

## **Washington Area Committee Report 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016**

### **Fatalities**

To date there have been no fire deaths in the period, free Home Fire Risk Assessment inspections continue to be the focus of the district and are proving to be successful in tackling unwanted fire deaths. Unfortunately there have been recent occurrences of fire deaths in the Tyne and Wear area so it is important that we do not become complacent and that we continue to promote fire safety in home across the Washington area. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service offers free Home Fire Safety Checks to all residents in the Tyne and Wear area as well as fitting free battery operated smoke alarms.

### **Injuries from Accidental dwelling fires**

The numbers of injuries from accidental fires in dwellings for Washington for the period was 1 which was the same for that period last year.

### **Numbers of accidental dwelling fires**

Total numbers of accidental fires in dwellings in Washington remains to be an issue there were 3 incidents in March and 5 in April. Calls ranged from grill and chip pans being left unattended, items placed on hot cooker hobs, electrical faults on cooking appliances and various other cooking related issues.

### **Deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles**

This indicator refers to commercial type premises, offices etc. We have had a number of incidents at Albany House; the premises are now empty and securely boarded up, however local youths attempted on a number of occasions to set alight mattresses and place these alongside wooden entrance doors in an attempt to cause a major fire. I have since contacted the owners of the property and had all remaining rubbish items removed from the area to prevent further incidents. An incident at the Niromax facility in Pattinson required fire service attendance and also involved the Environment agency.

### **Deliberate Vehicle fires**

There has been 3 incidents involving cars over the 3 month period but no trends identified.

### **Deliberate secondary fires**

This is our target area; deliberate secondary fires have seen a decrease over the 3 month period compared with the same period last year. Washington West and Washington Central experiencing the highest numbers of calls for this type of incident.

The highest incidence of calls involve loose refuse and rubbish.

In an attempt to address this type of incident we have:-

- Arranged a litter pick in the Striding Edge area of Albany, approx. 40 black bin bags were filled and removed by Gentoo and Council, this involved Fire Service volunteers, 'keep

Washington Tidy' group, Gentoo and Princes Trust. Fire crews also toured the area and reported a number of refuse uplifts to partners. Councillors Scaplehorn and Snowdon also attended.

- Highlighted schools in the immediate vicinity that may benefit from a visit to our safety works centre in Newcastle.
- Our Community Fire Safety team have visited school pupils to educate them in the dangers of fire setting and to pass on fire safety advice leading up to the lighter nights.
- Highlight and Target the hot spot areas to our local firefighters as well as the council on a regular basis to focus our attention in these areas thereby increasing our ASB reporting of fly tipping and rubbish left on streets and back lanes and have it removed.
- Unoccupied / Derelict premise boarded up or demolished as soon as possible i.e. Albany House
- Working with LMAPS partners re locate 3G CCTV cameras into vulnerable areas.

Target streets are identified on a monthly basis and passed on to local authorities and fire crews in an effort to increase ASB uplifts in these hot spot areas, I will also be working with the Police and other agencies through the LMAPs to address local issues.

Steve Graham

Station Manager Washington Fire Station