

# Editors Letter



One of the highlights of the firefighting calendar is the Spirit of Fire Awards which this year, as always, highlighted the bravery and dedication of the UK fire services. There was also the usual star-studded line-up of celebrity guests including

Bruce Forsyth and Nick Owen amongst others who gave up their time to present the awards, in the case of Bruce and Nick for the second year running. On page xx you'll find a review of the event plus photographs of those who received an award.

In this issue we'll also be featuring another important event which took place in Scotland for very different reasons. Strathclyde Fire Service were in attendance at the ceremony to remember the 14 firefighters and five salvagemen killed in the Cheapside Street Disaster which occurred in the city 50 years ago and turned out to be the biggest loss of life in the history of the UK Fire Service.

Aside from these major events we'll be looking at the initiatives and activities of the fire service this year, including Devon and Somerset FRS trying out the latest swift water rescue techniques. We will also be looking at what is and isn't acceptable behaviour for firefighters outside of working hours, and in our headline feature taking a look at RAF firefighters' work in Afghanistan.

Enjoy the read!

*Brett Tudor*

Brett Tudor  
Editor

Publisher  
United Awareness Publishing

Editor  
Brett Tudor  
brett@theburningissue.co.uk

Art Director  
Christopher Cope  
chris@uapl.co.uk

Ian Daltrey  
Sales Manager  
ian@theburningissue.co.uk

Customer Services  
Carly Loneragan  
customerservices@theburningissue.co.uk

All editorial, advertising and circulation enquiries to:

The Burning Issue  
United Awareness Publishing Limited  
Goss Chambers, Goss Street  
Chester, CH1 2BG

Tel: 01244 624 022  
Fax: 01244 624 023  
E-mail: info@theburningissue.co.uk  
Web: www.theburningissue.co.uk

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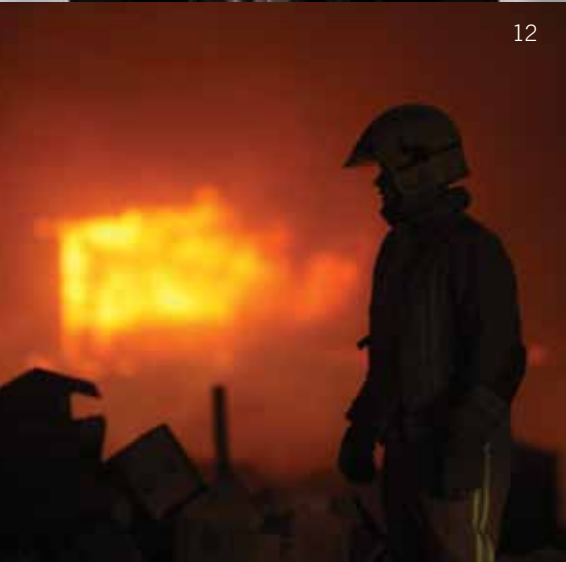
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