
TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No

MEETING: 21st July 2008

SUBJECT: BRAVERY AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT AWARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Awards Scheme provides for Members of the Authority to recognise individuals who perform commendable acts of bravery, gallantry or community actions.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is for the Authority to recognise the meritorious and brave actions taken by Crew Manager (CM) Lee Bell during operations at a serious dwelling fire.

2 AWARD NOTIFICATION

- 2.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Tom Wright, will present a Gold Award for brave and meritorious conduct to Crew Manager Lee Bell in recognition of his actions in rescuing a casualty from a serious house fire at 38 Glanton Wynd, Gosforth. If not for the actions of CM Bell there could well have been a tragic end to the incident

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On 30 March 2008 CM Lee Bell was part of the crew that responded to a persons reported flat fire at 38 Glanton Wynd, Gosforth. A female occupant of the first floor flat, which was one of twelve within a three storey block, was trapped on the first floor balcony and was engulfed by large volumes of smoke issuing from the property. Further to pitching a 7 metre ladder in very difficult circumstances, CM Bell took the decision to climb the ladder and physically rescue the occupant as she was unable to climb onto the ladder herself due to being in a state of deep shock. In undertaking this action CM Bell had to locate himself in an extremely exposed position to enable him to lift the casualty and carry her to safety.
- 3.2 This was difficult and extremely awkward to carry out as CM Bell was also faced with immense heat and smoke at this stage and was unsure of the developing conditions within the flat. It is the view of the Officer in charge that the prompt and decisive action of CM Bell, setting aside his own safety, undoubtedly contributed to the survival of the occupant in this incident.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Authority is recommended to

- a) Endorse the Gold Award for Meritorious Action; and
- b) Congratulate and thank Crew Manager Bell for his actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Policy