

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 December 2021 – 31 January 2022.

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

- House fire in Fleetwood, with 2 casualties rescued from a 1st floor window.
- 8 fire engines along with specialist vehicles attended a commercial unit containing tyres in Nelson.
- 6 fire engines attend a commercial building fire on Blackpool promenade.
- 4 fire engines along with an Aerial Ladder Platform attended a domestic roof fire in the Ribble Valley.
- 3 fire engines attended a vehicle stuck in flood water in Preston, with several people rescued.
- Casualty rescued from the River Lune by firefighters in Lancaster.
- Double fatality in Blackpool building fire.
- Carbon Monoxide incident in Morecambe hospitalised 8 casualties.

District council area:	Wyre
LFRS area:	N32 Fleetwood
Date:	12/1/2022
Time:	02:06

Fire engines from Fleetwood and Bispham attended Kemp Street in Fleetwood, following reports of a house fire with persons trapped inside. On arrival the fire involving a log burner was intense and was causing significant amounts of smoke. The first fire engine quickly committed 2 firefighters in Breathing Apparatus to search for casualties and to fight the fire. The remaining 2 firefighters outside heard banging from an upstairs window. This led them to notice 2 casualties struggling to breath from a small top opening window who were barely visible due to the thick smoke enveloping them in the room. The firefighters quickly pitched a ladder to the window and affected a successful rescue of both occupants. One firefighter received a precautionary check for smoke inhalation. The fire was believed to be accidental, with radiated heat from a log burner igniting nearby combustible products.

District council area:	Pendle
LFRS area:	P94 Nelson
Date:	20/12/2021
Time:	15:55

A call was received to a commercial garage fire on Bank House Road in Nelson. Four fire engines from Nelson, Colne and Burnley responded, with the first arriving in less than 3 minutes. Within a short period a further 4 fire engines were requested, along with an Aerial Ladder Platform, Incident Command Unit, Hazardous Materials Unit, and a Water Tower. This led to further personnel responding from Skelmersdale, Hyndburn, Blackburn and Darwen. The incident involved a commercial building consisting of 2 floors and approximately 200 square metres in size. The building contained a large quantity of tyres and was completely involved in fire, which led to toxic smoke affecting the surrounding area. As a result, 14 properties were evacuated for several hours, whilst the fire was brought under control. Environmental impacts were reduced due to the actions of the Hazardous Material and Environmental Protection Unit, which reduced the amount of run off water entering nearby water courses. Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 24 hours. Due to the severity of the fire and the unstable nature of the building, the cause is yet to be established.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W31 Bispham
Date:	22 December 2021
Time:	18:03

Calls were received for an unused hotel fire on the Promenade. As a result, 4 fire engines were mobilised from Blackpool, Southshore and St Anne's, with the first arriving within 6 minutes. Due to the size of the building an additional 2 fire engines were requested along with the Incident Command Unit from Fulwood. The incident involved a 4-storey hotel, approximately 100m x 50m in size. The fire was situated within a laundry on the ground floor. Four firefighters in breathing apparatus and 2 firefighting water jets entered the property to fight the fire. The fire was contained in the laundry room and crews were in attendance for 3 hours.

District council area:	Pendle
LFRS area:	P93 Barnoldswick
Date:	27 December 2021
Time:	17:30

A fire engine from Barnoldswick was initially sent to reports of a chimney fire on Stump Cross Lane, Bolton by Bowland. Further information indicated that this was a building fire and an additional fire engine from Nelson was mobilised. On arrival it was noticed that there was a developed fire involving the roof of the property, so an additional 2 fire engines were mobilised and an Aerial Ladder Platform. These resources came from Preston and Clitheroe, along with a Station Manager. The fire crews utilised 2 firefighting water jets and the Aerial Ladder Platform to bring the fire under control. At the same time they carried out salvage operations within the property to limit damage internally. Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 5 hours. The cause has been recorded as accidental.

District council area:	Fylde
LFRS area:	W34 Wesham
Date:	30 December 2021
Time:	18:40

Heavy rain led to several roads being affected by surface water flooding. A car containing 4 people drove into flood water on Spen Lane in Treales. Fire Engines from Preston, Fleetwood and Wesham responded to the scene. Swift water rescue technicians in dry suits entered the water with a rescue raft. The 4 people were assisted from the car onto the raft and taken to safety. Crews were in attendance for nearly 2 hours.

Several similar incidents took place around the county between 18:00 and 21:00, with crews rescuing several stranded motorists in flood water.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N11 Lancaster
Date:	11 December 2021
Time:	01:26

Fire crews were mobilised to reports of a person in the River Lune. Fire Engines from Lancaster and Preston attended the scene. Teams from Lancaster with swift water rescue dry suits were in attendance within several minutes. They were backed up by the fire service boat from Preston. Firefighters entered the River Lune with a rescue sled to locate and rescue the casualty. Eventually the male was found and brought to a place of safety and into the care of the ambulance service. Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 2 hours.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W30 Blackpool
Date:	6 December 2021
Time:	22:31

North West Fire Control were alerted to a flat fire where it was believed people were trapped inside. Fire engines from Blackpool and South Shore attended. The fire was located close to the entrance of the 1st floor flat. 6 Firefighters in breathing apparatus and 2 firefighting water jets, entered the building to carry out a rescue and to extinguish the fire. Firefighters rescued 2 males from the flat who were handed over to the ambulance service for life saving treatment. Unfortunately, both casualties were declared deceased at the scene.

The investigation is ongoing with a cause yet to be established.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N12 Morecambe
Date:	26 December 2021
Time:	09:37

Two fire engines from Morecambe attended to a report of a carbon monoxide leak at a premises on Marine Road in Morecambe. The building was evacuated and 8 casualties were taken to the local hospital. Fire crews wearing breathing apparatus entered the building to complete a full search and ventilate the building.

Once the search and rescue phase was complete, fire crews assisted the police and local council representatives with the investigation. This included the use of the Aerial Ladder Platform from Morecambe. The fire service was in attendance for six hours.

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:	