

## **FIREFIGHTER INJURED BY FAULTY FIRE STATION DOORS**

A retained firefighter needed surgery on his ankle after he was injured trying to close antiquated heavy doors at his fire station.

The FBU member was attempting to close the huge 12ft high by 16ft wide front doors to the station when he suffered the injury in 2008. One of the doors jammed, causing him to slip and hit his head on a parked fire engine. He was left with a deep cut to his neck, a sprained arm and an ankle injury which needed surgery.

The retained firefighter's main job was also affected by his prolonged absence from work. He was in plaster for four months and off work for six months. Lawyers brought in by FBU to represent the member in a compensation case argued that the Fire and Rescue Service failed in its duty of care to the injured employee by not having an inspection system in place to highlight and fix problems with the doors.



The fire service admitted liability and settled the claim out of court for £20,000. FBU's Adrian Clarke commented: 'Firefighters need to be able to know that they can respond to an emergency quickly and efficiently without putting themselves or others in danger through simple maintenance or systems failures. This member should never have been put in a position where he was at risk of injury.'

It is fortunate that it was not more serious and it didn't occur in the middle of an emergency scenario.' Kam Singh at Thompsons Solicitors, the law firm brought in by the union, said: 'Having doors fit for use should have been of the utmost priority for this station. Had this accident occurred during an emergency call-out not only would a firefighter have been injured but the delay could have meant a greater injury for those waiting for the fire engine to arrive.'