



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Queen Honours Chief Fire Officer**

Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer Paul Hayden has been given the Queen's Fire Service Medal in the New Year Honours List.

CFO Hayden, who has held the position in Hereford and Worcester since 2005, receives the award in recognition of his distinguished service.

His career started with West Midlands Fire Service in 1978. Working in the busy central Birmingham area he gained experience across a wide range of operational incidents including both terrorist attacks and civil disturbances in addition to the more routine inner city incident types.

In 1991 he moved to the Fire Service College, before taking a position with Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service in 1993 where he later became an Assistant Chief Fire Officer. In 2002, he was appointed as Deputy Chief Officer in Norfolk and three years later he became Chief Fire Officer for Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service.

CFO Hayden and his team were highly praised following the devastating floods in summer 2007 across Worcestershire and the UK after helping get vital equipment to the areas where it was most needed.

He set up the national flood support team at the service's headquarters in Charles Hastings Way, in Worcester, during the period. He has carried out a similar role during a number of major floods since then, most recently in response to the Cumbria floods.

His contribution to environment and flooding was been recognised by an award from the International Association of Emergency Managers [IEAM] in 2008, and he was recipient of the US 2008 Higgins and Langley swift water rescue programme development award.

In September 2009 he managed the UK contribution to EU Flood Ex that took place in the Netherlands, the largest ever practical flood exercise the EU has ever staged.

In addition to his Fire Authority work, CFO Hayden has a number of Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) national responsibilities. He is CFOA lead on flooding and water rescue and represents the service nationally on the Environment Agency Strategic Working Group. He also represents the Fire and Rescue Service on the Governments UK Search and Rescue group, is an advisor to the Local Government Association and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on water, environmental and climate related matters.