

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 13 December 2021

OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS OF INTEREST

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

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

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

The report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of note over the period from 1 September 2021 – 30 November 2021.

The following summarises the incidents with further detail provided over the following pages:

- 8 fire engines attended a building fire in Darwen.
- Large response to reports of a building explosion in Chorley.
- 6 fire engines attend a commercial building fire in Bamber Bridge.
- Fatal domestic dwelling fire in Blackpool.
- 5 fire engines attend a large house fire in Nelson.
- Crews rescue a casualty from property fire in Blackpool.
- 6 fire engines attend a property fire on the Promenade in Blackpool.
- 6 fire engines attend a fire at a waste recycling site in Morecambe.
- Properties damaged by a tornado in Skelmersdale.
- 8 fire engines attended a farm fire in Garstang.

District council area:	Blackburn with Darwen
LFRS area:	E76 Darwen
Date:	31 st October 2021
Time:	0017hrs

Following reports of a commercial building fire on Lower Eccleshill Road in Darwen, 4 fire engines from Darwen, Hyndburn and Blackburn were mobilised. The fire was located at a waste recycling site and involved a building approximately 60m x 20m in size. Within the building there was approximately 300 tonnes of waste material involved in the fire.

At the height of the incident there were 8 fire engines in attendance from across the county, as well as support from Greater Manchester FRS. Also in attendance was, a Station Manager, Group Manager, the breathing apparatus unit and an aerial ladder platform.

Fire crews were assisted by site staff using heavy machinery to remove the burning material. Several breathing apparatus wearers were utilised, along with several firefighting water jets. LFRS staff were in attendance for approximately 12 hours. The fire is believed to have started accidentally.

District council area:	Chorley District
LFRS area:	S54 Chorley
Date:	15 th October 2021
Time:	1322hrs

North West Fire Control was alerted to reports of an explosion, with smoke and flames issuing from one of the houses. The initial attendance was made by 3 fire engines from Penwortham, Leyland and Preston, along with the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) unit from Chorley and Bamber Bridge.

A Station Manager was also mobilised along with a Group Manager who was taking up the role of USAR tactical advisor. Ten minutes after the initial call, the firefighters on scene requested a further 5 fire engines, which came from Chorley, Fulwood, Wesham and Blackburn, along with the Command Support Unit. An Incident Intelligence Officer was also mobilised for the fire investigation and drone capability, along with a second group manager to oversee the complex incident.

A large number of residents were evacuated to nearby rest centres, whilst the cause of the blast could be established. Firefighting water jets were used to tackle the fire, whilst USAR operators carried out an initial search of the rubble, along with aerial reconnaissance from the drone.

After approximately 2 hours, a male casualty was discovered, unfortunately he was declared deceased by the ambulance medics. The search continued for further casualties.

There was severe fire and explosion damage to 2 properties, with both suffering building collapse to varying degrees. LFRS staff were part of a multi-agency investigation providing the LFRS canine dogs and specialist investigators.

District council area:	South Ribble
LFRS area:	S53 Bamber Bridge
Date:	27 th September 2021
Time:	0320hrs

Six fire engines from Bamber Bridge, Penwortham, Chorley, Preston and Fulwood, along with the Command Support Unit were called to a commercial fire on Berkeley Drive, Cuerden. The fire involved the compressed wood fibre flooring of the 15m x 5m building. Four breathing apparatus and two firefighting water jets were used to bring the fire under control.

Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 8 hours, damping down and carrying out a fire investigation. At this time it's believed the fire was started deliberately, with Police continuing the investigation to ascertain the people involved.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W37 South Shore
Date:	26 th September 2021
Time:	1009hrs

Three fire engines from South Shore and Blackpool, attended a domestic dwelling fire, where it was believed people were trapped. The first fire engine booked in attendance 3 minutes after being mobilised.

There was an established fire within the first floor flat. Four firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled the fire with 2 firefighting water jets. A casualty was rescued from the flat and given first aid by fire crews. Unfortunately the casualty was declared deceased a short time later by ambulance staff.

Firefighters were involved in damping down operations and assisting with the fire investigation for approximately 24 hours. Specialist fire investigators were on scene for several days. The cause of the fire is being treated as accidental.

District council area:	Pendle
LFRS area:	P94 Nelson
Date:	20 th September 2021
Time:	0136hrs

Following reports of a kitchen fire on Every Street, 2 fire engines from Nelson and a Station Manager were mobilised. Shortly after the first arrival, a request was made for 3 additional fire engines and an aerial ladder platform. These resources were mobilised from Colne and Burnley, with the aerial appliance coming from Hyndburn. A further Group Manager was mobilised to support the incident operations.

The fire involved the entire first floor and roof void of the gable end terraced house. The fire had spread into the roof of the neighbouring 2 properties, leading to an evacuation. Several firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used water jets to tackle the fire, with the aerial ladder platform fighting the fire from above.

Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 12 hours, continuing damping down operations and assisting with the fire investigation, which was conducted by the Incident Intelligence Officer, in conjunction with Police Crime Scene Investigators. The LFRS fire dog also attended to see if any traces of accelerants could be found. The cause of the fire has been recorded as deliberate ignition.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W30 Blackpool
Date:	3 rd September 2021
Time:	2257hrs

North West Fire Control received a report of a domestic building fire with persons trapped inside. Three fire engines from Bispham, South Shore and Blackpool attended the incident. The first fire engine took less than 4 minutes to arrive at the incident. The fire involved a bed and mattress within a first floor flat. The remainder of the flat was severely damaged by heat and smoke.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the flat, utilising firefighting jets to search for casualties and extinguish the fire. One male casualty was rescued from the flat and given oxygen therapy until paramedics arrived. Fire crews remained at the scene for 2 hours, with the fire investigation taking place the morning after.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W37 South Shore
Date:	2 nd September 2021
Time:	1915hrs

Four fire engines from Blackpool, Bispham and South Shore were mobilised to reports of a property fire on Blackpool Promenade. The first fire engine in attendance from South Shore arrived in less than 4 minutes. Shortly after arrival a further 2 fire engines were requested for additional breathing apparatus crews, which came from St Anne's.

The building involved was a converted house of multiple occupation, consisting of 3 floors and approximately 20m x 40m in size. The fire was located on the first floor of the property. Six breathing apparatus wearers entered the building with firefighting water jets. The fire was involving a settee and mattress, with severe smoke logging to the upper floors.

One casualty was treated at the scene by firefighters and passed to the care of the ambulance staff on arrival. LFRS were in attendance for 3 hours, whilst damping down and carrying out a fire investigation. The cause of the fire was recorded as deliberate ignition.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N12 Morecambe
Date:	1 st September 2021
Time:	1642hrs

Following reports of a fire in the open at White Lund Industrial estate, a fire engine from Morecambe was mobilised and arrived in less than 3 minutes. Within a short time of arrival, a further 5 fire engines were requested, which came from Lancaster, Silverdale, Garstang and Bolton le Sands. This was accompanied by 2 Station Managers and the Command Support Unit from Fulwood.

The fire involved a pile of recyclable plastic and metals, weighing approximately 30 tonnes, covering an area of 40m x 30m. The radiated heat from the fire was affecting an adjoining industrial unit.

Fire crews in breathing apparatus used 6 firefighting water jets to bring the fire under control. Crews were in attendance for 14 hours, damping down and minimising damage to the environment.

District council area:	West Lancashire
LFRS area:	S56 Skelmersdale
Date:	30 th September 2021
Time:	1846hrs

Fire Engines from Tarleton, Blackburn and Skelmersdale were sent to reports of a tornado damaging properties on Eskdale and Hurston Avenue, Skelmersdale. Two fire engines went to each address and found a large quantity of houses had been damaged by extremely strong winds. Approximately 30 houses had roofs, chimney and aerial damage. A multi-agency approach was instigated, involving the district council, police and ambulance.

Fire crews spent most of the day at both locations, removing dangerous overhanging items from roofs and attempting to minimise damage to properties.

District council area:	Wyre
LFRS area:	N18 Garstang
Date:	21 st October 2021
Time:	0830hrs

North West Fire Control received reports of a farm fire on New Lane, Claughton on Brock. Two fire engines from Preston and Fulwood attended, along with a hazardous materials and environmental protection officer. Shortly after arrival a request for an additional 2 fire engines was made, which came from Preston and Bamber Bridge. The fire involved a grain drier containing 8 tonnes of produce. The drier was within an industrial unit approximately 60m x 40m in size. The fire was difficult to deal with due to it being contained within the metal hopper and the high voltage intake was yet to be isolated. A short time later an additional 4 fire engines were requested, due to the requirement for additional breathing apparatus wearers. These came from Longridge, Penwortham, Lancaster, Bamber Bridge, being supported by the Aerial Ladder Platform from Preston and Command Unit from Blackburn.

Water supplies were sourced from the nearby canal and crews wearing breathing apparatus used tools to access the hopper and apply water. The farmer assisted at the scene with a mini digger, moving the burning grain to a safe area. The Aerial Ladder Platform made ventilation holes in the 10m high roof in order to clear the smoke from the unit.

LFRS was in attendance for 15 hours, making sure there were no hot embers which could reignite the grain within the hopper. Although the exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined, it is believed to be accidental ignition.

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

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