
TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 4

MEETING: 20TH SEPTEMBER 2010

SUBJECT: BRAVE 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 Mr Alan Smith and Mr Karl Smith during the rescue of a neighbour from a house fire.

2 AWARD NOTIFICATION

- 2.1 At the commencement of today's meeting, the Chairman of the Authority, Councillor Tom Wright, will present a Fire Authority award for brave and meritorious conduct to Mr Alan Smith and Mr Karl Smith in recognition of their actions in rescuing a neighbour from a house fire at 11 Highland Road, Newcastle. If not for the actions of these gentlemen there could well have been a tragic end to the incident

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On 6th August 2010 Mr Alan Smith and Mr Karl Smith were alerted to a fire in their neighbour's home. They entered the property and made their way upstairs, which was filled with black smoke, using clothing to cover their mouths. The two gentlemen quickly located their neighbour and led her downstairs and outside to safety prior to the arrival of the fire service.
- 3.2 Mr Karl Smith attended a fire service Phoenix course at Newcastle West Community Fire Station a number of years ago and, as a result of safety information delivered on the course, he had the presence of mind to isolate the gas and electricity supply prior to him and his father entering the property to rescue the occupier.
- 3.3 It is clear that the intervention of these two gentlemen prevented a more serious outcome to the event.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to
 - a) Endorse the Fire Authority award for Meritorious Action; and

- b) Congratulate and thank Mr Alan Smith and Mr Karl Smith for their actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Meritorious Conduct Awards Policy