



Department for
Communities and
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Dear Firefighter,

You will have been aware of the sterling efforts made on Sunday night to deal with a very serious fire at Didcot B Power Station. The pre-planning that went into the response led to a successful outcome, along with the work of the Oxfordshire crews and the support of Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire fire and rescue services. Thank you to everyone involved. Last week I announced the results of the Fire Transformation Fund. This is a £75 million fund to support innovation and collaboration in the fire and rescue service and to ensure money is spent on frontline services, rather than on duplication of overheads and back office services. There were 37 successful projects from across the country. A high number of bids looked to promote greater collaboration with other emergency services through sharing stations and services, sharing of back office functions, and joining up on service delivery.

We also saw the launch of the Fire Kills **Tick Tock Test** last week. The campaign, run in partnership with local fire and rescue authorities, encourages everyone to test their smoke alarms when they change their clocks back. As well as testing your smoke alarms this weekend, please do help spread the message to get everyone testing. For those of you on social media, this can be done very easily through the Fire Kills Thunderclap, which you can sign up to here - <http://bit.ly/1FcoPgQ>. If you register, a Tick Tock Test message will be sent from your Twitter, Facebook or Tumblr account at the same time as everyone else (11:30am, Saturday 25 October) to create a real buzz on the Twittersphere!

Yesterday, we published a new guide on celebrating bonfire night safely. It includes safety tips for hosting and enjoying a fireworks party, and on having a safe bonfire, as well as what to consider if attending an organised fireworks display – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/celebrating-bonfire-night>.

Shortly I will be meeting with the Fire Brigades Union leadership to brief them on developments in relation to pensions. We are also discussing with the Union, the employers and other representative bodies, the details of the fitness group that we are setting up under the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Peter Holland. I hope this will be up and running shortly and that this dispute will be drawn to a close, I know this is something you particularly want to see happen. I will keep you informed on this and all matters.

PENNY MORDAUNT MP