

AUGUST 2026

RED NOTICE



General secretary's comment

With wildfires increasing across the UK and the tragic deaths of firefighters in mainland Europe, the FBU is campaigning for the investment needed to keep firefighters and communities safe.

Following sustained pressure from the FBU, the government has agreed to convene a National Wildfire Summit, allowing members to help shape our case for greater investment, improved national resilience and more firefighters.

The need for change is underlined by the disgraceful attempt of Kent fire bosses to cut jobs, stations and engines. Mass action by FBU Kent members showed we can successfully oppose cuts to our fire and rescue service.



The Fire Brigades Union has secured a commitment from the government to convene a national wildfires summit to deliver a UK-wide, integrated strategy to tackle future outbreaks.

We will be pushing to bring together central government, fire and rescue services, the FBU, fire employers, devolved administrations, environmental agencies, farmers, local government, academics and other relevant bodies. The move comes amid one of the worst summers of wildfires in the UK.

Pay Reform

An intense phase of talks on reforming firefighters' pay structure is underway.

The aim is to create a new model offering better career and promotional opportunities as well as a clearer pay ladder and increments for increased competence.

The pace of negotiations has been stepped following this year's above-inflation pay settlement and the need to replace the outdated 25-year-old framework.

UK Firefighters Health Concordat

The FBU attended the first meeting in July of the government T&F group on Firefighters health. They will set out health and wellbeing standards for firefighters and firefighters control including the introduction of health monitoring. Further meeting planned with civil servants and experts throughout the rest of 2026 with a clear strategy in place by 2027.

BUILD YOUR UNION

GET BALLOT READY

Has your email or home address changed recently? Make sure you contact your FBU brigade organiser with your updated details.

CHECK YOUR NOTICEBOARD

Keep an eye out on your emails, FBU socials and Firefighter magazine for details of how you can get involved in shaping the wildfires summit.

STEP UP AS A REP

If you can, put yourself forward to become a regional B&EMM rep. [There are vacancies in six regions.](#) The strength of the union depends on members stepping up.

CLEVELAND LAUNCH CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUTS



Firefighters have launched a campaign against cuts which would weaken emergency cover across Teesside and east Cleveland, including daytime only crewing and water rescue. Employers say the service is facing a £1.2m shortfall next year. Cleveland has seen a 30% fall in headcount since 2010.

Kent Fire Cuts Stopped

FBU members forced politicians on Kent County Council to scrap fire bosses plans to cut services and jobs in the area. This win has underlined the need for the union to be organised and ready across the regions for attempts by fire bosses to cut services and staff.



FBU members WIN in North Wales



FBU members were successful in overturning proposals to close five retained fire stations in Llanberis, Beaumaris, Abersoch, Cerrigydrudion and Conwy and downgrading two wholetime fire stations in Deeside and Rhyl with the proposed loss of over 70 firefighter jobs. The campaign saw members contacting their FA members, local councillors, rallies and press engagement.

Key dates for your diary

- **9 September**
Emergency Services Day
- **13 - 16 September**
TUC Congress
- **27 - 30 September**
Labour Conference
- **1 October**
Black History Month

Education events

- **2 - 4 September**
Introductory Branch Officials' course (Scotland)
- **8 - 10 September**
Disability & Neurodiversity in the Workplace course
- **23 - 25 September**
Employment Law in Practice course
- **2 - 4 October**
Black & Ethnic Minority Members (B&EMM) School 2026

