

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 25 April 2022

Operational Incidents of Interest

Contact for further information:

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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.

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 February 2022 – 31 March 2022.

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

- Commercial building fire in Fleetwood attended by 6 fire engines.
- Large agricultural fire in Hornby attended by 4 fire engines.
- Fire at waste recycling site in Skelmersdale attended by 6 fire engines.
- Fatal road traffic collision in Chorley.
- Fatal house fire in Whalley attended by 6 fire engines.
- Lorry fire closes the M6 near Charnock Richards for several hours.
- Crews respond to person on fire in Blackpool.
- Five fire engines attend a derelict barn fire in Sawley, Ribble Valley.
- Major gas leak causes disruption on the Promenade, Blackpool.
- Two people rescued from a house fire in Poulton.
- Eight fire engines and specialist vehicles tackle a wild fire in Rossendale.

District council area:	Wyre
LFRS area:	N32 Fleetwood
Date:	12/03/2022
Time:	16:10

A call was received to a commercial building fire on Sidings Road in Fleetwood. Four fire engines, along with a Station Manager were mobilised from Fleetwood, Bispham and Blackpool, with the first arriving in 3 minutes. An Aerial Ladder Platform was requested and soon after an additional 2 fire engines, which came from St Anne's and Fulwood.

The incident involved 5 adjoined industrial units approximately 30m x 50m in size. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus attacked the fire with firefighting hoses and gained access with a petrol-powered circular saw. Crews also utilised the water tower from the Aerial Ladder Platform and the services Drone to provide an aerial overview. Fire crews were in attendance for 8 hours. The cause of the fire is yet to be established, but it is not believed to have been deliberate.

District council area:	Lancaster
LFRS area:	N16 Hornby
Date:	12/03/2022
Time:	01:39

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was called to a fire at a farm on Roeburndale Road in Littledale. Fire engines were mobilised from Lancaster and Hornby, who quickly asked for a further 2 fire engines which came from Carnforth and Morecambe, along with a Station Manager.

The fire involved 50 tonnes of hay and stocks of milk powder within an agricultural building. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and utilising firefighter water jets tackled the fire and evacuated livestock from the building.

Farm machinery was used to move the burning hay out of the building. Water run off was contained where possible, due to the risk of the milk powder affecting nearby water courses.

Crews were on scene for over 6 hours. The cause of the fire was believed to be accidental.

District council area:	West Lancashire
LFRS area:	S56 Skelmersdale
Date:	14/03/2022
Time:	11:20

Fire engines from Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, a Station Manager and 2 fire engines from Greater Manchester FRS were mobilised to a commercial fire on Stanley Industrial Estate in Skelmersdale. A short time later a further 2 fire engines were requested, which also came from Greater Manchester FRS. The incident was also attended by the Incident Command Unit from Fulwood.

The fire involved a quantity of household waste on fire within a 60m x 20m industrial unit. Firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus utilised firefighting hoses to extinguish the fire, whilst minimising risk to the environment from water run-off.

Crews were in attendance for approximately 3 hours. The fire is believed to have been accidental ignition.

District council area:	Chorley
LFRS area:	S54 Chorley
Date:	15/03/2022
Time:	19:56

Fire engines from Chorley and Leyland were mobilised to a road traffic collision on Runshaw Hall Lane, where there were reports of a casualty being trapped. The first crews arrived in approximately 4 minutes to find a single vehicle which had been in a collision with a tree. The driver was significantly trapped, with two passengers out of the car on arrival, who had serious injuries. Unfortunately the person who was trapped was declared deceased at the scene. Fire crews assisted ambulance staff with the treatment of the other 2 casualties. The Group Manager in attendance was assisting police with their investigation. It was decided that the fire engines would be released and called back later in the evening to extricate the casualty, following investigation. Crews used hydraulic cutting equipment and lighting and were involved for approximately 6 hours in total.

District council area:	Ribble Valley
LFRS area:	E72 Great Harwood
Date:	08/03/2022
Time:	06:53

A call was received to a house fire on Queens Street Whalley, where it was believed there may be a resident inside. Three fire engines from Haslingden, Great Harwood and Padiham were mobilised, along with an Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn. These crews were supported by a Station Manager and Group Manager. A short time later an additional 2 fire engines were requested from Blackburn and the Incident Command Unit from Fulwood.

The fire involved the upper floor and roof of one property, which had spread to the roofs of a further 3 houses. A further 2 properties were damaged by firefighting water. Over 50% of the house where the fire started was destroyed by fire. Several residents were evacuated from the neighbouring houses and were offered welfare facilities at the village hall.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus tackled the fire with several firefighting water jets and the water monitor from the Aerial Ladder Platform. The Service's drone was utilised to assist with aerial footage for the investigation.

Unfortunately the occupant of the house where the fire started was located and confirmed deceased. The investigation is ongoing into the cause of the fire. Fire crews were in attendance for over 4 days.

District council area:	Chorley
LFRS area:	S54 Chorley
Date:	21/02/2022
Time:	04:51

Strong winds had reportedly caused a heavy goods vehicle to swerve, hitting a bridge stanchion in the process. This caused the tractor unit to catch fire and spread to the trailer which was full of household furniture. Luckily the driver was able to self-extricate and was taken to hospital by the attending Ambulance.

Fire Engines from Chorley, Bamber Bridge and Greater Manchester attended, along with the water bowser from Leyland. A Station Manager was also sent in support. Firefighter wearing breathing apparatus tackled the fire with firefighting water jets. At the height of the fire, the M6 was closed in both directions, causing a significant impact to the local infrastructure. As soon as the fire was extinguished there was a multi-agency agreement to open the southbound carriageway. Fire crews then assisted other agencies to clear the north bound carriageway so that it could be reopened as soon as possible.

In total 25,000 litres of water were used on the fire making the new water bowser invaluable at this incident. The north bound carriageway remained closed for several hours for repair and resurfacing work.

LFRS staff were in attendance for approximately 7 hours.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W31 Bispham
Date:	22/02/2022
Time:	10:26

Two fire engines, one from Bispham and one from Blackpool, attended Devonshire Road to reports of a male on fire. On arrival members of the public had extinguished the flames, so fire crews assisted with the immediate first aid of the casualty.

Crews were in contact with the ambulance service advisor within their control centre and did everything they could to provide treatment to a badly burnt male. Specialist medics arrived along with the air ambulance.

The casualty was taken to Wythenshawe Hospital and was in a critical condition and unfortunately passed away several days later.

The cause was recorded as self-inflicted.

District council area:	Ribble Valley
LFRS area:	E91 Clitheroe
Date:	25/02/2022
Time:	11:09

Five fire engines and a Water Bowser from Clitheroe, Great Harwood, Hyndburn, Nelson and Leyland attended an incident on Sawley Road, Sawley. The incident involved an outbuilding approximately 50m x 10m in size.

One casualty suffered burns and was treated at the scene by fire personnel. Firefighters wore breathing apparatus and used three firefighting water jets and two light portable pumps to extinguish the fire. Crews were detained for several hours.

The cause of the fire was recorded as accidental, with embers blowing from a nearby fire.

District council area:	Blackpool
LFRS area:	W37 Southshore
Date:	01/02/2022
Time:	15:15

Two fire engines from Blackpool and South Shore, along with station managers were sent to reports of a gas leak on the promenade, Blackpool.

On arrival fire crews were faced with a major gas leak from a fractured pipe within the basement of a 3-storey building. To ensure public safety, police and fire service

created a cordon and requested that the promenade was closed, including access to traffic and the tram line.

Fire service staff ventilated the property, reducing the risk of explosion until arrival of Electricity Northwest and Cadent Gas.

The surrounding area was shut off for over 4 hours, causing a major disruption in the area. The scene was brought to a safe conclusion after the utilities were isolated.

District council area:	West Lancashire
LFRS area:	S58 Tarleton
Date:	03/03/2022
Time:	11:18

Four fire engines from Tarleton, Penwortham, Ormskirk and Leyland, together with an aerial ladder platform from Preston, attended a domestic building fire on Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank. The incident involved the roof of a domestic property.

Firefighters used four breathing apparatus, two firefighting water jets and two positive pressure ventilation units to extinguish the fire.

Crews remained in attendance for approximately four hours. The cause of the fire was recorded as accidental.

District council area:	Wyre
LFRS area:	W31 Bispham
Date:	02/02/2022
Time:	07:32

Three fire engines from Blackpool and Bispham were mobilised to a house fire with people trapped. At the time of the call, the teenage occupants had climbed out onto the roof of the property to escape the smoke.

The first fire engine arrived in 9 minutes. Fire crews wearing breathing apparatus tackled the fire with firefighting water jets. Ladders were used to rescue the occupants from the roof of the property. A dog and cat were also rescued.

The occupants were taken to hospital for a precautionary check-up. The fire is believed to be accidental and involved a cooking appliance. Crews were in attendance for 5 hours.

District council area:	Rosendale
LFRS area:	P73 Bacup
Date:	20/03/2022
Time:	14:58

A call was received from a member of public, stating that they could see a moorland fire above Lee Quarry in Stacksteads. This was backed up by additional calls giving similar locations on the moorland between Bacup, Edenfield and Whitworth.

Fire crews from Rawtenstall and Burnley were mobilised, along with the burns team from Bacup. A station manager and wildfire tactical advisor also made up this initial response. A short time later a request was made for more resources. Six fire engines attended from Greater Manchester FRS, one from West Yorkshire FRS and Hyndburn. This attendance was supported by LFRS specialist wildfire vehicles, the incident command unit and drone team. A 13000l water bowser was also requested from an external contractor.

The fire was attacked around the area of Rooley Moor Road. There were 2 fire fronts involved, one approximately 1km in length and the second approximately ¾ km in length. Crews used hagglund and argocat off road vehicles to apply fogging water systems to extinguish the fire.

Fire crews were in attendance for over 5 hours. The cause of the fire has not been established.

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: