

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Mid & West Wales Area Total																								APR - DEC		
County Command	FDR 1			Small			Chimney			Hoax			Good Intent			AFA			SSC			Total				
	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06	03/04	04/05	05/06		
Carmarthenshire	378	338	284	519	328	299	38	18	28	68	35	42	151	124	140	298	295	370	472	473	581	1924	1611	1744		
Ceredigion	171	175	174	137	62	72	23	26	23	38	17	29	56	50	40	247	268	291	191	194	234	863	792	863		
Neath & Port Talbot	559	494	443	1200	951	598	2	6	1	167	144	106	302	242	206	332	327	309	277	308	360	2839	2472	2023		
Pembrokeshire	245	204	216	331	303	222	42	28	26	26	51	36	134	109	107	269	290	374	488	512	581	1535	1497	1562		
Powys	260	230	202	292	149	157	62	50	57	34	27	32	110	77	93	206	189	268	341	415	411	1305	1137	1220		
Swansea	1074	747	722	1848	1436	1149	13	5	7	212	145	140	399	316	358	729	771	899	590	584	611	4865	4004	3886		
TOTAL	2687	2188	2041	4327	3229	2497	180	133	142	545	419	385	1152	918	944	2081	2140	2511	2359	2486	2778	13331	11513	11298		

Please note. These figures compare the Incident Types by Station Ground for the months displayed above, and not for the full year.

		Pembrokeshire	Ceredigion	Powys	Neath/P Talbot	Swansea	Carmarthen	Brigade
CRR03	No of HFSAs carried out	691	653	1100	2097	1501	1447	7489
	No of Smoke Alarms fitted	668	664	1207	2080	1444	1355	7416
CRR06	No of Programmed School Visits carried out	17	9	21	65	18	118	248
CRR11	% of High Risk Premises Audited	29.92%	85.71%	73.49%	68.47%	79.45%	72.13%	63.99%
	% of High Risk CO9s Audited					24.28%		
CRR12	% of Building Regs completed within the time scale	98.94%	100.00%	100.00%	98.78%	98.95%	99.39%	99.28%

CEREDIGION COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest:

Llanwnnen County Primary School

In the early hours of the 27 November 2005, a call was received to a school on fire near Lampeter. Upon arrival, it was immediately evident that the fire was well developed, having broken through the roof, front door, and several windows. BA crews entered and, along with external firefighting tactics, brought the fire under control, limiting the damage to the central section of the school containing a classroom, hallway, foyer and toilet. Crews remained on the scene for several hours damping down, removing debris and checking for isolated pockets of fire

RTC near Aberaeron

On the 6 December 2005 at 15:55 hours, a call was received to an RTC just outside Aberaeron. On arrival crews found a collision between two cars, with one person

severely trapped. Crews released the casualty using hydraulic cutting gear and a Dewalt saw. Crews then assisted the paramedics in casualty handling and transportation to the ambulance. The vehicle was then made safe, and assistance given to the police in scene management.

Plunlumon Halls, Victoria Terrace

On the 7 December 2005, a call was received to a fire involving a waste paper basket, files and a work desk, in the basement of the above student halls of residence. A crew of BA wearers entered with a hosereel and ensured the fire was extinguished. The property was then ventilated using the PPV fan, by removing the smoke from the room of origin and adjacent corridor. The fire alarm was effective, and all occupants were safely evacuated prior to arrival of the Fire Service

Tyn Llwyn, Llancynfelin, Taliesin

On the 6 January 2006, a call was received to assist a large horse, which had fallen into a ditch. The ditch was some distance from the road so the crews had to carry the equipment on foot over the boggy ground to where the horse was stuck. Once at the scene, after assessing the situation, the crews attached fire service lines to the horse and, with the assistance of the vet, pulled the horse free to safety. After being checked over by the vet, the horse walked off to join the other horses unaffected by its ordeal.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Safety Events

The County and Deputy County Commander attended the Mayoral Christmas Dinner in Aberystwyth and distributed Home Fire Safety leaflets, while providing a short talk on the benefits of HFSA's. Approximately 60 HFSA requests were obtained from this event. The Command is also working in partnership with the Substance Misuse co-ordinator, and have supplied HFSA leaflets, and offered a free information session at Command HQ for the service providers. This is important, as current strategies have had little or no effect at reaching this section of the community. The Substance Misuse Team will seek the agreement of the vulnerable person, and the Command personnel will then undertake the HFSA. Any HFSA identified for this group will be undertaken as a priority.

RTC Reduction

The Command, working in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police, have invited 18 persons with a Section 59 Order on their vehicle to attend a 1 day driver improvement course at Command Headquarters. The course includes RTC dynamics, first aid and better citizenship. Those that attend and pass the course may have the length of their Section 59 Order reduced by an amount of time decided by the police.

A bid for Building Safer Communities funding has been submitted to start a RTC display from April 2006 in partnership with Ceredigion County Council's Road Safety Unit, Dyfed Powys Police and the Ambulance Service.

Partnership Working

The Command and the Ceredigion Youth Offending Team are preparing the groundwork for a youth deflection scheme, with the intention of operating the scheme between 2006 and 2007 in the Aberystwyth and Aberaeron area.

Co-Responder

Co-responder vehicles have gone on the run at Aberaeron and Cardigan stations this week. The Co-Responder Scheme was first launched in Mid and West Wales in 1999. It involves the training of Firefighters to respond alongside the Welsh Ambulance Service to deal with life threatening 999 calls, particularly in remote areas where a paramedic ambulance may be many miles distant. Improving primary response times when reaching seriously ill patients is just one of the benefits of this community based service.

Personnel

Interviews are being held later this month to fill the Command's Community Safety Assistant vacancy

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest:

MV Lucky Luke – Neyland Marina

Just before midnight on 30 November a call was received to a fire on board the MV 'Lucky Luke', which was moored at the pontoon at Neyland Marina. MV 'Lucky Luke' is a Sygnus MG38 type fishing trawler that had earlier been left secure by its crew.

Crews from Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest responded with 3 pumps, breathing apparatus and foam equipment pods and a safety boat. On arrival crews found the wheelhouse and rubber deck matting to be well alight. There was some difficulty in getting safe access to the boat, so an attack was made from Rescue 1, the safety boat. In addition the Milford Haven Port Authority sent a support vessel to assist with access to the trawler.

The fire damage was confined to the wheelhouse and deck matting. A total of 12 breathing apparatus sets were used to protect the fire-fighters who used 2 hose reels and 1 main jet to put out the fire. A thermal image camera was used to search for any hot embers still alight.

Liquid Petroleum Gas Tanker – Walwyns Castle

On 28 December at 1830 hours a 10-tonne Liquid Petroleum Gas, (LPG), road tanker skidded on black ice, left the roadway and became stuck in a ditch. Two pumps and an Emergency Tender responded from Haverfordwest and Milford Haven. There were no persons trapped or LPG leakage. Sprays from ground monitors were prepared to cover any risk when the LPG was transferred to another tanker.

Flooding

On 8 November there was a torrential rainstorm that caused 30 flooding incidents across Pembrokeshire. These spate call conditions stretched the resources of the Command and Fire Control. The flooding required close co-operation with the Highways Department of Pembrokeshire County Council to assist in removing obstructions from road and storm drains, to enable the removal of water from people's homes and businesses.

Other Activities

On 21 November the Welsh Ambulance Trust located an emergency ambulance at Milford Haven Fire Station. This follows agreements reached elsewhere in the Service area. The arrangement has begun successfully with many opportunities for joint training being exploited and common mobilising to emergency incidents.

On 23 November firefighters and officers attended a reception held at County Hall, Haverfordwest, for emergency service personnel. The Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council, Councillor Collins, invited emergency service workers as a gesture of thanks for the services given during the year.

On 25 November Pembrokeshire was struck by a heavy snowstorm that closed the main roads in the County. Although there was only a single snow related incident dealt with by the Fire Service in Pembrokeshire, the Service was approached by the Emergency Planning Officer to standby to assist Pembrokeshire County Council in recovering stranded drivers and transporting key workers using our 4-wheel drive vehicles. Earlier that day a meeting had been held with the Emergency Planning Officers to discuss the role of the Fire Service in a Local Resilience Forum as part of the Civil Contingencies Act. Further to this meeting the Emergency Planning Officers visited the Haverfordwest offices to explore a partnership arrangement to share offices to accommodate the regional Civil Contingencies Planning Unit.

On 9 December a meeting was held with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency at Milford Haven Coastguard Station to discuss offshore procedures that will be implemented as part of the Marine Incident Response Group Agreement.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Safety

Since October 150 homes have been visited to carry out a Home Fire Safety Audit. Of these 35 were found to be high risk and required additional works other than giving fire safety advice. In the period April to December the number of homes who have a working smoke alarm when involved in a fire has increased to 54% compared with 48% in 2004.

A partnership with the Chevron Texaco Refinery has begun to train the workforce in fire safety awareness in the home. Initially two training sessions will be provided for 240 employees with a further training event every 3 months for new employees. This will enable the Chevron Texaco refinery to further promote safety beyond the refinery boundaries and to have a safe workforce.

On 10 December a Fire Safety Open Day was held by B02, Milford Haven. Approximately 95 families visited the Fire Station to learn more about fire safety, to enjoy light refreshments and to meet Father Christmas. This event led to many additional referrals for Home Fire Safety Audits in the Milford Haven area. Meanwhile Radio Pembrokeshire ran a series of radio interviews that featured the dangers of overloading electrical systems, the misuse of lighted candles and the ferocity of a burning Christmas tree in a living room.

POWYS COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Non-Fire Fatalities

Two fatalities occurred during this period;

Incident No 23343

On 20 November 2005 a motorist was killed on the A483, 3 miles north of Builth Wells when his car was in collision with the parapet of a bridge.

Incident No 13429

On 17 December 2005 an elderly gentleman was recovered by Service personnel from the Travis Perkins entrance to the lock on the Welshpool Canal.

Rescues

16 special service calls were attended that required rescues to be performed. This resulted in a total of 19 people rescued by Service personnel.

Incidents of interest:

Agricultural Incident 26257

On 26 December 2005 at 0629 hrs two appliances were mobilised to a report of a barn fire at Glanhafren Farm, Welshpool. On arrival crews were confronted with a two storey 70 x 40 metre brick and timber building of which 80% was involved in fire. A further two appliances, Aerial Ladder Platform and Large Volume Pumping Unit (LVP) were mobilised.

On closer examination signs of structural collapse were apparent and fire was found to be spreading to additional adjacent farm buildings. Crews provided jets and ground monitors to work to prevent the fire from spreading any further and water supplies were supplemented by use of a light portable pump in the nearby river Severn.

Special Service Call

Incident No 27437

On 10 January 2006 - Chemical Spillage, A483 Llandrindod Wells & Builth Wells Road.

At approximately 12.10 pm crews from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells, Newtown and Morryston were called to a seven ton open sided Large Goods Vehicle (LGV)

that had overturned on the A483, spilling some of its load of chemicals. The vehicle was laying on its side on a slight incline and a quantity of the mixed cargo was issuing on to the roadway and entering a surface drain. The only access into the trailer was from the top due to the way it had come to rest. The mixed cargo of chemicals was stored in seven x 500ltr flask like containers and one x 200ltr drum. Information showed them to be toxic, corrosive and capable of causing respiratory failure. Crews quickly contained the spill using environmental packs and booms. The spillage was then pumped into drums for disposal. Chemical suits and breathing apparatus were used and full decontamination procedures were adopted.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Home Fire Safety Audits/Smoke Alarms

430 HFSA's were carried out in the Command area resulting in more than 480 smoke alarms being installed in private properties. In addition 5 specialist alarms for the Hard of Hearing were installed.

Partnership working

In partnership with Age Concern Montgomeryshire, Community Safety advice was available to members of the public at 3 Age Concern Information Days at rural locations. Other agencies involved included Care & Repair, Police, Pensions Services and Age Concern amongst others. New partnerships have also been developed to generate HFSA referrals with Powys County Council Family Placement Team and Crossroads Carer's organisation. Through these working arrangements the Fire and Rescue Service has been able to obtain HFSA referrals for properties in remote rural locations together with those in high risk wards.

Leaflet Drops

HFSA request leaflets, which were sent out to all surgeries, health centres and Primary Schools in Powys, have resulted in requests being received by post and email.

Station Visits

The County Times printed a story about MP's Lembit Opik and Roger Williams' visits to Newtown and Brecon fire stations along with contact details for HFSA requests. This has resulted in requests for HFSA's from the public.

Electric Blanket Testing

The annual Electric Blanket Testing event in partnership with Trading Standards took place from 7 to 11 November in 5 locations including Newtown Fire Station. Approximately 650 blankets were tested, over 60% failed and 350 replacement blankets were issued.

Powys Road Safety Partnership

The partnership has continued to develop new ways of addressing the Service and command targets of reduction of deaths and serious injuries on the roads of Powys. In partnership with Powys County Council a crashed vehicle simulation trailer has been set up together with display materials to enable a range of road safety initiatives to be tackled in line with local and national road safety campaigns.

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fatalities

3 fatalities from Road Traffic Collisions

Incidents of Interest:

Spudders Bridge on B4308, between Kidwelly and Trimsaran - 31 December 2005

RTC involving 2 vehicles, 3 fatalities released by Fire Service using cutting equipment.

A486 Penrhos Depot, Llandysul - 12 January 2006

RTC involving 2 light Transit vans. One person removed from vehicle by Fire Service personnel using hydraulic equipment.

Morawel, Cefncaeau, Llanelli - 11 January 2006

Fire involving kitchen - out on arrival. Two BA's in use for venting, 1 person conveyed to hospital by private transport suffering smoke inhalation.

B4332 Abercych to Cenarth, Newcastle Emlyn - 1st January 2006

RTC involving 1 vehicle left roadway 1 person trapped released using chocking and blocking gear. 2 persons conveyed to hospital by ambulance.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

CS Activities

Carmarthen Command CS Personnel gave a Home Fire Safety Audit presentation to 35 Home Start clients in Llanelli on the 25 November.

On 30 November a representative of Carmarthenshire CS Department gave a presentation to Social Services workers at Llangennech.

On 2 December, Carmarthenshire CS personnel gave a presentation to unpaid carers at the Llanelli Carers Rights day.

On the morning of the 8 December a talk was given to members of the Probation Service on the subject of Home Fire Safety Audits.

In the afternoon a HFSA presentation was given to the Tai Trothwy Homeless Project in Llanelli.

On the 13 January 2006 a meeting was held with Care and Repair to discuss a home fire safety referral scheme.

SWANSEA COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest:

Incident Number: 24885 - 07/12/2005

Road Traffic Collision- Kimberley Road, Sketty, Swansea

Crews attended an early afternoon road traffic collision between a private motor vehicle and a lorry in the Sketty area of Swansea. Service personnel used hydraulic cutting equipment to remove the roof of the car and extricated two persons with suspected spinal injuries. Casualties were later conveyed to hospital by Ambulance.

Incident Number: 25077 11/12/2005

Road Traffic Collision – M4 Motorway Junctions 48 to 47 (Eastbound)

Crews were mobilised to a car fire on the M4 motorway. Heavy fog and dense smoke from the car fire drastically reduced visibility for passing vehicles. A multi vehicle collision subsequently occurred, approximately 50 metres past the car fire, involving at least 8 cars and 1 coach. Service personnel using hydraulic rescue equipment released 1 person from 1 car. Approximately 50 people were assessed at the scene by Fire Service and Ambulance Service personnel and taken to a nearby motorway service station. 9 persons were conveyed to hospital using a fleet of ambulances. In total, five appliances and a rescue tender were required to deal with the two incidents.

Incident Number: 26402 - 27/12/2005

Road Traffic Collision- Glanmor Road, Upland, Swansea

Shortly before midnight a private motor vehicle collided with a tree trapping the driver. Crews released the driver from the vehicle using hydraulic cutting equipment who was later conveyed to hospital by Ambulance.

Incident Number: 26384 - 27/12/2005

Farmhouse on fire- Highland Terrace, Pontardulais

At 7.45 pm three appliances were mobilised to a farmhouse on fire at Golden Grove, Highland Terrace, Pontardulais. The two-storey un-occupied property was well alight when crews arrived having been burning for some time prior to the first call being made to the Fire Service. The building measured approximately 20m X 10m and took some three-hours to bring under control. Due to the remote location of the building crews has to pump water some distance along and up country lanes and to the top of a hill. The icy-conditions during the night caused water to freeze on the helmets and tunics and leggings of those in attendance. Because of the severity of the fire the entire internal structure including roof, stairs, internal walls and first floor collapsed leaving the building in an unstable and dangerous condition.

Incident Number: 26344 - 27/12/2005

House Fire- Persons Reported. St Helens Cres, Swansea

A fire broke out in the kitchen (fridge-freezer) of the property. Crews from Swansea West and Swansea Central were mobilised to the incident and four firefighters entered the property wearing breathing apparatus, rescuing two elderly persons before extinguishing the blaze. The ground floor of the property was severely damaged by fire. The elderly persons were conveyed to hospital by Ambulance.

Incident Number: 26408 - 28/12/2005

Road Traffic Collision- Ashleigh Road, Blackpill, Swansea

A private motor vehicle collided with a lamp post, overturned and came to rest trapping the driver and passenger. The Service was involved in the extrication of the two deceased persons using hydraulic cutting equipment and providing lighting for the Police accident investigators.

Incident Number: 26607 - 30/12/2005

House Fire- Persons Reported. Elan Ave, Clase, Morriston

A ground floor flat forming part of a local authority semi-detached property was severely damaged by a gas explosion and the ensuing fire. Four firefighters fought the blaze wearing breathing apparatus, a thermal imaging camera and hose-reel jets. One male casualty was injured by the blast suffering from severe burns and was conveyed to hospital by Ambulance.

Incident Number: 26719 - 31/12/2005

House Fire- Persons Reported. Vera Road, Clydach.

A fire occurred in a first floor flat at 11.34pm on New Year's Eve 2005. Fire crews, who had been mobilised from Morriston and Pontardawe, entered the burning building wearing breathing apparatus, rescued the female occupier and administered oxygen therapy at the scene. The casualty was later conveyed to hospital by Ambulance.

Incident Number: 27614 - 14/01/06

The Service was notified of a package containing a suspect white powder at the DVLA building, Clase, Morriston.

A Hazardous Materials Officer was mobilised to the DVLA to undertake an initial risk-assessment. The outcomes of the risk-assessment were then communicated to the Police and the regional New Dimensions co-ordinator. A Hazardous materials team was mobilised from South Wales Fire Service along with appliances and equipment from within the Service. Firefighters wearing Gas-tight suits (GTS) entered the risk area to undertake a chemical analysis of the powder, the results of which were communicated via telephone and e-mail to a chemist in the USA. Following the chemist's advice the package was impounded by the Police for further analysis and criminal investigation.

Officers from the Command will soon be meeting with the senior management team at the DVLA to review protocols for dealing with such incidents.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Fire Safety Inspection and Enforcement

To date, some 84% of hotels have been inspected and subject to a risk audit. It is likely that the target of inspecting 85% of hotels by April will be exceeded with the likelihood of all hotels receiving an inspection and risk audit in the 12 months to April. Similarly, the target for Inspecting and risk auditing 85% of residential nursing homes is now on track to be met.

Much work has been carried out on Building Regulation Consultations, with both Local Authority Building Control and Approved Inspectors. Over 280 have been completed this year with a 98.95% being completed in 14 days, the remainder within 21 days.

Consultation with representatives of the NHS Trust has now begun in relation to a new Hospital Inspection Programme. This will see a new protocol and inspection regime for hospitals, and will prepare both the Command and Trust for the implications of the Regulatory Reform Order.

The Licensing Act and the resultant high workload are now levelling out. Command personnel, are now embarking on a regime of inspection of the high risk licensed premises. This will address the public safety issues in relation to risk assessments and the control of numbers resorting to the premises, that were not addressed by way of conditions of the premises licences under the new Act.

Community Safety

Home Fire Safety Audits (HFSA)

Command personnel to date have completed 1501 HFSA's. As reported in the previous report retained personnel have been trained to carry out HFSA's and are working towards the set target of 313.

Partnership Working

Age Concern – This partnership continues to be a great success. With a steady number of referrals being received, to date since the set up of the partnership agreement 330 referrals have been received.

Red Cross – As with Age Concern, the Red Cross organisation continue to be a valuable partnership in achieving the Command's targets with again a steady number of referrals being received (126 to date).

New Partnerships - Due to the great success of both partnerships, the Command are in the process of agreeing formal partnerships with service level agreements in place with three other organisations (Care and Repair, Alpha Home Care & Swansea Health Visitors). A meeting has already taken place with Alpha Home Care and a service level agreement is imminent, further meetings have been arranged with the other two organisations. This will result in staff from these organisations being trained by community safety staff on general fire safety guidance and guidance on identifying people who are at risk from fire.

Phoenix Course

The Community Safety Department staff along with the Youth Offending Team Fire Officer have programmed a further three course in the coming months. Young people between the ages of 13 to 17, who are involved with the Youth Offending Scheme, will undertake a five-day course that will teach them team work, discipline and life skills. All participants are anticipated to successfully complete the course that will conclude in a pass out parade in front of their family members.

Business Arson Education Program

The Business Arson Warden, the Station Commander and personnel at Swansea West Station have formalised a business arson education package to deliver to local businesses in the Station area. The package will tackle issues relating to - waste management, general housekeeping in their property, fire safety and general arson awareness etc. A number of courses have taken place and have been well attended and received by the business community.

Appointment of Schools' Officer

In November the Command appointed a Schools' Liaison Officer who will be liaising with the Education Department and the Service's Educational Standards Advisor, to educate children of various age groups with comprehensive fire safety education programs. The officer started delivering the program this January and has visited 9 schools. The feed back from the children and teachers is very positive and the Command are setting a target of 112 visits for the forth-coming financial year.

Additional Community Safety Firefighter Posts

Swansea Command are in the process of recruiting an additional 4 FF Community Safety posts, as identified in the Authority's IRMP. The posts will be based at Swansea Central Station, and personnel are anticipated to be in place in April.

NEATH PORT TALBOT

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest:

Inc No: 17991 - Penllyn, Cwmavon.

Two Pumps were mobilised to the above incident, where on arrival they were confronted with a kitchen fire and persons reported. The occupier was led to safety and the fire extinguished using Hose Reel Jet. An investigation by the Officer in Charge led to a number of concerns, namely the occupier had severe hearing loss and the smoke alarm had been disconnected. Further investigation highlighted that NPTCC had attended the property for similar incidents. The action of the Community Safety Department was to inform the appropriate agencies. C S D carried out Home Fire Safety Audit resulting in the issue of Deep Fat Fryer, Smoke Alarms, Smoke Alarm Vibrating Pad, Electronic Gas Igniter and Multi Plug Lead, Concerns arising from the Community Safety visit were also conveyed to the appropriate agencies. Sensory Support carried out their risk assessment and kitchen items, which incorporated a timing device were supplied i.e. Microwave and toaster.

The local authority serviced the gas appliances and fitted hard-wired Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detector. Community Safety Department along with Local Authority arranged a visit to liaise with occupier to resolve any other remaining issues.

Flooding

The adverse weather during November saw heightened activity in NPTCC because of flooding. Crews promptly responded to the New Civic Centre Neath and successfully averted the threat of water damage.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Home Fire Safety Audits

Stations are actively undertaking Home Fire Safety Audits in the areas targeted in the respective stations 2005/2006 Business plans. The Stations are also continuing to undertake requests for audits that are made through partnership organisations.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Command Vehicles

Neath and Port Talbot County Command (NPTCC) have taken ownership of two new Renault Kango vehicles bearing the Community Safety Message, Fire Service logo and carrying the free-phone Community Safety Telephone number for advice and Home Fire Safety Audit Referrals.

Service Chaplain Reverend Colin J Amos

NPTCC met with Father Colin Amos resulting in the Community Safety Department targeting church groups with reference to Fire Safety and HFSA referrals; the first presentation is planned for February 06, at St Theodore's Church, Port Talbot. Colin Amos is one of the five Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Chaplains with particular responsibility for the Neath Port Talbot Command. NPTCC are now pursuing other church and faith groups within the Command area.

YOT

The Youth Offending Fire Officer (YOFO) continues to attend the Youth Offending Team (YOT) offices 2 days per week, making himself available for referrals and other questions relating to the Fire Service and the reduction of arson and fire setting.

Phoenix

NPT Command now conducts their own independent courses, catering for Youth Inclusion Programs, Youth Offending Teams, Alternative curriculums and other youth organisations. The aim of the course is to work with young people for their benefit youngsters and in turn the wider community. The objectives are to increase self-esteem, self-confidence, leadership and communication skills and to improve motivation. The course is undertaken from Monday to Friday and is intensive both in its content and supervision. Since April 05, we have undertaken eight courses, catering for 70 young people. We have entered into partnership with the Local Education Authority with the first LEA referral course run successfully in November. A Further course for the LEA is planned for February 06.

Forest Schools

The Forest school has been operating in the borough since September 2003. It offers an alternative curriculum to young people aged 14-18 years who may be described as non-achievers or as having a disruptive influence due to lack of interest in mainstream education. The school runs for a duration of 10 weeks. An officer from the Community Safety Department within the NPTCC has undergone a three day intensive leadership course which will allow him to assist Forest School Leaders and thereby with young people on issues of community safety.

Schools Liaison Officer's Role within Neath Port Talbot Command

Within the command area are a total of 87 schools. Every single school will receive at least one visit per annum from the Schools Officer. Infants, Junior and Primary, as well as Secondary schools are all targeted, giving a total of 121 school sessions per annum.

The specific age groups that are targeted are as follows:

Key Stage 1 (ages 5 to 7) – Infant Schools

Key Stage 2 (ages 9 to 10) – Junior and Primary Schools

Key Stage 3 (ages 11 to 13) – Secondary and Comprehensive Schools

Key Stage 4 (ages 14 – 16) – Secondary and Comprehensive Schools

Since the programme commenced (Sept 2005) the figures to date are:

79 sessions delivered. It is envisaged our schools programme will be complete by the end of March 06.

The nature of the education program is to educate the young people as to the dangers of fire, prevention and detection of fires, escaping fire situations and to form links and partnerships with the schools and the young people within the Command area, thereby utilising education to assist in the reduction of fires, injuries and fatalities.

Other Events

Alternative Curriculum Young People Cwrt Sart School	14/15 yrs of age, Youth Officer engaged and educated
HSE First Aid Instruction	4 day course run for our partners, Care & Repair & Surestart/Startwell
Partnership Awareness	Neath Civic Centre
Partnership Awareness	Port Talbot Civic Centre
Safety Forum Ystalyfera/Godr'e Graig	Community Officer assigned. In early stages.
Community First Meetings	Fairyland

SERVICE CONTROL

The relocation of the Control Services to the new Joint Communications facility located at the Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters was successfully completed with the control becoming fully operational on Tuesday 29th November 2005.

The transfer of control services commenced on Monday 21st November 2005. Prior to this date, as much preparatory work as possible was undertaken to streamline the changeover process. Additional specific work then commenced to facilitate the actual transfer of lines and equipment. Throughout the relocation of the control services, systems to support mobilising and operational requirements were available. An interim control was set up using the new Business Continuity and Training room and full mobilising services and administrative functions were supported via four positions.

Since the relocation, work continues to address some minor technical issues and to complete the upgrade of the call handling system.

The 'Control' management members of the three services are in the process of establishing a protocol for joint liaison meetings to assist in the development of working relationships, on-site liaison, etc.

Throughout the process, the support and effective teamwork within control, the Communications IS/IT team, Premises and many other departments, contributed to the successful relocation of control services and the provision of a control operations room that we can all be proud of.