

REPORT TO THE:	
FIRE AUTHORITY	
DATE: 21 April 2008	REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: WLGA Excellence Wales Awards
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SUMMARY (no more than 100 words):
The Service led a joint application with North Wales FRS, South Wales FRS, North Wales Police and South Wales Police for an award under the “Our Council” category of the WLGA Excellence Wales Awards. The application received a Certificate of Recognition for good practice working at the presentation evening on 29 th February 2008 in Cardiff.

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service	Yes	Operational Risk Management	Yes
Trusted & Respected by our customers	Yes	Community Risk Reduction	Yes
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities	Yes	Learning & Development	
Managing within Budget		Service Control	
Allocate Resources to Priorities		Civil Contingencies & Resilience	
Efficiency savings		Finance & Procurement	
Alternative funding & resources	Yes	H.R.	
Managing People		ICT	
Risk Reduction Planning	Yes	CCMS	
Partnership Working	Yes	Transport	
Effective & Empowered People		Health & Safety	
		Premises	
		Sustainability & Environment	Yes
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	
		Equality & Diversity	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:
N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:
For Members information

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:
N/A

Report Author(s) and Designation	Phil Coleman – Head of Community Risk Reduction
Telephone number/Extensions	2206

REPORT TO THE:	
FIRE AUTHORITY	
DATE: 21 April 2008	REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: 2006 Road Casualties: Wales

SUMMARY (no more than 100 words):
This statistical report has been recently published and the attached report summarises the main points arising from it

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service		Operational Risk Management	Yes
Trusted & Respected by our customers		Community Risk Reduction	Yes
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities	Yes	Learning & Development	
Managing within Budget		Service Control	
Allocate Resources to Priorities		Civil Contingencies & Resilience	
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Effective & Empowered People		Health & Safety	
		Premises	
		Sustainability & Environment	Yes
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	
		Equality & Diversity	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:
N/A

RECOMMENDATIONS:
For Members information

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:
2006 Road casualties Wales

Report Author(s) and Designation	Phil Coleman – Head of Community Risk Reduction
Telephone number/Extensions	2206

FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

2006 ROAD CASUALTIES: WALES

This statistical report was published in December 2007 and the main points arising from it are summarised below.

Casualty Reduction Targets

Targets for 2010 were introduced in 2000 based on the 1994-98 average.

- Target1 (40% reduction in the number of killed/seriously injured)
 - Total of 1373 in 2006 = a 32% reduction
- Target 2 (50% reduction in the number of children killed/seriously injured)
 - Total of 144 in 2006 = a 50% reduction
- Target 3 (10% reduction in number slightly injured per 100 million vehicle kilometres)
 - there has been a 25% reduction to date

(NOTE: The largest number of casualties are in the 16-45 age range).

Casualties

- There were 12,692 casualties in 2006 (1% lower than 2005)
- 1373 people were killed/seriously injured (4% more than 2005)
- 79% of all casualties were car, taxi, minibus or motorcycle users
- Most casualties occur on roads with 30 and 60 mph speed limits

Motorcyclist Casualties

- 813 in 2006 (17% more than 2005)
- 32% were aged 40-59
- 91% were male

- Powys, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire all feature amongst those local authority areas with the highest number of casualties

Cars, Taxis & Minibus Casualties

- 9,255 in 2006 (3% fewer than 2005)
- 29% were aged under 25
- Swansea, Carmarthenshire & Powys all feature amongst those local authority areas with the highest number of casualties.

SERVICE DELIVERY REPORT

Mid & West Wales Area Total																					APR - MAR			
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	378	386	364	418	452	423	46	51	47	53	50	50	196	209	240	471	551	497	718	631	600	2280	2330	2221
Ceredigion	224	213	177	88	123	132	43	42	43	42	60	45	57	70	63	384	485	450	305	306	348	1143	1299	1258
Neath & Port Talbot	589	555	482	965	1273	1161	7	7	8	124	115	106	262	363	377	393	380	397	444	508	505	2784	3201	3036
Pembrokeshire	301	268	231	297	360	248	58	38	54	47	28	38	140	127	137	460	393	423	689	729	706	1992	1943	1837
Powys	262	266	279	238	256	331	113	92	94	39	27	38	120	131	154	351	453	432	531	546	593	1654	1771	1921
Swansea	937	810	708	1705	1893	1862	9	11	11	205	204	196	449	484	498	1162	1167	1052	818	923	849	5285	5492	5176
TOTAL	2691	2498	2241	3711	4357	4157	276	241	257	510	484	473	1224	1384	1469	3221	3429	3251	3505	3643	3601	15138	16036	15449

	Carmarthen	Ceredigion	Neath/P Talbot	Pembroke	Powys	Swansea	Service
HFSC Targets	4000	1500	3352	2000	2710	3675	17237
No of HFSCs carried out (inc Ops, CS & Ext Ag)	4118	1525	3355	2100	2550	3613	17261
By Operational Personnel	2755	1416	3232	1720	2801	3527	15451
By Community Safety Personnel	909	19	176	376	48	85	1613
By Outside Agencies	454	90	27	4	1	1	577
No of Smoke Alarms fitted	5421	1309	3662	2640	3112	3377	19521
No of Programmed School Visits carried out	90	28	108	73	27	91	417
% of High Risk Premises Audited	97.62%	100.00%	100.00%	89.33%	93.55%	47.66%	79.27%
% of Building Regs completed within the time scale	93.07%	100.00%	99.61%	99.31%	100.00%	99.52%	98.52%

CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fatalities

1 fire fatality to report

0 fatalities from Road Traffic Collisions

Incidents of Interest

12 February 2008 Tree Tops, Swiss Valley, Llanelli

FDR1 code 2 – FSOI incident fire fatality at house fire 2HRJ, 2BA's in use.

22 February 2008 Ropewalk Road, Morfa, Llanelli

Fire involving ground, upper floor and extension of mid terrace house. 4HRJ, 2BA's in use, make pumps 5 and TL in use.

3 March 2008 Model School, College Road, Carmarthen

FDR1 fire involving cooker in kitchen of nursery 2BA, 1HRJ, PPV fan in use, school evacuated.

9 March 2008 Richmond Terrace, Carmarthen

Kitchen Fire 2BA's, 1HRJ, foam extinguisher and ppv in use.

5 Polish persons rescued before arrival of Fire Service, four of which were rescued by off duty FF Kevin Hughes (W02) and 1 by police. No casualties, treated at scene by ambulance.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

23 January Raptor Course, Llanelli
23 January Multicultural Event, Graig Campus Llanelli
28 January Phoenix Follow on Course, Llanelli
29 January Raptor Course, Carmarthen
30 January Raptor Course, Llanelli
31 January Tobacco Workshop, Tycroes, Ammanford
1st February Road Safety Action Group Meeting, Town Hall Llanelli
4 February Fire Safety talk, British Lung Foundation, Conservative Club, Llanelli
5 February CSI talk, Tregib School, Llandeilo
7 February Fire Safety talk, Evergreen club, Llanybri
20 February CSI /Impact trailer, Pibrwlwydd, Carmarthen
21 February CSI /Impact trailer, Graig Campus, Llanelli
25 February Pass-plus Cymru, Carmarthen
26 February Falls Event, Neuadd Gelli Mynydd, Ammanford
26 February HFSC awareness, Whitland Police Station
6 March Petitioners meeting, St Clears
11 March Photo-shoot, HFSC awareness /media event, Lon Y Prior, St Clears
13 March Media event, promoting HFSC, Llanelli Star
18 March RTC promotion/CSI trailer, Graig Campus, Llanelli
27 March Multi Agency Event, St Clears, Carmarthen
31 March Pass Plus Cymru, Llanelli
1st April HFSC talk, OAP's, Llangain Memorial Hall, Carmarthen
3 April HFSC event, Lon Y Prior, St Clears
2 April Firesafe Talk, Llanelli Fire Station
9 April Firesafe Talk, Llanelli Fire Station
9 April Fire Safety Talk, Llangadog OAP group
10 April Fire Safety Talk, Capel Dewi OAP group
10 April Fire Safety Talk, Tumble Evergreen OAP group
11 April Raptor Course, Llanelli

CEREDIGION COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fatalities from fire

None in Ceredigion

Fatalities from RTC

Two fatalities in Ceredigion since the last report. One on the A487 near Synod Inn (5 March 2008), and the second just outside Ponterwyd (18 March 2008).

Fatalities from other

No fatalities in Ceredigion since the last report.

Incidents of Interest

On the 4 February 2008 Crews from Aberystwyth attended a flat fire in St James' Square Aberystwyth. On arrival the fire was confirmed to be in the kitchen, with the occupant of the flat having left the premises through a window. It was unknown if there were any other persons on the premises. Two hose-reel jets and four Breathing Apparatus sets were used by the crew to extinguish the fire and to search and ventilate the rest of the premises. All persons were eventually accounted for, with no injuries, other than the occupant of the flat being treated at the scene of the incident by paramedics for smoke inhalation.

On the 7 February 2008, on the A487 between Taliesin and Talybont. Two private motor vehicles were involved in a Road Traffic Collision, with the two drivers trapped in the two vehicles. The teams from Aberystwyth and Machynlleth were split between the two cars with a team leader at each. It was a complicated extrication, with both vehicles severely damaged. Crews removed the roofs and the sides of the vehicles to enable the paramedics to treat the casualties, and for the removal of the casualties to hospital. Once again the procurement of Rescue Vehicles with dedicated cutting/spreading equipment is proving its worth, with all teams working well together.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Items of Interest

The inaugural 13 week 'Prince's Trust programme, which commenced on the 7 January 2008, held a 'Team Presentation Day' at Ceredigion Command Headquarters, on the afternoon of the 3 April. It was attended by many of the participant's families, friends, Prince's Trust and Aberystwyth Station personnel. The 13 week programme of personal development is designed to help young people overcome barriers and get them working. They have gained certificates in Personal, Team and Community Skills. With 3 wider key skills in Working with others, Improve own learning, and performance, and Problem Solving. During the Programme the participants have been involved in two Community Projects: erecting a poly tunnel frame at Mentro Lluest, which is a local charity for people with learning difficulties and clearing overgrown flower beds at Llywn Yr Eos Primary School in Penparcau. The team also put on, and participated in, activities with adults with learning difficulties from the Social Activity Centre. All in all it was a successful course with the participants being given new skills to aid their future development.

The second Prince's Trust Team Programme will now go ahead and take place in the South of the County. This will enable us to provide Youth facilities in the Cardigan area, which is vitally important as four of the last five deliberate fires in the Command and the last anti-social behaviour against firefighters occurred in Cardigan.

The Command Home Fire Safety Check [HFSC] work continues to go from strength to strength through an increased work rate and better targeting of resources to reach those that are most likely to suffer from an accidental domestic fire.

The structured approach of our HFSC work includes maintaining an ongoing partnership with Ceredigion Care and Repair and we hope to forge new partnerships, include receiving HFSC referrals from Ceredigion Contact [substance misuse] and thereby providing HFSCs to upwards of 360 substance mis-users per annum. A third partnership that is currently in its early stage, will involve HFSC referrals from Foster Parents and full and temporary Respite Carers in Ceredigion. All of this adds up to significant targeting of the most vulnerable and targeting that extends beyond the basics of FSEC modelling.

There are various successful partnerships running within the Command including YOT, the Ceredigion Road Safety Department and Dyfed Powys Police. We hold regular events/courses including Pass plus Cymru, Phoenix etc.

Community Safety Partnership Update

Equipment has been ordered for the Community Room in Aberystwyth Fire Station. This has been kindly paid for by the Community Safety Partnership Fund in Ceredigion. Items include PC stations, ceiling mounted interactive projector.

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY COMMAND

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

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. Throughout 2007/2008 NPTCC completed 3352 HFSC, issuing 4615 Smoke Alarms, 848 Deep Fat Fryers and 81 Vibrating Pad type Alarms, these are just some examples of equipment issued.

Community Safety

PHOENIX

NPT Command continue to run their own independent courses, catering for Youth Inclusion Programmes (YIP), Youth Offending Teams (YOT), Alternative Curriculum (AC), Local Education Authority (LEA) and other youth organisations. The aim of the course is to invest in young people (13-17 year olds) using the reputation of the Service to benefit youngsters and in turn the wider community. The objectives of the schemes 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. NPTCC completed 8 courses throughout 2007/08, targeting in excess of 60 young people.

YOT

The Youth Offending Fire Officer (YOFO) continues to attend the Youth Offending Team (YOT) offices, a minimum of 2 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. 22 young people have received intervention programmes from the YOFO and to

date there has been no re-offending for like offences.

Forest Schools

Forest schools 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 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 School', allows him to assist Forest School Leaders.

NPTCC continue to support these courses, with the completion of one course in May 2007. NPTCC have also committed to continue to support the Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership for a 2008-2009.

Community Safety Assistants Neath Port Talbot Command

Within the Command area are a total of 83 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. The Education Programme has been completed for this term.

Cognitive Centre Foundation

On the 17 March 2008 two members of NPTCC Community Safety Department attended a one-day conference organised by The Cognitive Centre Foundation. The event, held at White Hart Lane, London, was delivered by Professor David Kolko and was entitled, "What do we know about juvenile fire-setting?"

The aim of the conference was to consider the efficacy of cognitive-behavioural treatment (CBT) and fire safety education (FSE) for children with a history of fire-setting. A variety of presentations and seminars were attended that covered characteristics of fire-setters, details of worldwide Intervention Programs, the use of screening and evaluation tools and the methods and outcomes of FSE.

The two attendees each received 'The Juvenile Fire-setter Screening Tool' which can now be used to screen youths referred to them for a fire-related incident. The first step in the evaluation process, it is used to decide if a youth needs fire education intervention or needs to be referred to other community agencies. They were also in receipt of a number of other fire safety education materials and two power-point presentations that can be

used with referred youths.

Pass Plus Cymru

Pass Plus is a training scheme for new drivers between the ages of 17 and 25, all courses in NPTCC are delivered from the Community Link room at Port Talbot Fire Station, the courses run for approximately 2.5 hours with the Fire and Rescue Service having input to each session addressing Road Traffic Collisions. The course covers 6 modules which are: Town Driving, All Weather Driving, Driving out of Town, Night Driving, Driving on Dual Carriageways and Motorway Driving. In 2007/2008 the NPTCC addressed 147 young people over 11 courses.

CSI Crash Scene Incident

The CSI Cymru Road Safety Initiative in NPTCC is a product developed in partnership between The Local Authority Road Safety Department and NPT County Command's Community Safety Department. The initiative includes an exhibition of a crashed vehicle with dummy casualties.

Geared towards pupils aged 15/16 years, a tour of Year 11 of all Secondary Schools within NPT is programmed for school year 2008/2009.

The programme has been developed in order to make the pupils aware of the responsibility and the respect required in being a road user, especially a motor vehicle driver or passenger. It has been designed to change attitudes and behavior prior to them becoming drivers. The pupils are 12 months away from being provisional driving license holders and it is hoped that delivering the initiative at this time will encourage the young people to be responsible when driving, not only for themselves, but the passengers they are carrying and other road users sharing the road space.

PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Incidents of Interest

In this reporting period there were 126 co-responder calls, and 195 emergency special service calls. There were also 37 Road Traffic Collisions where persons were reported as being trapped in their vehicles.

On 3 March a school bus was deliberately set on fire at the end of the school day at Sir Thomas Picton School, Haverfordwest. Community Safety Team members are working with the offender on a programme to address the fire setting behaviour in addition to other sanctions.

On Tuesday 11 March a fire broke out in a remote cottage Pengawsai, Felindre Farchog. Crews from Crymych, Cardigan and Fishguard took water from a nearby river to extinguish the fire. The fire had been burning undiscovered all day and caused substantial damage to the house and contents.

Royal Gatehouse Hotel Tenby

At 2302 hours on the Saturday night of the Easter Holiday weekend of 21-22 March, a serious fire was seen emerging from the roof of the unoccupied Royal Gatehouse Hotel. The hotel was in a prominent position on the seafront overlooking Tenby harbour in the road called the Norton. The Hotel was built in 1859 and it had 59 bedrooms ranged over 5 floors. It had several annexes and in total measured 45 by 46 metres.

The spread of fire was rapid despite early efforts from crews from Tenby to fight the fire. The building was in poor condition and parts of the roof began to collapse, all crews were withdrawn from inside the building and the fire attacked from outside. As further fire crews were requested to reinforce the fire fighting operations, Assistant Chief Officer Bailey took command of the fireground.

It was clear that the fire had to be stopped from spreading to adjoining homes in the Norton. Crews were sent to guard the attics of neighbouring houses and they stopped that fire spread. Further crews were sent to stop the fire from spreading at the rear of the hotel into the adjoining Playhouse Cinema. The fire also threatened to cross the road and to involve the Royal Lion Hotel on the Norton. This too was stopped mainly by the use of an Aerial Ladder Platform from Aberystwyth. Two turntable ladders from Haverfordwest and Morryston were used to attack the core of the fire from above, in order to keep fire crews from having to enter the unsafe building

There were problems of obtaining adequate water supplies despite the assistance of the Water Authority. At one point 5 fire engines and a water bowser were operating a shuttle service to provide fire fighting water. The problem was solved by the use of a High Volume Pump from Ammanford that relayed large amounts of water over a mile from a river in the Saltings to the town centre.

In the early hours of Sunday morning the front section of the hotel collapsed, bringing with it scaffolding that had previously covered the Hotel. There was a further collapse of roofs and walls that confirmed the early decision to fight the fire from outside to avoid any injuries to fire crews.

A total of 30 fire crews attended this incident from all parts of the Service, to operate a range of equipment and control tasks. Meanwhile Fire Control sent other fire crews to maintain emergency cover where there were now gaps across the Service area. The incident was closed at 0706 hrs on 24 March, although a turntable ladder returned over several days to provide safe access for structural engineers and fire investigators to survey the building. A joint Police and Fire Investigation of the cause of the fire is still underway.

There was a lot of national and regional press coverage of the fire and also public acclaim for stopping the spread of the fire beyond the footprint of the hotel. There were no injuries to fire crews to report. Amongst the letters of praise received by the Chief Fire Officer was this comment;

“I have been fortunate in my lifetime not to have had experience of the Fire Service in action at first hand. At a time, unfortunately, when many traditional standards are in decline I was immensely impressed and heartened by what I saw last weekend. Every single member of your crews carried out their duties, professionally, competently, bravely

and with quiet efficiency. Thank You.”

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Safety

The CS Department has continued to deliver Home Fire Safety Checks throughout Pembrokeshire, and has developed a partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council to use their mapping information to identify households to arrange for a Home Fire Safety Check.

A Phoenix programme was run at Pembroke Dock Fire Station in the second week of February. This programme had 10 young people attending in partnership with the Youth Offenders Team as part of a Youth Intensive Supervision Programme (YISP). The programme was designed to use Cognitive Behaviour Therapy practices to challenge the behaviour of young people who had been identified as being on the edge of offending. A pass out parade was organised on Friday 22 February for family members of the young people and certificates were awarded by County Councillor Pearl Llewellyn.

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

Two major exercises were held to test emergency arrangements for the Petrochemical sites in Pembrokeshire, in this reporting period.

Exercise Teal was held at the Murco Refinery Milford Haven on 30 January to simulate a leak in the Dimersol unit. This was a practice run for a serious incident that warranted the use of 9 fire crews. A debrief praised liaison arrangements between the emergency services and has prompted further exercises to test other liaison arrangements.

Exercise Alongside was held on February 18 on the jetty of Chevron Refinery Pembroke. The exercise simulated the rescue of a crew member from the engine room of a large coastal tanker that had caught fire. The Turkish crew also joined the exercise. The debrief confirmed mobilising orders as well as command and control procedures. There is further work to be completed to ensure that marshalling of vehicles onto the jetty is carried out to maximum efficiency.

LNG

Crew Manager Mathias from B02 Milford Haven has delivered a series of lectures about the realities of LNG to officers from Dyfed Powys Police and the Emergency Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council. A similar presentation on LNG was also given to Pembrokeshire County Councillors, local MP Nick Ainger and AM members in a closed session, by officers of the Emergency Services, including Group Manager Nick Webley. Elected Members were given the opportunity to raise the concerns of their constituents. They were given a thorough appraisal of the risks of LNG and the precautions that have been taken to be ready for the arrival of LNG into Wales.

POWYS COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fire Fatalities

There were no fire fatalities in this reporting period.

Fatalities from Road Traffic Collisions

There were no fatalities from RTCs in this reporting period.

Other Fatalities

There were no other fatalities in this reporting period.

Incidents of Interest

On 16 February 2008 on the A483 near Beulah a fully laden Milk Tanker overturned causing the driver to become trapped and a substantial amount of milk to be discharged from the tanker. Crews were successful at releasing the driver and stemming the flow of milk to prevent it entering a water course. The flow was finally stopped using sealant and straps from the Environmental Unit based at Newtown.

On 22 February on A470 between Rhayader and Llangurig another fully laden Milk Tanker overturned and although the driver was unhurt, most of the contents (20,000 Litres) spilled out and entered the River Wye. The Environmental Unit from Newtown also attended the incident but the equipment could not be used as the milk had already mixed with the river water. However, the users of Abstraction Units down stream were able to have an early warning of the impending pollution situation.

On 25 February at Newtown a Domestic Sprinkler system extinguished a fire in a residential flat. This is the third time a sprinkler has actuated and extinguished a fire in this property. Unfortunately, the success of this incident cannot be widely publicised as this property is used as a half way house for ex prisoners who have just been released. This situation is very unpopular with the local community and the owner wished this to remain 'low key'. However, these experiences have been taken up by Officers in the Community and Legislative Fire Safety Departments who will exploit these to full advantage in the wider 'domestic sprinkler' field.

On 11 March on the Penrhallt Mountain, Machynlleth the local crew were called to assist the Ambulance Service in getting a casualty down 200 feet from the mountain along a dog walking track. It is believed the casualty had attempted to commit suicide by dousing himself in an accelerant. He suffered 93% burns and the crew assisted with first aid until he was airlifted by RAF Helicopter.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Home Fire Safety Checks

A total of 558 Home Fire Safety Checks were carried out during the reporting period, this brings the total for the year 2007/8 to 2550 and the total number of smoke alarms

installed in these properties was 3105. In addition, 11 specialist 'Hard of Hearing' smoke alarm systems were also installed.

Since the HFSC programme started 7,888 properties in Powys have been inspected, this equates to nearly 15% of the total households in the county.

Schools Programme

Eight Primary and four High schools were visited during this period. In addition 3 Careers Days were attended and Coleg Powys students in Brecon received RTC lessons

Youth Work

Four Firesafe programmes were run during the period. The first Phoenix Course in Powys was run in Welshpool at the end of February and CS Staff assisted in running a course in Ceredigion.

Community Fire Safety Talks and Station Visits

Four talks were carried out by day manned stations and there were nine visits to stations by a total of 123 members of the public.

Chip Pan Fire Demonstrations

Chip Pan Fire Demonstrations were carried out at Phoenix Courses, at Station Visits to Newtown Fire Station by students and at an Open Day at Llanwrtyd Fire Station.

Road Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Assistants have been shadowing Road Safety Partners whilst delivering the Road Safety message in High Schools. A lesson plan has been developed and has been delivered to Coleg Powys students and Newtown High School pupils.

Electric Blanket Testing

Ten Fire Service personnel have been trained to test Electric Blankets and it is hoped that a testing event will take place in the near future.

SWANSEA COUNTY COMMAND

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT

Fatalities from fire - **One**

Fatalities from RTC - **None**

Fatalities from other - **One**

Fatalities from Fire

27 January 2008 15:24 Rufus Lewis Avenue, Gorseinon, Swansea

Two fire crews attended the above to find a fire in the ground floor living room. Six firefighters wearing BA tackled the fire and discovered the body of an elderly male in the living room. The incident is not thought to be suspicious.

Fatalities Other

27 January 2008 22:58 River Tawe, by the Ship PH, Swansea

Crews from Swansea Central, Morryston and Llanelli attended the River Tawe as a male was reported to have jumped into the river. One male was rescued from the river; he had gone into the river in an attempt to save the reported person. The search lasted over two hours and included the Coastguard and a Search & Rescue helicopter from RAF Chivenor. A body was recovered from the river the following day.

Incidents of Interest

24 January 2008 19:30 Paviland Place, Portmead, Swansea

Two fire crews from Swansea Central and Morryston were alerted to a fire in Paviland Place Portmead just after 1930hrs. On Arrival crews were met with a severe fire in a semi detached bungalow, an elderly male had escaped from the premises after being alerted by the hard wired smoke alarms that were fitted in the property. The fire was extinguished by two breathing apparatus crews using two hose reel jets, the crews stopped the fire spreading to the neighbouring property. A cat was rescued from the bungalow and given oxygen therapy treatment by crews.

3 February 2008 11:22 Paviland, Port Eynon, Gower, Swansea

Mid and West Wales Fire Service attended a multi agency incident on Sunday 3 February which involved a hazardous container on the South Gower Coast. Two appliances from Reynoldston and Swansea West attended along with a Hazardous Materials Advisor. Police believed the container was carrying a hazardous chemical, which is an irritant to eyes and the throat. Due to worsening weather conditions, the police and coastguard had to withdraw from the area until the area became safe. Even though there appeared to be no immediate threat to public health and safety, police have asked the public to refrain from visiting the coastal cliffs and paths in the South Gower Coastal area until further notice. Advice has been taken from the Environmental Agency and the South Gower Coast. This is a very remote and isolated area in Swansea with no housing nearby

2 February 2008 11:00 A4067 [Ffordd Cwm Tawe], Swansea

Fire Crews, Police and Ambulance were called to a road traffic collision outside the Liberty Stadium in Swansea at 1100hrs on Saturday 2 February. The two vehicle incident resulted in the passenger of a ford fiesta being cut free from the vehicle. Crews from Swansea Central and Morryston attended the incident. The roof was removed using hydraulic cutting equipment and a man was taken to Morryston Hospital by Ambulance. The southbound carriage way of the A4047 outside the stadium was closed for over an hour.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

'Grass and Forestry Fires' Reduction Initiatives

Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Command areas have recently benefited from Welsh Assembly grant funding aimed at reducing the number of grass and forestry fires in the Swansea Bay area.

In 2006 and 2007 the Service attended a high number of grass and forestry fires which both stretched resources and caused unnecessary and in most cases avoidable damage to the countryside. As a result the WAG made £50,000 available to Fire Service Officers who were given the remit of producing initiatives that would reduce such fires in future years. A small task group was set up comprising Officers from Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Commands plus members of the Arson Reduction Team.

The initiatives established are as follows:

Large bright red tamper-proof notice-boards were purchased and installed into every secondary school in the Swansea Bay area. The boards will carry seasonal Fire Safety messages aimed at young people and will be maintained and updated by operational crews.

All primary schools, secondary schools and youth groups throughout the Swansea Bay area were invited to participate in a grass fire reduction poster competition. Entries were judged by members of the Arson Reduction Team and winners and runners-up were invited to attend a presentation ceremony at the Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine. Prizes were presented by the Deputy Mayor for Neath Port Talbot, Councillor Malcolm Gunter and the whole event promoted in the South Wales Evening Post. The winning entries will be used as detailed in point-3 below.

We have purchased a number of physical props and back-drops which are all based upon the winning grass fire reduction posters. These include banners for outside fire stations, posters for distribution to schools, shops, community centres etc, pull-up display boards, collapsible display stands and trailer banners. All of these aides have been created to educate the public to the dangers and consequences of grass and forestry fires.

We have devised a children's training programme entitled 'Fire Fighter for a Day'. The one day programme runs during school holidays and gives a practical insight to groups of children about the job of a firefighter. Input is also provided by the Forestry Commission on the problems of grass and forestry fires from their perspective. WAG funding allowed us to purchase the uniform and equipment necessary to run the scheme.

We have signed an advertising contract with Swansea Bay Radio who will be running 80 x 30-second commercials every month for 12 months between 9am and 7pm each day. The campaign will be targeted at the parents and guardians of young people and will ask them to consider the consequences of grass and forestry fires on the local environment - Do they know what their children are up to?

Summary:

The main thrust of this reduction initiative is to use various promotional media to educate the general public as to the causes and dangers of grass and forestry fires plus the consequence of incidents on the local environment.

REPORT TO FIRE AUTHORITY

WLGA EXCELLENCE WALES AWARDS

The 3rd annual WLGA Excellence Wales Awards were presented in Cardiff on 29th February 2008, at which a joint application made with North and South Wales Fire & Rescue Services, and North and South Wales Police was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for the good practice working of the three Arson Reduction Teams in Wales.

This is the first year that the awards have been open to the Fire & Rescue Service and Police, having previously only been open to local authorities. Although there were four categories covering Children & Young People, Economy, Environment and Council, the Fire & Rescue Service and Police were only allowed to apply under the Our Council category.

This is further recognition of the positive results being achieved by the Arson Reduction Teams to reduce the number and effects of deliberate fires through good partnership working involving the police, local authorities and ourselves.