

## **Washington Area Committee Report 1st September to 30th November 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. It is important that we do not become complacent and that we continue to promote fire safety in homes 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.

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

This indicator refers to commercial type premises, offices etc. We have had 6 incidents of this type over the period, two in Washington North and South and one in Washington West and East. Incidents have involved standing crop, two incidents in subways, bottle bank / recycling centres and secondary fires spread to office block.

### **Deliberate Vehicle fires**

There have been four road vehicle fires over the period, three cars and one motor cycle, two of the incidents were in Washington North the others in Washington South and East. No trends have been identified to link the fires

### **Deliberate secondary fires**

This is our target area and where we are finding that we are receiving the majority of our calls at present, this type of call involves refuse, grass / heathland, wheelie bins and tree scrub.

Over the reported period we have received 75 calls, 35 which were loose refuse including gardens, 7 wheeled bin fires, 9 small rubbish fires, 11 tree scrub fires and 4 refuse / rubbish fires. The main areas of concern being Washington West with 18 incidents, Striding Edge and Armstrong Road are notable areas. Washington East has also accounted for 18 incidents with Horsley Road and Waskerly Road areas of concern, Washington north also has received 16 calls to similar types of incident.

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

- Community Fire Safety teams visiting school pupils to educate them in the dangers of fire setting and to pass on fire safety advice.
- Highlighted and Targeted 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 premises are boarded up or demolished as soon as possible.
- Worked 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