



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON TÂN

AUTUMN
EDITION
2025

RESTORING A
HISTORIC FIRE
APPLIANCE



MORE THAN JUST FIRES
AWARDS 2025



EIN GWELEDIGAETH

I ddarparu'r gwasanaeth gorau posibl i
gymunedau Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru.

OUR VISION





To deliver the best possible service for
the communities of Mid and West Wales.



#EichGTACGC

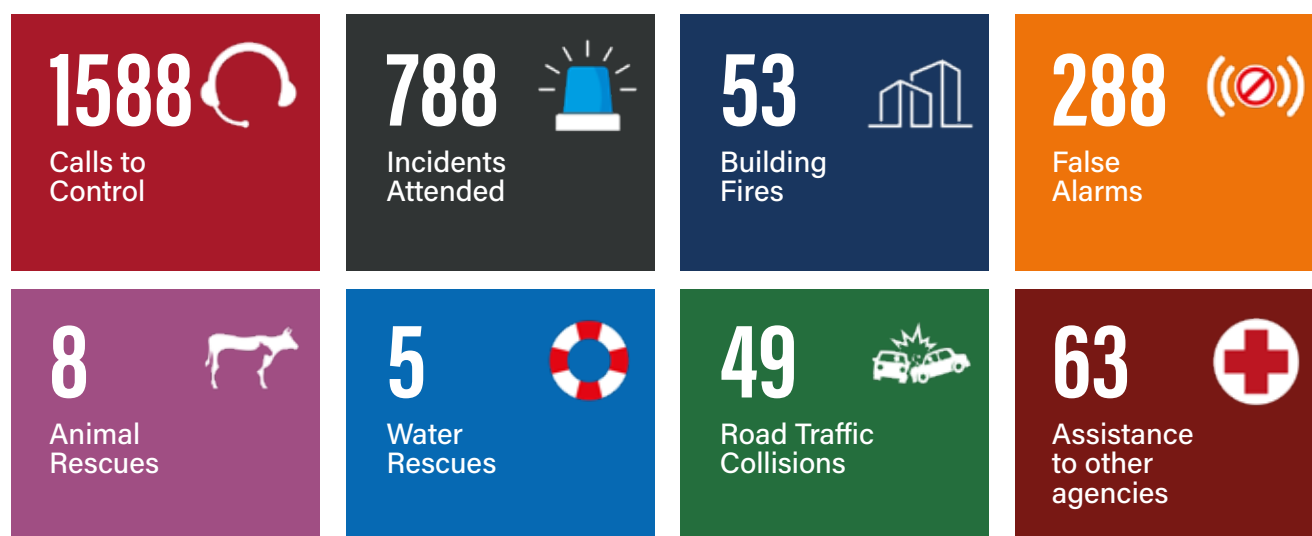
#YourMAWWFRS

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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales.

Here's some of what kept us busy last month:



COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2040 ENGAGEMENT REPORT

MAWWFRS has published its Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2040 Engagement Survey Report, marking a significant milestone in shaping the future of fire and rescue services across the region.

The report, based on extensive public and stakeholder engagement, captures the voices of over 728 respondents and reflects the priorities, concerns and aspirations of communities across Mid and West Wales. It forms a cornerstone of the Service's long-term vision to deliver the best possible service for the communities it serves.

FULL ARTICLE



#BURNTOPROTECT

The Wales Wildfire Board are encouraging farmers and landowners to #BurnToProtect the Welsh countryside this burn season.

As the long, hot summer comes to an end and we transition into autumn, with dry vegetation and a reduction in temperatures, burn season officially gets underway.

The Wales Wildfire Board want to remind farmers and landowners that burning heather, grass, bracken, and gorse can take place from 1 October up until 15 March (up to 31 March in Upland areas), however, they must have a Burn Plan in place to ensure they are burning safely.

By working together with communities to share knowledge, the Wales Wildfire Board hope to provide a better understanding of what we can all do to limit accidental fires from happening and in turn the damage they can cause to our environment.

FULL ARTICLE



ON SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, FIREFIGHTER RHYS FITZGERALD LED A TEAM OF SIX FIREFIGHTERS IN TAKING ON THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMBING BEN NEVIS.

Rhys, together with five of his Fire and Rescue Service colleagues, completed the climb in full firefighting kit - an incredible demonstration of strength, resilience, and solidarity.

Their effort was dedicated to honouring the memory of firefighters who have given their lives in service, while also raising vital funds for [the Fire Fighters Charity](#). Thanks to their determination, the team raised just under £1,000 in support of the charity.

FULL ARTICLE





APPRECIATION FOR THE CREW AT BUILTH WELLS FIRE STATION

On Monday, September 8th, the crew at Builth Wells Fire Station welcomed Darren Hughes, who was visiting to thank the crew for their fantastic response and work while he experienced a medical emergency.

While out running around 12 months ago, Darren suffered a cardiac arrest and required urgent

medical attention. A fellow runner and friend of Darren's, Lee Nicholson, was the first at the scene and raised the alarm before performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until help arrived.

Darren and Lee visited Builth Wells Fire Station to thank all the emergency services who helped Darren. The visit highlighted the fantastic collaboration between all services to achieve a positive outcome.

FULL ARTICLE



NEW WHOLETIME FIREFIGHTERS – SQUAD 02/25

On Thursday, 4th September, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) held a Passing Out Parade for the latest group of Wholetime Firefighters.

The Ceremony, opened by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas KFSM and held at MAWWFRS's Earlswood Training Centre saw family, friends, Fire Authority members and officers gather to celebrate the amazing achievements of the 11 individuals.

Squad 02/25 as they are collectively known, recently underwent a transformative journey and completed 14 weeks of rigorous training.

The Ceremony included the Parade of Recruits where they were joined by the Ceremonial Colour Party, an Inspection of the Recruits by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas, Chair of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor John Davies and Head of Training Delivery, Group Manager Stuart Bate.

Each Graduate will soon start their careers as Wholetime Firefighters in their designated Fire Station. Everyone at MAWWFRS congratulates each of them and wishes them long and successful careers.

FULL ARTICLE



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS

**“BEING AN
ON-CALL
FIREFIGHTER
HAS CHANGED
MY LIFE... I LOVE
EVERY MINUTE
OF IT!”**



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: FIREFIGHTER DEWI MORGANS

Dewi protects his local community as an On-Call Firefighter at Aberaeron Fire Station, as well as a Wholetime Firefighter at Aberystwyth Fire Station.

[In this video](#), Dewi shares his experiences of working as an On-Call Firefighter and what he's gained from the role.

Our new On-Call Firefighter banding system offers greater flexibility, better pay and opportunities for personal development. Interested in learning more about becoming an on call firefighter? click on the 'full article'



FULL ARTICLE



HQ OPEN DAY

OPEN DAY SUCCESS AT CARMARTHEN FIRE STATION AND HQ

On Friday 22nd of August, we were delighted to welcome hundreds of people from the community to Carmarthen Fire Station and Service Headquarters for our Open Day.

The day was a great success, with families and friends enjoying a range of activities. Live demonstrations included RTC demonstrations, chip pan demonstrations and a pump display. We were also pleased to welcome our friends from the Firefighter Fitness Challenge, who held sessions throughout the day to showcase the skills involved in the competition, while also encouraging others to take part.

There were plenty of educational opportunities for both children and adults, including sprinkler system demonstrations, wildfire awareness and advice on electrical safety in the home.

All donations raised from ice cream sales, games, raffle tickets and event participation went to the Fire Fighters Charity, which provides essential support to fire personnel in difficult times.

We would like to thank everyone who attended, took part, and donated. Contributing to making the day a success.

A special thanks also goes to our friends across other services who attended and participated in the Open Day and to all the local businesses who donated raffle prizes.

**Thanks to everyone's
generosity, the event
raised a fantastic
£5,246.**





MORE THAN JUST FIRES 2025

MORE THAN JUST FIRES AWARDS 2025

On Thursday, September 25th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service hosted its annual More Than Just Fires Awards at Parc Y Scarlets in Llanelli.

The evening was hosted by beloved broadcaster Eleri Siôn best known for her warmth and energy on BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Cymru and S4C. The night was a special opportunity to give thanks and recognition to the remarkable efforts, hard work and dedication by Service staff over the last 12 months.

The ceremony included a total of 10 award categories made up of nominees who had been chosen by their colleagues. It included an award

for Community Champion, Top Fundraiser and the Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Award, to name but a few.

Speaking during the ceremony, CFO Roger Thomas KFSM said:

"Tonight is about celebration and recognition - a chance to acknowledge the incredible dedication, bravery, and service of our teams and individuals who go above and beyond to protect our communities."

"From wildfires to rescue operations, to community safety initiatives - the work of our Service extends far beyond fighting fires and we are here to recognise that broader mission tonight."



THE WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS



Community Champion Award

The first award for Community Champion went to Crew Manager Steven Richards for his courageous response to a medical emergency near his home. Steven has since championed bleed control awareness, installing bleed control kits at Llanelli Fire Station and the Llanelli Masonic Hall.

Also shortlisted were Firefighter James Boyle of Swansea West Fire Station and Firefighter Douglas Preece of Presteigne Fire Station



Top Fundraiser Award

The Top Fundraiser Award went to the crew at Presteigne Fire Station for their exceptional commitment to fundraising – raising over £6,700 in 2024 for [the Fire Fighters Charity](#) and over £3,000 in 2025 for local suicide prevention charities.

Also shortlisted were Firefighter Rhys Fitzgerald of Kidwelly Fire Station and the Blue Watch Crew from Neath Fire Station.



Outstanding Teamwork Award

The Pensions Team won this category, recognising their resilience and dedication in navigating complex pension changes. A small team who've supported staff with clarity and care through decades of legislation.

Also shortlisted were the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) team Training and Delivery Team, Hydrant Team and Education Team.





Unsung Hero Award

The fourth award of the evening went to Medical Response Officer Steven Jarvis who behind the scenes has worked towards expanding the service's medical response capabilities to 39 stations across the Service area.

Also shortlisted were Station Manager Claire Powis from Joint Fire Control, Community Fire Safety Lead Practitioner Danny Lewis and Watch Manager Kevin Bassett.



Excellence in Service Award

The Excellence in Service Award went to three deserving individuals – Station Manager Stephen Griffiths, EVOTIX-Assure Coordinator Ffion James and Watch Manager Eifion Rees.

Pictured is Head of Corporate Risk, Alex Roberts, who accepted the award for Ffion James, who was unable to attend.



Health and Wellbeing Champion Award

The award for the Health and Wellbeing champion went to Haverfordwest Fire Station for their Wellbeing Garden. Recognised for their creativity and commitment to wellbeing. A team that transformed a patch of grass into a vibrant garden – built in their own time to support staff wellness, encourage wildlife, and bring joy to the station.

Also shortlisted were the Health and Wellbeing Podcast Team and Station Manager Simon Pearson.





Western Division Excellence Award

The award for Western Division Excellence went to Kidwelly Fire Station for their outstanding teamwork, professionalism and commitment to their community.

Also nominated were Llandeilo Fire Station and Pembroke Dock Fire Station.



Southern Division Excellence Award

The award for Southern Division Excellence went to Seven Sisters Fire Station who have shown continuous support to their community with two decades of support for the Fire Cadets programme.

Also nominated were the White Watch crew from Port Talbot Fire Station and Amman Valley Fire Station.



Northern Division Excellence Award

The award for Northern Division Excellence went to Tregaron Fire Station recognised for their professionalism, compassion, and strong community spirit. Their overnight response to the Hafod Estate wildfire and their care during a recent cardiac arrest incident reflect the crew's selfless service and deep-rooted values.

Also nominated were Crickhowell Fire Station and Machynlleth Fire Station.



Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Awards

The final award category of the evening was the Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Award. This award is a testament to the extraordinary individuals and teams who, through their exceptional bravery, tireless dedication, and unwavering commitment, not only enhance our Service but also positively represent us in the community.



UK-ISAR Team

The United Kingdom International Search and Rescue Team is on call 24/7, 365 days a year and are ready to respond to humanitarian disasters across the globe. Since 1992, the team has been deployed to major incidents in countries including Turkey, Haiti, Nepal, and most recently, Morocco, following the devastating 2023 earthquake on Al Haouz Province.



Amman Valley Fire Station

In the face of an unimaginable emergency, the crew from Amman Valley Fire Station displayed extraordinary courage, compassion and professionalism. Responding to a maternal cardiac arrest, they supported crews from the Emergency Medical Retrieval, Transfer Service and The Welsh Ambulance Service Trust in performing an emergency caesarean section on scene. Their calm and decisive actions helped save the life of a newborn child.

Station Manager Bleddyn Rees is also recognised for his exceptional leadership and unwavering support he provided his crew during and after the incident.

As the evening came to a close, it was evident that More Than Just Fires is far more than an awards ceremony - it's a heartfelt tribute to the people who make Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service truly exceptional. From acts of bravery to quiet moments of compassion, each story shared was a powerful reflection of the Service's deep-rooted commitment to its communities. Our sincere thanks go to all the nominees, winners, and those who support them - your dedication continues to inspire us all.





PIECE OF FIREFIGHTING HISTORY PUT ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

On Monday, August 11th, a presentation was held at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) Headquarters in Carmarthen, to unveil a recently restored hand operated firefighting pump.

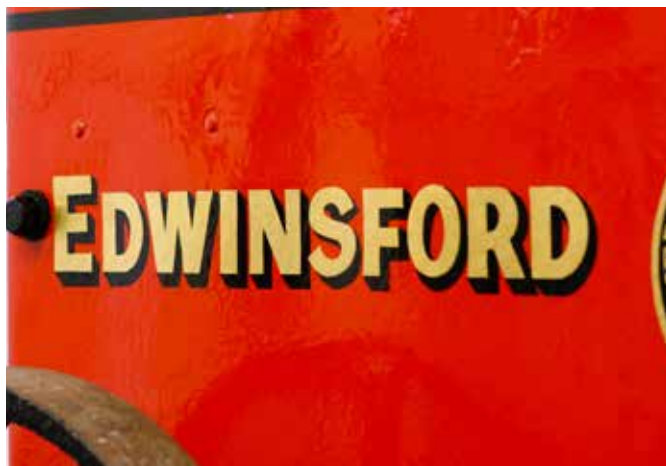
Over the past few months, work has been undertaken to restore an historic Merryweather & Sons hand operated firefighting pump, after it had been stored in an outbuilding for almost 40 years.

The Merryweather four-person hand pump was commissioned in 1906 by Lord Drummond of Edwinsford Mansion, near Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. The pump was procured following a serious haybarn fire on the Edwinsford Estate the previous year.

The pump has been carefully restored by former MAWWFRS Officer, Rob Rayner, and is kindly on-loan to MAWWFRS by its owners, retired Dyfed Fire Brigade Officers Eric Barnes, Arwel Fowler, Donwy Williams and Dyfrig Williams. The pump now takes pride of place in MAWWFRS's Conference Centre, where it will remain on permanent display as a historical exhibit

FULL ARTICLE



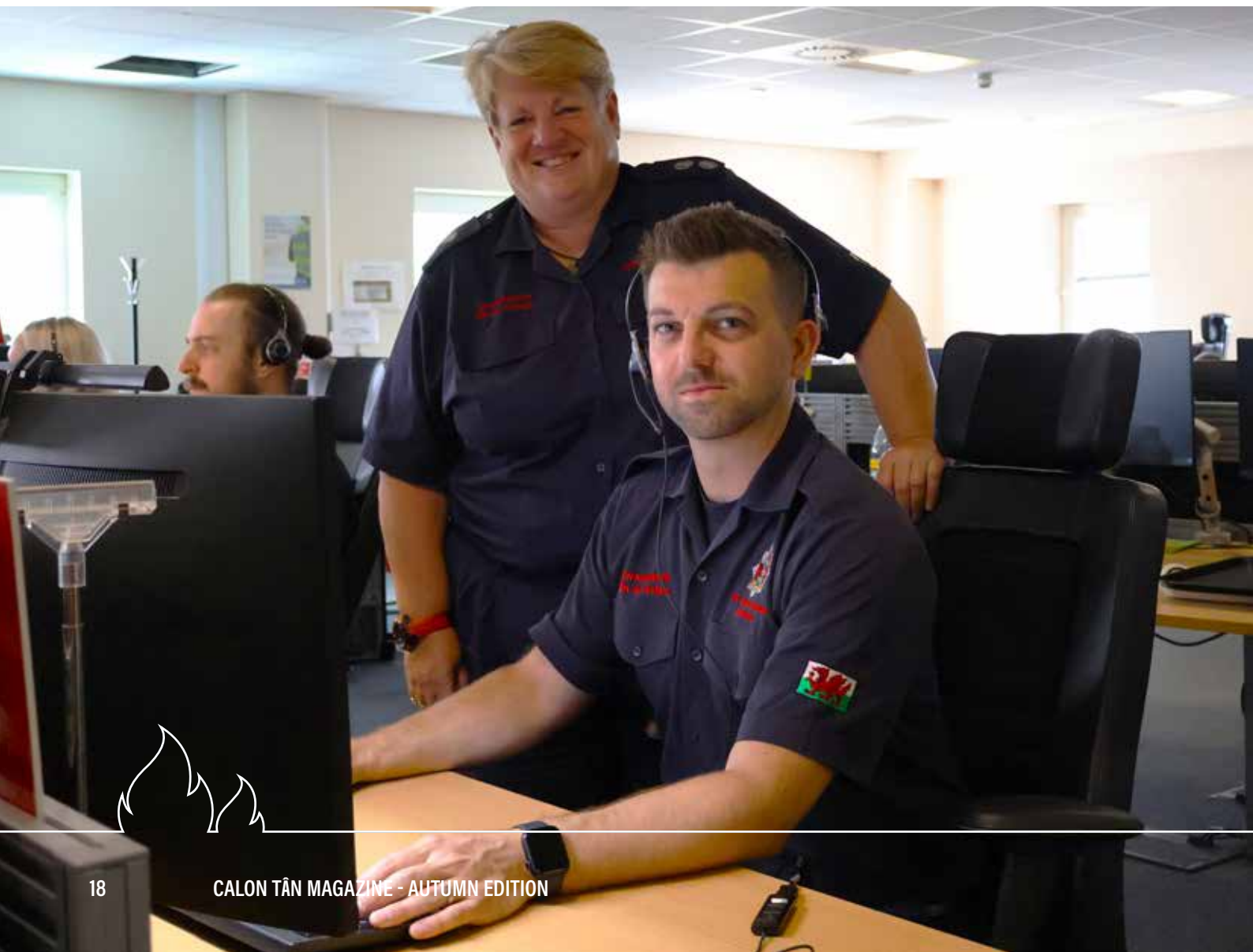


FRENCH FAMILY ASSISTED BY CONTROL CENTRE FIREFIGHTERS

In May 2025, the Joint Fire Control Centre in Bridgend, which is responsible for dealing with emergency calls for both Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, received a call from a French family in distress.

Thanks to the seamless collaboration between Control Firefighter Chris Morris and Crew Manager Caroline Hughes, the team was able to respond swiftly and effectively. Caroline, who is fluent in French, was able to communicate directly with the caller and establish that the child had sustained a laceration to his head.

FULL ARTICLE



BECOME A MEMBER OF MAWWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TODAY!

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has its own Sports and Social Club. If you are a current or retired member of the Service, you are welcome to join.

The Sports and Social Club is a platform for keeping active, socialising, and having fun. Currently it consists of a variety of sections that you can join, including:



These are the official Sports and Social club section logos – for any logo enquires please contact our graphics team

We are fully supportive of starting new sections, so if you don't see a sport or social activity that you enjoy, why not get in touch, and start your own section.

Be a part of the Sports and Social Club for just £2 a month, assist with the running of all our sections. For more information on how to join, please email Steven Philpot - s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk



WORK WITH US!

When people think of a career in the Fire and Rescue Service, they tend to think of Firefighters responding to emergency incidents, but it's not just Firefighters who make Mid and West Wales a safer place.

Behind the operational scene, the Service has a large range of other posts within different departments which are either office based or in our workshops, and we employ people in professional, technical, and administrative roles.

Benefits

- Competitive rates of pay - recently reviewed to ensure fairness across all roles; with annual increments to the top of your salary band, as you build knowledge and experience.
- Local Government Pension scheme - A generous pension scheme, with the Service making a substantial contribution (currently 15.2%) to funding your retirement, as well as the option to increase your benefits by purchasing additional pension or investing in Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC).
- Generous Annual leave – 26 Days plus bank holidays, going up to 33 days after 5 years employment.
- Flexi Scheme – Opportunity to flex your working hours to help accommodate life outside of work.
- Access to Blue Light Card discount scheme
- Car Leasing Salary Sacrifice scheme
- Let's Connect IT equipment loan scheme
- Sports and Social Club
- Firefighters Charity
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Staff Discount scheme
- Health and Wellbeing

VIEW CURRENT VACANCIES >



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS – WE NEED YOU!



Do you live within 5-10 minutes of your local Fire Station?

We currently have On-Call firefighter vacancies – head over to our website to find out more!





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Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

#MwyNaDimOndTanau #MoreThanJustFires



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