

**REPORT TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY**

**DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2007**

**SUBJECT: MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- Service Delivery Reports from the County Commands
- Fire at Penhallow Hotel, Newquay
- Deployments to South Yorkshire Flooding Incidents
- Special Youth Training Team
- Community Safety Open Day

**SUMMARY:**

Matters for information relating to the above item

**IMPLICATIONS: No decisions required : matters for information only**

OPERATIONAL RISK  
COMMUNITY RISK  
TRAINING  
H.R  
FINANCE  
I.T/COMMS  
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY  
HEALTH & SAFETY  
LEGAL

**RECOMMENDATION: That the reports be received.**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Report Authors and Designation	
Telephone number/Extension	

## SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Mid & West Wales Area Total																							1 APR - 31 AUG		
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	157	166	149	188	281	227	8	11	9	26	19	30	79	115	112	209	226	184	255	249	240	922	1067	951	
Ceredigion	90	90	71	55	82	83	8	9	6	15	29	24	28	43	33	148	180	194	117	108	172	461	541	583	
Neath & Port Talbot	275	262	215	435	795	656	1	1	0	68	52	58	135	185	210	164	147	177	182	198	224	1260	1640	1540	
Pembrokeshire	131	127	90	162	234	149	10	13	16	27	12	9	73	52	68	197	145	211	268	289	297	868	872	840	
Powys	112	122	118	118	149	220	19	29	21	19	14	20	56	52	82	139	202	197	226	212	240	689	780	898	
Swansea	418	349	316	772	1127	1065	3	4	0	69	85	84	228	242	257	488	448	460	336	361	374	2314	2616	2556	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1183</b>	<b>1116</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>2668</b>	<b>2400</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>1345</b>	<b>1348</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>1417</b>	<b>1547</b>	<b>6514</b>	<b>7516</b>	<b>7368</b>	

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

	Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Neath/P Talbot	Pembrokeshire	Powys	Swansea	Service
<b>HFSA Targets</b>	<b>5240</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>3352</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2710</b>	<b>3675</b>	<b>18477</b>
No of HFSA's carried out (inc Ops, CS & Ext Ag)	1361	549	1048	813	889	1301	5961
By Operational Personnel	1003	526	1000	638	856	1286	5309
By Community Safety Personnel	98	0	48	175	33	14	368
By Outside Agencies	260	23	0	0	0	1	284
No of Smoke Alarms fitted	1817	383	1255	1033	1043	1919	7450
No of Programmed School Visits carried out	44	23	33	14	11	25	150
% of High Risk Premises Audited	30.00%	82.35%	30.76%	34.57%	25.92%	16.96%	29.09%
% of Building Regs completed within the time sc	94.25%	100.00%	100.00%	98.03%	100.00%	99.50%	98.71%

## PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

### Review of changes to crewing arrangements at B01 Haverfordwest

Following arrangements agreed by the Fire Authority and Edwina Hart the previous Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, Pembrokeshire Command hosted an investigative visit by Sir Graham Meldrum who was previously the Chief Inspector of England & Wales Fire Services. Sir Graham was accompanied by Mr Mick Park who was previously an ACO in West Midlands Fire Service, and who acted as Sir Graham's staff officer.

Sir Graham was given free and unimpeded access to meet and interview staff working in Pembrokeshire County Command. He met both Wholetime and Retained personnel at Haverfordwest and Milford Haven, their Station Managers and the County Commander. Sir Graham was interested in the potential risk of the Petrochemical sites and the new LNG sites. He was given a thorough briefing and a tour about the petrochemical sites.

A report from Sir Graham on his findings is expected shortly.

## **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

### **Incidents of Interest:**

On Sunday 3 June in Pembroke Road Pembroke Dock a young boy fell out of a tree and was impaled by a branch. His calls for help were answered by off duty Firefighter Skeels and Kenniford who alerted other emergency services. The firefighters gave immediate first aid and supported the boy until paramedics and rescue crews were able to release him from the impalement. Both firefighters have received a letter of commendation from the Chief Fire Officer for their actions on that night.

On Friday 10 August at Honeyborough roundabout a bus collided with a car and involved another car. Crews from Pembroke Dock and Milford Haven responded and were confronted by a serious incident. Crews were tasked with releasing a person trapped in their car using hydraulic cutting equipment from the Rescue Pumps and with assisting Ambulance personnel in treating and handling 21 casualties. Several casualties were seriously injured and needed hospital treatment others were treated at the scene.

At 0300 on Saturday 11 August at John Street Neyland, a fire broke out in the ground floor of a house. Crews from Milford Haven and Pembroke Dock responded and rescued a man from the burning house. The man was taken to hospital after receiving oxygen therapy at the scene. There were no working smoke alarms at this house.

At 1430 on the same day a fire broke out in sheltered housing at Dairy Park Grove Milford Haven. Crews from Milford Haven rescued a man from the living room. The man was taken to hospital. In this case the smoke alarms operated. Both incidents were followed by crews visiting the houses surrounding the fire victims to carry out Home Fire Safety Audits.

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

### **Community Safety**

#### **Youth Work**

A Phoenix programme was run at Pembroke Dock Fire Station for 20 young people in partnership with the local Youth Offender Team. A grant of £6000 was given by Pembrokeshire Community Safety Partnership to part fund the Phoenix programmes in 2007-08, following a successful application for support.

#### **Public Education**

Pembrokeshire personnel promoted an awareness of fire safety at a wide range of events, such as the Milford Haven Fish Week, the Pembrokeshire County Show, the Army open day at the Castlemartin Range and the Healthy Challenge

Pembrokeshire Roadshow which was organised by Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services and the Health Authority and that visited 8 communities and demonstrated the hazards of a chip pan fire. There were 3 fire station open days at Crymych, St Davids and the "Tenby Firemen's Carnival".

### **Road Traffic Safety**

Pembrokeshire staff have presented a Fire Service view on the consequences of road accidents to students of the Pass Plus Cymru scheme, and as part of a partnership with Dyfed Powys Police they visited 8 schools to deliver a Road Safety awareness programme to young people who are considered to be at high risk of being injured in Road Traffic Collisions.

### **Road Traffic Collisions**

Personnel at B06 Pembroke Dock created a local initiative to familiarise Police and Ambulance personnel with the hazards present in modern vehicles and the capability of Fire Service equipment and techniques. The Police presented their views on forensic awareness and evidence gathering at a crime scene, whilst the Ambulance Service demonstrated casualty assessment and handling techniques.

Between April and June there were 78 Road Traffic Collisions attended by Pembrokeshire personnel. These incidents resulted in 3 travellers being killed and 58 being seriously injured. There were 15 persons rescued from vehicles.

### **Petrochemical sites**

Further work is on going to revise operational plans for all the petrochemical sites in Pembrokeshire. This work was given added importance by the creation of a local Mutual Aid Steering Group formed by representatives of the sites in Pembrokeshire, the Health and Safety Executive, Emergency Planning and Local Resilience Forum. The first meeting was hosted by Pembrokeshire Command and items for discussion are arrangements for mutual assistance in the event of a major incident. This work will be on a task and finish basis and is expected to last for up to 18 months.

### **LNG**

Preparations are in hand to hold a series of exercises this summer and autumn to test arrangements for the new LNG sites. Personnel from Pembrokeshire have been nominated to attend a training course to prepare them for dealing with an LNG fire or vapour cloud. This training will take place in October 2007 at TEEEX Fire Training School in Texas, which is the only venue in the world capable at this time of hosting LNG training. Funding for this training was set aside by the budget planning for the RRP of 2007-10.

### **Marine**

Personnel from Fishguard and St David's carried out a search and rescue exercise on board the Stena Sealink Lynx 3 Catamaran on 24 April. Crews practised command and control procedures and wore Breathing Apparatus to search in cosmetic smoke for missing casualties. The exercise was planned to prepare crews

for the Catamaran that was entering service for the summer season.

## **CEREDIGION COUNTY COMMAND**

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **Incidents of Interest:**

##### **RTC Bow Street to Aberystwyth Road**

On 28 April Aberystwyth were called to an RTC involving two cars and a caravan. On arrival the remains of a caravan was strewn over the trunk road and there were a number of minor casualties. The driver of the car and caravan had missed the turning to Borth and was attempting a U turn into a lay-by. As he was in the middle of this manoeuvre a car came around the corner and hit it broadside at high speed. Crews assisted the ambulance and the police who needed this busy trunk road opened as soon as possible by removing the caravan using a winch. The crews were then involved in making the vehicles safe.

##### **RTC Bow Street to Aberystwyth Road**

At 1657 Service Control received a report of a serious RTC, (close to the same location as the one Aberystwyth crews attended earlier). Yet again a car was attempting a U turn on the same lay-by, when the car behind him was struck by another motorist; the driver received suspected spinal injuries. The crews released him and assisted the ambulance with his removal from the vehicle on a spine board. The ambulance then took him to hospital.

##### **Constitution Hill**

At 1853 Service Control received a call from a mobile telephone stating that a person was stuck 60m up Constitution Hill. On arrival the duty officer could see two persons waving frantically approximately 60m up the cliff. A megaphone was used from the bottom of the cliff to reassure the casualties while other crew members ascended the cliff via the path in order to reassure casualties until the arrival of the Coastguard rescue team.

One casualty was complaining of a loss of feeling to his legs and arms, and there was a worry that he would fall before the Coastguard team could attend the incident. In order to preserve life safety, a crew member using level 2 NARC Line Rescue Equipment was able to secure a line to the casualty in order to hold him in position. Simultaneously a NARC level 3 team was deployed from Morryston towards Aberystwyth. The coastguard attended the incident prior to the arrival of the Service level 3 team and rescued both casualties who were taken to hospital for a precautionary check-up

##### **Grass Fire**

On 30 April there was a large fire involving over 30 hectares of grassland and 8

hectares, of both immature and mature forestry, which threatened nearby private dwelling. Crews from 8 stations were engaged in firefighting, using beaters, main jets, high-pressure hose reels and a water lance from an L4P were used, with water supplies supplemented from nearby open water source. Firefighting conditions were severely hampered by the difficult terrain and very strong swirling wind conditions. Large-scale hot spot damping down occurred following extinction of fire.

### **RTC in Tremain Area**

On 6 June there was an RTC involving 4 motor vehicles in the Tremain area of Cardigan. Two adults and one child were removed from the vehicles prior to the arrival of the fire service and were treated at the scene by paramedics. A male casualty was trapped and required extrication by crews from Cardigan and Newcastle Emlyn, using hydraulic rescue equipment. Three casualties were conveyed to hospital, two of them by ambulance and one by the air ambulance. The fire crews also made the scene safe and cleared the trunk road.

### **RTC on the A485**

At 0113 on 8 June a call was received by Service Control informing them of an RTC with a person trapped, on the Lampeter to Tregaron road. Both Lampeter's appliances attended this incident and the crews released the female casualty using the hydraulic cutting equipment on the Rescue Pump. The casualty was conveyed to hospital by ambulance.

### **Flooding Lampeter**

At 1500 on 11 June a flash flood occurred in and around the Lampeter area. 4 appliances from Lampeter, Tregaron and Aberaeron attended in total. They responded to a total of 25 incidents in approximately 4 hours. Calls varied but mainly consisted of pumping out basements and lower ground floors with crews utilising light weight pumps and ejector pumps. Crews also assisted local council employees with distribution of sand bags etc.

### **Flooding**

At 1430 on the 15 June flash floods occurred throughout the Command area.

The Lampeter area suffered the worst of the flooding, with the ground still saturated from the flooding earlier in the week. In total 5 appliances were used, concentrated mainly in the centre of Lampeter town.

The flooding was not as severe as the previous one, and personnel in the main were engaged in preventing flood water entering properties using sand bags. Fortunately the Local Authority were able to supply a large quantity of sand bags within a short space of time, thus prevented the problems from escalating and causing further damage to properties.

### **Borth Holiday Park**

On the evening of the 7 July, Borth, Aberystwyth and Machynlleth appliances were

dispatched to a club house fire in Bryn Owen Holiday Park. When the crews arrived they were greeted with smoke issuing from the first floor function room. Two teams of two breathing apparatus wearers, with hose reels were quickly deployed on firefighting operations. The fire was quickly extinguished, and the PPV fan was used to clear the smoke from the flat. It was a well run incident, with the relatively inexperienced crew members, working well together, under difficult conditions.

### **Flat Fire, Aberystwyth**

At 0354 on the 23 July a call was received initially of an alarm actuation at a sheltered housing complex in Princess Street, Aberystwyth. At 0359 the first appliance were informed en-route by Brigade Control that a repeat message had been received to confirm that there was a fire in the premises. The fire was in Flat No 5 on the first floor. Fire fighting operations had to be delayed initially until all the occupants of the first and second floors had been evacuated. This property was a premise with a protected single staircase.

In total six BA's were in use, two jets, and a ladder from the outside. The PPV fan was used to assist ventilation on the first and second floors, after the fire was extinguished. All twelve occupants were conveyed to hospital with one elderly gentleman being detained suffering from smoke inhalation.

### **RTC near Blaenplwyf**

On 3 August there was a road traffic collision involving 1 motor vehicle towing a caravan. The caravan had become unstable and had caused the vehicle driver to lose control, the car collided with a hedgerow and the caravan caused the car to spin onto its roof. The caravan became detached from the vehicle and came to rest in a nearby field whilst the car skidded on its roof for 30 yards before coming to a halt still on its roof.

The passengers of the car, an elderly man and woman received first aid treatment from paramedics and Fire Service personnel for moderate injuries at the side of the road. The remainder of the passengers' two young children were not physically hurt but were upset and in shock, were checked over by paramedics as a precaution prior to all casualties being transported to hospital by ambulance. Crews removed the gas bottle and battery from the caravan. Following recovery, the roadway was washed down and cleared and vehicle made safe.

### **Flat Fire**

On 8 August, Aberystwyth appliances attended a kitchen fire at Bryn Derw flats which was confined to pan on the cooker in a second floor student flat.

Two appliances attended and crew in BA sets extinguished fire using dry powder extinguisher and vented the property. All occupants evacuated safely and no casualties were noted. PPV fan was used to assist the natural ventilation of the property.

## **RTC Ponterwyd**

On 7 August Service Control received a call stating that two vehicles had collided and gone down an embankment on the A44. On arrival crews were greeted with the two vehicles not only down the embankment, but in the river as well. They rescued three casualties, two of them removed on spine boards. Oxygen therapy and first aid were administered by Fire Service personnel, before their removal, to hospital, by the Ambulance Service.

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION:**

### **Home Fire safety Audits**

The Command as a whole are progressing well with their target of 1,500 HFSA's throughout our area, for the year 2007/2008. The HFSA targets are one of a number of elements of our community safety strategy to reduce deaths/injuries within our communities.

### **Young Firefighters Scheme**

The YFF students recently went to Pembrey Country Park on an overnight stay with other members of the YFF schemes running throughout the Service area. It was a great success with the Ceredigion students winning many of the challenges that took place over two days. After a short summer break the scheme should start again as normal, running every Thursday night.

### **RTC Reduction**

A Pass Plus Cymru course was held recently at Ceredigion Command Headquarters in Aberystwyth, which was well attended.

In conjunction with the Road Safety Department, the police and ourselves, we carried out various multi agency events throughout the Command.

More events of this kind are planned, with local Young Farmers Club being involved in future events. The Vehicle Impact Demonstration Trailer (VIDT) has already been sited at various events e.g. the Ystwyth Retail Park and Penglais School.

### **Partnership Working**

Various successful partnerships are running within the Command including YOT, the Ceredigion Road Safety Department and Dyfed Powys Police. We hold regular events/courses and maintain links with our partners.

## **CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COMMAND**

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **Incidents of Interest:**

**Corran Mead, Wogan Street, Laugharne**

19 June 2007 a gas explosion from calor gas bottle. Fire on first and second floor. Two BAS 1 mj in use. Building structurally unsafe. All persons accounted for following search by USAR team.

**The Bungalow, Caer Elms Caravan Site, Sandy Road, Llanelli**

3 July 2007 fire involving the annexe of bungalow well alight 2 BA's and 1HRJ – accelerant present. Owner refused entry to Fire Service to carry out fire investigation. Police in attendance.

**40 Heol Elfed, Cefncaeau, Llanelli**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2007 3 casualties rescued from 1<sup>st</sup> floor of building using ladders and treated by ambulance – fire located in ground floor front room, 2 BA's, 1hrj PPV fan in use. All persons accounted for.

**RTC involving one lorry and one car between Llandeilo an Llandovery**

16 August 2007 car on fire. One male trapped extricated by Fire Service personnel using hydraulic cutting equipment, Fire Service administered oxygen therapy. Three further casualties out on arrival, all 4 casualties conveyed to hospital by ambulance. One motor vehicle involved in fire confined to engine department. 1 HRJ in use.

**COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

Fire Safety Talks

Trimsaran Pensioners' Group  
Llys y Coed, Llanelli  
Mynydd Mawr Hospital  
BT and Post Office Pensioners,  
Carmarthen

Chip Pan Display

West Wales General Hospital  
Young Mother Group, Llandeilo  
Kidwelly  
Llys y Coed, Llanelli  
Llandeilo  
Llandovery  
Stradey Park x 5  
Drefach Felindre  
Llanelli

Impact RTC Display

Whitland Carnival  
Penyfan Park, Llanelli  
Llandysul Show  
Llandovery  
Carmarthen  
Llanelli

Mega Drive Events

Pass Plus Scheme

Launch Think Safe Drive Safe DVD

Keep Well This Winter Event

Landlords' Conference

Carmarthenshire Partnership Forum

Urdd Eisteddfodd

Work Experience

Raptor Course

YFF Summer Camp

Holiday Clubs

Youth Club

Face x 2

Badger Groups x 2

Amman Valley School

Felinfoel Park

Carmarthen 4/6, 9/6, 13/8

Carmarthen

28.08.07

Ivy Bush Hotel

Selwyn Samuel, Llanelli

Carmarthen 1 & 2 June

25 – 29 June

9 – 13 July 2007

Carmarthen

Pembrey

Ysgol y Dderwen

Pontyates

## **POWYS COUNTY COMMAND**

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **Fatalities:**

There were a total of 5 fatalities in this reporting period which are outlined below;

On 11 May 2007 at Brecon one male found hanging from a bridge. Recovered using FRS boat and rescue lines.

On 23 May 2007 at Crickhowell a body of one male recovered from a weir using FRS Boat.

On 04 July 2007 at Llangurig one person, not trapped in an RTC, but Code Blue. FRS personnel made the vehicle safe and used absorbent on the roadway for the oil spillage.

On 13 July 2007 on the A458 Near Welshpool two persons were trapped in a private motor vehicle. Both released using hydraulic cutting equipment. One person was Code Blue.

On 26 August 2007 at Talgarth one motorcyclist was trapped underneath a car, confirmed Code Blue. Airbags were used for the recovery.

#### **Incidents of interest:**

On 03 June 2007 at Crickhowell a youth suffered burns from the waist down following an incident where fuel was involved with a bonfire. This then spread to a barn and quad bike.

On 21 June 2007 at Ystradgynlais an unattended chip pan caused a fire in the afternoon. The smoke alarm raised the neighbours who removed a 95 year old male from the kitchen. An off duty Police Officer also tackled the fire. The gentleman had suffered a serious stroke and later died in hospital. Cause of death was attributed to the stroke and not the fire.

On 10 July 2007 at Newtown a 102 year old lady suffered smoke inhalation from unattended cooking in her kitchen at home.

### **Special Service Calls:**

#### **Rescues**

On 26 May 2007 at Rhayader a 75 year old lady fell down a ravine. She was rescued using a Level 2 Rescue Pack.

On 09 August 2007 at Rhayader a 7 year old girl was trapped inside the boot of a car. Personnel used hydraulic equipment to release the boot lid.

On 09 August 2007 at Llandrindod Wells a young lady on a rooftop was in a distressed state and in danger of falling off at any moment. Personnel were able to calm her down and remove her from the roof using the Aerial Ladder Platform. This was an extremely delicate operation resulting in a successful outcome. Personnel have received written congratulations for accomplishing a difficult task.

#### **Road Traffic Collisions**

During this reporting period, a total of 14 people were released from a number of crashed vehicles in the Powys area. A total of 64 people were injured.

#### **Co – Responder Incidents**

A total of 66 Co Responder Incidents were attended during this reporting period in the Powys area.

### **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

CFS Work Carried out by Powys Fire Station and CS Dept Personnel 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

#### **Home Fire Safety Audits**

A total of 626 Home Fire Safety Checks were carried out during the reporting period. This brings the total number of checks carried out so far this year to 885. With a total of 2750 to be completed this year, and comparing this with the same period last year,

the command is on target.

### **Schools Programme**

The Schools Programme in Powys is up to date and on schedule. A total of 10 primary schools were visited and 10 visits were made to High Schools. In addition to this Ystradgynlais High School held an Industry Day and Llanfair Caereinion High School hosted their annual Emergency Services Day. Wholtime crew and CS personnel delivered RTC lessons in Ystradgynlais and Fire Safety lesson in Llanfair. The RTC Crashed car trailer and the Chip Pan Fire demo unit were utilised at each.

### **Partnership Working**

During the week after the Royal Welsh Show, the Fire Service was involved in the Community Summer Scheme. Youngsters nominated by the Police and Youth Offending Services spent the week at Staylittie doing team building and outward bound activities such as raft building etc. On 31<sup>st</sup> July they attended Newtown Fire Station. The 24 youngsters were divided into watches and after learning to run out hoses, make dams and explore the 'rat run' they spent the afternoon competing in races. The day concluded with a Chip Pan Fire demonstration and an RTC talk with the Crashed Car trailer on display. Two firefighters from Llandrindod Wells spent the week with the youngsters enjoying the events at Staylittie and the Army Camp at Cwrt y Gollen. The last day of the week was spent learning survival techniques in the Brecon Beacons.

### **Youth Work**

Two more 'Firesafe' programmes were completed at Brecon Youth Offending Services Offices and in Llandrindod Wells.

The Fire Awareness Child Education (FACE) programme was also delivered to a total of 4 primary school children with fire setting behavioural problems.

CS Staff assisted in the delivery of a Crucial Crew Event at Morryston Fire Station.

### **Community Fire Safety Talks**

Community Safety Dept and Station personnel delivered talks to 11 groups. The emphasis, as well as being about fire safety, was firmly on HFSA request generation.

### **Chip Pan Fire Demonstrations**

Chip Pan Fire demonstrations were carried out at Llanfair Caereinion High School and at the Keep Safe and Well event held at Welshpool Leisure Centre which was attended by over 400 members of the public.

### **Road Safety Partnership**

During the week of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, the Powys Road Safety Partnership once again collaborated to provide an all round concept of road safety and the measures being put in place to reduce collisions. The FRS display used the 'crashed car and motorcycle' to depict an RTC with the crew providing the public with

commentaries of what the scene depicted. The Speed Camera Partnership and Powys Road Safety Dept. of the County Council, as well as the Police, were on hand to put over their messages.

### **Diversionsary Activities Fund**

Funding has been raised for the new Young Fire Fighter Scheme proposed at Brecon Fire Station. A total of £15,105 has been received from the Powys CSP Diversionsary Activities Fund. The Young Fire Fighter scheme is due to commence in November this year.

## **SWANSEA COUNTY COMMAND**

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### **Incidents of Interest:**

At 00.26 19/08/07 Person fallen down cellar, waste ground near Walkabout, Wind St. Swansea. One male was rescued from a disused cellar, who had fallen approx three meters. Rescued with use of level 1 line safety equipment. Person suffered minor leg injuries.

At 13.24 12/08/07 Matthew St Flats, Swansea. Four pumping appliances and an Aerial appliances attended this fire in a fifth floor flat, the fire was extinguished with the use of four Firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus using two Hose Reel jets supplied from the buildings internal Dry Riser and a Thermal Imaging camera. Three residents were rescued from neighbouring flats by Fire Service Personnel. A Positive Pressure Ventilation Fan was used to clear the building of smoke.

At 21.21 1/08/07 370, Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove, Swansea. Bedroom fire, small fire contained to first floor bedroom. Property was being used as an Illicit Drug Laboratory [IDL], used to cultivate cannabis plants.

At 04.50 29/07/07 Fire in Art Gallery Mansel Street, Swansea. Electrical fire in rear office, which caused smoke damage to three further floors. Fire dealt with by firefighters wearing BA using two large jets and two hose reels.

At 18.01 13/07/07RTC M4 Junction 45 Eastbound slip road. One private motor vehicle left roadway, one female adult and two children released prior to arrival of Fire Service, one male adult code blue, believed to have suffered a heart attack. All four taken to hospital by Ambulance.

At 15.32 29/06/07 Bedroom Fire- 59 Kilvey Terrace, St Thomas, Swansea. Fire in first floor bedroom, which spread to the roof void spreading to the two adjoining properties either side. The fire was extinguished by eight BA wearers using three hosereel jets and a water tower from the Turntable Ladder. Three pumps and TTL attended.

At 12.22 28/05/07 Large Inflatable slide overturned –Singleton Park [Swansea County Show] One large inflatable slide overturned due to high winds, three persons injured and received first aid from FS and Ambulance staff. HSE informed of incident.

At 18.15 06/05/07 Kashyam Cash & Carry, Viking Way Enterprise Park, Llansamlet Two storey Warehouse 50M x 50M destroyed by fire, probably a case of Arson. 13 pumps and two Aerial appliances in attendance. [29 appliances attended and 16 Officers].

Mar/Apr Grass/Heath/ Forestry – All areas of the Command  
Due to a very dry warm spring, Command appliances attended numerous incidents, with several four pump incidents in Garngoch and Pontarddulais.

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

### **Home Fire Safety Audits**

To assist in the prevention of domestic fires, Swansea Command is continuing to actively promote free Home Fire Safety Audits (HFSA).

Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007, Swansea Command has undertaken 1791 HFSA's with 154 refusals.

### **Hot Strikes**

Following any domestic property fire operational crews will aim to deliver a 'Hot Strike campaign' in the locality of the incident. If for any reason crews are unable to carry out this task they will inform the Swansea Community Safety Department who will deliver the campaign on the station's behalf. This type of activity allows Service personnel to talk and explain to members of the public about the dangers of fire particularly after what may have been a high profile incident.

Between 1st April and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007, Swansea Command attended 101 domestic property fires with the resultant number of 'Hot Strikes' carried out.

## **Arson Reduction**

To protect identified 'at risk' families, the Community Safety Team, in conjunction with the Swansea Bay Arson Reduction Team conduct Home Fire Safety Audits of the families' homes. As an additional arson protection measure the Service will fit fire resistant letterbox protection which prevents ignited flammable materials entering the property via the letterbox. From 1st April 2007 7 such protection devices have been fitted to properties who have suffered from instances of race-hate attack, homophobic attacks and attacks on the homes of traffic-wardens.

## **Working With Young Children And Youths**

### **Youth Groups**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 the Swansea Community Safety Department has been actively engaging with Youth Groups delivering fire and road safety awareness training to 55 youth groups comprised of 5103 young people. This includes 1-Phoenix course, 3 'Pass Plus Cymru' courses and 10 Autocrime courses.

### **Schools Education Programme**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 our dedicated Schools Education Advisors have attended 25 schools in the Swansea area delivering the message of fire safety and cultural awareness issues in line with the National Curriculum.

### **'Firefighter for the day' courses**

This course was produced to address the grass and forestry fire problems experienced in the Swansea Bay area. Groups of young people are provided with fire-kit and training following which they visit areas such as Kilvey Hill to experience the problems that fire-lighting may cause both to the community and the Fire Service. The courses were launched in July 2007 using funding provided by the Welsh Assembly Government and during the summer period some 45 young people attended one of the 5 courses.

### **Crucial Crew**

Swansea Community Safety Department once again supported the City and County of Swansea Crucial Crew event which ran between 14 and 29 June 2007 at the Liberty Stadium. A total of 2700 pupils from 80 schools attended the event and were taught important life-skills at 14 separate stations by the various agencies attending. Responses to questionnaires by pupils show the Fire Service to be the most interesting agency attending with 47.4% of pupils stating we were 'amazing', 30.7% said we were 'cool' and 18.6% said we were 'interesting'. 3.3% said we were 'ok'.

### **AFA Reduction**

During the financial year ending 31st March 07 fire crews in Swansea attended some 661 automatic fire alarm incidents 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 un-wanted fire alarm signals

(UwFS).

The initiative was launched via the Service's web-site (Press Releases 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007) and via an article in the Swansea Evening Post. Each business was then 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 were then encouraged to review their internal fire safety training and monitoring procedures and were also allocated a fire safety officer who they could liaise with for advice and assistance.

From now on, should appliances in Swansea attend an AFA incident the attending crews will complete more robust audit forms which now feed directly through to the Fire Safety Department. Fire safety officers are now regularly tasked with 'policing' AFA/UwFS incidents and reporting back at department meetings. Whilst it is early days with this initiative it is not possible to determine targets. We have however already identified and addressed specific issues at certain premises and hope to see a significant reduction in AFA calls by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY COMMAND**

### **OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

House Fire Albion Road Baglan. On the morning of Friday 17 August, two fire appliances were mobilised to attend the incident of a reported house fire. Upon arrival flames and smoke were clearly visible issuing from the first floor bedroom window and confirmation that there was a young child and male adult unaccounted for. Due to the professionalism of the crews, a snatch rescue using breathing apparatus equipment was successfully undertaken of the young child whilst assistance was given to rescue the adult from the property. The fire was quickly brought under control and extinguished. Both casualties were conveyed to hospital for treatment for the effects of smoke inhalation, male adult discharged later that day. The young child was subsequently discharged without complications the following day.

### **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

Stations are actively undertaking Home Fire Safety Audits 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**

#### **Phoenix**

NPT Command now continues to run their own independent courses, catering for Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIP), Youth Offending Teams (YOT), Alternative curriculum's (AC), Local Education Authority (LEA) and other youth organisations.

The aim of the course is to invest in young people using the reputation of the Service to benefit youngsters and in turn the wider community, targeting 13-17 year olds. The objectives are to increase self-esteem, self-confidence, leadership and communication skills and to improve motivation. The course runs Monday to Friday and is intensive both in its content and supervision. Since April 2007, we have run a total of six courses, catering for over fifty young people. There are four more courses scheduled.

### **YOT**

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

NPTCC support for the YOT and their initiatives of 8 hours per week is consistently met and often exceeded. Over the last year, NPTCC has had over twenty six young people referred for individual sessions that have taken place at the YOT. There are ten young people to be referred to the Phoenix course in October 2007.

### **FIRESAFE**

A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed and signed, as of January 2007 NPTCC YOFO has been delivering this programme to YOT referrals.

### **Forest Schools**

Forest schools have 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 a disruptive influence due to lack of interest in mainstream education. The school runs for a duration of 10 weeks, one day per week, of which one officer from the Community Safety Department within the NPTCC has undergone a three day intense leadership course, this qualification, an introduction into Forest Schools allows him to assist Forest School Leaders. One course has been completed with a further course scheduled for January 2008.

### **Schools Liaison Officer's Role within Neath Port Talbot Command**

Within the Command area are a total of 86 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.

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

The nature of the education programme is to educate the young people as to the dangers of fire, prevention, detection, and escaping fire situations. 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.

Since April 2007, thirty three schools have been completed, with the remainder being targeted by the end of the accountable year.

### **Community Link Room, Neath Command**

In June 2007 Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service were delighted to announce the completion and opening of the "*Community Link Room*" in Neath Fire Station. The room located within the existing structure was previously used as a dormitory it has been refurbished and is now a multi functional training and meeting room. It is capable of catering to a variety of audiences of purposes with emphasis being placed on partnership work and youth engagement.

### **Neath Port Talbot Command Quad Bike**

Neath Port Talbot Command have secured and received Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's first fire quad bike. The 650cc vehicle has off road capabilities.

The vehicle has operational capabilities and can be utilised for forest and grass fires within the valley areas.

Neath Port Talbot Command are pro active in its Youth Engagement Programme and will utilise the vehicle at events such as the Forest Schools Programme, Crucial Crew, Phoenix and other educational courses. The Command is looking forward to utilising the new resource to promote fire safety within the community.

The first event that the vehicle was seen publicly was at The Margam Show in Port Talbot on the 26 and 27 August. The vehicle was part of a larger display of Fire Service educational equipment and proved very popular among the hundreds of visitors that were engaged with over the two days.

### **Pass Plus**

As part of our ongoing involvement and support for the Pass Plus Cymru Scheme, Neath Port Talbot Command facilitates the three hour theoretical input for newly passed drivers in our Community Link Room Port Talbot.

The monthly session is attended by up to twenty drivers for essential input on road safety. A Community Fire Officer is in attendance to give essential guidance from a Fire and Rescue Service perspective. This involves a presentation on the effects of careless driving and what the Service have to deal with at the scene of road collisions. A Q&A session usually draws on actual experiences from Fire Officers and the "reality check" sends a strong message that "You are not invincible behind the wheel of a motor vehicle."

### **Aberavon Renewal Partnership**

Over the six week period of the summer holidays Neath Port Talbot Command have worked closely with the Renewal Team in Aberavon to ensure youth inclusion to

prevent anti social behaviour within the area by;

### **Targeting Youth Programmes**

The use of MWWFRS arson reduction team to engage youth for arson preventative measures and the consequences of fire setting.

Engaged with the Baglan Youth group for a one day Phoenix course which included a Breathing Apparatus exercise at Port Talbot Fire Station for twenty children.

Utilising St Pauls for a two week period to facilitate the fire safety message. The program was to enable youth's to make a rap record with the safety message.

We are now reviewing the statistics for the period to determine the level of fire setting that may be attributed to anti-social behaviour.

### **Young Fire Fighters(YFF)**

The YFF schemes in the Neath Port Talbot area continue to go from strength to strength. Two schemes are currently running in Seven Sisters and Cymmer with attendances of 13 -17 year old local children remaining strong.

The schemes have recently seen further interest from local children purely by word of mouth which is very encouraging for the communities. In August over one hundred and fifty young fire fighters from across the Service attended a team building workshop at Pembrey Country Park. All the attendees from Neath Port Talbot have attained a Certificate of Merit, which is to be awarded to them by the County Commander.

We are currently working hard to secure funding from community programmes to launch and maintain further schemes in Port Talbot (end 2007) and Glynneath (2008).

### **Support of Community Events**

Throughout the summer period Neath Port Talbot Command have attended fifteen community events. The Community Safety Department endeavour to support as many Fete's, Fun Day's etc as resources allow whilst maintaining core business.

Fairyland Fun Day  
Ferry Quest  
Afon Day Centre  
Melyn May Day Fete  
Neath Carnival  
Margam Show

## **ITEM OF INTEREST FOR MEMBERS**

### **Fire at the Penhallow Hotel, Newquay Cornwall**

Cornwall Fire Brigade attended a fire at the Penhallow Hotel in Newquay after receiving a call around 00.20hrs on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

The initial crews were confronted with a very severe, rapidly developing fire in a 4-storey fully occupied hotel which ultimately required the attendance of 120 firefighters, utilising 14 pumping appliances, 2 aerial appliances, a Command and Control Unit and an Operational Support Vehicle to control the blaze.

There were over 80 people in the hotel at the time, and despite the majority safely making their escape, three persons died as a result of the fire.

A full investigation has now been commenced by Devon and Cornwall Police and Cornwall Fire Brigade to establish how the fire started, what factors contributed to the very rapid development and to identify what lessons can be learned to prevent future similar occurrence.

Immediately following the fire, there was a considerable amount of uninformed media speculation surrounding operational matters such as the speed of response of high reach appliances, and the availability of fire fighting water supplies.

At this point, it is unclear if any of these matters had a relationship to the outcomes of the incident and there is a need to await the findings of the investigation underway before reaching any conclusions.

It has been reported that the hotel had recently been audited by the Fire Brigade under the new Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, and Members may therefore be concerned as to the effectiveness of the new legislation, particularly amongst the fairly extensive hotel, bed and breakfast and holiday accommodation that exists throughout Mid and West Wales.

The recent fire safety legislative changes brought in by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 were introduced to consolidate, extend and enhance the previous '1971 Fire Precautions Act' standards. The new legislation empowers each person having responsibility for non-domestic premises to undertake an assessment of their own risk of fire, for them to consider elimination of potential causes, suitable means for raising the alarm and sufficient means for enabling safe escape from the premises in the event of a fire occurring. It also enables them to introduce and implement measures appropriate to their premises and business functions. This approach provides 'risk ownership' to those having responsibility, whilst being supported by Welsh Assembly Government guidance, and by the assistance, advice and guidance provided by our own Fire Safety Inspecting Officers.

To ensure fire safety standards are maintained, our Service has instigated a risk-based auditing regime focussing upon premises categorised as 'higher-risk'. This would include premises providing sleeping accommodation such as Hotels. All hotels within Mid and West Wales are therefore subject to regular audit of their fire safety measures by our Inspecting Officers, who work with responsible providers to ensure compliance with the new legislation. Where necessary, appropriate enforcement action via the use of Notices and/or Prosecution will be taken should any premises fail to meet its fire safety responsibilities.

During 2007/8, 372 hotels are programmed for audit, 153 of which have already been visited (between April and August) by our Inspecting Officers. Arising from those visits and working with the responsible persons, 119 of the hotels have been provided with informal written advice regarding improvement of their current measures. However, in the case of one hotel, the risk was deemed sufficient enough to necessitate the issue of a Prohibition Notice restricting the use of the first and second floors for use as sleeping accommodation. A further 33 of the hotels visited demonstrated a satisfactory level of fire safety provision and therefore required no further action. A similar proactive approach will be adopted by our Inspecting Officers during the audit of the remaining 219 hotels scheduled for visit this year, applying reasonableness where providers demonstrate fire safety diligence, but not hesitating to take enforcement action where this is not the case.

The tragic events in Newquay clearly demonstrate that fires can and will occur, despite everyone's best efforts. Our Officers will therefore continue to work with and actively encourage providers to review their fire risk assessment, both to ensure its continued suitability and as a measure of re-assurance to the public that all has been done to maintain their safety from fire. We will of course also take full cognisance of the findings of the investigation report when published, incorporating its recommendations and ensuring providers are informed of the lessons learnt from it.

## **Mid & West Wales FRS Deployments to South Yorkshire Flooding Incidents June/July 2007**

### **Background**

The unprecedented rainfall over the South Yorkshire area during June resulted in extensive flooding over a large geographical area. At Ulley reservoir, Rotherham, the excessive quantities of water being discharged via the reservoir overflow channel, caused erosion of the dam wall.

About 100 homes (700 residents) in the villages of Catcliffe, Whiston and Canklow were evacuated by police and the M1 motorway was closed between junctions 32 and 36 after engineers warned there was a “significant risk” the dam wall of the 35 acre reservoir could fail.

Approximately 900 people were in emergency shelters in Sheffield after being left stranded by the floods; Bentley in Doncaster experienced significant flooding to numerous residential properties

### **Mid & West Wales FRS Response**

New Dimension High Volume Pumps (HVP's) from Newtown and Ammanford were mobilised (as part of the national deployment arrangements to major catastrophic incidents) together with crews trained as operators and New Dimension/FRS officers to support personnel and advise Incident Commanders at the scene of operations.

Our first response was to Ulley reservoir, where MAWW crews assisted in deploying and maintaining pumping operations by utilising HVP's to lower the dam level by 1.5 meters over a 72 hour period, in order to ease pressure on the dam wall. At the height of operations, a total of 14 HVP's and 8 commercial pumps were deployed and were pumping approximately 10 million liters per hour out of the dam.

Following the successful operations at Ulley, our resources were redeployed to Bentley, Doncaster, where MAWW HVP's and crews assisted in pumping operations within residential areas.

Over two deployment periods (a total of 12 days), 31 MAWWFRS personnel were mobilised with an average commitment of 72 hours each, as part of MAWWFRS's contribution to support national mutual aid to South Yorkshire. A letter of thanks and acknowledgement for the professionalism, effort and commitment shown by our personnel was subsequently received from CFO M Smitherman, South Yorkshire FRS.

The Service is carrying out internal structured operational debriefs as well as assessing national debriefs, to ensure that any learning outcomes are captured, and 'best' practice identified, in order to incorporate into future national/regional FRS deployment arrangements.

## **SPECIAL YOUTH TRAINING TEAM**

The Community Safety Department of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service has seen the benefits of it's involvement in Youth Engagement Programmes for a number of years.

One of the most successful has been a Youth Intervention Scheme ,the 'Phoenix Course', where the students undertake fire service related activities for five days.

These students who are referred through Youth Offending Teams benefit from the course through:

- Raised awareness of the consequences of fire related crime.
- Development of self confidence through team building activities.
- Development of Practical and Communication Skills
- Appreciation of the importance of their local Community.

The Phoenix Course has become a victim of it's own success with a lack of resources and expertise available to deliver the course throughout the service area.

To overcome this problem, funding has been secured from the Welsh Assembly Government to allow the launch of a Specialist Youth Training Team (SYT) on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

The Specialist Youth Team will be based at the Central Community Safety Department HQ in Morriston and comprise;

Watch Manager	-	Kenny McDonald
Youth Worker	-	Lester James
Part-time Admin support	-	Cleo Evans

The Specialist Youth Team will have the advantage of easy access to the various departments within the Community Safety Structure at Morriston to assist in the development and delivery of the Phoenix and other Youth courses.

Initially the Specialist Youth Team will be assisting Commands to deliver Phoenix Courses where traditionally there have been difficulties due to resources or logistics.

This will lead to a consistency of delivery of the Phoenix and similar youth courses throughout the service area.

Due to the efforts of the Service Transport Manager the SYT will have transport provided through Honda UK.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY HEADQUARTERS

### SPECIALIST YOUTH TEAM (SYT)



#### **SYT Co-ordinator**

Watch Manager Kenny McDonald

Kenny joined the Fire Service in 1987 serving as a Firefighter at Swansea and Morriston. Since 2004 he has been involved in community safety work in the Swansea Command area. During this time he has gained great experience in working with challenging children and young people. He has also developed a good working relationship with partner organisations, in particular, the Youth Offending Team



#### **SYT Youth Worker**

Lester James

Lester has served as a retained Firefighter at Pontardulais for nine years. Recently he has benefited from temporary secondments to full time operational stations in the Swansea Command area and also within the community safety department. During this period he has been involved in a wide range of community safety work including Crucial Crew, FACE referrals and Phoenix.



#### **SYT Administrative Assistant**

Cleo Evans

Cleo Evans is a relatively newcomer to the Service having been employed for 10 months. During this period she has been working as a receptionist at CRR HQ, Morriston. Cleo will be providing administrative support to the Team.

## **Community Safety Open Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2007**

The Community Safety Department held a very successful Open Day to promote the role that the Fire and Rescue Service has to play in terms of Community Safety and to identify new partners to assist the Service to deliver its core preventative objectives.

A report on the success of the day together with visitor comments and a promotional DVD will be circulated at the meeting.