



Fire Brigades Union - South West Region



Avon - Cornwall - Devon & Somerset - Gloucestershire - Dorset & Wiltshire

The Premier Trade Union for Professional Firefighters and Emergency Fire Control Staff: 04/2021



FIREFIGHTERS FOUR TIMES MORE LIKELY TO GET CANCER THAN THE AVERAGE WORKING PERSON!

The headline above is really scary, but is a factual outcome of the UCLAN research.

The FBU DECON Campaign was launched on 7th September 2021. This campaign has been developed from the results of the research project funded by the Firefighters 100 Lottery.

The research involved over 10,000 firefighters and took over three years to complete and is the UK's first major study into cancer and fire contaminants.

The research carried out by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) was to understand the link between fire contaminants and cancer, and then to protect firefighters and their families from this risk.

In countries such as Canada and Australia links between contaminant and cancers has been researched and firefighters in these countries have better protection.

What can YOU do?

- The video is training for all firefighters. It covers eleven simple DECON steps you can take to protect yourselves and your families.

They are broken in to four key areas
Before the Incident, At the Incident, At the Station and Before Going Home.

WATCH THE VIDEO TO LEARN ALL THE STEPS!

- The FBU are encouraging Brigades to take the training package and embed it as part of their competency based training. You can help, by simply asking managers if & when are your service going to adopt the training? If not why not? There are lots more questions that can be asked.
- **SIGN THE PLEDGE** - Once you have completed the training package the FBU are urging you to sign the **pledge**. This can be found on the FBU website, the link will be at the bottom of the article.

Fighting for the Fire & Rescue Service



Protecting Firefighters & Control Staff

- Posters & stickers have been sent to all branches. Don't leave them in their envelopes put them up where they can be seen. These are reminders to help with your new habits.
- If you need more posters and stickers or haven't received any please contact your Brigade Officials.
- **REGISTRY REGISTRY REGISTRY** so important we repeated it. We urge all firefighters who have not signed up to the cancer and disease register to do so. This enables UCLAN to research the long term health risks of firefighting. The evidence from this research enables the FBU to fight for better protections for firefighters at work.

The link below is where you can find more information.

[DECON: Fire Contaminants | Campaign \(fbu.org.uk\)](https://fbu.org.uk)

AS A REMINDER THIS IS WHAT YOU CAN DO;

- **Talk about DECON at work**
- **Ask for training**
- **Sign and share the DECON pledge**
- **Share DECON videos and posts**

SPREAD THE WORD TO MAKE FIREFIGHTING SAFER FOR ALL



**SCRUB
BEFORE
GRUB**



**SHOWER
WITHIN AN
HOUR**

***Fighting for the Fire &
Rescue Service***



***Protecting Firefighters &
Control Staff***

PENSIONS – IMMEDIATE DETRIMENT

The FBU have been fighting the pension's immediate detriment legal cases for some considerable time, and have now successfully negotiated a without prejudice memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding immediate detriment pension cases.

Who does this affect?

The "immediate detriment" cases are the firefighters who have retired since the 2015 pension scheme was introduced, or will do so before further legislation to provide firefighters with a remedy is introduced. These members may have retired or may retire in the future with a pension that is smaller than it should be.

Why is there an MOU?

The MOU has been negotiated because the FBU felt the delays to our members have been unacceptable. The negotiations for the MOU only took place because the FBU started further legal action by lodging three test cases. This agreed MOU is to stop any further delays to members who are retiring.

Who does it apply to?

This MOU covers members who have already retired and those who will retire before October 2023, which is when the remedying legislation comes into force.

What is the process?

Once the process has been adopted by your fire & rescue authority (FRA), those members who are close to retirement, or who already retired will make themselves known to the service by making an application (Link to the template letter is at the end of this article).

Once an application has been made the FRA has to respond to the member to acknowledge the application and to accept whether the member is in scope.

Pension – Immediate Detriment MOU contd.....

The FRA then has 62 days from the date of receiving the application to provide the member with a statement of the benefits that the member would be entitled to under the terms of (a) the 1992 Scheme and (b) the 2015 Scheme.

If the member has already retired, the FRA will have to send a statement of the arrears payable at the same time, taking account of the difference between the contributions that the member paid under the 2015 Scheme rules and the contributions that the member would have had to pay as a member of the 1992 or 2006 Scheme.

The member will then have to choose which benefit package to take.

The final step is the FRA will then process future pension benefits on a “business as usual” basis, depending on the package that the member has chosen. It will have to pay any arrears that are due within 28 days of receiving the member’s chosen option.

Full details of the MOU and the template letter are in the links below;

[Immediate detriment: Memorandum of understanding | Fire Brigades Union \(fbu.org.uk\)](#)

[Firefighter pensions: Immediate detriment template letter | Fire Brigades Union \(fbu.org.uk\)](#)

If you think you are affected by this contact your Brigade Officials to see if the service have adopted the MOU.

N.B. – The 90 day timescale will only start once your service have adopted the MOU. Brigade Officials are reporting back via the union structures those services which have not signed up to the MOU.

BREATHING APPARATUS SAFETY

We are facing one of the biggest threats in firefighters’ health and safety in decades.

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) have issued dangerous new policy on fighting in high-rise fires, which would allow firefighters to be deployed beyond the bridgehead wearing breathing apparatus, but not under air.

It is important to state that the argument is not about the FBU disliking a solution adopted by the NFCC. It is that the NFCC have not identified a solution, but they have created a supplementary serious problem.

This safety issue is not just about fires in high-rise buildings, it is about breathing apparatus at **all** fires.

If this procedure is introduced all of the hard fought for safety measures for the wearing of breathing apparatus, which the FBU have fought for since the Smithfield fire in 1958, would be undone and the risks to firefighters would be intensified. It heightens the risks of firefighters being injured on the fireground. It heightens the risk of firefighters getting cancer.

Essentially, this means if you were part of a team following this dangerous policy, you would be expected to don a breathing apparatus set in dirty, contaminated air. Remember firefighters are four times more likely to get cancer than the average worker!

STOP PRESS; Legal Judicial Review Papers have been served to Hampshire FRS, who are pressing ahead with this dangerous procedure.

MAKE SURE YOU PARTICIPANT IN THIS CAMPAIGN. YOUR SAFETY IS ITS MAIN AIM

JUBILEE MEDAL FOR CONTROL STAFF?

Sadly, yet again Control Members will not be eligible under the government set criteria for the Queen’s jubilee medal.

The FBU have been campaigning for some considerable time to rectify this issue and to get our vital Control Members recognised as important, operational staff. This was raised by the General Secretary at NJC, Joint Secretary meetings and with the Fire Minister. The Fire Minister declined to change the criteria previously used for other jubilee medals.

The General Secretary & EC will continue to Campaign on behalf of our Control Members to change this out of date criteria. Contact your Brigade Secretary to discuss.



***Fighting for the Fire &
Rescue Service***

***Protecting Firefighters &
Control Staff***

REGIONAL & BRIGADE OFFICIALS

Region Officials & Reps

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- Control - Vacant
- Officers - Guy Herrington as above
- LGBT -

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