
TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No. 04

MEETING: 18 JULY 2011

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 Consequently, the purpose of this report is for the Authority to recognise the meritorious and brave actions taken by Blue Watch Crews from North Tyneside East and North Tyneside South Fire Stations 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 Bob Heron, will present a Gold Award for brave and meritorious conduct to Watch Manager Rowley and Watch Manager Miller, who will be representing the crews, in recognition of their actions in rescuing a casualty from a serious dwelling fire.

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On 3 February 2011 Blue Watch crews from North Tyneside East and North Tyneside South Fire Stations attended a serious dwelling fire in which an elderly person was trapped.
- 3.2 The dwelling was a first floor flat with a wooden staircase providing the only normal means of access. This staircase was heavily involved in the fire and was impassable as a result. Consequently, the officer in charge instructed crews to gain access via a ladder to a first floor window in order to search for the trapped resident.
- 3.3 With the ladder in place and with small heed to their own circumstances, a breathing apparatus crew then entered the flat and, in the face of a fierce fire searched for, found and rescued the resident of the flat. These actions were in the best traditions of the Service and stand as testament to the public service ethos of which Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service is so proud.
- 3.4 However, it is the Chief Fire Officer's sad duty to inform Members that the individual who was rescued subsequently died of their injuries the following day.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Authority is recommended to

- a) Endorse the Gold Award of Meritorious Action; and
- b) Congratulate and thank the Crews of 32 and 33 for their actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Policy