

MEETING: 19 JULY 2010

**SUBJECT: ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS (RoSPA)
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY GOLD AWARD****REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) Occupational Health and Safety Achievement Awards is considered as an ultimate testimonial to an organisation's commitment to health and safety. The awards, sponsored by NEBOSH (The National Examination Board in Occupational Health), are one of the highest methods of proving total commitment to the management of health and safety to all staff and stakeholders.
- 1.2 The RoSPA awards are not just about reducing the number of accidents and cases of ill health at work; they help to ensure that organisations have good health and safety management systems in place. Entering the awards scheme reinforces the message that good health and safety is good practice and clearly demonstrates an organisations dedication to achieving high levels of performance in this crucial area.
- 1.3 Entrants must provide evidence of a good health and safety management system (for example, a gold award entrant would be expected to have in place a safety management system which is of, at least RoSPA QSA (Quality Safety Audit) Level 2). Furthermore, the entrants must be able to demonstrate a consistently good or continuously improving accident and injury performance over the entry period (3 years plus datum year for good awards).
- 1.4 The Chief Fire Officer and management team together with staff and union representatives recognise the importance of health, safety and welfare as an integral part of all aspects of Fire and Rescue Authority activities. The Chief Fire Officer, as the individual responsible for ensuring that the legal, moral and economical obligations of the Authority are fulfilled, is fully committed to maintaining a positive health and safety culture within the Authority.

2 RoSPA GOLD AWARD

- 2.1 The Chief Fire Officer is pleased to announce that the Authority has been awarded the prestigious RoSPA Gold Award for the fifth consecutive year (six times in total). This achievement is an excellent reflection of the commitment and team approach to the positive health and safety culture that exists within all levels throughout the Service.

- 2.2 To achieve the Gold Award particular importance was placed upon the relationship between management, staff and representative bodies, health and safety communication and the continual decline in accident statistics. Such an achievement recognises the success in key elements of the Service health and safety management system including health and safety policy, arrangements, organisation, audit and review. Particular emphasis is placed upon the co-operation and arrangements for management and employees to work together in order to achieve the goal of a safe working environment.
- 2.3 This Award will continue to provide the Authority with a benchmark for health and safety performance and set an agenda for continuous improvement. The Authority will gain recognition through positive PR and employee awareness. Morale should be raised in the knowledge of the employer's commitment to their health, safety and welfare.
- 2.4 The Award also reflects the work of representative bodies that continue to demonstrate their continuous commitment to health, safety and welfare within the Service and are actively engaged with Authority employee's to ensure a safe working environment is maintained for all staff.

3. ADDITIONAL RoSPA AWARD

- 3.1 As the winner of the RoSPA Gold Award for a fifth consecutive year, the RoSPA Awards Adjudication Panel has also recommended that the Authority be awarded a RoSPA Gold Medal Award for Occupational Health and Safety.
- 3.2 David Rawlings, RoSPA Awards Manager said, "Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority continue to show a commitment to protecting the health and wellbeing of its employees and others. We hope other businesses and organisations will follow its lead and strive for continuous improvement of health and safety management."
- 3.3 The RoSPA Gold Medal will be presented at a ceremony on Thursday 23rd September 2010. The Authority will receive a framed certificate and is entitled to use the Gold Award emblem on letter headings and fly the prestigious Gold Award flag.
- 3.4 The Chief Fire Officer emphasises that the RoSPA Gold Medal Award is an excellent accolade for the Authority and its employees. He also wishes to record his appreciation to all members of staff for their direct responsibility for health, safety and welfare, and seeking to maintain a safe working environment.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to:-

Creating the Safest Community

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

- a) Recognise the accolade given to the Authority in achieving the RoSPA Gold Medal Award, and
 - b) Agree that the Chief Fire Officer conveys congratulations and thanks to all staff and their representative bodies for their contribution to a safe working environment.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers relate to the subject matter of the above report:

- RoSPA Gold Medal Award notification correspondence.

