

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 16 September 2024

Operational Incidents of Interest

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Executive Summary

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

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

This report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of interest. This has been a busy operational period, therefore the report details only the larger deployments or more complex incidents attended. As a result, some incidents that Members have been made aware of locally, may not form part of the report.

The following summarises the incidents with further detail provided within the body of the paper:

- Commercial building fire in Blackpool (7/6/2024)
- Explosives incident in Preston (18/6/2024)
- Domestic fire in Morecambe (26/6/2024)
- Major entrapment in Burnley (3/7/2024)
- Water rescue in Preesall (3/7/2024)
- Person rescued from a car in water in Thornton Cleveleys (13/7/2024)
- Domestic fire in Blackpool (17/7/2024)
- Waste fire in Preston (28/7/2024)
- Commercial building fire in Salmesbury (31/7/2024)
- Commercial building fire in Burnley (31/7/2024)

LFRS station area:	W31 Bispham
Date:	7 June 2024
Time:	23:32

Ten fire engines attended a reported fire at Warbreck House, Warbreck Hill Road in Blackpool. They were supported by a number of specialist appliances including the Water Bowser, Hose Layer, 3 Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP's), Command Unit, Water Tower and the Drone Team. Due to poor water supplies in the locality, United Utilities attended with 3 large water carriers to provide additional water to the incident.

The fire involved disused government offices consisting of 2 floors. The building was approximately 50 metres x 50 metres in size. Early reports stated that there may be a male trapped inside, however the LFRS dog team were able to undertake a search and prove otherwise.

The fire was tackled by a number of firefighting water jets and the 3 ALP's fighting the fire from an elevated position.

Fire crews were at the scene for 10 days, damping down and conducting the fire investigation. The cause of the fire has been recorded as deliberate and Police have identified a number of leads.

LFRS station area:	C52 Fulwood
Date:	18 June 2024
Time:	12:53

Lancashire Police requested assistance from LFRS due to 2 hand grenades being discovered in gardens on Watling Street Road. A fire engine from Preston attended a designated rendezvous point, along with an LFRS National Interagency Liaison Officer and a Station Manager. The police set up a cordon and LFRS assisted with the evacuation of 40 properties. The Bomb Disposal Team attended from the Army and identified both devices as being viable explosives. A controlled explosion took place in the garden of one property, with another device being exploded within the grounds of Fulwood Barracks. A Police investigation into how the devices ended up in the garden is taking place. LFRS were in attendance for approximately 6 hours.

LFRS station area:	N12 Morecambe
Date:	26 June 2024
Time:	00:09

Fire crews from Morecambe and Lancaster attended reports of a house fire on Cross Street in Morecambe. On arrival smoke was issuing from the roof structure of three properties, with one having a well-established fire within the ground floor. Information passed to crews was that there may be a resident inside, so the incident was upgraded to 'persons reported' and an additional fire engine was sent from Morecambe. The first fire engine was in attendance in approximately 5 minutes from mobilisation.

Four firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the building to extinguish the fire and search for casualties. A male was quickly rescued and received CPR by fire crews

outside the premises. The casualty was passed to ambulance staff when they arrived, however the casualty was confirmed deceased at the scene.

Fire crews were in attendance for approximately 36 hours, damping down and conducting a joint fire investigation with the Police, following which the most likely cause of the fire was recorded as accidental.

LFRS station area:	P90 Burnley
Date:	3 July 2024
Time:	09:48

Fire engines from Burnley and Nelson were called to Innovation Drive in Burnley, following reports of an industrial accident within a commercial unit. The Urban Search and Rescue Team also attended due to the type of incident.

A forklift truck driver had become trapped under heavy pallets. Fire crews assisted with releasing the casualty using a high-pressure airbag, however the casualty passed away at scene.

Thereafter a joint Police and HSE was instigated.

Fire crews were in attendance at the incident for approximately 8 hours.

LFRS station area:	N33 Preesall
Date:	3 July 2024
Time:	11:22

Fire crews from Bispham, Fleetwood, Lancaster and Preston, along with the boat from Penwortham were mobilised to reports of a male face down in water, off Back Lane in Preesall.

LFRS swift water rescue technicians entered the water to rescue the casualty who sadly was declared deceased at the scene by Ambulance personnel.

LFRS station area:	N32 Fleetwood
Date:	13 July 2024
Time:	23:13

Eight fire engines, an Aerial Ladder Platform, a Water Incident Unit and a Drone attended an incident on Wyre Road, Thornton Cleveleys. The incident involved one car that had driven into Skippool Creek. Swiftwater Rescue Technicians used two rope packs, two triple extension ladders, a longboard, and a winch to rescue the casualty, who was conveyed to hospital by ambulance. Crews were at the incident for approximately 2 hours.

LFRS station area:	W30 Blackpool
Date:	17 July 2024

Time:	02:35
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Four fire engines were mobilised to a house fire on Peter Street in Blackpool, where it was believed people were trapped inside. The first fire engine arrived in around 3 minutes to find a well-developed house fire. The officer-in-charge committed 6 firefighters in breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire and to search for casualties. Fire crews rescued a baby and a male adult from the house, with a female adult sadly confirmed fatal at scene. Later the same day, the adult male also passed away and the baby transferred to Alder Hey childrens hospital in a very poorly condition. A 6-year-old child was rescued by a member of the public prior to the arrival of fire crews.

Following an intensive joint fire investigation, the most probable cause was recorded as accidental.

LFRS station area:	S57 Penwortham
Date:	28 July 2024
Time:	20:42

Eight fire engines, two Aerial Ladder Platforms, one High Volume Pump, a Command Unit, Drone and Welfare Unit, attended a waste fire on Wallend Road, Preston. The fire involved household waste within a single storey industrial unit, 150m x 100m in size. Firefighters used two firefighting water jets and six breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters were at the scene for approximately 8 hours, damping down and conducting a fire investigation. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

LFRS station area:	C50 Preston
Date:	31 July 2024
Time:	05:54

Ten fire engines from Preston, Bamber Bridge, Blackburn, Leyland, Chorley, Darwen, Nelson and Penwortham, the Aerial Ladder Platforms from Preston and Hyndburn, along with other specialist units attended a building fire on Preston New Road, Samlesbury.

The fire involved a commercial agricultural building approximately 30m x 100m in size. The building contained a large amount of diesel, vehicles, gas cylinders and fertilisers. The building also contained solar panels on the roof and a gas pipe underneath the property.

Several firefighting water jets were used to extinguish the fire, with water being supplied to the incident by the High-Volume Pump.

Fire crews were in attendance for several days, damping down and conducting a fire investigation. Due to the entire building being damaged by fire, the cause has not been determined.

LFRS station area:	P90 Burnley
Date:	31 July 2024
Time:	16:13

Eight fire engines from Burnley, Nelson, Hyndburn, Great Harwood, Rawtenstall and Darwen, along with an Aerial Ladder Platform and Command Unit attended a commercial building fire on Colne Road, Burnley. The fire involved a building which had been split into 4 properties. Black smoke was issuing from the take aways extraction chimney on the roof of the property. The extraction chimney had failed, with fire spreading to the floors of the adjoining properties.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus, used 3 water jets and 2 thermal imaging cameras to extinguish the fire. Fire crews were at the scene for 10 hours. The cause of the fire was recorded as accidental, due to a build-up of grease in the extraction unit.

Business risk

None.

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

Potential impact on local environment in relation to operational incidents. Significant incidents benefit from the attendance of specialist water towers and the hazardous materials unit both of which have positive impacts on firefighting operations and reduce environmental impacts.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None.

Data Protection (GDPR)

Will the proposal(s) involve the processing of personal data? No

If the answer is yes, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team to assist with the appropriate exemption clause for confidential consideration under part 2 of the agenda.

HR implications

None.

Financial implications

None.

Legal implications

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: Insert Exemption Clause