

## LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 13 September 2021

### OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS OF INTEREST

Contact for further information:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Steve Healey, Director of Service Delivery

Tel: 01772 866801

*Table 1 Executive Summary and Recommendations*

#### **Executive Summary**

The report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of note since the last report to the Authority.

An accompanying presentation will be provided to explain one of the incidents in more detail.

#### **Recommendation**

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

#### **Information**

The report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of note over the period from 1 June 2021 – 31 August 2021.

The following summarises the operational incidents of note over the period. Further detail is provided over the following pages:

- 6 pump fire involving a primary school in Ormskirk;
- 5 pump fire involving a nursery school in Bamber Bridge;
- 9 pump commercial building fire in Blackburn (Presentation to CFA);
- Fatal domestic dwelling fire in Morecambe;
- 8 pump commercial building fire in Poulton;
- Rescue of casualty from cliff in Rossendale;
- 10 pump commercial building fire in Walton Summit;
- Composite fencing fire in Lancaster damages several houses;
- Male trapped underground in Preston.

District council area:	West Lancashire
LFRS area:	S51 Ormskirk
Date:	17 June 2021
Time:	1930hrs

Four fire engines from Skelmersdale and Ormskirk were mobilised to reports of a school on fire, Tennyson Drive, Ormskirk. Within 8 minutes of arrival, a further request for 2 additional fire engines was made, which was attended by Tarleton crew and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, along with 2 Station Managers. The fire was well established when crews arrived, with approximately 1/3 of the 50-metre x 50-metre building involved. Eight firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus entered the building to fight the fire. The crews in attendance were assisted by the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) Drone and the Fire Investigation Dog.

The incident was closed at 1430hrs on 18 June following a joint investigation between LFRS and Lancashire Police.

District council area:	South Ribble
LFRS area:	S53 Bamber Bridge
Date:	8 June 2021
Time:	1329hrs

An initial attendance of 4 fire engines was sent to a roof fire at Busy Bees Nursery, School Lane, Bamber Bridge. This attendance was made up of fire engines from Bamber Bridge, Leyland, Penwortham and Preston. Due to the nature of the call, the crew from Preston mobilised with the Aerial Ladder Platform. Within 2 minutes of first arrival, a message was sent for 2 more fire engines as there was a large fire involving the roof. These resources attended from Fulwood and Bamber Bridge. The incident was also attended by the Rope Rescue Team, a Station Manager and the Incident Command Unit. The cause of the fire has been recorded as accidental, due to hot processes involved in roofing work that was taking place. The Nursery was temporarily closed following the incident. Approximately 50sqm of roof was destroyed by the fire, along with 100sqm of the interior of the building damaged by smoke, heat and water. The incident was finally closed at approximately 2230hrs, later that evening.

District council area:	Blackburn with Darwen
LFRS area:	E71 Blackburn
Date:	3 July 2021
Time:	1028hrs

Northwest Fire Control were alerted to a fire at a commercial unit on Waterfall Street in Blackburn. The initial attendance was made up of 4 fire engines from Blackburn, Darwen and Hyndburn. Approximately 8 minutes after the first fire engine arrived, 2 more were requested, followed by a further request for a total of 9 fire engines from Leyland, Padiham and Preston. The Aerial Ladder Platform, Incident Command Unit, and several Flexible Duty Officers also attended.

The building which is used for the manufacture and distribution of paper products, was approximately 150 metres by 100 metres, with an extremely high quantity of flammable materials stored within. The main fire spread was at roof level, which spread to approximately 30m of sandwich panel construction. The main issue with fires of this nature, is the potential for hidden fire spread to other parts of the building.

Fire crews were in attendance for over 24 hours, ensuring they had prevented fire spread within the sandwich panels. This was a protracted incident, with much of the work being at height, via the Aerial Ladder Platform and ladders.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N12 Morecambe
Date:	9 August 2021
Time:	1419hrs

Three fire engines from Morecambe, Lancaster, and Bolton-le-Sands attended a domestic building fire on Newlands Road, Morecambe. The incident involved a bungalow. One casualty was rescued by Fire Service personnel and received first aid from firefighters and Northwest Ambulance Service. The casualty was then airlifted to hospital via the air ambulance. Unfortunately the casualty, a 68-year-old male, passed away 2 days later.

Firefighters used six breathing apparatus, two hose reels, breaking in tools, and three first aid kits at this incident.

Crews were in attendance for approximately 3 hours, with LFRS fire investigation teams supporting the Police for several days following the incident. The circumstances surrounding this fire are still subject to a police investigation.

District council area:	Wyre
LFRS area:	N32 Fleetwood
Date:	16 August 2021
Time:	1919hrs

Four fire engines from Bispham, Blackpool and South Shore, along with a Station Manager were sent to reports of a building fire at Castle Works, Station Road, Poulton Le Fylde. Due to the nature of the incident, the crew from Blackpool also mobilised with their Aerial Ladder Platform. Within 8 minutes of first attendance, a request was made for a further 4 fire engines for additional Breathing Apparatus. These fire engines were from Garstang, Preesall, Fleetwood and St Anne's. A Group Manager was also mobilised with the additional resources, along with an Incident Command Unit from Blackburn.

The fire was located on the ground floor of a 2-storey industrial building, approximately 75 metres by 25 metres in size.

The fire was tackled internally by firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus, with the Aerial Ladder Platform being utilised for external operations.

The incident was finally closed just after midnight, with the fire investigation taking place the following morning. The most likely cause of the fire was recorded as deliberate, with 2 youths being arrested at the scene.

District council area:	Rossendale
LFRS area:	P74 Rawtenstall
Date:	15 August 2021
Time:	1812hrs

Two fire engines from Rawtenstall and Bacup, along with the Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn attended an incident on Becksid Close, Whitewell Bottom. The Rope Rescue Team from Bamber Bridge also attended as part of the initial response.

A 74-year-old male had stumbled and fallen 20ft down a cliff, then falling a further 30ft down an embankment. He came to rest approximately 60ft above a river.

Firefighters initially deployed to the risk area, to stabilise the casualty.

They were later assisted by Ambulance medics who deemed the patient not to be time critical.

The casualty was packaged in a stretcher and was lowered across the river via a tensioned cableway put in place by the rope team.

The casualty was taken to the Preston Major Trauma Unit due to the distance that he had fallen from the cliff.

Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 2½ hours.

District council area:	South Ribble
LFRS area:	S53 Bamber Bridge
Date:	15 August 2021
Time:	2012hrs

Four fire engines from Preston, Penwortham and Bamber Bridge were initially sent to an incident on Brierley Road, Walton Summit. Within minutes of first arrival a further four fire engines were requested along with an Aerial Ladder Platform from Blackpool. The additional resources attended from Blackburn, Darwen and Leyland, with a second Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn. Several Flexible Duty Officers attended the scene for incident command functions.

The fire involved an industrial unit, approximately 90 metres by 50 metres in size.

Within the 15-metre-high warehouse was a large multiple level Go-Kart racing track, along with offices, viewing areas and a café.

The fire had started in a vehicle service area where a paraffin filled machine had caught fire and tipped over, burning a staff member and setting fire to the nearby fixtures and fittings. This then spread to large quantities of petrol, tyres making up the trackside and wooden construction of the track.

Due to the complex layout, accessing the fire was difficult, so a further two fire engines were requested, along with a Stinger (specialist water tower fire appliance) and a hose layer. This would allow for a significant increase in water delivery, should the incident develop further.

At the height of the incident, 2 Aerial Ladder Platforms, 2 Stingers, 4 Breathing Apparatus using 3 firefighting water jets were in use.

At approximately 0200hrs, the fire was deemed under control and the resources were reduced to 4 fire engines and 1 Aerial Ladder Platform, with the main focus being on damping down and finding small smouldering fires within the building.

The LFRS drone was utilised by the incident command team, as it provided an aerial overview and gave an indication of the hottest locations and areas of concern.

The incident was closed at approximately 1300hrs on 16 August.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N11 Lancaster
Date:	20 July 2021
Time:	1933hrs

Two fire engines from Lancaster and Morecambe were mobilised to Hindburn Place Lancaster, following reports of fencing on fire spreading to houses. On arrival a further two fire engines were requested to assist with water supplies for the incident. These crews were mobilised from Bolton le Sands and Lancaster, along with a Station Manager.

It is believed the fire originated within a garden shed, which spread to garden furniture, toys and composite garden fencing. At the height of the incident, 40 metres of composite fencing was alight, several garden sheds, along with severe damage to the rear of several houses. The prompt actions of the fire crews prevented any houses being severely damaged internally, however some will not be habitable until repair work has taken place.

Following this incident and previous fires involving composite fencing, Lancaster City Council have amended their strategy, which will see the removal of all composite fencing from the rear of council properties in the district. Broader work is ongoing with other housing providers across Lancashire seeking to further reduce this risk and the learning from the incident was shared nationally with other FRS across the UK for prevention and risk reduction purposes.

District council area:	Preston
LFRS area:	C50 Preston
Date:	18 August 2021
Time:	0924hrs

Northwest Fire Control received a call for assistance after a male working down a hole in Meadow Street, became trapped under a large slab of concrete weighing over 500kg. Access to the casualty was approximately 5ft down inside a trench, with only his head visible from under the concrete slab.

Two fire engines from Preston attended, along with the Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR).

The initial crews attempted to stabilise the slab and carry out first aid whilst they waited for USAR and paramedics.

The USAR team working alongside regular fire crews and medics, set up a winching tripod to lift the load off the casualty. Once space was created, access was gained to the casualty, enabling him to be lifted into the stretcher and medical care delivered.

## **Business Risk**

None

## **Environmental Impact**

Potential impact on local environment in relation to operational incidents. Significant incidents benefit from the attendance of specialist water tower resources (Stingers) which make a positive impact on firefighting operations and ultimately reduce the environmental impact.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

None

## **HR Implications**

None

## **Financial Implications**

None

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

*Table 2 Details of any background papers*

Paper:	
Date:	
Contact:	
Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:	