
TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 4

MEETING: 23rd NOVEMBER 2009

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 Firefighter (FF) Graham Dodd during the rescue of an elderly neighbour from a house fire whilst off duty.

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 Firefighter Graham Dodd in recognition of his actions in rescuing an elderly neighbour from a house fire at 6 Humber Street, Chopwell. If not for the actions of FF Dodd there could well have been a tragic end to the incident

3 INCIDENT DETAILS

- 3.1 On 24th August 2009, whilst off duty, FF Dodd was alerted to a house fire near to where he lives. FF Dodd went to assist and on seeing that the front entrance was alight he went to the rear of the property and forced entrance through the rear door where he was confronted by very difficult fire conditions. The property was filled with thick black smoke and there was a very low visibility level. FF Dodd nevertheless managed to locate the occupant in the kitchen of the property and rescued her from the house fire.
- 3.2 Following the rescue both FF Dodd and the occupant were taken to Newcastle General Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to
 - a) Endorse the Fire Authority award for Meritorious Action; and
 - b) Congratulate and thank Firefighter Dodd for his actions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Policy