

28 September 2022

REPORT OF THE TYNE AND WEAR FIRE SERVICE

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The following report gives Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for Coalfields Committee area from 1st April 2022 to 16th September 2022 compared to the same period last year in 2021.

2 Background

2.1

Area Committee agreed that regular updates on Crime and Community Safety would be presented to each Committee meeting.

3. Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

3.1 LI 01 & 02 Number of Deaths from all fires

No deaths were recorded during the reporting period.

3.2 LI 14 All Deliberate Property Fires excluding Primary road vehicles

Deliberate property fires, had an increase of 75% from last year. Operational crews and prevention education department continue to target our most vulnerable residents with targeted safe and well visits. TWFRS, Northumbria Police, Sunderland city council, Gentoo and other Local Authority partners have been working in partnership to reduce these incidents with continued targeting of problematic areas and focussing activity in these areas. The reporting of any empty/void property which may be accessible has assisted in improving these figures.

3.3 LI15 Number of primary road vehicle fires started deliberately

There were 16 incidents reported during this period compared to 24 for the same period last year. 6 of the fires were in the Houghton ward – no significant pattern. Hetton saw a dramatic decrease compared to last year, from 8 incidents to 0. Shiney Row increase from no incidents to 4 this year. Copt Hill had a reduction from 9 incidents last year to 6 this year. TWFRS will continue to work with Northumbria Police regarding any further similar incidents to help identify trends and perpetrators. All incidents were reported and investigated by both Police and Fire Investigators to establish any links.

3.4 LI16 Number of secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles started deliberately

There has been a increase of 112% overall in secondary fires. 67 of the 151 incidents were attributed to hot dry weather the region experienced across the summer. The service has embedded the Report-It tool for the reporting of fly tipping and loose refuse. Shiney Row saw a 162% increase, Copt Hill 86% increase, and Houghton 147% increase on the number on incidents attended compared to the same reporting period as last year. Hetton still remains the ward experiencing the greatest number of deliberate secondary fires within the coalfields area. Although the increase was less than forecasted. The multi-agency HALO project, TWFRS new Ignite diversionary

activity course along with other collaborative working will hopefully assist in tackling some of the hot spot areas. LMAPS Partner work groups continue to monitor all wards. The continued collaborative work to prevent, reduce, investigate and help improve the wards regarding deliberate ASB and fire setting.

3.5 LI33 All deliberate Fires (combination of LI14, LI15 and LI16)

There were a total of 227 deliberate fires in this reporting period. This is an increase of 64% compared to the same reporting period last Year. A large proportion of incidents were attributed to the prolonged hot dry weather the region experienced across the summer. Many of the incidents were across vast areas which resulted in many of the fires taking considerable time to bring under control and increased pressure on our resourcing. TWFRS continue to work closely with Northumbria Police, Sunderland city council, Gentoo and partners carrying out estate and site visits, ASB patrols, reporting of accessible premises, and using the Report-it for removal of loose refuse/fly tipping. Using data to target areas in most need of support to try and reduce ASB and secondary fire incidents. Please encourage members of your local communities to report Fly tipping and or request up lifts – essential support heading towards bonfire period.

Copt Hill Ward - Has seen an increase from 31 incidents to 39, during this period. Incidents over this period are predominately loose refuse and grass fires. 6 Vehicle fires compared to 9 last year were within this ward, TWFRS are working with Northumbria police to monitor and identify any trends/patterns/underlying issues. School Road initiative with partners is continuing to monitor and share information to help reduce ASB and improve local area

Houghton Ward - Has seen a increase from 36 to 65 incidents over this reporting period. 49 of these incidents were attributed to grassland and loose refuse. Fly tipping remains problematic. – Hot spot areas field off Mulberry way/Cherry way, Between Newbottle Street and cross street.

Hetton Ward - Has seen a 57% increase in incidents. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic. Hetton ward remains an area of concern. Several multi agency partnership projects including HALO project, Easington lane project and TWFRS ignite continues to carry out some initiatives which aims deliver a positive impact.

Shiney Row Ward - Has seen a 93% increase in incidents over the reporting period. Deliberate grass fires and loose refuse remain problematic. Tied in with sustained long dry periods have been the main cause of incidents.

- Hot spots identified have been – Rear of Maple Terrace, rear of Claremont Drive

3.6 Community Involvement

TWFRS continue to support partners involved in the HALO project, which has given an opportunity to bring partners together to deliver success, empower and improve the local area. Based on the highly successful SARA project. Summer holidays saw the introduction of a brand new diversionary project Ignite. Special thank you for Together for children and the PCC for support to fund the one session per week for the duration of the school holidays project. We are currently evaluating the project but ultimately it has been a huge success with many positive feedback comments being received. The service with help from partners would like to continue to grow our diversionary activities over the coming months and years.

Darker nights campaign is underway with schools be identified to receive joint fire service and police educational visits in the run up to bonfire period.

TWFRS in conjunction with HALO are running business fire safety mornings on the 19th and 21st October. An opportunity for local businesses to ask our fire safety team any question or queries to help make them operate safely.

Princess trust from Farringdon carried out their community project with the support of the HALO team. Refurbishment of the Nidderdale centre. The new cohort will be looking for further projects in the future so please let me know and I'll direct to our team.

All other opportunities where crews are available to support and attend community events they shall continue to do so. Partnership initiatives will be welcomed and considered for attendance/support.

The service continues to deliver safe and well visits targeting the most vulnerable members of our communities ensuring they are given home fire safety advice, have working smoke alarms and fitting them free of charge and if necessary referring to partner agencies for further support. Since April crews have already delivered 337 Safe & well visits to households across the Coalfields area.

3.7 On-going Issues

Continuing to work with partners being proactive to help reduce incidents as highlighted in the report.

Attacks on emergency services are on the increase across the Tyne and Wear service area. This year's darker nights campaign and school education programme will focus on Fire safety/ASB and consequences of attacks on crews. Year's 7-10 at both Houghton Kieper and Hetton Comp will be given collaborative sessions with the police. Work with Inspector Passey and his team to carry out joint education sessions with our local schools will hopefully go towards reducing the number of attacks on blue light responders and reduce ASB.

It is essential that any fire related issues are reported to myself, (Andrew Nelson, Station Manager) or using Fire Stoppers 0800 169 5558, so I can action with my crews. Each of my watches have been given ward areas to create community links (similar to the Police). This is not just about ASB fires but all deliberate fires.

Any questions please feel free to contact on the details below.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Note the content of this report.

Contact Officer: Andrew Nelson, Tyne and Wear Fire Service,
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