

Risk Profile
Mid & West Wales Fire Service

Station 56 – Pontardawe



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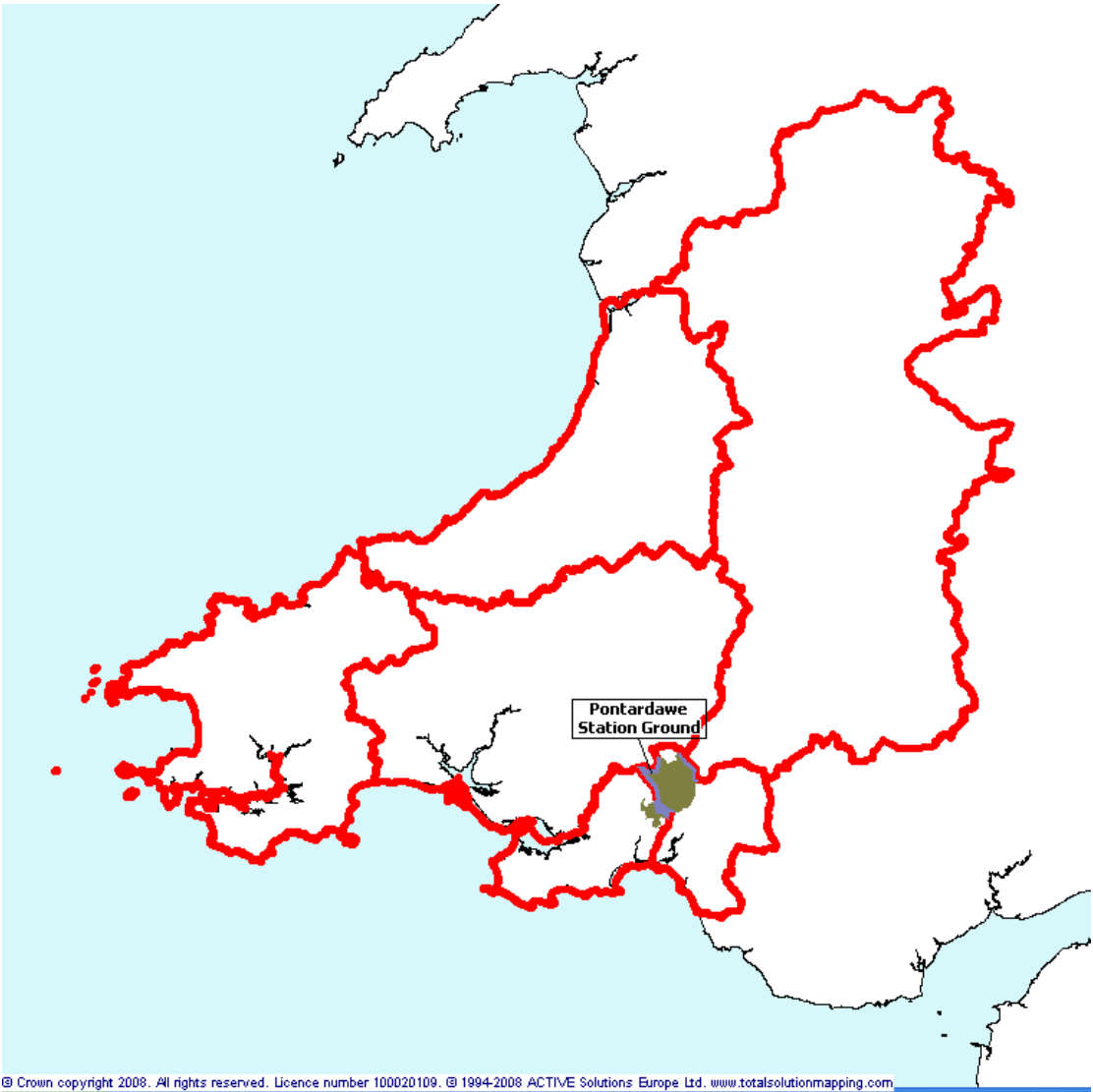
Email: neathporttalbot@mawwfire.gov.uk

ALWAYS RING 999 IN AN EMERGENCY

The following report contains information about Pontardawe Fire Station. This information will assist in identifying areas where future activity should be focused and also give an overview of the area to those not familiar with it. This will be updated each year.

General Information about the area

Map of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. Pontardawe fire station ground is highlighted.



Statistics Pontardawe station area:-

Population	Population of Neath & Port Talbot	Population of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
27,952	137,400	875,900

Figures based on 2010 population estimates (www.stats-wales.gov.uk)

STATION OVERVIEW

CREWING ARRANGEMENTS

Pontardawe fire station is staffed using a Self-Rostered Crewing System. This means that the station is crewed by 13 full-time personnel, providing continual operational cover throughout the day and night.

APPLIANCE INFORMATION

Pontardawe fire station has:

- 1 fire engine with dedicated rescue equipment – this is known as a rescue pump.
- 1 Rope Rescue Vehicle – Pontardawe provide enhanced Rope Rescue capability for the surrounding areas, with personnel having received specialist training in the use of Ropes and technical rescue equipment.

LOCATION

Pontardawe fire station was originally built in the late 1960's, and has recently undergone major refurbishment, encompassing sustainability and environmental features such as Solar Panels, and also a community room for local use. The Station is situated close to the centre of the town of Pontardawe. The station covers Pontardawe Town and surrounding communities, as well as providing support for wider communities across Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and South Powys.

Pontardawe (Welsh for "bridge on the River Tawe") comprises the electoral wards of Pontardawe and Trebanos, is served by an elected Town Council and forms part of the county borough of Neath Port Talbot.

RISKS

During the latter part of the 19th Century, and up to the middle of the twentieth century, the main industries in Pontardawe were steel and tinsplate, with a number of steelworks and tinsplate works exporting all over the world. The industrial landscape within the Swansea Valley is now very different, with few heavy industries remaining. The main risk within the Pontardawe area is the Vale Inco refinery at Clydach – affectionately known as the 'Mond' – which was built at the turn of the 20th Century and started production in 1902. Other risks include various small manufacturing units within the locality and road traffic collisions on the main Swansea valley road (A4067).

KEY WORK ACTIVITY AREAS FOR PONTARDAWE FIRE STATION:

1. Road Traffic Collision Reduction.
2. Targeting of Youth Groups to deliver Fire Awareness.
3. Chip Pan Fires Awareness.
4. Gathering Operational Information of surrounding risks.
5. Undertaking Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs) to provide safety advice to householders.
6. Working in partnership working with various organisations including the Communities First initiative.

PREVENTION

Local firefighters and community safety staff visit homes and provide fire safety advice and, where necessary, will supply and install smoke alarms free of charge. These checks are the cornerstone of the proactive role the Service is now adopting in its drive to reduce the deaths and injuries that are caused by accidental fires.

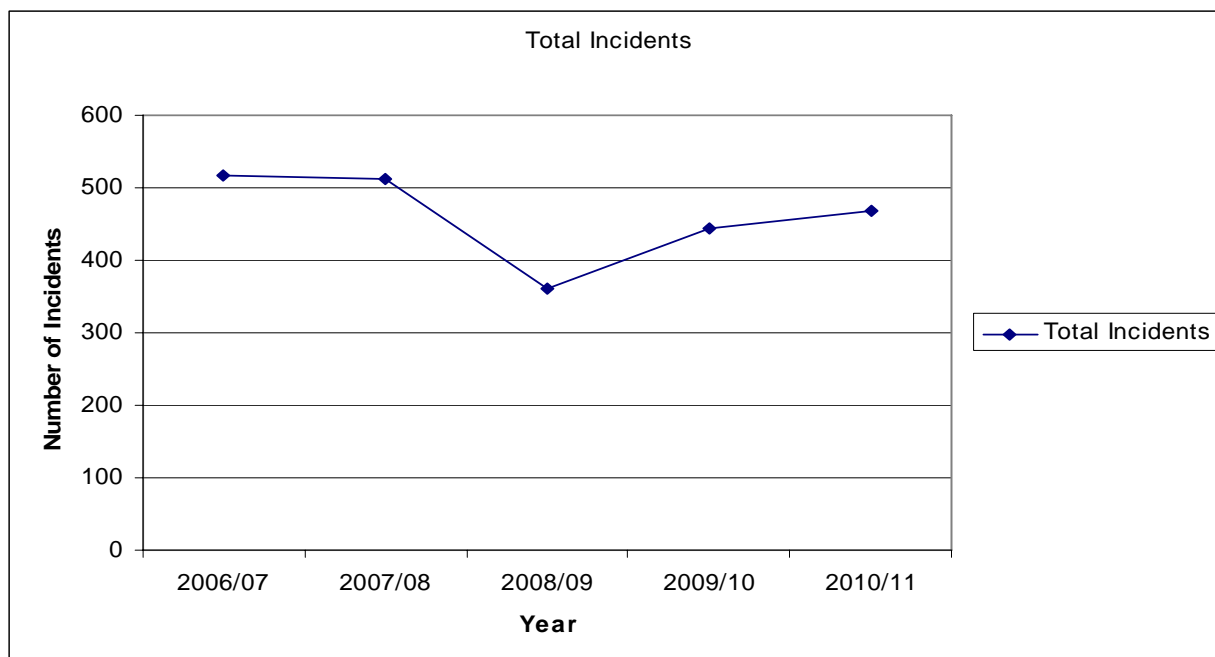
Pontardawe Fire Station carries out approximately 950 Home Fire Safety Checks annually. Fires in the home are the main cause of fire deaths and injuries. The typical causes of fire in the home include:

- Cookers left unattended
- Careless discarding of cigarettes
- Overloaded electrical sockets
- Children playing with matches
- Cooking after drinking alcohol

A home fire safety check takes about an hour to complete and is generally undertaken by two Fire Service representatives. Getting a smoke alarm, regularly testing and maintaining it, as well as planning an escape route in the event of a fire can dramatically decrease the risk of death or serious injury. You can request a home fire safety check for yourself or a dependant relative by contacting the Service on 0800 169 1234 or by sending an e-mail request to your local Fire Service office via an online form from www.mawwfire.gov.uk/home_safety_eng/hfsc.asp.

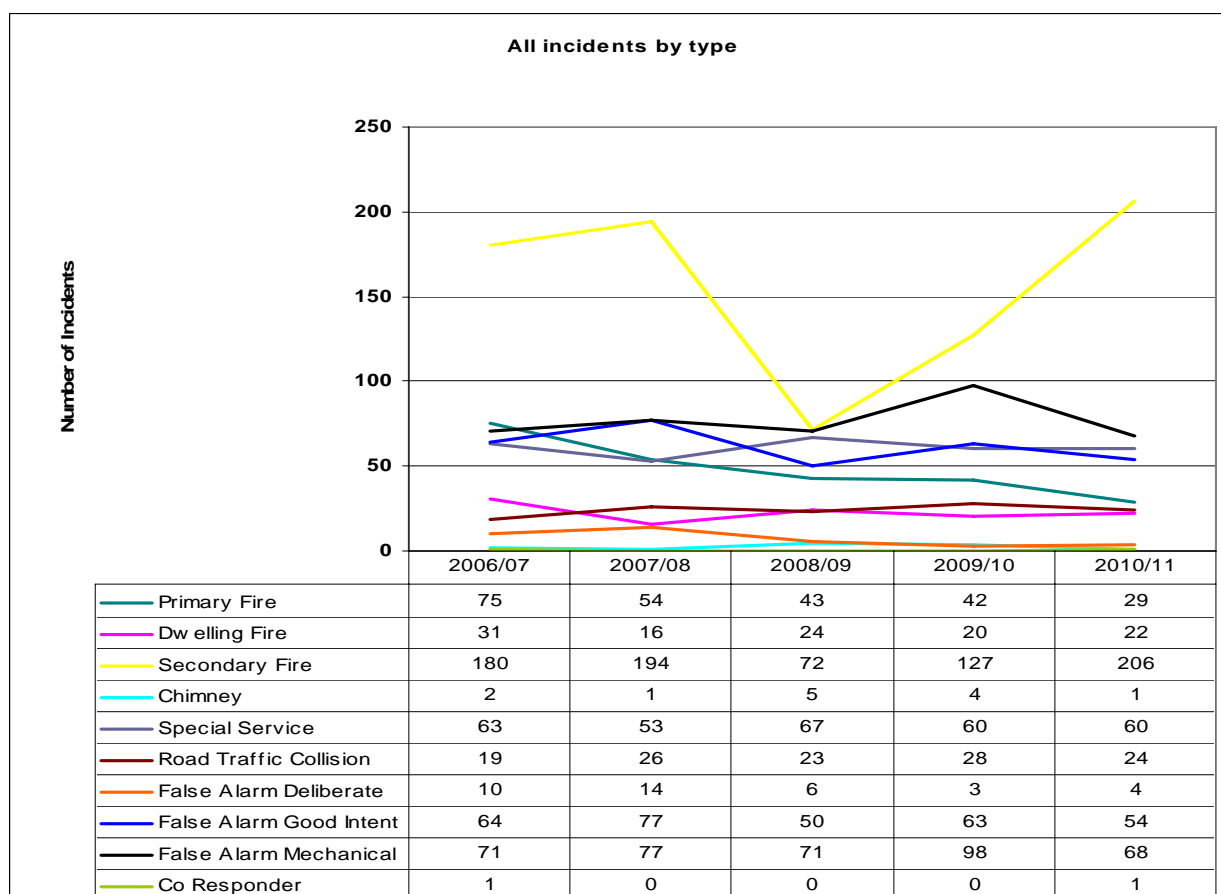
Specific Details about incidents

The following graph shows the trend in the total number of all incidents within Pontardawe station ground over the five years (1st April 2006 -31st March 2011).



(Source: PC stats)

The following line graph shows the trend in different types of incidents* for the station ground for the last five years (1st April 2006 -31st March 2011).



(Source: PC stats)

* see appendix A for incident type definitions
Last updated: 25/11/2011

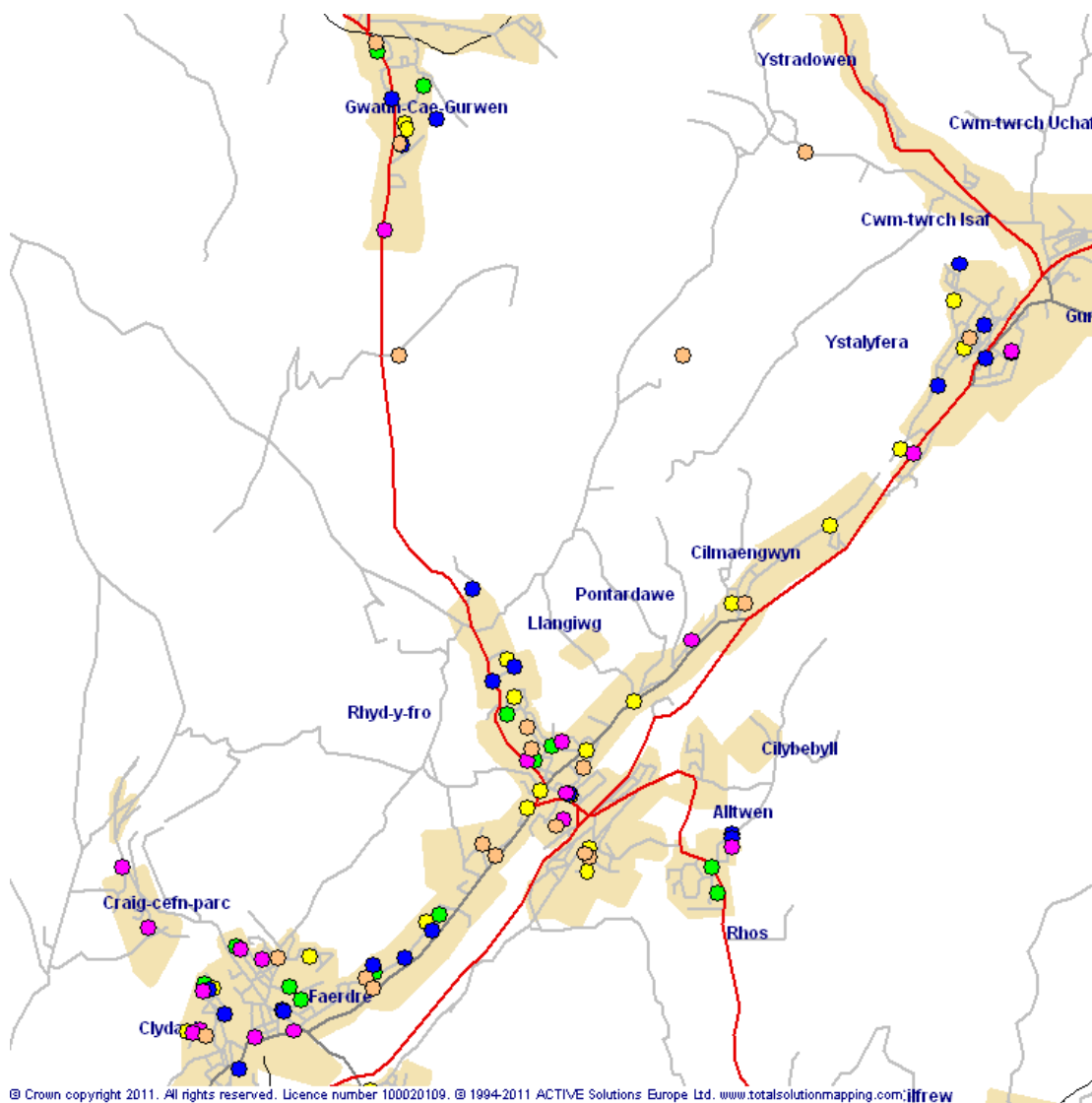
Incident Information – Accidental Dwelling Fires and Rescues, Casualties and Fatalities

The definition for the type of property recorded as dwelling is as follows:

- House of multiple occupancy
- Living accommodation (private, local authority & housing association)
- Sheltered Housing

The following map shows the number and location of accidental dwelling fires within Pontardawe station ground over the last five years. Of the 99 fires, only 53 dwellings were known to have smoke alarms.

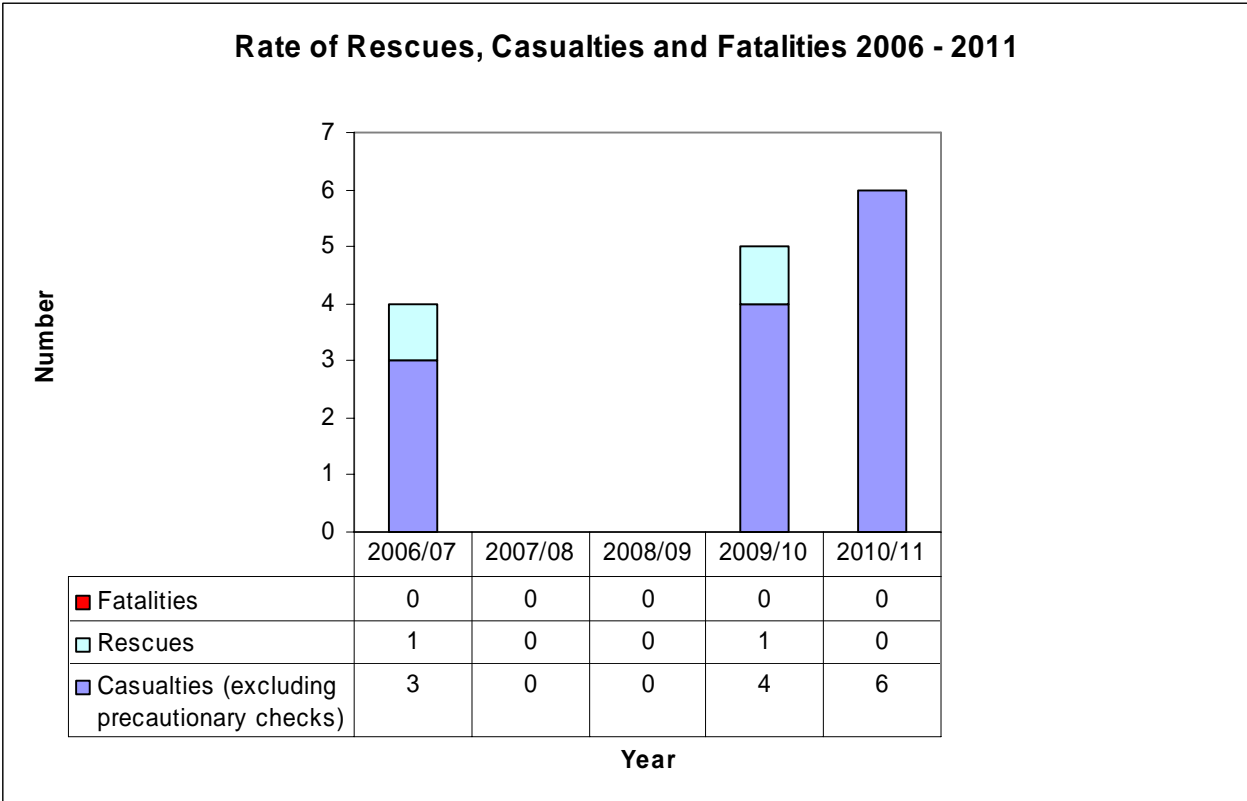
Accidental Dwelling Fires within Pontardawe Station Ground 01.04.06 – 31.03.11



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(Source: PC stats)

Key	Count	Description
	25	01/04/2006-31/03/2007
	14	01/04/2007-31/03/2008
	22	01/04/2008-31/03/2009
	19	01/04/2009-31/03/2010
	19	01/04/2010-31/03/2011
	99	Total

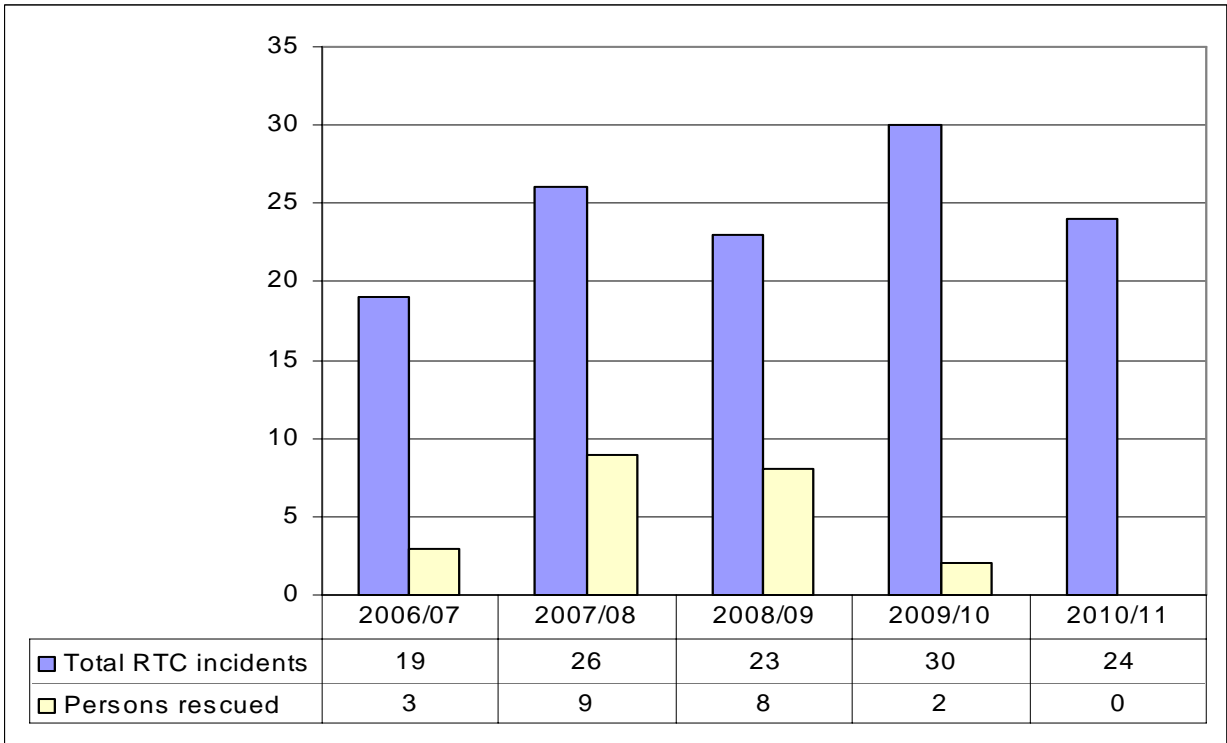
The graph below compares the rate of rescues, casualties and fatalities for accidental dwelling fires within Pontardawe station ground. The figures are based on data from the last 5 years.



(Source: PC stats)

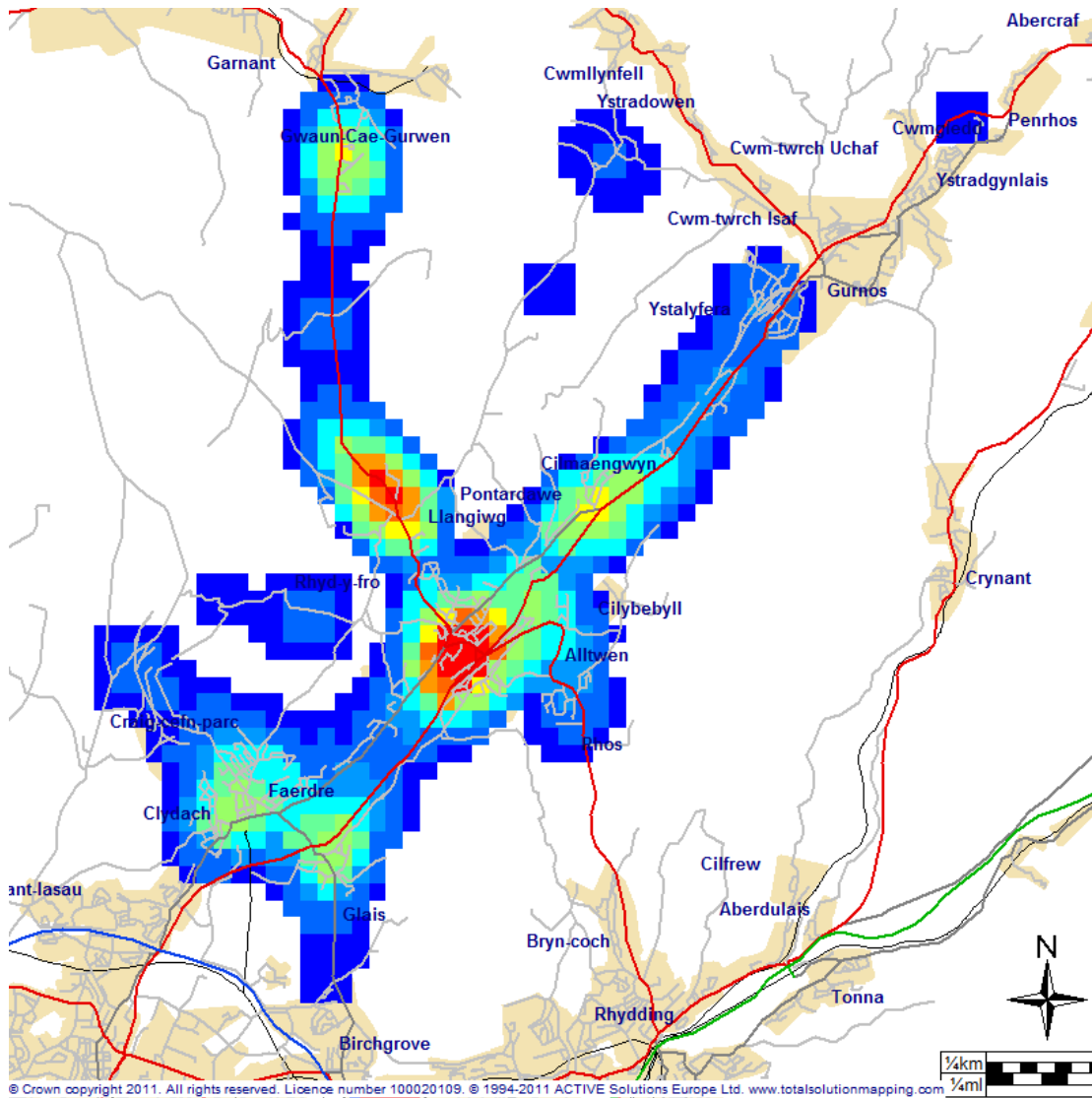
Further incident information – RTC incidents

The graph below shows the trend in Road Traffic Collision (RTC) incidents over the last five fiscal years. We are working with our partners and have introduced RTC reduction initiatives in order to drive down the number of incidents within the Station Ground.



(Source: PC stats)

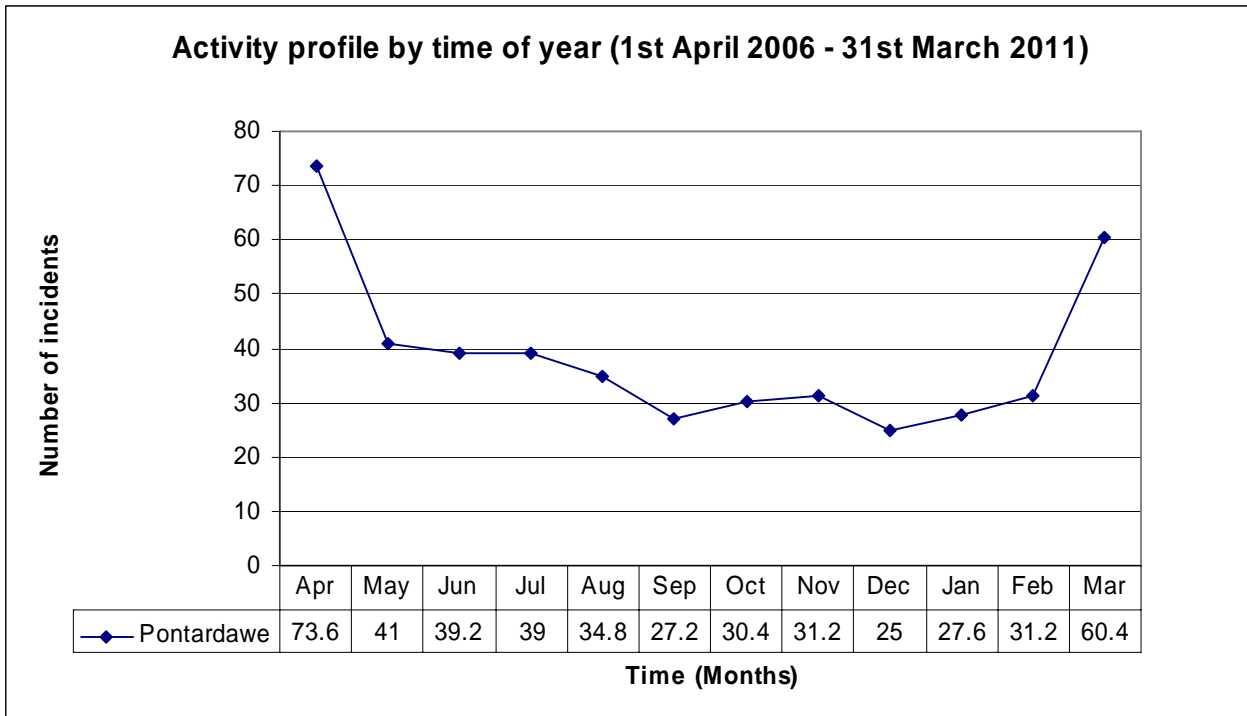
RTC Hotspots for Pontardawe Station Ground 01/04/06 – 31/03/11



(Source: PC stats)

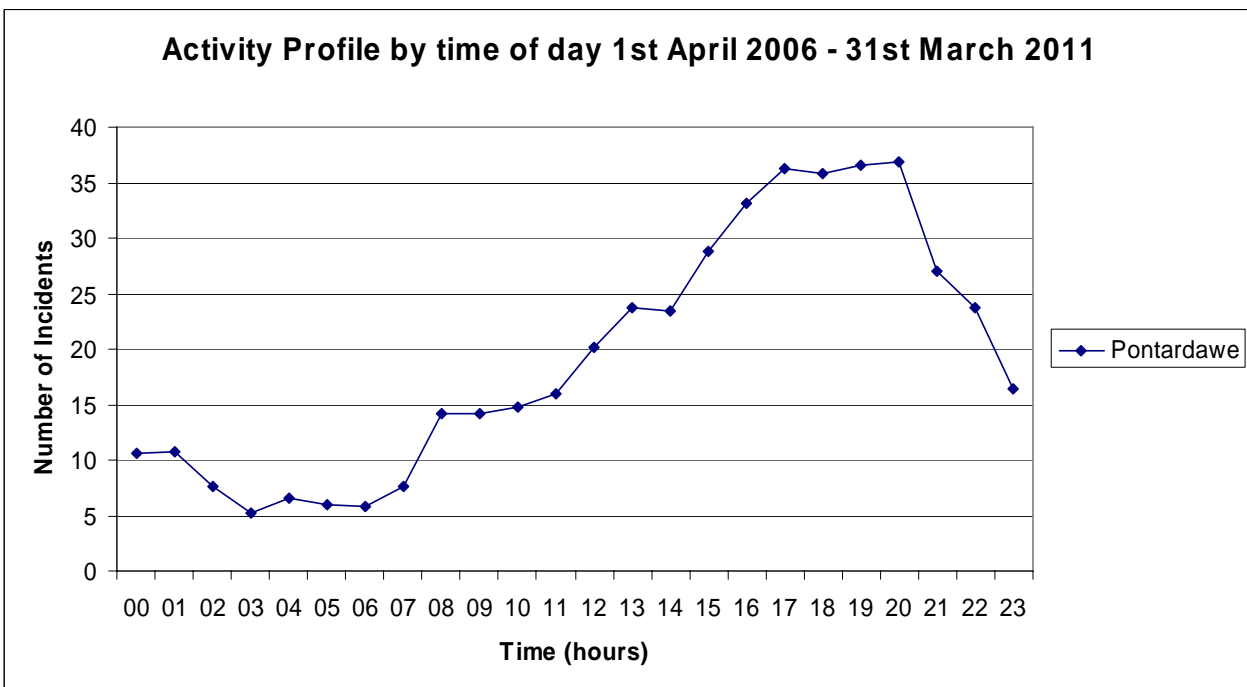
Key	Number of incidents (per 250 metres)
Blue	1
Light Blue	2
Medium Blue	3
Cyan	4
Light Green	5
Green	6
Yellow-Green	7
Yellow	8
Orange	9
Red	10 and over

The following graph shows the average number of incidents for the station by time of year, for the last five years. Many incidents are affected by the weather, for example dry spells can mean an increase in the number of grass fires and significant rainfall can lead to flooding incidents, and this is reflected in the seasonal activity profile.



(Source: PC stats)

This analysis gives a clear picture of the time of day that activities occur. The risk is generally higher when people are going about their work or cooking and reduces overnight.



(Source: PC stats)

Explanation of Terms

Primary fire - A fire involving property of value e.g. houses, commercial premises, farm buildings, vehicles etc.

Dwelling fire - A property that is also a place of residence.

Secondary fire - Fires confined to derelict buildings, grass, refuse, derelict vehicles etc.

Chimney Fire - A chimney fire is defined within these figures as a fire that was confined to the chimney and did not spread to the house.

Special Services - Fire and Rescue Services are also required to attend a variety of non-fire related incidents. Examples of these include road traffic collisions, collapsed structures, chemical spillages and flooding etc.

Road Traffic Collision (RTC) - Fire and Rescue Services attend road traffic collisions where it is known or believed that persons may be trapped or where they are required to make the area safe e.g. fuel spillage.

False alarms - are split into 3 categories:

False alarm deliberate – this incident classification is used for hoax or malicious fire calls where the fire service attend to a report of fire but on investigation it is found that the call was a hoax.

False alarm good intent – where a call is made to the fire service with good intent but on inspection it is found that there is no need for action e.g. controlled burning.

False alarm mechanical – where an alarm call has been received and upon attendance it is found to be a false alarm due to system fault or unsuitable equipment etc.

Co Responders - Where specially trained fire service staff attend to injured or seriously ill patients in support of the ambulance service.

Incident

An emergency occurrence where the fire service makes an attendance.

Station Ground

The area where that fire station provides the nearest attendance in the event of an emergency.