

REPORT OF Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Please see breakdown of fires for each ward showing from 01/06 until 17/10 (4.5 months of data which follows on from my last submitted report).

These areas continue to show steady over the previous months however we had a large spike across Washington in July. The timescales above are almost identical to number of incidents same period last year. Most incidents involve loose refuse and fires within vegetation/ grassland.

The incidents have been generally sporadic in all ward areas, however specific hot spot areas can be seen in each ward:

The West has seen 32 incidents, mainly involving grassland.

The main areas include the mineral lines around the Bowes museum, several deep seated fires near to Usworth Farm and the plantation area off Donvale Road. The incidents around the Bowes Museum have been attributed to youths from outside of the Washington Area Committee boundary and work with the Police and LA has reduced these. The owner of Usworth Farm was provided advice as to reduce the number of incidents occurring on this land and these have subsided. Former hot spot area was the land adjacent to B&Q, this continues to be a success with very few reported incidents.

The North has seen 40 incidents which have been very sporadic and include several arson attacks on the former Washington football club where we continue to patrol in order to prevent fires in this particular area including those occurring in Albany Park. The Police are also actively patrolling and the current site owner has re-secured the building following the recent fires, however it is only a matter of time before it is involved in a more significant fire. There have been two wheelie bin fires in the Sulgrave area. Occupiers are reminded to ensure the safety and security of their bins to assist in preventing these types of fires.

The South has seen 5 incidents with Dunstanburgh Close area being the constant hot spot area with 3 fires and 2 involving wheelie bins occurring late evening.

The East has seen 26 incidents. The areas including Horsley Road area and Pattinson Industrial Estate are the main hot spots which mainly involve loose refuse. We are targeting the businesses on the industrial estate to assist in this, with a campaign called 'Pride In Your Place' where local business are being encouraged to take ownership in assisting in driving down ASB fires. This campaign started in mid-September and its success will be fed back at a later date.

Central has seen 10 incidents and the only hot spot area being the historic area of Princess Anne Park however there was still only 1 incident within this location.

One of the Targeted Response Vehicles is still located back at Washington Fire Station and this helps to drive down fires across the ward areas with crews on the life risk appliances regularly patrolling the hot spot areas.

Our Bonfire strategy this year is to prevent deaths and reduce the number of injuries caused by bonfires and fireworks with the objective being:

- To raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of the misuse/abuse of bonfires and fireworks amongst young people. In particular:
 - Fireworks & Bonfire related deaths and injuries
 - Available powers and the will to prosecute for misuse of fireworks
 - Financial cost e.g. damage to property etc.
 - To encourage young people to attend an organised display

Our target audiences are:

- Secondary School children at greatest risk (14-16yrs)
- Young people outside of mainstream education

To this end we are targeting PRU / SEN schools however due to issues in Washington we are also targeting Washington and Oxclose schools and specifically identifying the risk and consequences of arson at Washington FC.

We have the availability of our Volunteers to assist with campaigns as well as Princes Trust, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company (NCRC) facility for Community clean ups and litter picks.

Water Safety

Talks are currently under way to link into the RNLI and RLSS with regards to passing on local water safety messages. TWFRS currently doesn't have the capacity to treat this as a stand-alone issue and will attempt to identify community risk from water and establish messages which can be delivered by other groups. Our main priority is the reduction of incidents and safety of persons from fire.

Watch responsibilities

The individual watches at Washington fire station have been given the responsibility of adopting a ward where they will specifically identify any ASB trends in their particular wards and make efforts to drive down these incidents.

Red Watch are responsible for both Central and South Wards

Green Watch are responsible for the East Ward

Blue Watch are responsible for the West Ward

White Watch are responsible for the North Ward