

Washington Area Committee Report 1st September to 24th November 2015

Fatalities

As can be seen from the attached report for the Sunderland area 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 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 which was the same for that period last year, which is also very pleasing.

Numbers of accidental dwelling fires

Total numbers of accidental fires in dwellings in Washington was 7 and a similar number were recorded for the same period last year. Calls ranged from tumble dryer faults to chip pan left unattended, 2 grill pan fires, fuse box wiring fault and cigarette within a bin chute.

Deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles

Numbers of deliberate primary fires showed a slight increase from 3 incidents to 5 for same period last year. A number of these incidents were started maliciously examples being fires in garden sheds, commercial sized refuse bins against premises damaging guttering and pallets set alight adjacent to commercial premises. Visits have been made to some of these areas to issue letters to warn occupants of the dangers of leaving combustibles outside premises unsecured and to maintain a higher level of housekeeping.

Deliberate Vehicle fires

The area has seen a slight increase in vehicle fires over the period from 2 incidents up to 3 however there are no trends indicated in this area. In all cases Police were requested for suspected malicious ignition.

Deliberate secondary fires

This is our target area; deliberate secondary fires have seen a very slight decrease over the 3 month period from 89 calls attended down to 83. Washington West and West East experiencing the highest numbers of call at 31 and 20 respectively. The highest incidence of calls involve loose refuse and rubbish.

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

- Looked to set up a joint initiative involving Sunderland City Council, Oxclose and District Young Peoples Project, TWFRS Volunteers, Gentoo and Princes Trust Team to carry out litter picks in hot spot areas and place stickers on wheelie bins and generally clean up areas.
- 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 make a joint visit with the Police to educate them in the dangers of fire setting and to pass on fire safety advice leading up to bonfire night.
- 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. 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, I will also be working with the Police and other agencies through the LMAPs to address the increase in these types of incidents and hopefully address the problem and lower the numbers of that type of incident.

Steve Graham

Station Manager Washington Fire Station