

**9<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**REPORT OF THE TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**Washington Area Committee Report 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Fatalities**

I am pleased to report that for the Sunderland area as a whole there have been no fire deaths from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 to date, 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 are still occurrences of fire deaths so it is important that we don't let our guard down and we continue to promote fire safety in homes across the Washington area.

**Injuries from Accidental dwelling fires**

The numbers of injuries from accidental fires in dwellings for Washington for the period were 0 compared to two reported for the same period in the previous year.

**Numbers of accidental dwelling fires**

Total numbers of accidental fires in dwellings in Washington for the same period 1<sup>st</sup> September to 20<sup>th</sup> November were up to 7 compared with a figure of 3 for the previous year.

**Deliberate primary fires**

Numbers of deliberate primary fires showed a slight decrease from 5 incidents to 3 for same period last year.

**Deliberate Vehicle fires**

The area has seen no change in the numbers of deliberate vehicle fires with the area experiencing 1 incident similar to the same period in 2013. No trends have been indicated in this area.

**Deliberate secondary fires**

This is the target area; deliberate secondary fires have increased over the 3 month period from 83 calls attended to 87. Washington East and North Wards experiencing the highest numbers of calls at 29 and 26 respectively. The highest incidence of calls involve loose refuse and rubbish.

To address this increase TWFS have:-

- Set up a joint initiative with Sunderland City Council, Oxclose and District Young Peoples Project, TWFRS Volunteers, Gentoo and Princes Trust Team

to carry out a litter pick, place stickers on wheelie bins and generally clean up the Sulgrave area. This was carried out on the 5<sup>th</sup> November and approximately 2 tons of rubbish was removed from the area. Full skips were removed and potential bon fires averted. If this proves to be successful then the initiative will be repeated throughout the Washington area.

- Highlighted schools in the immediate vicinity that may benefit from a visit to our safety works centre in Newcastle.
- Community Fire Safety team have visited school pupils to make a joint visit with the Police to educate them in the dangers of fire setting and to pass on fire safety advice.
- 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 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. Armstrong House, Penshaw House, Spout Lane area.
- Working with LMAPS partners re locate 3G CCTV cameras into vulnerable areas.

The Target streets have been identified and ASB uplifts arranged. Fire Service will also be working with the Police and other agencies through the LMAPs to address the increase in these incidents which will address the problem and lower the numbers of that type of incident.

Steve Graham

Station Manager Washington Fire Station