



Dr. Stephan Hittmann
Executive Director of Fire & Life Safety
9 Metrotech Centre
Brooklyn
NEW YORK 11201
USA

Mr. W. Evans
Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Human Resources
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Headquarters
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside L30 4YD

Tel: 0151 296 4105

Fax: 0151 296 4120

Web Site: www.merseyfire.gov.uk

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Date 15th January 2004

Dear Stephan,

Many thanks for your letter of 12th December 2003, and your kind and encouraging words. I hope, once again this letter finds you and your team in good health.

It is heartening to now know that a collaboration can exist and two way cooperation will be the foundation on which growing relationships will flourish.

It has been difficult here on Merseyside since my return from New York. We have downsized from four to three Principal Uniform Officers and I will now be responsible for a much expanded portfolio. On a personal note, on return I have learned that my father is terminally ill. So as you could imagine I have been "stretched" over recent weeks. Nevertheless life goes on and there is much change here to accomplish.

The report for the Fire Authority following our visit is currently being finalised, and naturally I will forward for your eyes the full and unabridged version.

I believe that we here will take much from our experience in New York but that the two way element of organisational development on each side of the Pond, for Fire Department New York will be from our development in the area of Community Fire Safety.

You had indicated your intention to visit the United Kingdom and if at all possible, I hope you will spend time with us in Liverpool. If this happens much of our progress in the field of Community

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Fire Safety will be presented to you. In the meantime I have enclosed a glossary of the current Community Fire Safety initiatives we are engaged in, and would hope that you will await the full report and recommendations following our visit to your great city.

In the meantime take care of yourself, I hope to see you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "B" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Bill Evans
Assistant Chief Fire Officer.