

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 28 June 2021

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Steve Healey, Director of Service Delivery

Tel: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of Community Safety activities and incidents of operational interest across the 14 district / unitary authorities.

Furthermore, the report provides an overview of the ongoing Service support to Covid-19 pandemic response.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

Information

Included as Appendix 1 are detailed reports relating to activity undertaken within the 14 Lancashire districts / unitary authority areas.

This report covers the period April 2021 – May 2021

1. Summary:

Community Safety

1.1 Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) has continued to deliver against our prevention agenda on a risk assessed basis. The Service has made use of digital technology and adapted working practices to ensure our communities continue to receive a high level of service. On 17 May, after careful preparation, various prevention activities were reintroduced across both our community safety teams and operational crews, all subject to ongoing review:

- Control measures, personal protective equipment and training was put in place to allow for Home Fire Safety Check visits (incorporating Safe and Well) to be delivered in people's homes. This is our core prevention product and aligned to the government road map. During the pandemic our community safety teams delivered a modified version of the visit to ensure that risk was still addressed and the necessary equipment provided to keep our communities safe.

- Prince's Trust teams have started their final programmes of the academic year, this includes the hundredth team to be run from Blackburn.
- Fire Cadet units have started to meet up again and are preparing for recruitment for the coming year, as well as celebrating the achievements of the young people over the last year.
- A Service-wide water safety campaign was launched to align with the National Fire Chiefs Council 'Be Water Aware' campaign. This has involved a digital assembly offer to all schools in Lancashire, partnership work at local hot spots for water incidents, new posters created to be displayed at hot spot locations, local radio interviews and a presence on several social media platforms.
- A Service-wide wildfire campaign is ongoing to encourage people to look after our countryside, sites of special scientific interest (SSSI), areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) and the fresh water supplies of the county. This has involved a great deal of partnership working, presence at known hot spots to increase awareness and targeting messaging through social media platforms.
- The incident involving composite fencing in Blackburn with Darwen was subject to a comprehensive follow up across Prevention, Protection and Response personnel. This involved an onward referral to the Building Research Establishment, extensive partner communication to raise awareness of certain types of composite materials, consequences for the various organisations and what they should do and sharing the learning nationally through National Operational Learning.

Covid-19

LFRS continues to support the national pandemic response. As previously reported, LFRS was the first Fire and Rescue Service nationally to engage in the roll out of the vaccination programme. Locally, our firefighters, community safety staff and support staff have delivered some outstanding work in support of the national vaccination programme.

As at the end of March 2021, LFRS staff had supported the 5 mass vaccination sites (Blackburn, Blackpool, Lancaster, Burnley and Preston) and our staff assisted in the delivery of 187,000 vaccinations. 21,800 of these were injections delivered directly by LFRS staff.

Staff have also been widely involved in marshalling, administration and coordination at the centres. The Service has received wide ranging praise from members of our communities. There are currently 309 LFRS volunteers and 33 staff repurposed full time to assisting with the vaccination program.

Internally, the health and safety of staff has been a continued priority and the ability to roll out Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) arrangements across our sites was an early ambition. LFT is now in place across all Service locations and integrated into working practices to ensure our staff, their families and our communities can be as safe as possible during this pandemic.

- 1.2 **Operational Incidents of note:** The following summarises the operational incidents of note over the period. Further detail is provided in Appendix 1.

- Gas explosion in Heysham, several casualties rescued, 1 fatality.
- 10 pump fire in derelict nightclub, Preston, with persons reported within the building.
- Large fire involving several houses and composite fencing, Blackburn.
- Derelict industrial unit on fire containing illegal waste in Oswaldtwisle, Hyndburn.
- Fire in disused waste recycling yard, Blackburn.
- Fire involving a row of shops with persons reported in Leyland.
- 8 pump derelict mill fire in Chorley.
- 6 pump fire at a Chinese Takeaway on fire in Blackpool.
- 6 pump commercial garage fire with 1 fatality.

Business Risk

N/A

Environmental Impact

Potential impact on local environment in relation to operational incidents. Several significant incidents benefitted from the attendance of specialist water tower resources (Stingers) which made a positive impact on firefighting operations and reduced environmental impacts.

Equality and Diversity implications

N/A

Financial Implications

N/A

HR Implications

N/A

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

REPORTING PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2021 – MARCH 2021

NORTHERN AREA (Lancaster and Wyre Districts)

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Area Command Overview:	Northern Area
Campaign:	
Activities (brief details):	
<p><u>Wyre District</u></p> <p>Having received a referral for a Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC), a subsequent telephone call was made by a Community Safety Advisor (CSA).</p> <p>During the initial call, the CSA became aware of issues having a detrimental effect on the mental health of this person. After more probing questions it was determined that this person had suffered a close and sudden bereavement in tremendously difficult circumstances, was under a huge amount of personal stress, in attempting to deal with grief and impending legal issues.</p> <p>After obtaining permission from the householder a referral was made to Lancashire Volunteer Partnership (LVP) befriending service. A volunteer was identified who possessed the necessary skills and knowledge to assist in this complex case.</p> <p>Following a routine follow up call it was established that LVP befriending service had made a huge impact on the health and wellbeing of this person encouraging them to become more active, giving advice on dealing with grief and impending legal issues, which has given them a structure to a very stressful period of their life.</p> <p><u>Lancaster District</u></p> <p>The Northern Community Safety Team were approached by the Fire Safety Manager for University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay (UHMB) regarding delivering fire safety awareness training to Community Based Hospital Teams.</p> <p>These teams cover an array of Health Professionals, for example District Nurses, Physiotherapists, and Occupational Health Nurses. The teams engage with vulnerable members of the community who may have been recently discharged from hospital or are receiving treatment in the home.</p> <p>A Community Fire Safety presentation was delivered over Microsoft Teams by two Community Safety Advisors (CSA), one delivered the presentation, which then enabled the other CSA to use the chat function to answer any questions.</p>	

The presentation was attended by approximately 30 Health Professionals, included was a dedicated and detailed slide of the referral pathway to be followed. The aim was to generate referrals for vulnerable members of the community, who may not have made a referral themselves.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Northern Area - Lancaster
Incident Type:	Explosion
Date:	16/05/2021
Time of Call:	02:40
Incident Details:	
<p>An explosion occurred within a property on Mallowdale Avenue, Heysham. This subsequently caused the collapse of 3 properties trapping several residents. Firefighters, Police and North West Ambulance Service staff worked to locate, free and treat the casualties. In total there were 7 people involved in the collapse, with 2 being critically injured and 1 person killed. A major incident was declared and 10 fire engines, command unit, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), search dogs comprising of both live search, fire investigation and cadaver dogs from 3 counties and Incident Intelligence Officers were involved.</p> <p>Firefighters worked under arduous conditions for over 3 hours to rescue several casualties trapped by rubble. They were able to usher the residents away from the risk area, whilst reassuring them that fire service would do all they could to rescue and care for their neighbours and friends. The fact that the crews knew they were entering a dangerous risk area, with potential to cause serious harm and injury to them, is credit to their commitment to the communities they serve.</p> <p>The initial crews went about the tasks they were given with calmness, control, professionalism, and determination and rescued three casualties quickly.</p> <p>USAR has worked tirelessly post incident in aiding Police and gas experts, in the collection of evidence within the hazardous environment.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Northern Area - Lancaster
Incident Type:	Barn fire
Date:	12/04/2021
Time of Call:	06:34
Incident Details:	
<p>The Service was mobilised to Gulf Lane, Cockerham, the nature at the time of the call was two outbuildings on fire. This was a fire involving straw, silage, and hay (baled and loose) within a barn measuring approximately 40m x 70m. In one section of the barn the fire was located on top of a metal drying floor, with a biomass boiler within the premises, which was not affected by the fire. Crews utilised water pumped from nearby fisheries to supply five fire-fighting jets. Two tele-handler tractors were utilised to assist with firefighting, by removing the contents of the barn to gain access and to extinguish the fire. The roof within the barn was confirmed to be asbestos and was subject to a risk assessment by the Hazardous Materials officer.</p> <p>The likely cause of the incident following the fire investigation was sparks caused by farm machinery, which ignited straw bales. The extent of the damage was severe by fire to 10m x 10m section of the roofing within the barn and severe by fire to approximately 100 tonnes of straw, silage, and hay.</p> <p>At the height of this incident there was 6 x Fire Engines, 1 x Aerial Ladder Platform, 1 x Hose Layer Unit with heavy duty pump, 1 x air support unit - drone, 2 x Flexible Duty Officers, one of which was a Hazardous Materials Officer, along with a Command Unit.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Northern Area - Wyre
Incident Type:	Special Service call
Date:	11/04/2021
Time of Call:	20:26hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Two fire engines from Fleetwood were mobilised to a multiple car collision. It was initially believed that 4 people were trapped, however on arrival it became apparent that no persons were trapped, but eyewitness reported seeing 4 youths running from the scene of the accident, which was passed onto the Police. Crews made the scene safe, isolated the car batteries, prevented fuel and oil run off into the drains and surveyed damage to the garden walls nearby. The crews carried out welfare checks of the residents who reside at these properties.</p>	

Whilst crews were in attendance a member of the public offered their CCTV footage as their camera was positioned in view of the incident. When crews entered the house, it was discovered that the elderly occupant was living alone, had no smoke alarms and was hoarding a large quantity of paper throughout the property. Smoke alarms were fitted inside the property. Community Fire Safety were notified of this incident and a more in depth 'Safe and Well' visit was conducted the day after.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Northern Area - Wyre
Incident Type:	Special Service Call
Date:	11/05/2021
Time of Call:	09:23
Incident Details: Tram Incident	
<p>This incident involved a tram that had collided with a transit van on a tram line level crossing. Both Fire Engines from Fleetwood were mobilised to this incident. Damage was sustained to the tram and van, with traffic lights also knocked over during the collision.</p> <p>The officer in charge requested that the overhead electrical cables were isolated before any staff approached the tram. The tram had sustained a significant damage to the front and nearside section. Police and paramedics were requested to attend the scene.</p> <p>The driver of the tram was treated at the scene by medics but was not conveyed to hospital. Fire Service Staff checked on the medical condition of the passengers and assisted them from the damaged tram. Once the scene had been made safe and all passengers medically checked, the fire service staff handed the scene over to the Police for accident investigation.</p>	

EASTERN AREA (Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley)

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Area Command Overview:	Eastern Area
Campaign:	Cooking Safety through Ramadan and Garden Safety
Activities (brief details):	
<p>Due to Covid restrictions the 'Eastern Cooking Safely through Ramadan' campaign was restricted to using digital Microsoft Teams and Zoom, to broadcast our safety messages via the Lancashire Council of Mosques.</p> <p>Community Safety Advisors also used local community radio to highlight hot oil cooking issues and loose clothing across Eastern Lancashire.</p> <p>Supplementing this, many staff from Eastern area also took part in "I am not a Muslim – but I am fasting for a day", which also reached out via social media and appeared on the front-page slide show of our LFRS website.</p> <p>Following the composite fencing incident in Blackburn, the Community Fire Safety Team and operational crews quickly followed up the emergency phase of the incident with a 2-day reassurance leafleting campaign, highlighting barbeque, bonfire and garden safety. Operational crews also conducted environment visual audits and reported hazards to Blackburn with Darwen council for removal.</p> <p>A joint community clean-up day with Together Housing Group, enabling residents to ask safety related questions and dispose of bulky items from back gardens has taken place at the end of May.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Eastern Area – Blackburn with Darwen
Date:	25/04/2021
Time of Call:	17:30
Incident Details:	
<p>Initially this incident was reported as a small fire in the open, however, on route the attendance was increased due to the volume of smoke and quantity of calls being received by North West Fire Control (NWFC).</p> <p>Upon arrival at the incident the first attending appliance was presented with a large well-developed fire that consisted of composite fence panels, garden furniture and outbuildings. The crew's initial actions were to apply water from the rear of the affected properties to stop the fire spreading any further along the composite fence</p>	

panels. The second fire appliance in attendance attacked the fire from the front of the properties using firefighting jets to control the fire, protect the houses and reduce further damage.

Crews were deployed wearing Breathing Apparatus to search affected properties and no casualties were located. The Aerial Ladder Platform and Stinger were used to extinguish the fire from an aerial vantage.

The incident consisted of 8 fire engines, 1 Aerial Ladder Platform, 1 Stinger and the Command Support Unit.

The cause was confirmed as an occupier of one of the properties emptying hot ashes from a barbeque over their rear fence. The hot ash and embers subsequently set fire to composite fencing, causing rapid fire growth, involving approximately 100m of fencing. The radiated heat from the fencing severely damaged five properties and two purpose-built flats.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Eastern Area – Blackburn with Darwen
Date:	18/04/2021
Time of Call:	17:06
Incident Details:	
<p>Crews were mobilised to an abandoned recycling plant, which has been subject to numerous large fires over the last few years. It quickly became apparent that this incident involved large amounts of plastic waste (approximately 500 tonnes) left by the owners and over time, security had become compromised.</p> <p>Crews utilised 4 Breathing Apparatus wearers with 2 fire-fighting jets and the Stinger water tower supported by the High-Volume Pump to bring the fire under control. Issues relating to contaminated water running into the canal were reported to the Environment Agency and United Utilities. An external contractor was engaged to use an excavator to move the waste and enable firefighting procedures to be fully effective.</p> <p>Following this incident, the LFRS Waste Tactical Advisor, has liaised with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Environment Agency, jointly agreeing an action plan to prevent further incidents at this site.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Eastern Area - Hyndburn
Date:	06/05/2021
Time of Call:	17:55
Incident Details:	
<p>Crews were mobilised to a derelict mill which contains approximately 2500 tonnes of baled household waste. Crews with fire-fighting jets were initially deployed, however upon receipt of local information, breathing apparatus crews were</p>	

committed to carry out search and rescue activities in the basement, where a male casualty was located.

He left the scene before he could be medically assessed for any injuries. The Stinger water tower and fire-fighting jets were utilised to control the fire. The Drone carried out an aerial search of the scene, attempting to locate the male casualty and to provide an overview of the fire scene to the Operational Commander. A risk assessment by an LFRS Hazardous Materials Officer was also completed due to contaminated water entering a nearby water source. Operational Merlin was declared due to the potential for asbestos in the smoke plume.

The site has been subject to ongoing discussions with LFRS, Lancashire Police, Hyndburn Council and the Environment Agency, to agree an action plan with the owners. This team will continue to work towards a solution which is acceptable to all involved.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Eastern Area - Blackburn
Date:	24/04/2021
Time of Call:	18:36
Incident Details:	
<p>Crews from Blackburn Fire Station were mobilised to a car workshop on fire. On arrival crews reported that the 30m x 50m building was well alight, involving 16 cars, 1 forklift truck, with identified risks including acetylene, LPG cylinders and asbestos sheeting.</p> <p>The incident involved six fire engines, one aerial ladder platform and one stinger. Firefighters were engaged at the incident overnight to maintain cooling jets on the acetylene cylinders.</p> <p>One male fatality was found in the mezzanine area of the building, which was used as office space. An LFRS Incident Intelligence Officer and Lancashire Constabulary continue to work together to determine the cause of fire.</p>	

SOUTHERN AREA (Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire)

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Area Command Overview:	Southern Area
Campaign:	Various
Activities (brief details):	
<p>South Ribble: A community fire safety advisor joined up with the community safety team from Lancashire Police and South Ribble Council in the Lostock Hall area. The aim was to carry out an anti-social behaviour assessment, within a known problem area. LFRS staff aimed to establish key areas of concern around Fire Safety. This was a good example of collaborative working, sharing knowledge of how deliberate anti-social behaviour fires can spread, affecting both residential and commercial properties.</p>	
<p>West Lancashire: A Post Incident referral was made from operational crews to community fire safety teams following a 'late fire call' in the Skelmersdale area. A young person had set fire to bedding in a domestic property, as a result, the community team carried out a Fire Intervention Response Education Scheme (FIRES) referral with the young person and provided the family with key home fire safety information, along with additional smoke alarms for the property.</p>	
<p>Chorley: The community fire safety team have been involved with the review and development of the updated child safe package, going forward the package will be trialled and tested in selected primary schools and developed further, for a September roll-out.</p>	
<p>All Team Members: During the current Pandemic, the community safety team have continued to engage with our multi agency partners within South Ribble, Chorley and West Lancashire, generating referrals for home fire safety checks, for the vulnerable people in the communities.</p>	
<p>As an area there has been an increase in Fire Intervention Response Education Scheme (FIRES) referrals, which is targeted education for young people aged 4 – 17 who have engaged in fire play, fire setting/arson, hoax calls and attacks on fire service personnel. These referrals have generally focussed on setting fires in the open and misadventure with fire around the home. Currently we are managing 7 active referrals.</p>	
<p>The team have been involved with the delivery of the community safety training module to the apprentice firefighters at service training centre. There is continued support for the vaccination programme, with 4 members providing a minimum of 2 days per week at the centres.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Southern Area - West Lancashire
Date:	11.05.2021
Time of Call:	01:24
Incident Details:	
<p>Initially 2 fire engines along with a Flexible Duty Officer (FDO) were mobilised to reports of a house on fire in Skelmersdale. On arrival of the first fire crew, they observed the 1st floor and roof of a semi-detached house was ablaze, which was spreading to the adjacent property. It was recognised that additional fire service resources would be required to safely and effectively, deal with the situation.</p> <p>Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the building to fight the fire and to search the property for the occupiers who were reported to be inside. However, due to the intensity of the fire and concerns about the building's stability, fire crews had to be withdrawn from the building.</p> <p>Despite a thorough search of the property the Incident Commander was unable to confirm that there were no persons within the building. To gain that certainty, the attendance of a search dog was required. The LFRS Cadaver dog, gave the all-clear.</p> <p>In total, four fire engines from Skelmersdale (including a 'Stinger' appliance) and Wigan, with support from the Aerial Ladder Platform from Preston, two Flexible Duty Officers, a specialist fire investigation officer, a search dog plus handler attended to bring the fire to a successful conclusion.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Southern Area - Chorley
Date:	13.05.2021
Time of Call:	01:42
Incident Details:	
<p>Two fire engines from Chorley Fire Station mobilised to reports of a fire involving a derelict five storey mill in Chorley town centre. On arrival, the first fire crews found a fire on the 3rd floor, which was developing and spreading up towards the roof.</p> <p>Due to their local knowledge, the crews were aware the building was in a state of disrepair and that it would be very labour intensive to deal with the incident. They also knew the building was occasionally used as an overnight shelter by homeless persons.</p> <p>The incident was declared 'persons reported', and an additional six fire engines and an aerial ladder platform (ALP) were requested along with three Flexible Duty</p>	

Officers, a 'Command Unit' and Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection Officer (HMEPO). The role of the HMEPO was to assess the incident and the impact firefighting operations would have on the environment, and the implications for the presence of asbestos on the attending crews and members of the public.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the building to fight the fire and to search the property for anybody inside. However, due to the complex internal layout and areas of unsafe structure, the Incident Commander requested the attendance of a specialist search dog, to assist in identifying the presence of any persons involved. The resulting search confirmed no persons were inside.

In total, eight fire engines from across the county supported by an aerial appliance from Preston, a command unit from Blackburn, four flexible duty officers, a fire investigation officer, and a search dog plus handler attended to bring the fire under control and resolve the incident. Crews were in attendance for just over thirteen hours before finally declaring the fire as being extinguished and handing responsibility for the building back to the owner. Specialist Fire Protection officers and the local fire station manager are liaising with the building's owner and the Local Authority, to ensure appropriate measures are put in place to prevent any further fires at the address.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Southern Area - South Ribble
Date:	20.05.2021
Time of Call:	00:22
Incident Details:	
<p>North West Fire Control (NWFC) received a 999-call indicating that there was a building fire in the Towngate area of Leyland. As the caller provided information to suggest the fire was in a commercial building, NWFC mobilised a 4 fire engine 'pre-determined attendance', which saw fire engines, from Leyland, Bamber Bridge and Penwortham along with the nearest Flexible Duty Officer being dispatched.</p> <p>On arrival, the first fire crews found a ground floor retail unit 'well alight', with the fire spreading to 2 further shops and into occupied residential flats located above. Other shops and flats were also affected by smoke. To ensure adequate resources were available at the scene, a further four 4 engines, a specialist 'stinger' appliance, and an aerial ladder platform were requested. To support the incident a Control Unit, a drone and a Hazardous Materials and Environmental Protection officer were also mobilised. Cognisant that persons may be involved in the fire, the Incident Commander declared the fire to be persons reported.</p> <p>Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus undertook a systematic search of the properties affected by this incident. In total 7 casualties were assessed and treated at the scene for smoke inhalation by North West Ambulance Service. One casualty also suffering from smoke inhalation, was taken to hospital for further assessment.</p>	

Operational Crews remained in attendance for approximately 17 hours, initially firefighting, but as the day progressed, supporting the various investigations being undertaken by both the Service and Lancashire Constabulary.

WESTERN AREA (Blackpool and Fylde Districts)

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Western Area
Campaign:	Anti-Social behaviour Brunswick Ward
Activities (brief details):	<p>Following a spate of anti-social behaviour fires within the Brunswick Ward, specifically Gorton and Counce Street, the Western prevention team embarked on a multi-agency campaign in response to the incidents.</p> <p>The prevention team created an action plan, with a co-ordinated response to the ASB activity and have carried out subsequent planning meetings. Liaison has taken place with Lancashire Constabulary, to arrange joint visits within the area, providing a visual presence. The team have also been working with Blackpool Council in relation to the CCTV cameras in the area, informing of hotspots that require attention.</p> <p>The Western prevention team have engaged with partners, such as the Families in Need team, offering assistance with youth/family interventions, including fire safety, delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks and fire reduction strategies.</p> <p>Western Area operational crews have also been supporting the team by conducting environmental visual audits in the area, reporting findings to Blackpool Council.</p> <p>Vaccination Response –</p> <p>The Western Area prevention team have continued to support the vaccination response to the Covid-19 pandemic at the Blackpool Winter Gardens.</p>

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Western Area – Blackpool
Date:	22.04.21
Time of Call:	05:24
Incident Details:	
<p>Four fire engines were mobilised to a commercial fire in a large warehouse on Squires Gate Industrial Estate. Crews were met with a large amount of smoke issuing from the roof of the premises, prompting a request for a further 6 fire engines and an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP).</p> <p>Access was gained to the building via a roller shutter door using the power saw, which enabled a breathing apparatus team to enter with a hose reel and thermal imaging camera. The ALP was set up initially as an observation point for the top of the building, but also available as a water tower if required.</p> <p>The fire was brought under control, preventing fire spread to the surrounding bales of recycled waste. The cause of the fire was identified as an electrical wiring fault in the control panel of a large bailing machine. The external electricity supply was isolated making the building safe and to prevent any further issues. The Environment Agency were made aware of the incident due to the large amounts of recycled waste on site and the wider effects this could have on other businesses/the local community.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Western Area – Blackpool
Date:	21/04/2021
Time of Call:	14:39
Incident Details:	
<p>Following repeat calls to a commercial building fire involving a Chinese takeaway, four pumps were mobilised to the address. Upon arrival and noting the severity of the fire, the Crew Manager initially in charge requested the attendance of a further two fire engines.</p> <p>The seat of the fire involved a commercial frying range within the takeaway. Six firefighters were deployed into the property with firefighting jets and breathing apparatus. When inside the property, the firefighters established that the ventilation ducting from the range had carried heat and smoke into a nearby storeroom, subsequently engulfing the entire room. The fire was quickly extinguished, preventing serious damage to the upstairs domestic flat.</p> <p>The domestic flat on the upper floors of the property was searched and it was noted that a quantity of smoke had entered the property, which was due to</p>	

inadequate fire separation. As a result, a fire safety inspector was notified due to these fire safety concerns.

Smoke was cleared from the property using ventilation units and the scene was made safe.

Following the fire, firefighters fitted several smoke detectors into the flat, which would enable the occupants of the flat to return with safety measures in place, should another fire occur.

In total seven pumping appliances and the command unit attended the incident.

CENTRAL AREA (Preston District)

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Area Command Overview:	Central Area
Campaign:	Water Safety - Incorporates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NFCC Be Water Aware – Drowning Prevention and Water Safety Week (26 April – 3 May 2021)• Royal Life Saving Society's Drowning Prevention Week (19 – 26 June 2021)
Activities (brief details):	
<p>Work has been carried out within Central Area to support the NFCC water safety initiative. This has been a coordinated piece of work with support from prevention support, Central community fire safety (CFS)/operational crews and corporate communications department.</p> <p>Literature from the LFRS virtual library has been shared with all local partnerships/community groups and distributed through the community safety partnership, for inclusion on the Lancashire schools portal. In addition, posters have been displayed in identified local hotspots to provide education and raise awareness.</p> <p>Central CFS staff have been contacting local schools with the offer of logging on to a virtual session, providing education prior to the summer break and to coincide with the RLSS Drowning Prevention Week.</p> <p>Vaccination Assistance/Core Prevention Work –</p> <p>CFS staff have continued to support the mass vaccination sites in Blackburn and Burnley, whilst also encouraging the local community within Burnley to attend the Jinnah Centre for their COVID vaccinations. Feedback from the community has</p>	

been extremely positive and well received and this has resulted in an uplift in the number of local vaccinations.

Central CFS staff have continued to deliver essential core work such as fire intervention visits, post fire home fire safety checks, community risk updates and attendance at all relevant virtual meetings. As lockdown restrictions begin to ease, plans are in place to recommence external care provider training, which is essential for keeping vulnerable members of the community safe.

Eid Celebrations –

CFS Staff from Central/Eastern have been able to provide essential safety information for this year's Eid Celebrations including road safety, cooking safety and general fire safety advice. This was delivered through a local Lancashire radio station and was well received by the community.

Further local safety initiatives will also be programmed within the Central Area Mosques, to coincide with the lifting of the national lockdown. Information will be provided in future reports.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Central Area – Preston
Date:	1/5/2021
Time of Call:	02:13hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Four fire engines were mobilised to reports of smoke issuing from an unoccupied nightclub, measuring 50m x 80m.</p> <p>The initial four crews recognised the need for additional resources and requested an additional six fire engines, a Stinger and an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP), to ensure that the fire did not spread to adjoining buildings. Two Station Managers, one Group Manager and the Command Unit also attended.</p> <p>The incident was made persons reported due to witnesses stating that they often see a male up on the roof area. The building had a complex layout with crews having to gain entry from several points to locate the seat of the fire and to ensure that all areas had been searched.</p> <p>The LFRS drone helped identify the seat of the fire utilising its thermal imaging camera, which was also utilised to search the roof area where the male had been reported. The stinger was set up to prevent the fire spreading to neighbouring buildings, which were in close proximity within the city centre location, whilst the ALP was used as a working platform.</p> <p>The incident was scaled back to two fire engines and one ALP at 05:15hrs.</p>	

LFRS worked closely with partner agencies at the scene throughout the incident. The police maintained the road closure and the outer cordon; Cadent and Electricity North West both attended, to make the gas and electric safe, due to meter bypasses from the adjoining unoccupied public house.

The LFRS cadaver dog was utilised to search the sections of the building that was deemed unsafe for personnel to enter. A multi-agency decision was made that all possible avenues had been exhausted and “all persons were accounted for” was declared at 14:03hrs, with crews remaining in attendance until 17:07hrs.

Prevention and protection teams have worked with Preston City Council, to help ensure that the building remains secure. Protection teams have continued to work with the building owners due to concerns about compartmentation issues caused by squatters. Prevention team leaders are working with the Preston Community Safety Partnership regarding the security of the unoccupied buildings and squatters within the area.

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Central Area – Preston
Date:	29/4/2021
Time of Call:	18:45 hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Two fire engines were mobilised to a fire in an unoccupied former restaurant measuring 70m by 20m. Due to the severity of the fire, the crews quickly requested an additional two fire appliances and an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP).</p> <p>Early decisive firefighting tactics prevented the roof from becoming fully involved in fire. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus were deployed into the building with firefighting jets, with the ALP being deployed as a safe working platform to gain access to the roof.</p> <p>Crews remained on scene until 22:03hrs.</p> <p>Due to the condition of the building, Preston City Council have used their legal powers (under Section 78 of the Building Act 1984) to ensure the danger is removed as soon as possible, by requesting that the building is demolished. Fencing has been erected around the site, with security also put in place until the site work has been completed.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Central Area – Preston
Date:	07/05/21
Time of Call:	16.46hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Three fire engines and the boat from Preston were called to an incident involving a male in a reservoir in Longridge. On arrival at the incident several Police units, Police Air support Unit and North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) were already on scene.</p> <p>The briefing from the Police Sergeant, stated that a male had committed an assault and when police had arrived on scene, produced a knife then made off through the nearby fields. He then stripped down to his underwear and jumped into the reservoir.</p> <p>Initial priorities included confirmation as to whether the male still had the knife, the length of time the male had been in the water and if at any time he had disappeared under the water and out of sight. The officer in charge of the incident initiated the launching of the Boat and Swift Water Rescue Technicians (SRT) crews to carry out a snatch rescue of the casualty, with two boat trained Police Officers to restrain the casualty.</p> <p>A cordon was established around the perimeter of the reservoir with two further SRT operatives in full SRT kit inside the cordon ready to receive the casualty on return to the bank. The boat was deployed with two SRT/Boat operatives and two Boat trained Police Officers.</p> <p>The casualty was pulled from the water and placed in handcuffs and returned to the bank, where two SRT operatives escorted the male to the waiting police officers. He was then assessed by NWAS Paramedics before being placed under arrest.</p> <p>A multi-agency debrief was held on conclusion of the incident and learning points were highlighted and discussed. The incident highlighted the benefits of a multi-agency approach and how working together and good communications can lead to a successful outcome to an incident.</p>	

PENNINE AREA

COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Area Command Overview:	Pennine Area
Campaign:	
Activities (brief details):	
<p>Fire crews from Burnley attended a deliberate fire involving waste. On investigation the property nearest to the fire was occupied by a person with severe hoarding tendencies. Within the yard of the house, there were household items several metres deep. If ignited this would likely spread to the property and other adjoining houses, with the potential for significant damage.</p> <p>On returning to the station, crews discussed the incident with the community fire safety department. This was followed up by a Home Fire Safety Check and a referral to the environmental health team. The owner had extreme hoarding issues and the house was dangerously loaded with items, which could contribute to a fire quickly developing. The Service is now working closely with multi-disciplinary teams, including the district council and landlord. This was a good example of operational fire crews, whilst attending an incident, recognising potential issues whilst carrying out an environmental visual audit at the scene.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Pennine Area - Burnley
Date:	15/04/2021
Time of Call:	08:06hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Two fire engines from Burnley were mobilised to a road traffic collision on the Long Causeway, Cliviger, Burnley. The incident involved one car and one van, with one male casualty in each vehicle.</p> <p>LFRS fire engines arrived just after the Police and Ambulance, and a multi-agency meeting took place to agree priorities as is normal practice. North West Ambulance Service took the lead on casualty care of both occupants, who were still within their respective vehicles. Firefighters utilised cutting equipment to remove the door of one vehicle, whilst using other techniques to create space in the second vehicle.</p> <p>Both casualties were successfully released and taken to hospital for a precautionary check-up.</p>	

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	Pennine Area - Rossendale
Date:	25/04/2021
Time of Call:	11:40 hrs
Incident Details:	
<p>Two fire engines from Bacup assisted with a large house fire involving three terraced houses well alight. This incident was over the border into West Yorkshire and was also attended by a crew from Todmorden (West Yorkshire FRS) and one from Littleborough (Greater Manchester FRS).</p> <p>The fire had started in the middle-terraced property and quickly spread into the adjacent properties. Firefighters used breathing apparatus to enter the houses either side and quickly extinguished the fire, limiting the damage.</p> <p>The cause of the fire is being investigated by West Yorkshire FRS fire investigators but is not believed to be suspicious.</p>	