

***FIRE* magazine wins best comment for Coronavirus journalism excellence**

***FIRE* magazine's white paper, *Coronavirus: A Five-Step Reset for Fire and Emergency Leaders*, under the headline 'A new architecture for society', has been awarded the *Press Gazette's* Coronavirus Journalism Excellence Best Comment – Specialist Media**

- *FIRE* magazine's April comment wins journalism excellence accolade
- The Coronavirus Journalism Excellence showcase features the best comment journalism of the crisis so far across the UK and international media
- *FIRE's* editorial comment selected from over 600 nominations across eight categories

F*IRE* publisher Fire Knowledge is delighted to announce that *FIRE* Editor Andrew Lynch's white paper, *Coronavirus: A Five-Step Reset for Fire and Emergency Leaders*, has been selected for the *Press Gazette's* Coronavirus Journalism Excellence showcase, featuring the best comment journalism of the crisis from over 600 nominations across eight categories, nationally and internationally.

fireKnowledge

The *Press Gazette's* Journalism Matters: Excellence in Reporting Coronavirus series highlights those who have produced outstanding comment and opinion pieces during the pandemic so far. *Press Gazette* launched the project to showcase some of the crucial work being done by journalists during one of the most challenging times ever for the media industry.

Featured in the April issue of *FIRE*, the white paper is the first in a series of comments calling for resetting the approach of emergency services. In *Coronavirus: A Five-Step Reset for Fire and Emergency Leaders*, *FIRE* questions: 'Could the pandemic be the first step to 'resetting' how society functions?' and outlines key areas for consideration: Ecosystem, Fire and Rescue, Dynamic Leaders, Resilient Communities and Connected Communities.

Building on the white paper's assertion that a new architecture for society is necessary, *FIRE* subsequently called for a *Charter for Resilience* in a co-authored opinion piece with Security Correspondent Dr Dave Sloggett in the May issue of *FIRE*.

Speaking about the recognition, *FIRE* Editor Andrew Lynch said: "Whilst it is flattering to be amongst such esteemed company, it is far more important to me that this provides further opportunity to shine a light on the need for a complete change in our approach to resilience and major disasters.

"We do need a reset in how we evaluate, plan for, respond to and recover from threats and *FIRE* will continue to press the case for overhauling the system, hence our call for a Charter for Resilience, which I do hope will grab the attention of government.

"More importantly, I hope it will lead to substantive change in making the world a better, safer place, which is why I became a journalist in the first place."

Expert Panel

The *Press Gazette's* Journalism Matters: Excellence in Reporting Coronavirus expert panel includes:

- Former BBC output editor - Dr Karen Fowler-Watt of Bournemouth University
- Mark Wray - managing director of Press Association Training
- Editor and author Becky Slack
- Former night editor of The Times - Liz Gerard
- Professor of journalism innovation at City University - Jane Singer
- Apprenticeship training manager at Press Association - Roz McKenzie
- Former associate editor of The Independent - Michael Crozier
- Former group editorial services director at Incisive Media - David Worsfold
- Professor Stephen Jukes of Bournemouth University - formerly global head of news at Reuters
- Brian Flynn - formerly investigations editor at The Sun
- Former editorial director of The Sunday Times - Eleanor Mills
- John Mair - academic and editor of 27 books about the modern media.

For more information on the *Press Gazette's* Journalism Matters: Excellence in Reporting Coronavirus visit www.pressgazette.co.uk



A new architecture for society

As the Coronavirus pandemic sweeps the world, *FIRE* Editor **Andrew Lynch** outlines the key elements required to transform our approach in his white paper, *Coronavirus: A Five-Step Reset for Fire and Emergency Leaders*.

We must prepare for this random disorder, accept our society has changed irreparably, but do all we can to mitigate the impact'.

These are not the words of a minister advising the nation but, surprisingly, my own taken from the October 2001 issue of *FIRE*, in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

In the current crisis – which is nothing short of a global calamity – focussing on short-term objectives is a live-saving priority. As we are becoming increasingly aware, it involves keeping the virus at bay so our NHS can cope; a strategy repeated across the world with equivalent health services, even as thousands die daily. But the medium and long-term consequences should be assessed simultaneously by political and public service leaders.

I propose leaders work towards establishing a clearly defined approach for addressing the five steps outlined below within their organisations, while also adopting a cross-sector, cross-disciplinary mindset. This calls for a total reset to recondition our way of thinking towards protecting society.

In the immediate aftermath of the UK government's stringent restrictions on movement, *FIRE's* Security Correspondent Dr Sloggett told me that the outcome would likely be a "new architecture for society".

It is this phrase that frames the following observations and recommendations: a five-step reset to reorganise society to meet the demands of a post-Covid-19 world.

To read the full white paper visit: www.fire-magazine.com/a-new-architecture-for-society



For more in-depth Coronavirus fire and rescue response coverage subscribe to **FIRE** magazine at www.fire-magazine.com.