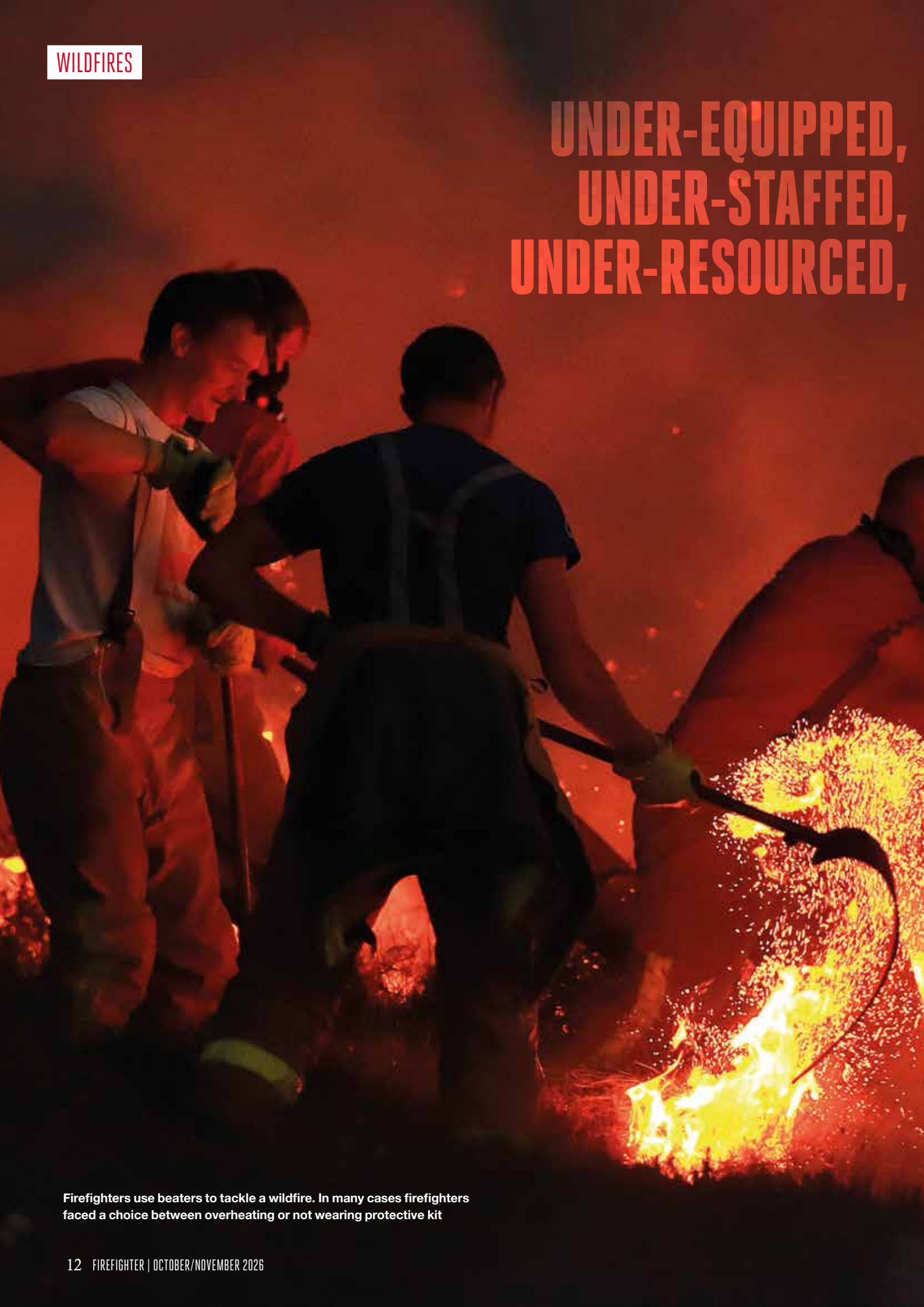
“The FBU is happy to support this motion, and we thank Unison and the other unions for bringing it forward. The Fire and Rescue Service has been subjected to terrible privatisation and contracting out. In 2013, the world-renowned Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh was sold off to Capita.

“It should be back in public hands.”



...and national officials with Amanda Mills, of Avon brigade, in Liverpool

UNDER-EQUIPPED, UNDER-STAFFED, UNDER-RESOURCED,



Firefighters use beaters to tackle a wildfire. In many cases firefighters faced a choice between overheating or not wearing protective kit



UNDAUNTED

Firefighters recount unparalleled challenges in a wildfire summer which stretched service capacity and underlined the need for more investment

The lack of resilient capacity in the UK fire and rescue service has been graphically underlined in nationwide feedback from union members on their experiences tackling the summer wave of wildfires.

The Fire Brigades Union HQ became a national call-in centre in early August, with the general secretary Steve Wright and national officers hosting a lengthy conference on how firefighters coped with insufficient resources, inadequate kit and dangerously long hours when tackling the biggest challenge since the Blitz.

The absence of any bespoke, integrated aerial firefighting capacity was also cited as a factor in some areas. Widely differing pay rates for firefighters working side by side were cited as a major concern.

MESSAGE

Wright summed up the feedback with a stark conclusion: “This meeting of whole-time, retained firefighters, control room staff and officers has well and truly established, and made it fundamentally clear, that there is no resilience in the Fire and Rescue Service to deal with this scale of incidents.

“That’s the message we will be taking direct to government.”

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has responded positively to the FBU’s call for a summit of all the UK governments and relevant agencies, which he has agreed to chair personally.

One of the issues raised by several who took part in the call-in was the failure by managements to declare major incidents when the situation on the ground clearly merited it. Cost-saving and services

being too overstretched to cope were suggested as the reasons.

Several callers warned that the lack of resilience would present further serious challenges, with predictions of major flooding on the way before the next wildfire season.

Dai Ricketts, union chair in Mid and West Wales, reported properties were likely to have been lost during wildfires there due to shortages of equipment.

Zeb Taj, brigade organiser in the West Midlands, said at least 50 properties were lost across the region, even though appliances were sent in from seven out-of-area brigades. In the town of Stourbridge, which suffered the worst loss of property, there were periods with no relief crews.

The lack of relief crews and firefighters having to do extended hours – sometimes up to 10, 12 and above – on the firefront was a common theme, picked up by Stephen Hayward, brigade chair in Suffolk, where the huge, two-week-long fire at Dunwich Heath at one stage threatened the Sizewell B nuclear power station.

Reflecting the view of other contributors, he said: “Some of the hours put in were ridiculous. In control rooms too, people were doing silly hours.”

Mark McManus, a health and safety rep in the West Midlands, reported some firefighters had worked 18-hour shifts, with only a couple of hours’ rest time before going straight out to tackle a wildfire incident. There was a critical lack of “fatigue management”, he said.

Ruth Bateman, a North Wales firefighter, said helicopters were needed at the Conwy major incident but were unavailable because the few in use were deployed elsewhere. While crews were striving on mountainsides for up to 18 hours at a time, there were poor welfare facilities.

SHOCKING WELFARE

Kirsty Openshaw, brigade organiser in Mid and West Wales, spoke about the lack of goggles for crews dealing with long exposure to smoke, firefighters being incapacitated from blisters due to long treks across difficult ground and then ground heat, and inappropriate respiratory gear.

On top of that, she said, welfare support was “shocking” for the crews tackling major fires in north and mid Wales.

Crews were out for 12 hours or more with no food and no water, forced to go off-site to shop for their own supplies. She questioned the non-availability

of hydration tablets. Others described welfare support as “abysmal” and “unacceptable”.

Welfare was an issue at the Cairngorms in Scotland where a major incident was declared, forcing the evacuation of residents, detailed by Colin Brown, executive council member for Scotland. He reported that the local community stepped into the breach to supply firefighters with up to 500 meals a day at an estimated equivalent cost of £2,500 daily.

HIDDEN TRAUMAS

Brown also highlighted “hidden traumas” of wildfire work, with crews travelling three hours, walking for more than two hours to a firefront, completing a shift and repeating the process to return to station. It led to cases of female crew members bleeding into PPE when menstruating for lack of facilities.

“Simply put, there’s an inbuilt lack of resilience”

In Dorset and Wiltshire, crew members were fainting because of unsuitably heavy PPE, many risking burns by resorting to just T-shirts and leggings, reported Liam Jackson, brigade chair.

Paul Revill, secretary of the national retained committee, raised the problem of food and replacement kit running out, leading to firefighters going out to fires in already contaminated kit.

But his main concern – an issue raised by many callers – was the disparities in pay between retained and whole-time firefighters doing the same jobs but under different definitions: differing rates between recall to duty, specialist teams and for mutual aid when designated. “Everybody should be on the same pay,” said Revill.

Lewis Clark, South East Area chair, spoke for all when he described how few stations had access to appropriate PPE for fighting wildfires, with structural gear being the norm, leading to heat stress and ankle injuries, health and safety “events”, fatigue and hospitalisations.

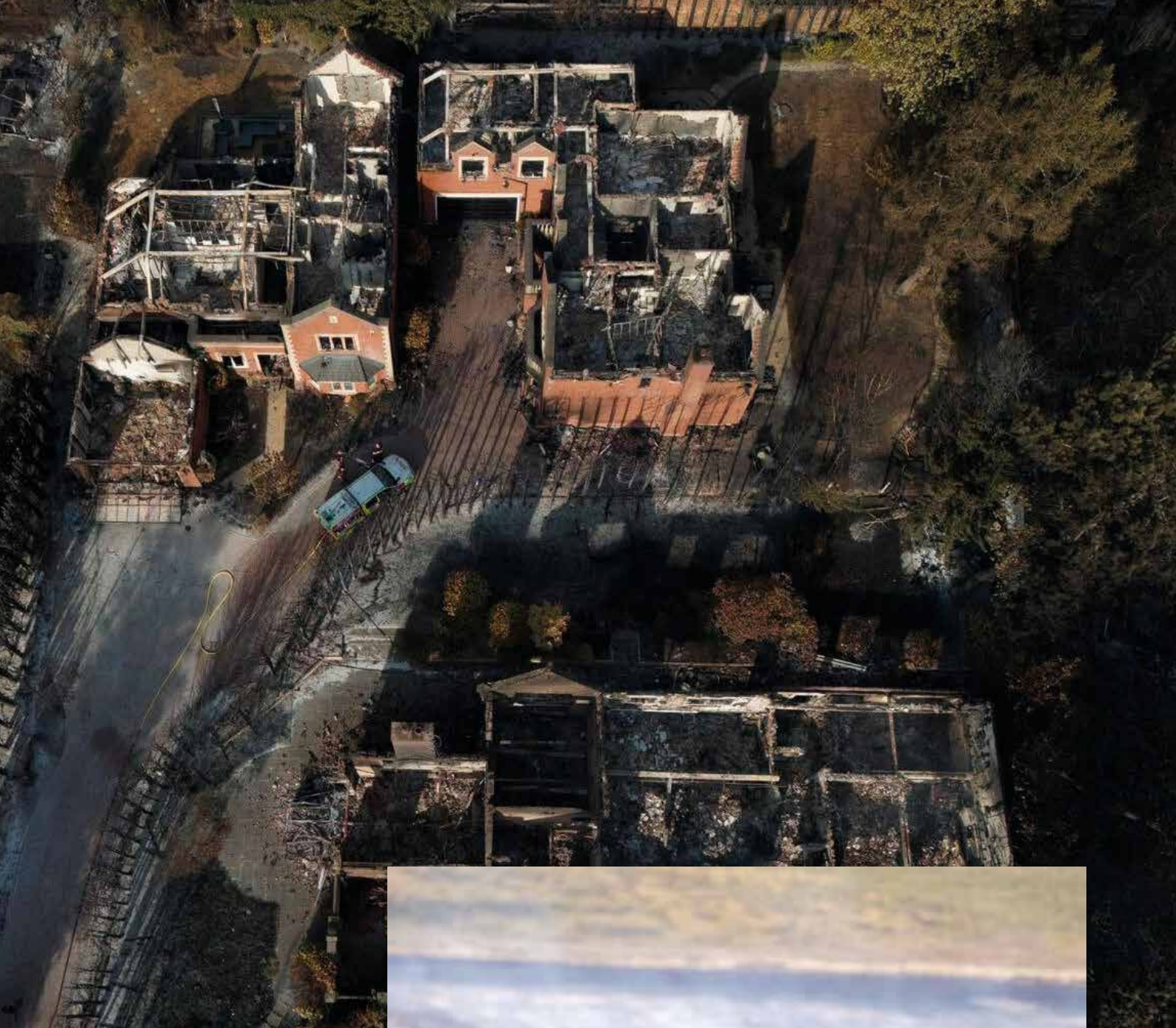
He said simply: “There is an inbuilt lack of resilience.”



The burnt out remains of houses following the Stourbridge blaze



Crews fighting the wildfire at Sherwood Pines



Firefighters tackled the wildfire in Dovestone for several weeks

Devastation – the aftermath
of a wildfire in Wales

Ground zero for the environment

Wildfires cause long-term damage to the natural environment and pose a threat to rare species. **Pippa Neill** reports

The summer wave of climate-induced wildfires scorched much of Europe, devastating large parts of the UK countryside and its wildlife.

The fires didn't only put our homes, livelihoods and health at risk – they brought lethal and long-term damage to the animal world and the environment.

National Resilience data shows fire and rescue services in England and Wales responded to 966 wildfires up to the middle of August this year, with

many in Scotland, including swathes of the Cairngorms National Park, one of the most impressive natural landscapes in the Highlands.

WATER POLLUTION

Wildfires destroy mature forests as well as grasslands and peatlands, burn vegetation which holds soils and landscape features together, pollute water supplies and release massive amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

A wildfire in Suffolk burned across

150 hectares (370 acres or the equivalent of 210 football pitches) of vegetation and forest on Dunwich Heath and Minsmere nature reserve, both protected sites and home to some of the UK's rarest species. More than 112 hectares of the Heath – one of England's most treasured landscapes – were burnt to a crisp, with fire spreading into Minsmere.

The reserve is home to rare birds such as nightjars, nightingales and Dartford warblers and rare invertebrates such as the narrow-mouthed whorl snail,



A forest area burnt by wildfire at Devil's Dyke, West Sussex

antlions and green tiger beetles. Reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates all struggle to escape wildfires in time. Nesting birds lose eggs and chicks to the flames or lose their nesting habitats, decreasing their chances of breeding successfully.

DEVASTATION

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds warned that any birds that survived fires were “likely to perish” because they would not be able to find a suitable habitat to feed or breed on their return.

The charity warned that restoring the landscape could take years. Russell Clement, general manager of the National Trust in Suffolk, said the major incident fire had “torn through” the Dunwich Heath reserve, causing

“total devastation” to one of the UK’s most important heathland landscapes. He described the fire-blown land as “unrecognisable”.

Imogen Trinder, a firefighter who attended the Peak District major incident, said it was devastating to see the landscape at Snake Pass, Derbyshire, where she had enjoyed walking and running, go up in flames.

“There were little animal carcasses and birds, eggs and nests that had been burnt,” she recalled. “That’s what’s been particularly horrifying. It’s awful the amount of damage that will have been caused to the environment at large.”

Ben Richardson from Derby spoke of how saddening it was to see the extent of the loss of wildlife, the damage to the environment and waste. Worse, when the chances are that the cause was human carelessness.

“Wildfires are part of a wider conversation about climate change”

Protecting a rabbit rescued from the flames, a member of the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service said large areas of wildlife habitat had been destroyed, “affecting species that rely on the fragile moorland ecosystem and highlighting how vulnerable these landscapes are”.

As well as the loss of habitat, wildfires also negatively impact the soil. After a fire at Sychnant Pass in Wales an estimated 10 centimetres of soil was lost. Once this topsoil is lost, it can never be recovered, Davey Jones, professor of soil and environmental science at Bangor University, told the BBC.

“It’s not that we’ve never had wildfires before,” said Trinder, who splits her duties between wholetime in Buxton and on-call at Glossop station. “But they’re getting bigger, going on for longer and cropping up more.”

INCREASED PRESSURE

Fire seasons are getting longer too, with the Environment Agency providing data suggesting future climate conditions will result in larger, more severe wildfires.

This summer has shone a light on the threat, as fires move closer to built environments as well as the effect on natural habitats. But Trinder reflects on a prospect already on the minds of firefighters around the country when she warns it’s not the only climate threat to the natural world on the horizon.

“I think it’s really important that we view wildfires as part of a wider conversation around the types of incidents that we’re going to and the relevance of climate change within that.

“Obviously at the moment we’re all talking about wildfires, but in two or three months we’ll be talking about flooding, which is another thing that is very climate-driven.”

And another climate phenomenon placing increasing pressure on under-resourced fire services.



Jess Sigsworth heads for goal...

Tackling a new career

Professional football stars team up to swap locker room for fire station.
Ailsa Cowen meets them

For former England defender Abbie McManus and ex-Leicester City striker Jess Sigsworth, the shift from elite footballers to firefighters has come with plenty of unexpected moments.

But of all the calls since joining Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, a single moment during one incident stands out the most.

It seemed only a minute since they were sharing Women's Super League dressing rooms at Manchester United and Leicester City; then, here they were, side by side in helmets and breathing apparatus. "It was surreal," said McManus. "We just looked at each other and thought, how has this become our life?"

Growing up in the north of England, their paths crossed when they were

at Manchester United, and their subsequent friendship helped to influence their next move. Professional footballing careers do not always end on players' own terms, and both McManus, in 2023, and Sigsworth a year later were forced to retire with serious injuries.

SIMILAR TEAMWORK

Retirement left both searching for a new purpose, and a conversation in Leicester's dressing room proved pivotal. "We just looked at each other one day and said: 'We're going to join the fire service,'" McManus explained. "And now we're here."

For both, the similarities between football and firefighting helped them transition.

"The teamwork, the pressure, it's so similar," Sigsworth said. "We'd lose our minds sitting still in an office."

The pride of representing a badge in football has been replicated at the fire service for the Fire Brigades Union members.

"It makes me laugh because Jess would score and kiss the badge – I've never had a job when you're not representing a badge," McManus said. "We've changed a football badge to the fire service badge."

Having joined a few months earlier, she was also able to help Sigsworth navigate the recruitment process, something her friend valued.

"It's funny because she was always my captain," Sigsworth said. "Always helping people, always leading. She did the same for me getting into the fire service."

They both agreed that elite sport had prepared them for emergency response work.

"We enjoy pressure," Sigsworth said.

On the ball... from the pitch
to the firefront



"In football, you're playing in front of crowds, under scrutiny, constantly wanting to prove yourself. That mentality never leaves you."

Even the daily routines are familiar.

"You must pass so many fitness tests to get into the fire service," explained McManus. "We do loads of PT and the togetherness you'd have as a football team you have here."

"It's cringy to say, but when you're at an exhausted part of a workout, that's when teamwork comes in. It's the same on a job: if you're in a really hot fire, you've got to pull each other through. Nobody gets left behind – it's the same at football pre-season."

"You arrive, get your kit sorted, train together, eat together."

"If we lost a football match, we'd analyse it afterwards. It's the same here after difficult jobs. It's like one big family."

Still, there are parts of a match day

**"I love my job now,
it's like having an
identity again,"
says Jess**

they miss.

"That moment before you walk out," Sigsworth said. "The music is blasting in the changing room, everyone is shouting. I think you miss that forever."

NEW IDENTITY

They did put their boots back on recently, representing the fire service in a seven-a-side emergency services tournament in Spain. They won – although Sigsworth's brief stint in goal did not go to plan.

"We won't mention Jess getting lobbed," McManus laughed.

"I'm a centre-forward!" Sigsworth replied. "They stuck me in net. One girl just booted it from kick-off and I was daydreaming."

Both have also witnessed the transformation of women's football at first hand.

"When I joined Manchester City I was paying £380 subs just to play," McManus said. "Now little girls walk around wearing Ella Toone shirts. That's the best thing ever because girls can finally see a path."

"When we were younger, we didn't really have professional women



Abbie and Jess retired from football, then found a new home in the fire service

footballers to look up to. Now little girls can genuinely aspire to that life," Sigsworth said. And after navigating retirement themselves, both players understand they can still have an identity after football.

"Life doesn't stop after football," Sigsworth said. "We got so consumed by it that we think it's the only thing we'll ever love. But I love my job now. I love having an identity again."

McManus feels the same.

"If you're retiring from football, yes you'll miss it," she said. "But you can absolutely find something else to fall in love with again."

A version of this article appeared on the BBC

ALAMY

Why wear a white ribbon?

White Ribbon Day is a chance for men to join the stand against gender-based violence, writes **Chris McLaughlin**

The horrifying statistics speak for themselves. But maybe not loudly enough. For the incidence of violence against women and girls continues at what police describe as a national emergency, in spite of much-lauded government interventions and greater public awareness.

The White Ribbon movement – to which the FBU is affiliated – engages with men and boys in a global campaign to prevent gender-based violence. Every year the organisation focuses its efforts on White Ribbon Day, when the wearing of the symbol stands for solidarity; for never taking part in, condoning, or staying silent about violence against women.

MEN TELLING MEN

Men and boys are encouraged to wear the white ribbon on 25 November this year and for one or two weeks afterwards to spread the message of support and to highlight that pledge.

Active in more than 60 countries, the 35-year-old movement seeks to promote healthy relationships, gender equity and a compassionate vision of masculinity.

Above all, it's men telling men that violence is totally unacceptable and highlighting its beginnings in "innocent" banter, "just a joke" or "boys just being boys".

Freedom from gender attack is a basic equality issue. Women should not have to campaign for the right not to be abused, beaten and murdered.

But those alarming statistics show the imperative need for such campaigns.

AMBASSADORS

In the UK, a woman is killed every three to four days, mostly by partners or exes, according to latest Office for National Statistics figures, for the year up to March 2025. 3.2 million women experienced domestic abuse,



FBU officials and staff wear ribbons in support of White Ribbon Day

sexual assault or stalking, 12.8% of all women over 16. 41% of girls between 14 and 17 reported partner sexual abuse.

The FBU has White Ribbon champions and ambassadors who are urging members to take part, by wearing the ribbon, being creative on social media and in other ways and raising awareness by engaging with colleagues, friends and even strangers, for example in shops, but especially if confronted by misogynist behaviour.

A spokesperson for White Ribbon said: "Violence against women and girls doesn't come out of nowhere. If nobody challenges it, nothing changes."

■ Find out more about White Ribbon Day at www.whiteribbon.org.uk/wrd2026





Meet the rep

**Mark McManus, West Midlands
Health and Safety Rep**

What persuaded you to take on the role of rep?

I wanted to have a voice for members and make sure concerns were properly heard. Health and Safety has always been particularly important to me. As firefighters, we accept that the job carries risks, but that doesn't mean unnecessary risks should be accepted.

What's been your most stand-out experience in your time as an FBU rep?

Probably being involved in situations where raising a health and safety concern has actually led to significant changes. A good example was driving change to ensure our trainee firefighters had sufficient PPE for their BA training, moving them from two up to seven sets.

What's morale like among your colleagues in the face of threatened cuts?

There's a real sense of anger and confusion among our members in the West Midlands. We've just come through a summer of wildfires, with firefighters dealing with increased demand and challenging conditions, yet we're still facing proposals to reduce the frontline. Members want to know that when they respond to an incident, they have the firefighters, equipment and resources needed to do the job safely and protect the public.

As a rep, what would you most like the union to prioritise in coming months?

Health and safety has to remain a priority as laid out by the GS. That means challenging unsafe working practices, making sure equipment and facilities are fit for purpose, and continuing to push occupational health and presumptive legislation for firefighters up the agenda in Westminster.

Do you have any trade union heroes?

For me, the heroes are often the reps who have stood up and said "this isn't safe" when it would have been easier to stay quiet. I have a lot of respect for people who are prepared to do that.

Apart from cuts and pay, what are the main issues facing firefighters today?

Health and safety, occupational exposure to forever chemicals like PFAS, mental wellbeing, and the increasing demands being placed on firefighters.

If you weren't a firefighter, what would you be?

Most likely I'd have sought out a career in the armed forces – this was something I'd considered in my younger years.



What's new?

Wildfire drones

The development of firefighting drone technology is being stepped up following its deployment in tackling wildfires over the summer.

Drones, technically uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs), equipped with thermal cameras can be used to identify hotspots, potential wildfires and fires before they spread.

Optical imaging linked to analytical tools on the ground is predicted to assist fire crews tackling difficult-to-reach fires that may not be visible from the ground before they get out of control.

The first stage of a pilot scheme developed by researchers at Cardiff University was rolled out over the summer by South Wales Fire and Rescue Service as it tackled at least 13 wildfires. The project involves a one-year study from which researchers hope to develop predictive tools combining aerial information with weather, terrain and environmental data capable of highlighting high-risk areas and supporting critical decisions before and during a wildfire.

Project lead Dr Rukshan Navaratne said: "Wildfires are extremely dynamic events where we think this technology can make a big difference. Providing accurate information from the air could give firefighters a clearer understanding of how a fire is developing and make it safer for them."



ALAMY



President's dispatch

FBU president **Ian Murray** on the union's changing relationship with the Labour government

I've heard many members ask: why are we affiliated to the Labour Party? And say that we should stay away from politics. Fact is, for us to influence change for the benefit of members, we have to engage with politicians at all levels.

In recent months we've experienced a sea change in relations with the Westminster government, where we feel we are now being listened to.

The PM agreed to chair the national wildfire summit and minister after minister at Labour's conference thanked firefighters for their heroic efforts over the summer following our relentless campaigning and their heroic efforts. It was clear, by the detail referred to, where it had come from – the union and our briefings.

At the conference, the general secretary delivered the FBU motion on wildfires that won unanimous support. I raised the issue directly with prime minister Andy Burnham at Labour's National Executive Committee where I represent the FBU and where last week was appointed the vice chair.

To get the changes you seek for members, you need to engage with those who hold the power.

The FBU is doing that. Labour, you now have to deliver.

ANNIVERSARY

Share your memories of the 1977 strike

There is still time for firefighters who took part in the first national strike in the FBU's history to share their recollections as part of a forthcoming national commemoration of the event's 50th anniversary. Contact: tam.mcfarlane@fbu.org.uk

PODCAST



Scan the QR code to listen:



T-SHIRT

Firefighters for Cuba

The FBU's special edition Firefighters for Cuba T-shirt is still available. Launched to mark the fourth anniversary of the Matanzas oil storage facility explosion in which 17 firefighters lost their lives, the smart shirt is on sale at £20 from shop.fbu.org.uk



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Contributions increase

As of 1 December 2026, FBU membership contributions will be increased in line with the 2026 pay award and payments will be adjusted accordingly. This is in accordance with Rule B2 (FBU Rule Book). To be clear, although the 2026 pay award has been backdated to 1 July 2026, your membership contributions will not be backdated, and the new rate will only commence from 1 December 2026.

The union relies on membership contributions to support and deliver for FBU members in all that we do. In the last few months our 'Cuts Kill' campaign has saved jobs and prevented station closures in Oxfordshire, Kent and Dorset & Wiltshire. This follows other successes in Wales, Avon and Leicestershire.

We are also heavily involved in political campaigning to achieve our aims of national standards across UK FRSS, a statutory duty in water safety, investment to deal with the impact of climate change and, of course, our ambition to achieve effective pay reform for firefighters and fire control staff.

Your contributions also provide us with the legal support necessary to win damages for injured members and their families and support members in legal disputes over unfair treatment at work. In 2022 alone, we were able to deliver for FBU members and their family members who were awarded a total of £5.95 million in compensation. Additionally, we have secured an incredible £18,582,500 in compensation for members who were discriminated against due to enforced pension changes.

We also continue to work with our legal advisers in the ongoing fight for justice for Grenfell, giving our members and the community a strong voice in this ongoing scandal.

The FBU gives members strength through a collective voice and provides direct support in the workplace through a network of trained reps who hold management to account, preventing the introduction of unsafe and badly thought-out policies.

The union's groundbreaking work on firefighter safety continues, recently securing bespoke health checks for firefighters, while our innovative DECON campaign continues to gain momentum.

Details of additional benefits are on the membership page of our website.

Any questions, please contact your brigade or regional officials whose contact details can be found at www.fbu.org.uk



Wright on the Road

■ **4 August** – Kent Cuts Rally

■ **3 September** – FBU Wildfire National Meeting

■ **8–9 September** – World Fire Congress, Westminster

■ **10 September** – Visit to Havering grass fire incident site with energy minister



Steve speaking at the Labour Party conference

■ **13–16 September** – TUC Congress. Led calls and won unanimous support from the trade union movement for the Concordat with government on the need for increased health monitoring for firefighters.

■ **25 September** – Paul Metcalfe Red Plaque unveiling, Ramsbottom

■ **27–30 September** – Labour Party conference. Moved FBU motion on wildfires which received unanimous support for the union's ten demands on national resilience.

■ **4 October** – Spoke at 90th anniversary of Battle of Cable Street

Airing some dirty laundry

Station Cat on the importance of washing facilities

We felines love our creature comforts and a sense of calm. We don't



like stress and we're sticklers for keeping groomed and clean. So it's been a bit unsettling to see the state some of my firefighting friends have come back to the station in this summer.

Exhausted after hours on the road and at firefronts, covered in smoke, dirt and heaven knows what – I've heard the word contaminants a few times – they just want somewhere to properly clean their gear, and themselves.

Apparently, not every station is equipped to cope. We've got a washing machine – but it's not the right kind and it's old. Something about the word "knackered" makes my fur stand on end for some reason.

But, I hear, even some newer stations are not the cat's whiskers either. My crews talk about the annual union conference earlier this year which passed a motion saying "a number of new-build and recently refurbished stations have not been designed in

a way that properly supports effective contaminant control".

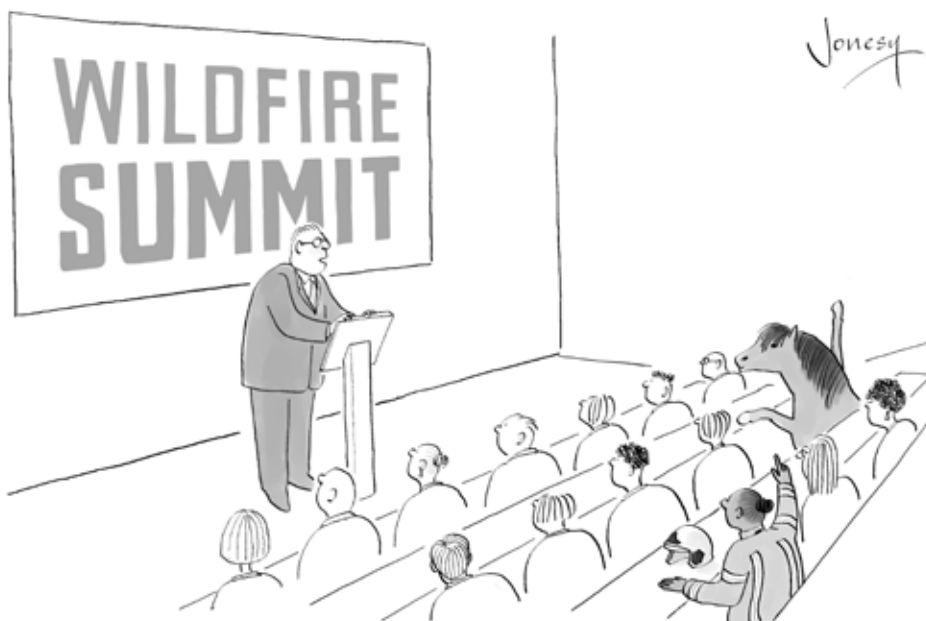
One of the biggest gripes is about crews being forced to take their soiled gear to their own homes for cleaning or having no

replacements and having to go straight out on calls in contaminated clothing. How widespread is that?

There's a sparkling newly refurbished station at Lingfield in Surrey, where the fire authority has promised better facilities for handling contaminants and enhanced hygiene of the "highest standards". It's even got a gym, which sounds fun, but not the point. I look forward to overhearing praise for its success.

That conference motion declared that "principles such as effective clean and dirty zoning, appropriate decontamination and storage facilities ... should be standard in all new developments and refurbishments". Another simply called for appropriate washing machines and national standards.

You'd think (stretchy yawn) it would go without having to be said.



"Finally, anyone here doubt this country's capability to deal with wildfires?"

25-year badges



John Rivett (r), blue watch, Burnley, Lancashire receives his 25-year badge from brigade secretary Kev Wilkie with colleagues



Ant Fraser (l), white watch, Central, South Yorkshire receives his 25-year badge from officers' rep Rob Welsh with Central branch colleagues



Andrew Jones (r), Western Protection, Lancashire receives his 25-year badge from brigade secretary Kev Wilkie with Blackpool branch chair Paul Barton



Ciaran McDermott (r), W44 Lisnaskea fire station receives his 25-year badge from FBU rep Jake Drinkwater



Kat Ellis (r), blue watch, Ipswich East, Suffolk receives her 25-year badge from brigade organiser Andrew Kerry with blue watch colleagues



Dave Gash (l), Rotherham, South Yorkshire receives his 25-year badge from women's rep Charlotte Grayhurst with Rotherham branch colleagues



Ian Atmore, red watch, Old Kent Road, LFB receives his 25-year badge from branch secretary Phil Wheeler with red watch colleagues



Chris Dyer and **Heather Last**, Ramsgate fire station, and **Neil Roby**, service HQ (from left), receive their 25-year badges from region 11 chair Tim Green



David Devoil, red watch, Hertford and Sawbridgeworth RDS receives his 25-year badge from brigade organiser Emma Findlay



Dustin Long receives his 25-year badge from branch secretary Flip Willingbeck



Lee Chape (r), blue watch, Marley Park fire station receives his 25-year badge from Stu Pinder with Dave Hall, Adam Charles, Becky McMahon and Andy Banks



Hadleigh Bedding (r), Margate branch receives his 25-year badge from region 11 chair Tim Green with Tom Harvey, Steve March, Tom London, Beth Gardener and Jon Burn



Antony Eremita, blue watch, Bedford, Bedfordshire receives his 25-year badge from brigade organiser Darren Barrett with blue watch colleagues



Lee Phillips, blue watch, Tooting receives his 25-year badge from London regional secretary Jon Lambe with blue watch colleagues and regional organiser Vicky Shaw



Kevin Blazer (r) receives his 25-year badge from white watch, Bracknell



James McGuinnity (r) receives his 25-year badge from brigade organiser Sam Underwood



Keith Collister, Malew, Isle of Man receives his 25-year badge from station officer Neil Garlick



Lloyd Hatton (l), Surrey receives his 25-year badge from officers' rep Danny Phillips



Ian Taylor (second from left), red watch, Tynemouth fire station, Tyne and Wear receives his 25-year badge from watch manager Jonny Williams with red watch colleagues



Mark Cowling (l), Sudbury fire station, Suffolk receives his 25-year badge from Suffolk retained rep Kris Damant



Jon Raw (l), blue watch, Cheadle, Greater Manchester receives his 25-year badge from brigade chair Matt Fryer with blue watch colleagues



Brian Hursey (l), Farnham, Surrey receives his 25-year badge from branch rep Frazer Tait



Matt Winslow (r), officers branch, South Yorkshire receives his 25-year badge from officers' rep Rob Welsh with officers branch colleagues



Ade Parkin (r), officers branch, South Yorkshire receives his 25-year badge from officers' rep Rob Welsh with officers branch colleagues



Dan Nortcliffe (r), officers branch, South Yorkshire receives his 25-year badge from officers' rep Rob Welsh with officers branch colleagues



Lee Phillips, branch secretary and blue watch, Tooting, London receives his 25-year badge from London regional secretary Jon Lambe



Darren Gadd receives his 25-year badge from Humberside brigade secretary Kiren Thorpe



Joe Barford (l), RDS, Seaham fire station, County Durham and Darlington receives his 25-year badge from vice chair Ian Myers with Richie Hudson, Rob Marriott and Mick Wood



Rob Marriott (l), day crewing, Seaham fire station, County Durham and Darlington receives his 25-year badge from vice chair Ian Myers with Richie Hudson, Joe Barford and Mick Wood



Tom Butler, Walthamstow fire station receives his 25-year badge from branch secretary Gavin Stock



Gary Kingsley, BA school, DSFRS receives his 25-year badge from brigade secretary Chris Grantham with BA school colleagues



Alan Hunter (l) receives his 25-year badge from North Scotland area organiser David Evans



Gary Curran (l) receives his 25-year badge from station commander John Douglas



Ian Hogg, blue watch, West Hartford, Northumberland receives his 25-year badge from Northumberland brigade organiser David Habberjam



Jason Hills (r), Godstone fire station, Surrey receives his 25-year badge from branch rep Tom Hirst



Ciaran Fury (r), Farnham, Surrey receives his 25-year badge from branch rep Frazer Tait

40-year badge



Phill Knight (r), white watch, Newbury, receives his 40-year badge from the youngest member of the watch, James Harton-Carter



Andy Clark, West Hartford fire station, Northumberland receives his 25-year badge from brigade organiser David Habberjam



Dave Bell (r), blue watch, Rainton Bridge fire station receives his 25-year badge from colleague Mark Shrubb



Rob Birt (l), red watch, Hebburn fire station receives his 25-year badge from FBU Tyne and Wear brigade organiser Matt Laidler



Laura Heywood, green watch, Kingston receives her 25-year badge from SW London area secretary Dave Young

Please send high resolution digital files or prints to: firefighter@fbu.org.uk or Firefighter, FBU, Ken Cameron House, 171-173 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8UE

For your image to look its best, we need the original, full-resolution image. One lifted from a website may not do justice to a unique occasion. We do our best with images that are low resolution, taken directly into a bright light or suffer from camera-shake, or have other problems, but cannot perform miracles. Please include details for each image – full names of everyone who is in it; their station/brigade/watch etc; where they are in the picture (eg: left to right); their union posts/branch if relevant; and where/when it was taken.

FBU REGIONAL OFFICES

REGION 1 Scotland

52 St Enoch Square, Glasgow,
Scotland G1 4AA
0141 221 2309, 01rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 2 N Ireland

14 Bachelors Walk, Lisburn,
Co Antrim, BT28 1XJ
02892 664622, 02rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 3 Cleveland, Durham, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear

1 Carlton Court, 5th Avenue, Team
Valley, Gateshead, NE11 0AZ
0191 487 4142, 03rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 4 Humberside, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire

9 Marsh Street, Rothwell,
Leeds, LS26 0AG
0113 288 7000, 04rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 5 Greater Manchester, Lancs, Isle of Man, Cumbria, Merseyside, Cheshire

The Lighthouse, Lower Mersey St,
Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 2AL
0151 357 4400, 05rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 6 Derbyshire, Notts, Lincs, Leics, Northants

The Waterside Offices, Pavilion Road, West
Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA
Region06@fbu.org.uk

REGION 7 West Mids, Staffs, Warks, Hereford & Worcester, Shropshire

195/7 Halesowen Rd, Old Hill,
West Midlands, B64 6HE
01384 413633, 07rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 8 Mid and West Wales, North Wales, South Wales

2nd floor, Hastings House, Fitzalan
Court, Cardiff, CF24 0BL
029 2049 6474

REGION 9 Herts, Beds, Cambs, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk

28 Atlantic Square, Station Road,
Witham, Essex, CM8 2TL
01376 521521, 09rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 10 London

Alpha House, 100 Borough High Street,
London SE1 1LB
020 7359 3638, london@fbu.org.uk

REGION 11 East Sussex, Kent, Surrey, West Sussex

Unit 11, Hunns Mere Way,
Woodingdean, Brighton, BN2 6AH
11rs@fbu.org.uk

REGION 12 Bucks, Berks, Hampshire and Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire

Eleanor Marx House,
Unit 2, 12 Richfield Place,
Reading, RG1 8EQ

REGION 13 Avon, Cornwall, Devon & Somerset, Dorset & Wiltshire, Gloucestershire

158 Muller Road, Horfield,
Bristol, BS7 9RE
0117 235 7605, 13rs@fbu.org.uk

Change of address or next of kin

Advise your brigade organiser of any change of address and head office of changes to next of kin or nominations for benefits.

FBU FREEPHONE LEGAL ADVICE LINE

England, Wales and N Ireland

0808 100 6061

Scotland 0800 089 1331

The line provides advice for personal injury, family law, wills, conveyancing, personal finance and consumer issues. For disciplinary and employment-related queries contact your local FBU representative.



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS



**FIREFIGHTERS 100
LOTTERY**

FIRE BRIGADES UNION | SERVING FIREFIGHTERS SINCE 1918



WIN PRIZES CHANGE LIVES

PLAY THE FIREFIGHTERS 100 LOTTERY

For just £1 a week, you can enter weekly prize draws while helping to:

- Support injured firefighters and their families
- Commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of firefighters killed in the line of duty through the Red Plaque project
- Fund ground-breaking research into firefighter health
- Provide humanitarian assistance for people affected by disasters

TO BUY TICKETS GO TO WWW.FIREFIGHTERS100LOTTERY.CO.UK

The Firefighters 100 Lottery is a weekly, online lottery licensed by the Gambling Commission. It is open to the wider fire and rescue community and the public to play. The sale of tickets, the weekly draws and the paying-out of prizes are all undertaken independently of the Fire Brigades Union by an external lottery management company, also licensed by the Gambling Commission

