

Monday October 20 2008 No.129

# LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT: EMAIL YOUR MP TODAY!

**Make sure your branch is represented at Westminster on Wednesday 12 November 2008!**

Eight firefighters died performing their duty in 2007, the worst year for firefighter deaths for 30 years.

Firefighter deaths have gone up sharply in recent years. In the last 20 years of the last century, the trend was down. Then the number of deaths started to rise sharply.

Why? Reasons include: not enough training; not enough risk assessment; not enough frontline firefighters.

Of course, it's a dangerous job, which deals with hazardous situations. But the lessons of previous tragedies must be learned, if they are not to be repeated.

The Fire Brigades Union has commissioned a report to identify the ways we can improve firefighters' safety. Then we have to get the government to act.

And that's where you come in.

Firefighters are the professionals. The government needs to listen to us, and reinforce safety standards.

## INVEST IN SAFETY



**SAFER  
FIREFIGHTERS  
SAFER  
COMMUNITIES**

Most of your working days are dedicated to protecting the lives of others.

Dedicate Wednesday 12 November to protecting the lives of your colleagues.

Come to Westminster for the FBU's rally and lobby of MPs and demand that your MP takes action.

### **Email your MP now!**

Write to your MP to arrange a meeting!

It takes just 2 minutes.

- **Click here:** [www.fbu.org.uk/aboutus/political/epetition.php](http://www.fbu.org.uk/aboutus/political/epetition.php)
- **Or visit** [www.fbu.org.uk](http://www.fbu.org.uk) and follow the Lobby Your MP link.

### **Lobby and rally of Parliament: details**

**When:** Wednesday November 12 at 11 a.m. for 11.30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**Where:** Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London, SW1H 9NH, followed by lobbying of MPs at the House of Commons.

**Make sure your branch is represented**

## Did you know?

- That firefighter deaths have risen sharply in recent years.
- Eight firefighters died on duty in 2007, the worst year for firefighter deaths since 1985.
- The trend was downwards until the turn of the century – but recent years have seen a sharp upturn.
- Average firefighter deaths in fires are now higher than they have been for 30 years, even though we are attending fewer fires.
- Official records are not kept systematically, and some published figures are lower than the real figures.
- There is no consistent policy about what constitutes a “reportable” death.

## Did you know?

- Investigation reports show that firefighters are regularly dying because of inadequate risk assessments.
- Lack of training – especially “hot training” – is placing firefighters at risk.
- There is inadequate breathing apparatus training in a number of fire brigades
- Unpublished government reports show crewing levels are too low for safety in a number of fire brigades.
- There is no detailed government operational policy guidance on firefighter safety.
- There is no nationally consistent reporting system for firefighter fatalities and serious injuries.

**That many of these deaths are unnecessary. The right policies, procedures and resources would have prevented them.**

### Email your MP now!

Arrange a meeting with your local MP at the House of Commons, London, on November 12

Click here:

<http://www.fbu.org.uk/aboutus/political/epetition.php>

Or visit [www.fbu.org.uk](http://www.fbu.org.uk) and follow the Lobby Your MP link.

### Will your branch be represented?

Make sure you send a representative to the Fire Brigades Union Lobby and Rally of the Westminster parliament on Wednesday November 12.

Your input is crucial.

**Safer Firefighters  
Safer Communities**