

SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

	Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Neath/P Talbot	Pembrokeshire	Powys	Swansea	Service
HFSC Targets	5240	1500	3352	2000	2710	3675	18477
No of HFSCs carried out (inc Ops, CS & Ext Ag)	2020	912	1868	1212	1411	2247	9670
By Operational Personnel	1405	862	1772	995	1366	2223	8623
By Community Safety Personnel	322	5	76	217	45	23	688
By Outside Agencies	293	45	20	0	0	1	359
No of Smoke Alarms fitted	2667	719	1924	1637	1806	2062	10815
No of Programmed School Visits carried out	59	23	48	19	23	39	211
% of High Risk Premises Audited	37.50%	100.00%	38.46%	53.08%	44.44%	22.32%	40.00%
% of Building Regs completed within the time scale	95.84%	100.00%	99.52%	97.59%	100.00%	99.67%	99.10%

HFSCs completed are currently 10% below target. This is the norm for the initial 8 months as capacity and availability to undertake checks is greater in the latter quarter.

Mid & West Wales Area Total																					APR - OCT			
County Command	FDR 1			Small			Chimney			Hoax			Good Intent			AFA			SSC			Total		
	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08	05/06	06/07	07/08
Carmarthenshire	212	241	207	257	327	274	12	15	18	34	27	32	104	145	147	292	338	283	382	363	318	1293	1456	1279
Ceredigion	137	130	115	68	98	107	13	11	12	24	45	32	36	55	41	216	292	264	161	157	222	655	788	793
Neath & Port Talbot	363	332	288	523	903	799	1	2	1	90	72	77	164	225	259	236	221	257	269	281	302	1646	2036	1983
Pembrokeshire	176	174	125	197	273	187	13	17	20	32	18	16	90	68	86	290	234	271	455	423	407	1253	1207	1112
Powys	153	164	162	140	187	240	29	36	30	27	15	24	78	77	101	207	279	269	309	288	319	943	1046	1145
Swansea	558	496	442	964	1312	1277	4	4	3	103	122	107	285	317	326	711	677	649	455	537	525	3080	3465	3329
TOTAL	1599	1537	1339	2149	3100	2884	72	85	84	310	299	288	757	887	960	1952	2041	1993	2031	2049	2093	8870	9998	9641

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

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fatalities

2 fire fatality to report

4 fatalities from Road Traffic Collisions

Incidents of Interest

A484 Between Loughor and Llanelli

On 12 September 2007 a RTC involving lorry and motorcycle. 1 male fatality. 1 male conveyed to hospital by ambulance, crews involved in clearing roadway.

Forestry by Henllan Industrial Estate, Penbont Caravan Park, Henllan

On 27 September 2007 a FDR1 fire involving rubbish in fire pit – 1 male fatality in fire (accidental) – recovered by FS personnel and portable lighting used to assist police.

2 Landore Road, Pembrey

On 3 October 2007 a RTC involving two cars, 4 casualties', 1 extricated fatality.

Near Stag and Pheasant public house, A485, Pontarsais, Carmarthen

On 18 November 2007 a RTC involving 2 vehicles, 2 fatal casualties removed from car.

56 Bro Einon, Llanybydder,

On 20 November 2007 a fire in living room, 2BA, 1HRJ TIC in use. 1 male fatality, fire alarm fitted but battery removed.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

15 th September	Polish Awareness Day, Llanelli
19 th September	Fire Safety talk, Merched Y Wawr, Llansteffan
20 th September	RNID, Wales Council for Deaf, St Elli Centre, HFSC information
25 th September	Seaside Community Safety Day, Llanelli
25 th September	Positive Ageing event, Llandeilo
26 th September	Fire safe, Morryston HQ
3 rd October	Freshers Day at Trinity College, Carmarthen
3 rd October	Pontyates Community Hall, Legislative and Community Safety Advice
8 th October	Y.W.C.A Llanelli, Fire Safety talk and chip pan display
9 th October	Electric blanket testing, Age Concern, Llandysul
9 th October	Fire Safety Talk, Old School, Llandybie Women's Institute
22 nd October	Pass Plus Cymru, Llanelli
23 rd October	Raptor course, Llanelli
22-26 th October	Phoenix Course, Llanelli
27 th October	Tenants conference, Llanelli Leisure Centre
29 th October	Community Safety Day, Felinfoel, Llanelli
6 th November	Raptor Course, Llanelli
13 th November	Raptor Course, Llanelli
13 th November	Dairy Show, United Counties Showground
14 th November	Age Concern, Brynamman
15 th November	Chip pan demo AND Fire Safety talk, Whitland
15 th November	Community Order meeting with Dyfed Powys Police
19 th November	Phoenix Course, Llanelli
22 nd November	Age Concern, Bettws, Ammanford
26 th November	Phoenix follow -on Course, Llanelli
27 th November	Raptor course

CEREDIGION COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest

Maesheli Aberystwyth

A Crew from Aberystwyth Fire Station assisted police in body recovery over 2 days from a 1st floor bedroom using small gear to remove a window and ladders with Rope Pack level 1. The body had lain undiscovered for a considerable time.

Cilcennin Aberaeron

At 0906 hours on the 19 September a call was received to Plas Cilcennin Farm to a fire involving a barn containing approximately 200 tonnes of straw, a caravan and a quantity of

wool. The Incident Commander made pumps three and this makeup was increased to four pumps to enable Incident Command Support to be established. It was ascertained that there was a quantity of asbestos involved and a message to that effect was passed to Control. An inner cordon was set up and crews wore full PPE for an incident involving asbestos. The fire was contained very quickly but the incident was protracted due to the asbestos and the need to adopt decontamination procedures.

Aberystwyth Seafront

A call was received at 2137 hours on 28 October to a person trapped under boulders beneath the sea wall. Rescue conditions were extremely hazardous due to very strong wave activity at high tide. Coastguard and RNLI crew members were lowered on lines to the casualty's location, but only after waiting for 40 minutes for tide to turn was the rescue achieved safely. The male casualty was wedged under large rocks forming part of the sea wall defence and was confirmed dead upon recovery. The crew assisted RNLI and Coastguard in casualty recovery and scene lighting.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Home Fire Safety Checks

The HFSC targets are one of a number of elements of our community safety strategy to reduce deaths/injuries within our communities. The Command as a whole are progressing well with our target of 1500 HFSC's throughout the County for this fiscal year. There have been **107** HFSC refusals whereby employee time has been allocated to tasks but the occupier has either declined the visit when the team arrived or wrote and declined the visit when initially approached.

HFSC equipment provision includes the issue of **790** standard smoke detectors and **14** hard of hearing smoke detectors in Ceredigion during the current fiscal year.

University of Wales Aberystwyth

The Command experience a high number of unwanted fire signals from the Aberystwyth campus. Over 3 days in October CS staff and Station Managers from Command Headquarters delivered several fire safety talks to a total of 2,792 first year students at the Great Hall in Aberystwyth. A date has been set for the remaining 500 students who missed one of the presentations to receive this mandatory community safety talk in the language of their choice, i.e. the Command will deliver a further two talks one through Welsh and the other in English.

RTC Reduction

Over 150 secondary school children recently attended Megadrive at Aberporth which focussed on young drivers and road safety and over 50 children attended a similar event in Penweddig school.

Two Pass Plus Cymru driver improvement courses have been held recently and a further one is scheduled before the end of the month.

A number of events were undertaken in local supermarkets during Road Safety Week working closely with our partners CSI Cymru and the Ceredigion Road Safety team.

Legislative Fire Safety

The LFS team has completed 189 audits of premises which falls within the new Fire Safety Order and have completed 78 statutory consultations with the Building Control Department within the agreed timescale.

NEATH PORT TALBOT

This report details the service delivery provisions for stations within the Neath Port Talbot County Command for the reporting period April 2007 – November 2007. The report specifically relates to the Community Risk Reduction and Operational Risk Management Activity.

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest

On the 16 November 2007 MAWWFRS were mobilised to a fire at the Water Treatment Works, located in Corus Steel Works, Port Talbot.

Three appliances were mobilised to the incident with the fire located outside the main building in a deodorising filtration unit. The structure consisted of a steel framework and fibreglass resin sides. On arrival of the first appliance it was noted that the structure was well alight and the fire was impinging on the main building. Actions were quickly put in place to stop the fire spreading and bring it under control, which was successfully achieved within a short period of time.

Gwyn Hall, Neath

On Thursday 18 October 2007, the Service was called to a fire that had been sighted at the Gwyn Hall, Neath.

Upon the arrival of the first crews, it was apparent that the fire had taken a hold in the roof and roof space. It was determined that additional appliances and personnel would be required to deal with the incident and resulted in ten pumping appliances, three Turntable ladders and a High Volume Pump were mobilised to the premises. It transpired that approximately 90% of the building had been severely damaged by the fire which resulted in sections of the building needing to be demolished. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Home Fire Safety Checks

Stations are actively undertaking Home Fire Safety Checks in the areas targeted in the respective stations 2007/2008 Business plans. The Stations are also continuing to undertake requests for audits that are made through partnership organisations.

Community Safety

In August personnel from Port Talbot Fire Station along with members of the Arson Reduction Team (based at Morriston) and Keep Wales Tidy, organised an arson awareness and rubbish amnesty day in the Borough Street area of Aberavon. Three large skips were strategically placed and rubbish removed from the streets and lanes in the surrounding area with residents and children encouraged to participate. This was very successful, with all three skips being filled within an hour.

There has been a number of incidents of arson in the area over the past few months and to try and reduce the number of fires, crews from Port Talbot Fire Station and the Arson Reduction Team carried out a door to door calling on residents to make them more aware of the dangers associated with arson, to encourage them to report any information of crime and

anti social behaviour and the offer of a home fire safety check. Businesses were also targeted and were asked to place Crime Stoppers posters in their shop windows. To back up this action some fifty posters were produced and placed on lamp posts indicating the arson problem and a Crime Stoppers telephone number. This was a very successful day with statistical information to be scrutinised to note the reduction of arson incidents.

Throughout the last reporting quarter firefighters from Neath Fire Station in conjunction with NPT Command Officers have attended a series of meetings with the Neath Town Centre management team. The meetings have been arranged to bring together all interested parties with a view to reducing the number of arson related incidents, specifically refuse fires that are occurring in Neath Town Centre.

NPT Officers and the Neath Town Centre Manager met with representatives from the Local Authority, Waste Collection Services and local shop owners with the intention of reviewing the current waste collection procedures. All parties involved have agreed that changes to the current systems of collection are required and will meet again in December to discuss a way forward.

Fireworks Initiative - Swansea Bay B.A.N.G Campaign 2007

The aim of the partnership scheme between the Fire Service, Police and Local Authority agencies was to protect the people and environment of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot from the effects of fireworks, unauthorised bonfires anti-social behaviour.

The campaign was launched at Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School on the 15 October with the attendance of the Fire Service, Police, partnership agencies and the media. Schools Liaison Officer Julian Austin gave an input via an Assembly presentation.

Two live messages were broadcast from Swansea Sound on the 29 October and The Wave on the 31 October.

Eleven secondary schools were supplied and fitted with poster cabinets and the safety firework message was re-enforced with the B.A.N.G. campaign posters.

A system for the reporting of unauthorised bonfires was set up via a hotline telephone number. Police and Fire crews were designated "spotters" and reported unauthorised bonfires to the Local Authority clearance teams.

Fire Appliances attended sites to inspect bonfires with a view to assessing their safety.

YFF Presentation at Seven Sisters

On the 26 October The Young Fire Fighters at Seven Sisters displayed their drill yard skills and teamwork by carrying out a ladder and pump work display. They showed great enthusiasm and performed very well under the scrutiny of family, friends and Senior Managers from the Fire Service.

Chief Fire Officer Mackay spoke about the vital role that YFF plays within our communities and congratulated all participants. County Commander Philip Crayford then presented the children with certificates of achievement. One Award, for outstanding achievement was also awarded.

Christmas Community Safety Message

The Christmas safety campaign has been initiated, the main focus this year is "Be safe this Christmas"

1. Make sure your Christmas lights conform to the British Standard
2. Never leave candles unattended
3. Never place candles near your Christmas tree
4. Never overload your sockets
5. Decorate with care –don't attach decorations to lights or heaters

This message is being given to the public at all the Christmas parades in the Neath Port Talbot area via an A-frame trailer being towed by the fire quad bike. The Department also attended Swansea's main parade.

Key Stage 2 Launch

For Mid and West Wales FRS, Neath Port Talbot Command were chosen to launch the Key Stage 2 programme along with South Wales FRS and North Wales FRS.

On the 22 November Neath Port Talbot Community attended Godre'r Graig School to launch the Key Stage 2 programme which delivers a personal safety message which includes family escape plans, the importance of smoke alarms and how to stay safe from fire. This has been designed around the requirements of the Personal Social Education Framework for Wales.

Key Stage 2 follows the successful implementation of the Key Stage 1 that introduced five to seven year olds to the importance of self responsibility whereas its successor introduces family responsibility via classroom input. The launch was successful and was covered in the local press.

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

Good progress continues to be made with the delivery of the business plan for 2007/08.

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of interest

The co-responder stations of Narberth and Crymych attended 112 incidents during this reporting period. There were 140 Special Service incidents attended of which 65 were Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)

On Monday 3 September at 2127 hours, crews from Haverfordwest were called to a serious RTC at Dale Road, Haverfordwest where a small car collided with a 4X4 car. Crews had to remove two young men who were fatal casualties from the small car, before assisting the Police with scene preservation and lighting the scene.

On Friday 21 September at 1232 hours, crews from Crymych and Narberth were called to Llandisilio to rescue a woman from a crashed car. They used hydraulic cutting and spreading equipment to enable paramedics to stabilise her medical condition before she was airlifted to hospital by air ambulance.

On Saturday 6 October at 1523 hours a call from the South Hook LNG jetty reported a collapsed "jack up barge" that had partially capsized. Crews from Milford Haven and Haverfordwest responded to assist in the emergency response. It became clear that 1 person was missing. On Sunday 7 October the Rescue Boat from Milford Haven was requested to stand-by to assist in recovering a body from the submerged barge.

On Tuesday 9 October a roof collapsed at the Welsh Bakers in Robert Street, Milford Haven.

Crews from Milford Haven carried out a rescue of 2 male scaffolders who were injured by the collapse. The Turntable ladder from Haverfordwest was used during the rescue and to assist in the structural safety survey of the building.

On Thursday 8 November, the Rescue Boat from Milford Haven was sent to Norwich as part of National Fire and Rescue Service response to the threat of serious flooding on the East Coast of England. (A boat from Llanelli was also mobilised).

In the early hours of Tuesday 16 October a fire broke out in the attic bedroom in Dewing Avenue, Manorbier. Crews from Tenby and Pembroke Dock responded and arrived within 14 minutes of the call. This was a “persons reported” call. Crews were confronted with a well developed fire that had broken through the roof. Neighbours had managed to rescue 2 boys from the fire, but no-one could rescue their mother who died in the fire, despite fire crews attempting a rescue wearing breathing apparatus. A HFSC had been completed at the property in 2006 and smoke alarms had been fitted. It is highly likely that the smoke alarms raised the alarm in time for a rescue of the boys, but sadly not for the mother. The other houses on the estate have since been revisited by CS staff to offer HFSC for all households.

On Saturday 10 November at 0435 hours a fire broke out in a flat above shops in Laws Street, Pembroke Dock. The fire quickly involved the staircase inside the flats trapping the residents and it spread throughout the adjoining buildings. Crews arriving from Pembroke Dock carried out a rescue of 2 young people from the flats using ladders and then set about fighting the fire. Supporting fire crews joined them from Haverfordwest, Milford Haven and Tenby as well as the Fire Control Unit and support pump from Carmarthen. The fire eventually spread to the furniture shop on the ground floor. The building became unstable and fire fighting operations were completed from outside the building, using the turntable ladder from Haverfordwest.

LNG Training

In October, a group of 30 staff from Pembrokeshire and Service Headquarters travelled to the TEEEX fire school in College Station Texas to attend a 2 day practical course. The course is designed to prepare LNG industry and fire responders in the hazards and safe methods of managing an LNG incident. The TEEEX training school is the only facility available at this time to train staff in real LNG fires. The course was funded by an allocation made under the RRP Action Plan of 2007/08. A full report on the content of the course and the outcomes will be submitted in due course by the head of Training and Development.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Safety

The CS Department has supported 5 partnership activities during the autumn. The “Crucial Crew” event was held in Withybush during October to show 1800 children from Pembrokeshire schools how to make themselves safer from a variety of hazards including a fire in the home. The CS Department was the lead agency, carrying the organisation and management of the event.

The “Not In My Neighbourhood” week long event joined the Fire and Rescue Service with the County Council and Dyfed Powys Police to tour several communities in Pembrokeshire with the themes of education, clean up and enforcement. This event also created 200 HFSC referrals of at risk households.

The “Keep Well This Winter” partnership is supported by WAG and the Health Promotion Department of the Pembrokeshire NHS Trust. This scheme visited many communities during October; the Fire and Rescue staff were responsible for carrying out the tests of electric blankets, of which some 50% failed the test. This partnership created 30 HFSC

referrals to visit at risk elderly individuals.

During the first week of November the "Top Drive" event was held at Withybush, Haverfordwest. This event brought an awareness of road safety matters to an audience of 600 young people from Pembroke College. Partner organisations were drawn from the Road Safety Forum.

On Saturday 10 November the "Motorstock" event was held at Carew. This was organised by the Pembs Road Safety Forum and was designed to attract 2000 "petrol-heads", young people who drive fast modified cars. The safety message of driving responsibly was a major theme of the event with a simulation of a serious road traffic collision, by the Police, Ambulance and Fire Services. This demonstration was facilitated by Operational, CS and Training staff from Pembroke.

During October and November some two thirds of the Community Councils in Pembroke have been visited to raise community awareness of the HFSC programme. This, plus other initiatives have created some 700 HFSC referrals to be completed during the business year. This is in addition to 1212 HFSC already completed that have installed 1637 smoke alarms. There has also been good progress in carrying out face to face visits to confirm HFSC referrals in the Johnstown and Slebech districts as directed in the RRP action plan of 2007/08.

SWANSEA COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest

1 October 2007 at 11.07 hours House Fire – Caswell St, Caswell, Gower

This fire was caused by the elderly occupant smoking in bed, which ignited the bed and the clothes she was wearing. She then tried to call for help by moving from the 1st floor bedroom to the ground floor with her clothes still on fire. This caused the fire to spread with several seats of fire. On arrival this caused the attending crews to believe the fire was suspicious. The elderly lady passed away from suffering 30% burns to her upper body.

30 October 2007 at 06.49 hours House Fire – Clas Y Bedw, Waunarlwydd, Swansea

This was a fire involving the ground floor flat and when the crews forced entry into the property they found one male occupant, who was pronounced dead at the scene. The fire was extinguished by four BA wearers using one Hose reel jet a Thermal Image Camera and a Positive Pressure Ventilation Fan.

8 November at 07 21 hours Gas Leak- Amazon [Old Valeo works], Heol Y Mynydd, Gorseinon, Swansea

This was a major Natural Gas leak from the works heating system. 57 people were evacuated and a 200 metre cordon established around the premises until the leak was isolated and the gas dispersed.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

The Swansea CRR Department is split into two sections, one covering Legislative Fire Safety (LFS) the other covering Community Safety (CS).

The LFS Department's primary responsibility is the enforcement of the Fire Safety Order

2006. The Department handles in excess of 4000 fire safety enquiries, complaints and inspections per year and is heavily involved in the reduction of Unwanted Automatic Fire Alarm calls from business premises.

The CS Department is responsible for providing advice, guidance and educational support to members of the public, schools and businesses on a variety of subjects ranging from smoke detector installation to business arson prevention.

No.	Measure	Target	Achieved	Comment
1.	The number of Youth Groups given safety talks.	85	63	This is an aggregate figure covering arson prevention, home safety and road traffic collision prevention.
2.	The numbers of young people given a safety talk.	3000	5201	
3.	Arson reduction talks given	5	36	Various age groups
4.	Home Fire Safety Checks completed.	3675	2247	Figures taken from the Command's MS-Excel system (21/11/07).
5.	Home Fire Safety Checks refused.	0	184	
6.	Home Fire Safety Checks awaiting completion.	NA	1022	Although this equates to some 61% completed and some 5% off target, this is due to Gold watch being redirected to Newly identified High Risk Premises outside the WAG 10 min attendance footprint, creating additional workloads in terms of leafleting and cold calling to generate and complete HFSC's in these areas. (Gold Watch target 1225, completed 627 (51%))
7.	The number of Road Traffic Collision (RTC) reduction talks given to youth groups.	8	31	This includes Pass Plus Cymru courses.
8.	Pass Plus Cymru courses.	0	6	New initiative. No target was set.
9.	Chip pan demonstrations to groups.	5	26	Various age groups.
10.	Chip pan demonstrations to individuals.	50	1065	This figure was meant to reflect a mean average of 20 per group.
11.	Talks to Schools	108	46	This reporting period covers the September – July school term.
12.	Press releases which include a community or business safety message.	50	61	Includes press articles plus radio interviews given and broadcast.
13.	% of building regulations applications completed within time-scales.	99%	99.67%	Over the last 14-months, Swansea Fire Safety department has experienced a loss of qualified & competent fire safety personnel. Newly appointed staff are working to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of what is an extremely complex subject.
14.	% of high risk premises audited by fire safety officers	100%	22.32%	
15.	Prohibition notices served.	NA	2	
16.	Enforcement notices served.	NA	2	
17.	Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) incidents attended.	628 or less.	366	We are aiming for a 5% reduction on the 2006-07 figures of 661 calls.
18.	The number of annual Personal Performance and Development Reviews (PPDR's) undertaken for CRR personnel.	13	5	A new round of PPDR's commenced on 1 st October 2007
19.	The number of CRR personnel deemed 'competent' in their role.	13	5	Eight personnel are deemed to be 'in development' and are undertaking training & development

				work. Qualification & competence will be measured when their development portfolios are signed off
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Current Initiatives & Projects

Automatic Fire Alarms & Unwanted Fire Signals Reduction

During the financial year ending 31st March 2007 fire crews in Swansea attended some 661 automatic fire alarm incidents (AFA) at an estimated cost of £328 per call equating to approximately £217K of the Services budget.

In an attempt to address this problem, in June 2007 the Swansea Fire Safety Department commenced an initiative against the top 20 worst business offenders who generated unwanted fire alarm signals (UwFS) which has since been extended to cover all AFA incidents.

The initiative has been promoted via the Service's web-site (Press Releases 15 June and 24 September 2007) and via articles in the Swansea Evening Post. Each 'worst offender' business has been sent a letter detailing the number of UwFS incidents their premises generated over the previous year, the accumulated cost of these calls plus the impact of these calls to both themselves and the Fire Service. Businesses have been encouraged to review their internal fire safety training and monitoring procedures and have been allocated a dedicated fire safety officer who they can liaise with for advice and assistance.

Appliances attending AFA incidents now complete robust audit forms which are fed through to the Fire Safety Department whereupon nominated Inspecting Officers liaise with businesses to determine remedial actions to hopefully prevent or reduce re-occurrences. It is worthy of mention that both Swansea City Council and the Swansea NHS Trust have attended meetings with Inspecting Officers to develop this initiative and are now actively working with us to reduce AFA/UwFS incidents in their premises.

Grass Fires Reduction

The Welsh Assembly Government has made funds available to reduce grass and forestry fires in the Swansea and Neath Port Talbot areas. Swansea Command has used the money to fund the following projects:

- Purchase of equipment and uniform to run 'fire-fighter for a day courses' aimed at 10-17 year olds.
- A 'grass and forestry fire' poster competition aimed at primary and secondary schools and youth organisations.

BBC Children in Need

On Friday 16 November, over 30 young firefighters from Swansea undertook a fundraising event for the BBC's Children in Need appeal. Over a 5-hour period which commenced at lunchtime, the youngsters climbed the equivalent height of Mount Everest i.e. 8,840-meters raising over £3,200 in the process. The event was open to members of the public who were also able to view a number of community safety displays ranging from kitchen fire safety to road traffic collision awareness. The event was also covered by local press and a group of the youngsters were invited to attend the BBC's studios in Carmarthen to appear live on the Children in Need programme.

Safer Homes Initiative

The Command is working with South Wales Police and Age Concern on a project to enhance the quality of Home Fire Safety Checks to encompass basic crime prevention and

an assessment of slips, trips and falls hazards. The Fire Service led project aims to assist partner agencies in addressing the increasing number of burglaries in the Swansea area and reduce the number of slips, trips and falls to the elderly which impact upon the resources and finances of the Swansea NHS trust. Planning and development work is currently ongoing and it is intended to launch the 'Safer Homes Assessments' on 1st April 2008.

POWYS COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fire Fatalities:

There was one fire fatality during this reporting period.

On 12 October 2007 at Llanfihangel Nant Melan following a head on collision between two private motor vehicles, one car caught fire and the driver was burnt inside. The 20 year old driver originated from Poland and had just hired the vehicle that day. It is assumed that he was on the wrong side of the road. One female in the other vehicle was 8 months pregnant and went into labour at the scene. She gave birth by caesarean section in hospital.

There was a total of four other fatalities in this reporting period which are outlined below;

On 15 September 2007 at crossroads of A490 near Guilsfield one male died when he was struck by a falling tree. FRS personnel assisted with CPR at the scene.

On 18 September 2007 at Pennant Llanbrynmair, the driver of a Unimog 4X4 died in hospital after the vehicle overturned on a steep bank while spreading lime. Although the driver wasn't trapped, FRS personnel assisted Ambulance crews at the scene.

On 29 September 2007 at Llanfair Caereinion one female died in a Road Traffic Collision. This was an extremely significant incident for the attending crew as the young lady was the daughter of a Crew Manager from the Station and was known to everyone attending. Fortunately, the CM was not on the Appliance but the incident affected not only the whole Station, but the whole community. Once again, this highlights the nature of the service that RDS personnel perform in close knit communities.

On 12 October 2007 on the Mountain Road near Machynlleth one female pillion passenger died after the motorcycle she was on slipped over and she was thrown underneath an articulated lorry.

Incidents Of Interest:

On 2 September 2007 at Crickhowell a severe fire occurred at David Taylor's Garages and involved the attendance of 5 pumping appliances, Aerial Platform, Water Bowser, Chemical Incident Unit and the Control Unit. The fire involved a major part of the workshop and storage area. Acetylene and oxygen cylinders were also involved in the fire which is believed to have occurred accidentally.

On 29 October 2007 at Blaen Clun, Libanus a barn fire resulted in a protracted incident taking over 24 hours to extinguish. A significant health and safety event took place where a Crew Manager fell into an unmarked and unrecognisable slurry pit. The pit was overgrown and looked as if it was part of the field. After falling through the crust, he had to struggle to affect a self rescue.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

CS work carried out by Powys Fire Station and CS Department personnel
1st September – 23rd November 2007

Schools Programme

The Schools Programme in Powys continues to be up to date and on schedule. A total of 6 primary schools were visited and 6 visits were made to High Schools. In addition to this Newtown and Llanfyllin High Schools held Careers Information Days attended by CS Staff and Operational personnel. Ysgol Penmaes Special School in Brecon held an open day which Brecon Crew and CS staff attended.

Partnership Working

Youth Work

Two more 'Firesafe' programmes have started with another one due soon. Firesafe is a firesetter programme run on a one to one basis over a 10 week period. It uses Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to address fire setting behaviour in youths. The youths are referred to the FRS by the Youth Offending Team.

The Fire Awareness Child Education (FACE) programme was also delivered to 2 primary school pupils with fire setting behavioural problems.

Electric Blanket Testing

Normally in the autumn the FRS assists Powys County Council Trading Standards Department to carry out Electric Blanket Testing in 5 locations. This year Trading Standards have withdrawn the service due to a lack of funding. Powys Command has obtained funding to purchase testing equipment and pay for up to 10 members of staff to be trained in its use. It is hoped that testing will be resumed in January.

Young Fire Fighter Schemes

Welshpool Fire Station has now been running YFf for over a year and they are now joined in Powys by Brecon YFf. Brecon's' group started meeting on 7 November with 16 youngsters attending. Most are local to Brecon but some come from Hay and Builth Wells areas.

Major Flooding incident – East Coast Special - 08 November 2007

At 00.46hrs on 8 November 2007 the Service received a request for assistance from Norfolk and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services due to a potential large-scale threat to life and property by severe flooding along the East Coast.

The Incident Command Centre in Norfolk made a request for a total of 20 boats nation-wide to attend holding areas in Norwich. In response to this request, Mid and West Wales FRS mobilised two boat units from Milford Haven and Llanelli. The response team proceeded in convoy formation to the incident at 01.30 hrs and were heading for Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre in Barnard Bowthorpe, Norwich.

The convoy reached the M25 when they were informed by the Emergency Command Centre at Norwich, that although the flooding was significant, it was not as severe as first anticipated. The crews were subsequently stood down from the incident at 08.20hrs.

Following our response, the respective Chief Fire Officers of Norfolk and Suffolk Fire and Rescue Services have forwarded a letter of thanks to the Chief Fire Officer, thanking Mid and West Wales for its assistance. A copy of this letter is attached for Member's information.

Members should note that this type of request for assistance for large scale incidents on a national basis is increasing particularly in relation to flooding related emergencies.

To: All CFOs

Dear Colleague

Recent threat of severe flooding in Norfolk and Suffolk

May we formally thank all those Fire Services who responded so quickly to provide Norfolk and Suffolk with additional resources and support during the recent threat of severe flooding along the east coast.

Although, thankfully, the predicted extent of flooding did not materialise, the potential for large scale threat to life and property was real and the knowledge that colleagues nationwide were here, on stand-by or *en route* was very reassuring.

Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Lee Howell
Director of Public Protection
and Chief Fire Officer
Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Richard Elliott
Chief Fire Officer and Director of
Community Protection
Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service