

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on Monday 3 October 2022

Operational Incidents of Interest

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jon Charters, Director of Service Delivery

Tel: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of interest since the last report to the Authority.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

This report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of interest over the period from 1 June 2022 – 31 August 2022.

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

- 9 fire engines attend a commercial fire in Padiham (12/6/22)
- House explosion at Sefton Terrace, Burnley (20/06/22)
- 6 fire engines attend a commercial building fire in Poulton (4/7/22)
- Fatal house fire in Blackpool (6/7/22)
- Teenager dies in water at Appley Bridge (9/7/22)
- 15 fire engines attend a fire at a landfill site in Chorley (13/7/22)
- 8 fire engines attend a commercial building fire in Longridge (15/7/22)
- Fatal house fire in Thornton Cleveleys (30/7/22)
- 8 fire engines attend a commercial building fire in Burnley (30/7/22)
- Derelict building fire in Accrington (20/8/22)

LFRS station area:	P92 Padiham
Date:	12/6/2022
Time:	15:43

Nine fire engines from Burnley, Hyndburn, Blackburn, Nelson and Rawtenstall attended a fire at Envirofuel on Accrington Road in Hapton. They were supported by the Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn, Command Support Unit from Fulwood and the Stinger Water Tower from Blackburn.

The fire involved an 80m x 80m pile of waste foam sandwich panels which weighed approximately 150 tonnes.

The High-Volume Pump was used to take water from the canal and supply the water to the scene of operations. Firefighters used several water jets to extinguish the fire and our crews remained on scene for 22 hours, which included assisting the Police with the fire investigation. The cause of the fire is believed to be deliberate and Police investigations continue.

LFRS station area:	P90 Burnley
Date:	20/06/2022
Time:	12:08

Fire engines from Burnley, Nelson and Padiham attended reports of an explosion on Sefton Terrace in Burnley. They were assisted by the Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn, Urban Search and Rescue Team from Bamber Bridge and Chorley, along with our Search Dogs and the Drone Team.

The incident involved a 2-storey terraced house, with the whole property affected by fire.

Three casualties were rescued from the debris, with one being airlifted to hospital. Crews remained on scene for a total of 7 hours making the scene safe and assisting with the investigation. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation by the Police.

LFRS station area:	W30 Blackpool
Date:	4/7/2022
Time:	13:29

Six fire engines from Blackpool, South Shore, Bispham, Fleetwood and St Anne's attended a commercial building fire on Beacon Road, Poulton le Fylde. They were supported by the Command Unit from Blackburn, Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn and the Drone Team.

The fire involved a commercial shredding machine, within a 60m x 25m industrial unit which contained over 1000 tonnes of waste material. Several firefighting water jets and plant machinery to move waste, were used to bring the fire under control. Fire crews were on scene for over 9 hours. The cause of the fire was recorded as accidental ignition due to a fault in machinery.

LFRS station area:	W37 South Shore
Date:	6/7/2022
Time:	00:50

Six fire engines from Blackpool, Bispham, St Annes, Fulwood and South Shore, along with the Drone Team and the Aerial Ladder Platform from Preston attended a domestic property fire on Hill Street, Blackpool.

The fire was tackled by 6 Breathing Apparatus wearers using 3 firefighting water jets. The Urban Search and Rescue Team also attended the incident to provide advice on the building as it had become unstable due to the intensity of the fire.

Five casualties were treated by North West Ambulance Service. Tragically, one casualty's injuries were fatal. Several neighbouring properties were evacuated due to the concerns of building collapse.

A joint investigation into the cause of the fire took place and Police investigations into the incident continue. Fire crews were at the scene for 16 hours.

LFRS station area:	S56 Skelmersdale
Date:	9/7/22
Time:	21:36

A call was received by North West Fire Control with reports of a teenager underwater at Dawber Delph, Appley Bridge. Fire Engines from Skelmersdale and Ormskirk attended, along with the Water Incident Unit and the Drone Team.

Fire crews conducted a search of the surface and surrounding embankments with Thermal Imaging Cameras. The LFRS boat was also launched to search the perimeter of the water.

The Drone Team was able to deploy the underwater drone, which successfully located the teenager. This allowed fire crews to be directed into position and successfully recover the casualty to the awaiting ambulance teams. Unfortunately, the teenage male was declared deceased at the scene.

Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 4 hours.

LFRS station area:	S55 Leyland
Date:	13/7/22
Time:	00:17

Calls were received to a small fire in the open on Dawson Lane, Buckshaw Village. Initially 1 fire engine from Leyland was deployed to the Neale's Waste Management site. On arrival the crew were met with a fire involving landfill, covering an area of approximately 14,000sqm.

Additional resources were requested and at the height of the fire, there were 15 fire engines from across the county, supported by High Volume Pumps, 2 Stinger Water Towers, Water Bowser, Breathing Apparatus Unit, Foam Unit, Command Unit and Drone Team.

Crews worked with site staff and excavators to extinguish the fire, which was burning a considerable distance beneath the surface. Firefighting water jets were used to tackle the fire and there was a significant smoke plume within the local area. Media messages were communicated for residents to keep doors and windows closed.

Fire crews were engaged at the scene fighting the fire for 5 days. The cause of the fire has not been determined, due to the location and large area affected by the fire.

LFRS station area:	E59 Longridge
Date:	15/7/22
Time:	03:03

A call was received to a fire at Stone Bridge Mill, Kestor Lane, Longridge. Fire engines from Preston, Fulwood and Bamber Bridge made up the initial attendance and an additional 4 fire engines were requested, along with support from an Aerial Ladder Platform from Morecambe and the Command Unit from Blackburn.

The fire involved both floors of a 2-storey commercial building approximately 25m x 10m. Firefighters tackled the fire wearing Breathing Apparatus and several firefighting water jets, supported by the Aerial Ladder Platform water monitor.

The cause of the fire has not been determined due to the building being structurally unsafe. This prevented fire investigators from accessing the area where the fire started. Fire crews were at the scene for approximately 9 hours.

LFRS station area:	N32 Fleetwood
Date:	30/7/22
Time:	09:07

Fire crews from Fleetwood and Bispham attended reports of a house fire, where it was believed somebody may be trapped inside. The initial crews requested an additional 3 fire engines, which came from South Shore, St Anne's and Blackpool. An Aerial Ladder Platform also attended from Preston, along with the Command Unit from Fulwood.

A casualty was swiftly rescued from the house and was initially given treatment from firefighters, before being transferred to the arriving paramedics. Unfortunately, the casualty was confirmed as deceased at the scene.

The bungalow was fully involved in fire when crews arrived, which was also spreading to the adjoining property. Firefighters tackled the fire wearing Breathing Apparatus and several firefighting water jets.

Crews remained on scene for approximately 30 hours, damping down and assisting the Police with the fire investigation. The cause of the fire is believed to have been accidental.

LFRS station area:	P90 Burnley
Date:	30/7/22
Time:	09:01

Eight fire engines from Burnley, Colne, Clitheroe, Blackburn, Hyndburn, Nelson, Bacup and Rawtenstall, along with the Aerial Ladder Platform from Hyndburn and the Drone Team attended a commercial building fire on Yorkshire Street, Burnley. The fire involved a mid-terraced 2 storey shop, with a flat on the upper floor. The fire had started on the ground floor and had spread to the 1st floor and roof void. The fire was also spreading to the roof voids of adjoining properties.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used two firefighting water jets to tackle the fire. The Aerial Ladder Platform attacked the fire within the roof void and removed roof tiles to expose the fire.

The most probable cause was accidental ignition which involved the electrical supply, although a full investigation wasn't possible due to the unsafe structure. Fire crews remained at the scene for approximately 10 hours.

LFRS station area:	E70 Hyndburn
Date:	20/8/2022
Time:	16:50

Six fire engines from Hyndburn, Nelson, Blackburn and Darwen, an ALP from Preston and the Water Bowser from Leyland attended an incident on Blackburn Road, Church, Accrington. The incident was also supported by the Command Unit from Fulwood and the Drone Team.

The fire involved a derelict building consisting of 4 floors and approximately 15m x 15m in size. The entire building was involved in fire when LFRS arrived and fire crews used several firefighting water jets, with water being sourced from the nearby canal.

Crews were in attendance for 3 days, due to the requirement to search the building with our Search Dog following reports that somebody may have been in the building at the time of the fire.

The most probable cause was recorded as deliberate 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: N/a