



Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2026

The feel good event of the year.

Friday 27th November 2026 12pm, One Great George Street, Westminster

FIRE magazine publisher Fire Knowledge is pleased to present the 12th annual Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards, which are growing in popularity each year. With over 140 nominations in 2025 the awards recognise the very best in the fire and emergency services. This year will see the return of popular favourite awards such as Unsung Hero, Outstanding Contribution to the Fire and Rescue Service and Most Influential Woman in Fire, ensuring the EFEs are the most inclusive and aspirational awards in the emergency services sector.

As always, the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards are inclusive and representative of the broad range of fire and rescue personnel who performing outstandingly day in and day out. This is reflected in the array of categories, including the Neurodiversity Champion of the Year.

Every year emergency service chiefs, their teams and supplier and industry supporters get together at the prestigious One Great George Street, London, the home of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Parliament Square, to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the fire and emergency services. The Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards salute innovative working practices, influential leadership, forward-thinking projects, teamwork and commitment to the values of fire and emergency services.

Andrew Chilvers, Editor of *FIRE*, said: *Following the success of December 2025, we're excited to return to One Great George Street for the 12th annual awards – now firmly established as one of the standout events in the fire and emergency services calendar. This is our opportunity to celebrate the individuals, teams and organisations whose dedication keeps the public safe every day. They give unwavering commitment throughout the year – the least we can do is deliver a celebration that truly reflects that commitment, alongside our loyal supporters, sponsors, and subscribers.*

“ I was incredibly humbled to be recognised as the Most Influential Woman in Fire. This award marks a meaningful milestone in my journey and reflects the dedication, collaboration, and progress built over many years. It also brings a real sense of responsibility and provides a powerful platform to continue championing positive change, inspiring others, and contributing to a stronger, more inclusive fire sector as we move forward together. ”

Lucy Macleod
Borough Commander
Hammersmith & Fulham.



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Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2026

Emergency Service of the Year

(sponsored by Dräger)



The Emergency Service of the Year award will be given to the service that has demonstrated a significant difference to fire and emergency performance. The winner will demonstrate one or more of the following: a reduction in deaths and injuries, improved emergency response, excellence in operational response and significant advancements in improving the lives of the community. This award is open to any fire or emergency service.

Resilience & Learning from Major Incidents

The Resilience & Learning from Major Incidents award will be presented to an individual, team or Fire and Rescue Service that has demonstrably improved resilience arrangements, including implementing systemic changes and enhancing operational procedures, over the last 12 months. The winner will show the effective use of resources, demonstrate effective response and inter-agency cooperation in a JESIP decision-making environment where profound command dilemmas exist.

Healthier Firefighters Award Excellence in Contaminants and Decontamination

(sponsored by VimpeX)



Evidence and science based solutions/projects that have tangible benefits to firefighter health outcomes, particular a reduction in exposure to, or removal of, carcinogenic elements. The winner will demonstrate reduction of exposure to contaminants on the fireground, decontamination systems/facilities processes evidenced to reduce exposure to carcinogens, or education/research projects to further understanding of contaminants and avoidance of carcinogens.

Innovation of the Year

(sponsored by iTrackPPE)



The Innovation of the Year award will be given to an individual or team that has developed innovative technology or a way of working that has made a significant difference to fire and emergency performance and delivery. The winner will demonstrate one or more of the following: improved safety measures which have led to saving lives and reducing injuries, produced significant cost savings, and improved the provision of emergency response.

Collaboration of the Year

(sponsored by Frequentis)



The Collaboration of the Year award will be presented to a fire or emergency individual or team that has participated in a collaboration(s) which has made a discernible improvement to the community they serve. The winner will demonstrate innovation and ingenuity, providing best practice and best value, and showing flexible and effective working practices.

Emergency Services Collaboration of the Year

The Emergency Services Collaboration of the Year award will be presented to a multi-agency team working across the blue-light services that has participated in a collaboration(s) which has made a discernible improvement to the community they serve. The winner will demonstrate innovation and ingenuity, providing best practice and best value, and showing flexible and effective working practices.

Training Provider of the Year

The Training Provider of the Year award will be presented to an individual, organisation or team that has delivered exceptional training for fire and emergency personnel. The winner will demonstrate transference of learning, exceptional feedback, organisational improvements directly linked to the training, and innovation and best practice.

Project of the Year

Recognising the most effective and efficient outsourced project, the fire or emergency winner will demonstrate a clear efficiency saving and improvement of service to the public. In addition, the project will deliver sizeable cost savings, streamlined business processes, and innovation and best practice.



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Award Categories

Team of the Year

Presented to a fire or emergency team that has made a demonstrable difference to the organisation and community they serve. The winner will demonstrate one or more of the following: reduced deaths and injuries, significant efficiencies and cost savings, and changing and improving the lives of members of the community.

Youth Champion of the Year

(sponsored by Women in the Fire Service UK)



The Youth Champion of the Year award will be given to an individual or team that has excelled either through working on young people's development or have attended a course and demonstrated clear improvement in behaviour, performance and a positive contribution to their community.

Neurodiversity Champion of the Year

The Neurodiversity Champion of the Year Award winner will be given to an individual who has excelled in helping to provide an inclusive and inspiring workplace and has demonstrated how they have made a positive difference to the organisation in developing initiatives and providing support to neurodiverse personnel.

Most Influential Woman in Fire

(Sponsored by GORE-TEX Fabrics)



Celebrating the contribution of women to the Fire and Rescue Service in the UK, entrants can nominate any woman working with or for a fire and rescue service who has made a discernible difference to fire and rescue performance in the last 12 months.

Most Influential LGBTQIA+ Individual in Fire

The winner of the Most Influential LGBTQIA+ Individual in Fire award will have demonstrated a significant contribution to promoting and supporting LGBTQIA+ in their service and community to make a positive impact on fire and rescue performance over the last 12 months.



International Best Practice

The winner will have demonstrated the highest level of professionalism, making a group or individual contribution that has advanced safety from fire, internationally.

Most Influential Ethnic Minority Individual in Fire

The winner of the Most Influential Ethnic Minority Individual in Fire award will have demonstrated a positive contribution to diversity and equality in the Fire and Rescue Service in the last 12 months.

Outstanding Contribution to the Fire and Rescue Service

(Sponsored by PBI Performance Products)



This blue ribbon lifetime achievement award will be presented to a leading fire or emergency figure who has made a significant, positive contribution to the emergency services arena over a sustained period of at least 30 years.

Unsung Hero Award

(sponsored by MSA Safety)



The Unsung Hero Award will be given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution the fire and emergency services over the last 12 months. The winner will demonstrate a sustained and significant contribution to the community, evidencing ingenuity and determination whilst helping to improve the lives of colleagues and/or members of the public.

Venue: One Great George Street

One Great George Street is the headquarters of the Institution of Civil Engineers, the world's first professional engineering body. Located just off Parliament Square, One Great George Street is located opposite government offices in Whitehall and is within a short walk of the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Churchill War Rooms and Number 10 Downing Street.

To find out about sponsorship for the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2026, and the different packages available, contact our Sales Manager **Beverley Rees** at beverley.rees@fireknowledge.co.uk or **01273 434957**.

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