

CHIEF OFFICERS ACTIVITY REPORT

April 1 – June 30 2011



GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Welcome / CFO Introduction



Welcome to the quarter one Activity Report. This report aims to provide you with an overview of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's wide ranging activities over the period of April 1, 2011 through to June 30, 2011.

In the operational incidents section you can read about how we assisted Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service when moorland over Bolton caught fire, as well as how we helped prevent a fire from raging through a row of terraced houses in Stockport.

A new section has been introduced this quarter to help emphasise the importance of having a working smoke alarm –

in this section you can read a small selection of incidents where a working smoke alarm saved the lives of people across Greater Manchester. These fire precautions not only alerted homeowners, but in some cases neighbours and passers-by. This in turn enabled us to make successful rescues by responding effectively.

As in previous reports a selection of what's been happening across each borough has been placed together to make it easier for you to see the wide variety of activity and community engagement projects taking place.

The Fire Authority's investment with the new Bury and Rochdale Community Fire Station project is on target; to read the update turn to page 46

We had plenty to talk about on Twitter and Facebook over the last quarter and will endeavour to continue to update people on our events, as well as incidents that may impact local areas. To keep ahead of what's happening follow us on Facebook at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) or join us on Twitter @manchesterfire.



Steve McGuirk
CBE, MA, BA (Hons), FRSA, FIFireE
Chief Executive/
County Fire Officer

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Operational Incidents of Interest



CITY CENTRE BLAZE

At the height of the fire eight fire engines, two hydraulic platforms, as well as a number of support vehicles attended to help tackle the blaze. Firefighters remained at the scene into the next day 'damping down'.

Thankfully the efforts and hard work of fire crews prevented the surrounding buildings from also perishing in the blaze.

FIRE IN STOCKPORT TEARS THROUGH HOMES

STOCKPORT residents living in a row of terraced properties in North Reddish had to be evacuated after a fire broke out on the first floor of one of the homes.

On arriving at the scene fire crews were confronted by one male casualty who had self rescued from a property and was suffering from the effects of smoke inhalation. He was immediately given oxygen at the scene and taken to hospital for further observation and treatment.

The row of terraced properties on Lyndale Avenue had to be sealed off as the fire quickly spread to neighbouring homes - using four large jets and two hose water jets firefighters fought the blaze and managed to create a fire break in the roof area to prevent the fire spreading to all 10 properties. Unfortunately a total of seven homes were severely damaged by fire, heat and water.



FIRE IN STOCKPORT TEARS THROUGH HOMES

CITY CENTRE BLAZE

FORTY firefighters were called to a blaze at a disused commercial property on Tariff Street in the city centre after a number of repeat calls came from members of the public.

Fire crews quickly arrived on the scene and following an initial assessment a request for additional support was called in to help prevent the fire from spreading to a neighbouring property.



PETROL STATION CRASH BLAZE

PETROL STATION CRASH BLAZE

RESIDENTS in Wigan watched in horror as a van careered off Warrington Road and came to an abrupt stop, crashing into one of the petrol pumps on a garage forecourt.

Thankfully the occupants of the van managed to escape before the vehicle burst into flames.

The area was quickly cordoned off and made safe, whilst local residents were advised to remain indoors.

The firefighters quickly assessed the incident, controlled the fire with a hose reel and set up foam making equipment to control any spilt fuel - laying a blanket of foam on the immediate area.

The driver and the occupant of the vehicle had both fled the area, but were later arrested by Greater Manchester Police in connection with the collision.



FIRE DESTROYS ACRES OF MOORLAND

FIRE DESTROYS ACRES OF MOORLAND

DUE to the unusual hot spell in April firefighters from across Bolton assisted Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service with a large grass fire that covered 1,000's of acres of moorland in Belmont.

At the height of the blaze 13 fire appliances and one soft track vehicle from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, along with four fire appliances and the Pinzgauer vehicle from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service tackled the blaze. The constant change in the wind direction meant that at times the fire spread faster than firefighters could keep up with it.

Fire crews attending the fire focused their efforts on preventing the fire spreading to properties in the areas, as well as three large tree plantations.

After days of fighting the blaze firefighters brought it under

control using a number of different techniques including beaters, water pumps and water from the soft track vehicle.

WAREHOUSE DEVASTED BY FIRE

PLUMES of smoke could be seen for miles after a fire broke out at a large industrial warehouse in Wigan.

The building owned by paper manufacturer Georgia Pacific, one of the worlds leading manufacturers of tissue and packaging, was completely destroyed in the blaze.

A total of 50 firefighters fought against strong winds to bring the fire under control as well as successfully preventing the fire spreading to offices located across from the warehouse.

HUNDREDS WATCH AS FIRE DESTROYS INDUSTRIAL UNIT

FAMILIES from Bolton had to be evacuated from their homes after a huge blaze ripped through an industrial unit on Halliwell Road.

A 100-metre exclusion zone surrounded the area whilst around 30 homes in nearby streets had to be evacuated. Halliwell Road was also closed during rush hour, causing traffic chaos across Bolton.

The industrial unit housed several

businesses, including Highmead MOT Centre, Highmead Body Shop, HMC Tyre Bay Motion Accident Services and Chorley Electrical Traders. Unfortunately due to the damage, the building has since been demolished.



WAREHOUSE DEVASTED BY FIRE



HUNDREDS WATCH AS FIRE DESTROYS INDUSTRIAL UNIT

MAN CARRIED OUT OF FLAT FIRE

THE DRAMATIC escape of a 63-year-old man took place after a neighbour was alerted by the sound of a smoke alarm at a property in Altrincham.

Firefighters from Altrincham and Sale were called to the flat on Coniston Walk in Timperley after a fire broke out in the kitchen involving a pan of food that was left unattended on a cooker.

Fire crews used a door ram to gain entry to the property and successfully managed to rescue the occupant by carrying him out to safety. A fire service Trauma Technician treated the casualty with oxygen therapy before ambulance staff conveyed him to a nearby hospital as a precautionary measure – and thankfully later released him.



SMOKE ALARM SAVES FAMILY FROM BLAZE

SMOKE ALARM SAVES FAMILY FROM BLAZE

A SMOKE alarm is being credited with saving the lives of a Tameside family after a fire broke out at their home in Dukinfield after a chip pan had been left unattended.

Thanks to a smoke alarm the fire service fitted in 2008 as part of a Home Fire Risk Assessment the family were able to escape from the smoke-filled house without serious injuries, and spared the potentially lethal effects of serious smoke inhalation because of the early warning of the smoke alarm - alerting them to the fire.

Luckily for the family the blaze did not fully engulf their home; however there was extensive smoke damage to the ground floor, with light smoke damage to the first floor.

SMOKE ALARM RAISES EARLY WARNING

A SMOKE ALARM provided an early warning for the occupants of a house in Rochdale after a fire broke out in their kitchen.

The family were alerted to the fire by a smoke alarm after food had been left unattended. Luckily due to the timely activation of the smoke alarm the fire was contained to the cooker before it could spread to the rest of the kitchen, the firefighters who attended inspected the cooker and gave fire safety advice.



SMOKE ALARM RAISES EARLY WARNING

HEYWOOD MAN RESCUED FROM HOUSE FIRE

FIREFIGHTERS from Heywood and Bury Fire Stations were called to a fire in an end terraced property in the Pilsworth area of Heywood, where it was reported that people were still inside.

On arriving at the scene six firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the property and quickly located and rescued a 30-year-old man from an upstairs bedroom. Trauma Technicians and paramedics administered oxygen and treated the casualty at the scene before he was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Firefighters quickly tackled the fire in the ground floor lounge using three water jets, but unfortunately the property suffered extensive fire damage to the ground floor, with heat and smoke damage to the remainder of the house. There was no evidence of a working smoke alarm in the property.

MUM AND BABY RESCUED BY FIREFIGHTERS

WHEN a fire broke out in the cellar of a property on Aston Old Road in Higher Openshaw the occupants had a lucky escape thanks to the quick actions of a passer-by who noticed the smoke and raised the alarm.

When fire crews arrived they found a fire in the basement and

ground floor of the property. Firefighters quickly stepped into action and rescued a young woman and her six month old son from the first floor flat in the property using a ladder, after smoke from the flat below had blocked their escape route.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus also located and extinguished the fire in the basement and ground floor of the property. The young woman and baby were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation and taken to a nearby hospital.

After investigation the cause of the fire was confirmed as an electrical fault within the main switchboard located in the basement of the purpose built flats.

WOMAN LED TO SAFETY FROM BOLTON HOME

FIRE CREWS saved a 27-year-old woman from a smoke logged house after a fire broke out in the kitchen.

The female occupant was led to safety by firefighters, before they tackled the blaze. The fire was started by a pan on the cooker that had been left unattended.

The woman was treated at the scene for smoke inhalation using oxygen therapy - but declined further medical treatment.



LUCKY TO ESCAPE

A 25-YEAR-OLD woman had a lucky escape after a fire broke out at her ground floor flat on Durham Street in Oldham.

When fire crews arrived at the property shortly after 11.20pm they found a well established fire involving a settee in the living room - with no smoke alarm fitted in the property. The alarm was raised by a nearby resident, who noticed the flames in the living room.

Wearing breathing apparatus fire crews entered the flat, rescued the female occupant and brought the fire under control.

Director of Prevention and Protection Peter O'Reilly from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service urged people to get a smoke alarm.

He said: "This lady is very lucky indeed, had it not been for the quick action of the neighbour, who spotted the fire and dialled 999 - this would almost certainly have ended in tragedy."

"This sends out a very clear message - every home should have a smoke alarm because one day it could save your life."

To book a free HFRA please call **0800 555 815**





Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	65	72	65	75
Total deliberate fires	388	576	388	602
Primary fires (dwellings)	67	72	67	84
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	321	504	321	518
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	2
Fatalities	0	0	0	1
Injuries	10	12	10	12
Building fires	181	189	181	212
Number of people rescued from fires	6	0	6	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	17	0	17	22

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	397
Enforcement Notices	1
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1123
With partners	1493

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	188.5
Completed volunteers hours	90.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	98
% of hours completed against requested	48

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	184
Completed volunteers hours	144.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	39.5
% of hours completed against requested	78.5

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	130
Completed volunteers hours	116
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	14
% of hours completed against requested	89.2



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Borough News



BOLTON MAN THANKS FIRE SERVICE FOR SAVING HIS LIFE

BOLTON MAN THANKS FIRE SERVICE FOR SAVING HIS LIFE

A BOLTON man has a routine fire safety visit to thank for saving his life after the discovery of a gas leak in his flat.

Community Safety Support Officer Tony Skipp based at Bolton Borough Headquarters carried out a Home Fire Risk Assessment at the flat on Bolton's Victory Street.

As Tony entered the flat he noticed a strong smell of gas, quickly turning off the gas supply and opening all the windows to ventilate the property. He then called the gas company who sent someone to the premises within the hour.

On a follow up visit the next day the occupant, Mr Hill, confirmed Tony's suspicion and said that had it not been for the visit by

Tony, things could have had an extremely different outcome.

Mr Hill said: "I dread to think what could have happened if the visit hadn't been arranged. I would like to thank Tony and the fire service for saving my life."

SCHOOL CHILDREN GET LESSON IN ROLE OF A FIREFIGHTER

AS YOUNGSTERS from Markland Hill Primary School turned up for school they were confronted with something that sparked a "major incident".

As the children arrived at the start of what they thought was an average school day they were shocked to find an area on the playing fields cordoned off by police, with firefighters arriving at the scene shortly afterwards wearing protective suits in preparation to examine the area.

Fortunately the incident was an exercise set up for the children to engage and inspire them to draw on their literacy skills, whilst Bolton firefighters used the setting as an opportunity to stage a decontamination training exercise.

Later in the day fire crews took the opportunity to speak to the children about how the role of a firefighter isn't just about putting

out fires, it also includes attending chemical incidents and road traffic collisions too.

"It was evident throughout the morning that the children were wholly inspired and in awe of you all - your training exercise was extremely insightful. It provided the children (and adults) with a better understanding and awareness of the different situations firefighters have to contend with on a day to day basis, and the effect this can have on the people around them."

BARN FIRE DESTROYS 60-YEAR-OLD TRACTOR

A FIERCE blaze that ripped through a barn at a farm in the Lostock area of Bolton destroyed expensive machinery along with a vintage tractor.

Calls from the public flooded in to the fire service control centre as the fire began to take hold. Police officers closed a section of the road and cordoned off the area throughout the night while 20 firefighters battled to bring the blaze under control. Local residents were asked, as a precaution, to stay indoors with their windows and doors closed.

The roads remained closed the day after as fire investigation officers worked to establish the cause – this concluded the most likely cause of the fire could have been from two possible ignition sources; a chemical breakdown creating decomposition gasses being stored in direct sunlight or a discarded cigarette thrown away by a passer-by.



SCHOOL CHILDREN GET LESSON IN ROLE OF A FIREFIGHTER



BARN FIRE DESTROYS 60-YEAR-OLD TRACTOR

CLUBBERS FLEE FIRE AT LUSH BAR BOLTON

CLUBBERS in Bolton were stopped in their tracks after a fire broke out in the three storey building known as Lush Disco Bar on Bradshawgate in Bolton.

When fire crews arrived they were faced with a well established fire in the ground floor doorway of the club that had quickly spread via the internal staircase up to the first and second floor.

Ten firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the burning building with two water jets in order to search the premises and

extinguish the fire. Although the fire was quickly brought under control, the building suffered severe fire damage to the stairwell and significant heat and smoke damage to the remainder of the building.

Due to the suspicious nature by which the fire appeared to have started, a multi agency investigation between special fire scene investigation officers and the police began.

Bradshawgate remained closed for several hours whilst firefighters 'dampened down' the fire and made the area safe.



CLUBBERS FLEE FIRE AT LUSH BAR BOLTON



LUSH BAR BOLTON



Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	25	39	25	43
Total deliberate fires	166	213	166	228
Primary fires (dwellings)	37	33	37	40
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	129	180	129	188
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	0
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	3	6	3	6
Building fires	81	105	81	121
Number of people rescued from fires	2	0	2	2
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	13	0	13	16

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	425
Enforcement Notices	11
Prohibitions	1

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	593
With partners	597

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	21
Completed volunteers hours	8
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	13
% of hours completed against requested	38

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	58
Completed volunteers hours	53
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	5
% of hours completed against requested	91.4

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	271
Completed volunteers hours	250
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	21
% of hours completed against requested	92.2




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Borough News

FIRE SAFETY IS CRUCIAL

ANOTHER successful Crucial Crew initiative was carried out by the Community Fire Safety Department in Bury Borough throughout June 2011, who targeted primary schools giving vital fire safety talks.

Two Community Fire Safety Officers from Bury were joined by volunteers from the Community

Action Team to deliver high energy fire safety messages to around 65 primary schools, reaching around 2100 young people aged eight to nine.

A committed multi-agency attendance meant that the youngsters got information about all types of dangers from water safety, littering, first aid, as well as bullying, to learning about what action to take in the event of their

smoke alarm sounding both at school and at home.

The scenario consisted of a 'Run-A-Round' type questionnaire where students had to choose between what action they would take. They were also told of the importance of regularly checking and maintaining their smoke alarm, as well as how to move around in a smoke filled environment.

RESIDENTS IN BURY FLEE FROM BLAZE

RESIDENTS fled for their lives after a fire tore through a cottage and threatened nearby homes.

When firefighters from Bolton, Bury and Ramsbottom arrived at the mid-terraced property off Bolton Road, Hawkshaw, they were faced with a well developed fire that was rapidly spreading to the first floor.

The residents were alerted to the fire by the sound of a smoke alarm, which enabled the occupants from the property, as well as the two neighbouring properties, to escape prior to the arrival of fire crews. Firefighters successfully managed to rescue three pet cats from one of the adjoining properties. Fire crews gave them oxygen therapy, to the delight of their owners, all three pets thankfully survived their ordeal.

A 50-year-old woman who lived at the cottage where the fire started was taken to hospital for a check-up after breathing in smoke. Unfortunately the property was devastated by the fire – a full investigation was carried out and concluded that the fire had been started deliberately.

RAMSBOTTOM OPEN DAY ROARING SUCCESS

THE DOORS of Ramsbottom Fire Station opened up to welcome local residents who turned out in droves to support the station's annual Open Day in May.

The day was a huge success as people turned up to meet and chat to their local firefighters about fire safety as well as the many activities on offer such as stalls, a bouncy castle and a spectacular demonstration of firefighters using cutting equipment to rescue a 'casualty', in a mock-up of a road traffic collision.

An impressive £420 was raised through selling children's fire helmets, the bouncy castle, tombola and the generosity of stallholders including the Women's Institute and a local cater selling burgers. The monies raised from the day were equally divided between three charities – The Fire Fighters Charity, the Children's Burns Foundation and the Ramsbottom Community Fire Cadets.

Station Manager Dave Fraser-Jones said he was overwhelmed by the turnout and the generosity of the local people. You can read about other station open days on page 54

Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	135	135	135	141
Total deliberate fires	639	843	639	880
Primary fires (dwellings)	143	114	143	132
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	496	729	496	748
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	1
Fatalities	2	0	2	2
Injuries	28	18	28	21
Building fires	365	327	365	365
Number of people rescued from fires	9	0	9	6
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	38	0	38	39

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	1213
Enforcement Notices	13
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	2591
With partners	2624

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	81
Completed volunteers hours	75
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	6
% of hours completed against requested	92.6

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	187
Completed volunteers hours	183
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	4
% of hours completed against requested	97.9

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	295.5
Completed volunteers hours	263.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	32
% of hours completed against requested	89.2




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Borough News



COMMUNITY SPIRIT HELPS YOUNG FAMILY

COMMUNITY SPIRIT HELPS YOUNG FAMILY

A FAMILY from Blackley were forced to flee their home on Northridge Road after a fire broke out in a first floor bedroom.

Luckily the mother and her four children managed to escape from the house after the smoke alarm sounded and raised the alarm.

Fire crews from Blackley arrived to a well established fire, but quickly managed to bring the fire under control and stop it from spreading to the other rooms in the house. The fire is believed to have started by one of the children playing with matches.

This was a devastating event for the family and coupled by the fact she did not have insurance to cover the damage, rebuilding their life would be an up hill struggle.

However, with the help of kind-hearted fire crews, this was made a little easier. Watch Manager Paul

Brunt contacted local bedding company Comfy Quilts Ltd who offered the family a number of items that included quilts, bedding and pillows - along with the help from neighbours and local stores the family were able to start the rebuilding process – a real example of great community spirit.

FOOTBALL CLUB DEVASTATED BY DOUBLE ARSON ATTACK

A FOOTBALL club in Blackley was devastated after a storage container, containing the clubs equipment, was the target of arsonists on two consecutive nights.

Arsonist targeted Moston Brook Football Club on Waterloo Street and over two nights the fires caused around £2,000 worth of damage.

On the initial call firefighters discovered a well established fire involving the changing room area, with a danger the fire could spread to a kit room. Thankfully the blaze was extinguished quickly and firefighters managed to stop it from spreading – although the changing room was devastated by the fire. After the fire was extinguished staff spent more than three hours searching through the charred equipment, salvaging what they could.

Sadly, the following night, arsonists struck for a second time

and targeted the containers that fire crews managed to save on the previous night.

This had a huge impact on the club as well as the local community - funds that had been put back to fund the club in an up and coming tournament had to be used to replace the equipment that was destroyed by the fires.

The club has since started to seek a long term secure solution for their storage and changing room needs to help prevent this from happening again.



FOOTBALL CLUB DEVASTATED BY DOUBLE ARSON ATTACK

COMMUNITY FOCUSED FIREFIGHTERS IN BLACKLEY

THE PASSING out ceremony for the latest round of graduates from the RECLAIM North Manchester Boys project took place in May at the Simpson Memorial Hall on Moston Lane.

The RECLAIM project started in October 2010 with 18 boys from local schools nominated onto the project for a variety of reasons, including lack of confidence, chaotic home-lives, lack of opportunity, plus more.

The boys took part in seven months of activity which included a weekend residential trip to the Lake District, business training with a range of Manchester employers, creative weekend,

mystery tour of other North West cities and a city centre manifesto day sharing their original North Manchester Manifesto with over 700 Manchester residents in the city centre.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service has supported this project from the outset, hosting one of the pivotal community days as well as providing space for the young people to engage in activity at weekends. Fire crews at Blackley Fire Station have dedicated their time to work with the young men to encourage them to have a more positive outlook on the community, as well as helping to build relationships with their local firefighters.



Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	38	42	38	45
Total deliberate fires	408	609	408	638
Primary fires (dwellings)	73	90	73	104
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	335	522	335	534
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	4
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	10	12	10	13
Building fires	135	165	135	183
Number of people rescued from fires	5	0	5	2
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	14	0	14	14

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	466
Enforcement Notices	5
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1547
With partners	1911

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	38
Completed volunteers hours	34
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	4
% of hours completed against requested	89.5

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	24
Completed volunteers hours	24
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0
% of hours completed against requested	100


Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	102
Completed volunteers hours	79
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	23
% of hours completed against requested	77.4



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Borough News



FIREFLY COURSE IS HUGE SUCCESS

FIREFLY COURSE IS HUGE SUCCESS

OLDHAM Borough held a special Firefly course at the beginning of April, which was centred around the needs of one young boy who had been through all our other

solutions but was still having difficulties with fire.

Eight other needy young people were also invited to take part and to the delight of everyone involved all nine successfully completed the course.



RETIRED WATCH MANAGER TO THE RESCUE

RETIRED WATCH MANAGER TO THE RESCUE

RETIRED Watch Manager Rickey Denel jumped into action after he witnessed a car in front of him swerve out of control hitting two parked cars before coming to rest on its roof with the driver trapped inside.

The incident that happened on Oldham Road in Middleton prompted Rickey to recap on his training as a firefighter. As he approached the car he found a lady held upside down by her seatbelt and complaining of neck and back pain. He quickly put his skills into action securing the scene, calling the emergency

services whilst assisting the casualty reassuring her that help was on its way.

The fire crews arrived within four minutes and promptly stabilised the car before removing the driver's door, enabling them to manoeuvre the lady onto a long board and out of the car to safety. The 67-year-old lady was taken to Royal Oldham Hospital.

BEAUTY SPOT SAVED FROM FIRE

A BEAUTY spot at Dovestones Reservoir in Oldham was saved by the quick thinking fire crews who managed to contain the fire and prevent it from destroying moorland.

The fire was approximately half a mile off the nearest track which meant that firefighters had to negotiate their way with equipment across rough terrain with various pieces of equipment. When they arrived they faced a fire which was fast approaching an area of moorland that had recently had £2.5 million spent on reconstruction work.

Fire crews managed to prevent the fire spreading but encountered difficulties due to the change in wind direction, thankfully liaising with the Park Ranger Services and Peak District National Park, the land owners agreed to the request of the helicopter to help fight the fire.

Firefighting operations continued and the next morning volunteers for the Park Ranger Services and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) acted as eyes and ears for the fire service notifying them of any seats of fire.

Thankfully the fire was restricted to one section of the moorland and the newly developed area was saved.

Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	43	57	43	59
Total deliberate fires	353	474	353	496
Primary fires (dwellings)	49	75	49	87
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	304	399	304	409
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	1
Fatalities	1	0	1	0
Injuries	11	12	11	15
Building fires	120	162	120	179
Number of people rescued from fires	13	0	13	3
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	16	0	16	15

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	337
Enforcement Notices	27
Prohibitions	2

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1310
With partners	1333

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	41
Completed volunteers hours	41
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0
% of hours completed against requested	100

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	66
Completed volunteers hours	66
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0
% of hours completed against requested	100


Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	76.5
Completed volunteers hours	64.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	12
% of hours completed against requested	84.3



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Borough News



HEYWOOD'S DAY OF ACTION

HEYWOOD'S DAY OF ACTION

FOLLOWING a serious fire in the stairwell of a block of flats in Heywood's Angel Meadow, which resulted in a family having to be rescued from an upper floor, members of the Community Fire Safety Team at Rochdale organised a multi-agency 'day-of-action' to engage with tenants from all 206 flats across the 17 blocks in the community.

Working together, the police offered advice on burglary reduction, Rochdale Council's Environmental Team advised tenants on re-cycling and how to keep the area free from waste, whilst Rochdale Boroughwide Housing were on hand to deal with any immediate issues or concerns of the tenants.

Fire crews from Heywood Red Watch, along with two volunteers from the Community Action Team and the Community Fire Safety (CFS) Team from Rochdale were also involved and managed to visit all 206 flats highlighting the importance of keeping passages and stairwells free from accumulated waste, which could potentially block vital escape routes in the event of a fire.

HFRA's were also offered – with 45 tenants on the day taking advantage of this excellent service. This is another good example of how partner agencies, working together, have a real impact on the lives of the people across Greater Manchester.

FIRE DEVASTATES FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

PLUMES of black smoke filled the sky as fire ripped through a family owned plastics factory on Moss Bridge Road, Kingsway.

As flames tore through the roof of the two-storey building, it took 40 firefighters half an hour to tackle the blaze. At height of the fire the heat was so intense it caused windows in the building to explode and flames reaching beyond the height of the aerial platform.

Fire crews from Rochdale, Heywood and Littleborough used water jets and an aerial platform to fight the blaze from the outside,



FIRE DEVASTATES FAMILY RUN BUSINESS

due to concerns that the building may collapse.

Thick black smoke covered the local area and roads around the property had to be closed. Fire crews remained in attendance throughout the day damping down the building and assisting with the fire investigation.



Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	55	72	55	75
Total deliberate fires	326	435	326	455
Primary fires (dwellings)	69	75	69	86
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	257	360	257	369
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	3
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	13	9	13	9
Building fires	154	171	154	189
Number of people rescued from fires	5	0	5	7
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	22	0	22	23

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	623
Enforcement Notices	14
Prohibitions	7

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1406
With partners	1459

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	109
Completed volunteers hours	93
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	16
% of hours completed against requested	85.3

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	87.5
Completed volunteers hours	67
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	20.5
% of hours completed against requested	76.6


Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	116
Completed volunteers hours	78
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	38
% of hours completed against requested	67.2



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Borough News



SMOKE ALARM ALERTS FAMILY OF DANGER

SMOKE ALARM ALERTS FAMILY OF DANGER

A FAMILY from Eccles can thank their smoke alarm for saving their life after a blaze broke out at their home.

Eccles and Stretford fire crews were called to the home on Schofield Road where a fire had started in one of the bedrooms on the first floor. On their arrival

firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used hose reels and thankfully managed to quickly put out the fire before it spread to the other rooms in the house.

After a discussion with fire crews it was established that a young boy had been upstairs playing with a lighter and accidentally set fire to the room. Only due to the sounding of a smoke alarm, that

had been fitted as part of a Home Fire Risk Assessment by fire crews in 2009, was the father alerted of the danger and managed to escape from the property with the children, unhurt.

The fire crew organised a Fire Awareness and Community Education (FACE) referral for the little boy, as well as booking a Home Fire Risk Assessment.



LOCAL YOUNGSTERS FACE THE DRAGONS

LOCAL YOUNGSTERS FACE THE DRAGONS

MEMBERS of the Salford Community Project bravely entered the ‘dragons den’ to pitch their ideas on how to improve the community in Eccles, as well as help build stronger bonds between the fire service and the community.

The Salford Community Project has been developed by Salford Borough’s Jan Finch, Station Manager Gary Dewar and Joel Weaver, seconded from the Salford Foundation (funded by New Economy – Better Life Chances). The team of ten 18-24 year olds spent months consulting with the people of Eccles to see what they want from their local fire station – some of the more popular responses included; the station having more facilities and sporting activities, and being open more to its community.

Taking into account the needs of local people team members split into teams, each focusing on their own scheme to pitch to the ‘dragons’ – in true BBC Dragons Den style.

After lots of preparation, the day finally arrived for the eager teams to meet the ‘dragons’. The judging panel members, aka the ‘dragons’, were County Fire Officer and Chief Executive Steve McGuirk, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jim Owen, Salford Borough Manager Paul Petrykowski, Mike Emerick from New Economy and Salford Foundation’s Deputy Chief Executive, Phil East.

Pitches on the day were:-

- Children’s Parties at Eccles Fire Station – suitable for birthday parties of children aged 2-9
- Open Wednesdays – road safety demonstration sessions initially aimed at year 9 and 10 school pupils
- Rainbow Café – a social enterprise at the Rainbow Rooms (located across from Eccles Fire Station) to be utilised for various events, including supporting the children’s parties and station open days

The ideas were presented to the ‘dragons’ who also took the opportunity to ask the groups questions about their proposed schemes.

Chief Steve McGuirk and the other ‘dragons’ were highly impressed and could see real potential in all three ideas. All three of the projects will now be worked up over the coming months into fully functional schemes, in the hope they will become integral parts of the fire service and the local community.



SCHOOL COACH COLLISION CAUSES CHAOS

SCHOOL COACH COLLISION CAUSES CHAOS

SCHOOLCHILDREN from two primary schools in Greater Manchester were involved in a pile-up involving five vehicles on the M62.

The children aged eleven and twelve were from Blackshaw

Primary and Masefield Primary Schools in Bolton. The pile-up involved five-vehicles, two transit-style vans, a car and two school coaches – one carrying 49 children from Blackshaw Primary and the other carrying 30 children from Masefield Primary.

The Road Traffic Collision (RTC) happened on the eastbound carriageway of the M62 near junction 12, close to the Eccles Interchange, as the children returned from an educational trip in Shropshire.

Twenty-one children in all were taken to nearby hospitals, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and Salford Royal, suffering whiplash as well as other minor injuries. One of the coach drivers had to be cut from the vehicle by

firefighters after suffering a suspected broken leg. The remaining casualties were treated at the scene and transferred back to school by a relief coach organised by Bolton Council.

Two lanes of the M62 were closed as emergency services worked to release and secure the safety of all those involved. Once firefighters cut the coach driver free they remained at the scene assisting ambulance crews with the treatment and movement of the young people involved. In total 78 children and 13 adults were affected in the incident.

This was an excellent example of how emergency services work together to bring an incident to an efficient and satisfactory conclusion – an admirable job all round.



Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	53	42	53	45
Total deliberate fires	240	321	240	334
Primary fires (dwellings)	31	42	31	48
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	209	279	209	286
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	2
Fatalities	0	0	0	1
Injuries	8	9	8	11
Building fires	110	111	110	124
Number of people rescued from fires	3	0	3	7
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	15	0	15	17

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	343
Enforcement Notices	8
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	872
With partners	887

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	60
Completed volunteers hours	60
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0
% of hours completed against requested	100

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	130
Completed volunteers hours	126
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	4
% of hours completed against requested	96.9

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	254.5
Completed volunteers hours	183
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	71.5
% of hours completed against requested	71.9




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Borough News

BRAND NEW CARS DESTROYED IN FIRE

A FIRE that engulfed an industrial estate in Stockport also damaged 30 brand new cars that surrounded the building.

Firefighters were called to Offerton Industrial Estate, on Hempshaw Lane after dozens of people reported flames coming from the area. At the height of the blaze

approximately 40 firefighters tackled an intense fire that engulfed both floors of the two storey building.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used three water jets, assisted by a high reach aerial appliance to successfully extinguish the fire. The two-storey building was completely destroyed, as well as a number of

brand new cars which were being stored in the yard beside it.

A fire investigation established that the cause of the fire was deliberate by persons unknown.

FIRE CREWS GO OUT AND 'A-BOAT'

MARPLE Fire Station took to the water to help promote "Boat Safety Week" in a bid to raise awareness of general fire risks and associated safety issues with boat owners.

Watch Manager Dave Lilley and Firefighter Richard Skidmore went out and about promoting the need to fit smoke detectors on boats that have overnight accommodation - statistics show there is a greater risk of fire when boaters are asleep.

Landlords of the local pub "The Ring O' Bells" told them about their true life story and how they left that fire safety education in the community really does make a difference.

As the couple cruised along the canal from peak forest towards Marple they heard a smoke alarm beeping from a narrow boat that was moored up. Upon closer inspection they could see wispy smoke coming from the boat – thankfully there was no one aboard. After a recent Boat Fire Safety Training event at Marple Fire Station, they strung into action and grabbed their fire extinguisher.

When they boarded the narrow boat and discovered logs had been left to dry on the wood burning stove, this had caused them to overheat and produce the smoke. They found out later that the owners had only recently bought the boat and were inexperienced. After this incident the couple have shared their

knowledge and experience in boat safety with as many people as possible to help prevent anything happening again.

Pictured alongside Dave Lilley and Richard Skidmore are the crew of "The Bell", Peter Croucher and Tony Hannible. They invited Dave and Richard onto the boat for a "Fire Safety Assessment".



FIRE CREWS GO OUT AND 'A-BOAT'





COMMUNITY SAFETY COFFEE MORNING

COMMUNITY SAFETY COFFEE MORNING

FIREFIGHTERS from Marple hosted a fire safety event with a difference, inviting members of the local community into the fire station for coffee and cake.

The 'Community Safety Coffee Morning' was organised to help

improve local residents' fire risk awareness, as well as giving people the opportunity to meet their local firefighters and other organisations in the area.

Retained firefighters, along with members of their families, took the time to chat about fire awareness, promote Home Fire Risk Assessments (HFRA'S) and the availability of using the fire station community room for meetings, such as first aid classes.

Joining the firefighters on the day were representatives from the Stroke Awareness team, Ring and Ride and local landlord Mark Singleton, who were available for informal chats discussing a wide range of issues, such as transport for the elderly and disabled.

Organiser Tony Hurley said: "We had a great day and a steady flow of people coming in for a chat, coffee or just to take a look round the station and fire engine.

Everyone who came seemed to enjoy it, especially the children. We even had a lady turn up for help with her son's bike, because it had a chain and padlock on that they couldn't remove.

"The coffee morning was a great way to meet up with local people - we got several HFRA's and raised £25 for The Fire Fighters Charity. I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to help with the event and to the people of Marple who came along and joined us."



Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	28	42	28	43
Total deliberate fires	259	339	259	355
Primary fires (dwellings)	41	45	41	54
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	218	294	218	301
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	1
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	13	12	13	15
Building fires	95	117	95	130
Number of people rescued from fires	4	0	4	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	14	0	14	18

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	211
Enforcement Notices	6
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1063
With partners	2123

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	105
Completed volunteers hours	100
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	5
% of hours completed against requested	95.2

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	99
Completed volunteers hours	95
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	4
% of hours completed against requested	96

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	211
Completed volunteers hours	199
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	12
% of hours completed against requested	94.3




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Borough News



CYCLING FOR SAFETY

CYCLING FOR SAFETY

THE ARSON reduction cycle patrol scheme is now in its third year and has proved a huge success within Tameside Borough in helping to reduce the risk of fire.

The scheme was enhanced in 2010 with the purchase of several mountain bikes and some specialist bikes and trikes

adapted for people with disabilities. The mountain bikes are ridden on patrol by our Community Action Team volunteers and Future Job Fund candidates, while the specialist bikes were loaned to a charity who works at a local running track giving disabled people the opportunity to experience bike riding.

The scheme has been a great success and the Future Jobs Fund has contributed a great deal in providing a very visible presence in the Tameside community, acting as arson reduction patrollers and helping to promote the fire service in a very positive manner.

The Community Action Team are currently looking for people to join the team and help to carry out cycle patrols in the area – to find out how you can join please visit the volunteers page on www.manchesterfire.gov.uk



BAISHAKHI MELA

BAISHAKHI MELA

DANCING, music and food set the scene at the Baishakhi Mela in Hyde as people from the Bangladeshi community joined together to celebrate their New Year festival.

The day’s entertainment ensured there was something for every age group. Firefighters,

volunteers, Community Fire Safety along with the borough management team were all keen to be part of annual event and join in with the festivities.

The day was a huge success through offering the fire service an opportunity to enhance good working relationships whilst speaking to them about fire safety.

TAMESIDE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN ACTION

A REFRESH of Tameside’s Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is underway to help the good work currently carried out to help reduce crime, fires and antisocial behaviour.

The group has been extremely successful over the past 10 years and has been recognised by the Audit Commission in 2009, as “outstanding” and “as a partnership that has delivered much safer communities”.

A change to the strategic overview of activities has created further opportunities for a “street level” delivery group, whose remit is to task agencies and promote low level intervention activity on a street or neighbourhood level.

Based on the principle “Simple2Start” the strategy centres on routine proactive problem solving where the worst five locations are improved, before moving onto the next five areas.

The process provides a basis for problem-orientated action by applying a systematic review process and tackling issues in bite size chunks.

The close working relationship between officers from the different agencies has meant that problems can be sorted out more quickly. Furthermore all the meetings in Tameside’s four Neighbourhoods are held in the local fire station community rooms, with planning days and similar activity also held at the station – putting us at the heart of these changes for helping to build a better future.

For information on how to book a fire station community room for your event or meeting visit ‘My Area’ at www.manchesterfire.gov.uk

Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	37	24	37	25
Total deliberate fires	151	204	151	213
Primary fires (dwellings)	17	21	17	25
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	134	183	134	188
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	1
Fatalities	1	0	1	0
Injuries	6	3	6	4
Building fires	82	75	82	85
Number of people rescued from fires	4	0	4	0
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	15	0	15	6

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	460
Enforcement Notices	10
Prohibitions	0

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1656
With partners	1674

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	185
Completed volunteers hours	162
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	23
% of hours completed against requested	87.6

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	132.5
Completed volunteers hours	70.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	62
% of hours completed against requested	53.2


Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	154
Completed volunteers hours	94.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	59.5
% of hours completed against requested	61.4



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Borough News



MAN RESCUED FROM CAB

MAN RESCUED FROM CAB

TRAINING with the North West Ambulance's Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) paid dividends when crews attended an industrial accident in Trafford.

Stretford Fire Station has been an official host venue for training of the North West and has been developing closer links between local stations and HART.

Emergency responders from both organisations put that training to the test when a 20 tonne concrete slab fell onto the cab of a demolition vehicle, severely trapping the driver.

As the HART worked to stabilise his condition and administered pain relief, fire crews used cutting equipment to create space for medical personnel to operate and to extricate the driver from the cab.

Eventually, the driver was removed on a spine board and carried across the rubble to the waiting ambulance.

BELT UP!

OVER 170 drivers were pulled over in a matter of hours during a road safety campaign.

Trafford's Community Fire Safety (CFS) department joined colleagues from Greater Manchester Police and Trafford Borough Council's Road Safety Unit for a special event.

Police pulled over drivers for various driving offences and CFS Officer Andy Graham and Trafford Road Safety Officer Sue Whitehead delivered a hard-hitting safety presentation.

Between 9am and 1.30pm hours, over 170 vehicles were stopped at Barton swing bridge, 68 of these were for failing to wear a seat belt.

All those who were stopped were given fixed penalty notices but those who were stopped for seat belt offences were given the option of attending a presentation at Stretford fire station in order to get their fixed penalty cancelled.

The presentation was delivered to a total of 74 people.

All attendees were asked to provide feedback about the presentation and all of them were very positive with one person writing "come and do this at my work".

CHARITY SPLASH

A GRAND total of £1,268.71 was raised by Blue Watch at Altrincham during a charity car wash. The money has been donated to Operation Florian.



BELT UP!



CHARITY SPLASH





Statistics

	Year to date	Target to date	Quarter 1	Prev. year to date
Number of accidental dwelling fires	46	48	46	51
Total deliberate fires	482	687	482	714
Primary fires (dwellings)	82	63	82	74
Secondary fires (rubbish, etc)	400	624	400	640
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	3	0	3	1
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	16	3	16	4
Building fires	170	144	170	159
Number of people rescued from fires	5	0	5	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	18	0	18	14

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order

Fire Safety Audits Completed	574
Enforcement Notices	5
Prohibitions	1

Home Fire Risk Assessments

Completed	1549
With partners	1607

Volunteers

Volunteers Activity	April
Actual generated activity	120
Completed volunteers hours	115
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	5
% of hours completed against requested	95.8

Volunteers Activity	May
Actual generated activity	303
Completed volunteers hours	291
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	12
% of hours completed against requested	96

Volunteers Activity	June
Actual generated activity	585
Completed volunteers hours	540
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	45
% of hours completed against requested	92.3



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Borough News



HOME FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

HOME FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

WIGAN MP Yvonne Fovargue joined Wigan's firefighters at the home of a local mother to help support and build awareness on the free Home Fire Risk Assessments (HFRA) service offered by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

The day saw firefighters talking to the householder for around 30-40 minutes discussing general fire safety topics, such as how to make an escape plan, how to leave the property the safest way in the event of a fire, as well as discussing her lifestyle in relation to risk from fire, so that specific advice could be given.

Whilst the discussion took place another firefighter was fitting smoke detectors and checking rooms in the house for hazards before discussing them with the householder to reduce the risk.

Smoke alarms save lives - book a Home Fire Risk Assessment today by calling **0800 555 815**.



WIGAN GET ACTIVE IN PROMOTING HEALTH

WIGAN GET ACTIVE IN PROMOTING HEALTH

WIGAN Borough headquarters played host to the local strategic health team who promotes health and wellbeing across Wigan.

A team of 12 nurses descended on the borough and used the fire station as a focal point, inviting members of the public to have a health check that included weight, cholesterol, heart and lung function, as well as advice on how

to stop smoking and how to eat more healthily.

Various exercise systems were set up in the appliance room so the public and staff alike could get active. The 'big bird' platform, the digital display board at Wigan, was successfully utilised to advertise and promote messages regarding the health day.

Due to the outstanding success further health days were planned at Leigh and Atherton fire stations.

Pictured are health staff, white watch and CAT volunteers exercising

FOOTBALL MANIA SPARKS MAJOR FIRE EXERCISE

FIRE appliances from Wigan, Bolton and Salford recently attended a major exercise, that was designed to test the new style BA sets, telemetry along with inter agency working, supported by appliances and crews from Lancashire (Ormskirk and Skelmersdale) and Merseyside (Newton) Fire and Rescue Services.

On arrival at the DW Stadium crews were met with a post match scenario in which disgruntled away supporters had set a small fire in the South Stand

that had resulted in heavy smoke logging and nine persons missing.

Casualties involved members of the Community Action Team Volunteers as well as statutory station dummies.

Crews were sent in with hose lines to complete a free search of the first floor area and access was restricted to one doorway. The fire was quickly extinguished but the stand took an hour to search effectively.

After one hour, a firefighter developed a simulated broken leg, so the 'distress to wearer' procedure was implemented - this involved a further rescue.

Overall the exercise was extremely successful, with just a few minor issues around improving communication between teams, partners and to control, being highlighted.



FOOTBALL MANIA SPARKS MAJOR FIRE EXERCISE

NEW FIRE STATIONS GET GREEN LIGHT FROM COUNCIL

IN APRIL plans to build two new £1.6million community fire stations - one in Bury and one in Rochdale - were given the go ahead after members of both council's planning committees gave the projects the green light.

County Fire Officer Steve McGuirk said: "Both council's approval is fantastic news for the local communities and residents. Our new fire stations represent a £1.6m investment in each area and will combine value for money and excellent facilities for emergency response, whilst also taking care of the local environment. In addition, the community facilities will provide more opportunities for us to interact with the local communities and deliver fire safety initiatives."

Kier Northern is the appointed building contractor for the entire project. Kier Operations Director Colin Quigley said: "We are absolutely delighted that the project to build the two new fire stations has achieved this key milestone on schedule."

The new community fire station in Bury will be located at Chamber Hall Business Park and the community new station in Rochdale will be located on Halifax Road.

Once complete it is hoped that they will be amongst the most energy efficient fire stations in the country, with the intention being for both to be built to achieve an excellent Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) accreditation, which is a measure of a building's carbon footprint and positive impact upon the environment.

Initiatives such as rainwater recycling systems to flush toilets and solar collectors to provide hot water for shower and washing, along with a recycling policy through the construction phase will ensure best use of resources is made. Recycled and waste materials will be utilised wherever possible in the construction programme and waste materials from the site recycled. The fire station will cover an area of 900m² and will include a community room for use by GMFRS community partners and groups.



BURY FIRE STATION, ARTISTS IMPRESSION



ROCHDALE FIRE STATION, ARTISTS IMPRESSION

FROM April 1 2010 the default position of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority is to prosecute the responsible person(s) of premises where a prohibition notice has been issued, unless there is a reason not to.

Such a reason would be failing the public interest, such as where an offence was a result of a genuine mistake or misunderstanding – in which case these factors would be balanced against the seriousness of the offence, and whether there is insufficient evidence to prosecute or not.

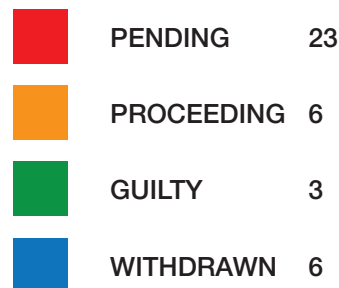
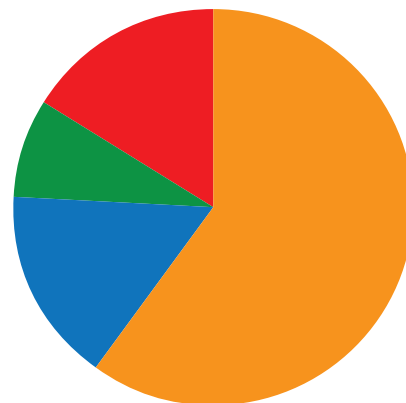
From April 1 2011 to June 30, 2011 protection officers served 24 prohibitions - of which seven were not recommended for prosecution for the following reasons;

- One notice was withdrawn as sleeping risk was to the responsible person only

- Four withdrawn due to positive attitude of responsible persons and works carried out immediately

- Two with insufficient evidence

The chart below shows the status of prosecutions over the quarter one period



RESCUES PROMPT FIRE SAFETY PROHIBITION NOTICE

FOLLOWING a fire at a shop on Stockport Road, Longsight, in the early hours of April 18, 2011 firefighters rescued three men from the upper floor of the three storey terraced building.

Following the fire, a number of concerns around fire safety provisions within the building were highlighted by the fire crews attending the scene and the information was handed over to specialist fire safety enforcement officers.

On arrival, they inspected the property and following the inspection a Prohibition Notice (under Article 31 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order) was served on the owners, restricting the use of the building until the fire safety matters were resolved. As a result the fire service officers worked with the owners to rectify the faults that were found.





A NEW WAY OF WORKING SAVES LIVES

A NEW WAY OF WORKING SAVES LIVES

MEMBERS of GMFRS Fire Protection team have been specifically targeting and auditing premises to protect the safety of those people living above commercial property such as shops or takeaways.

Past cases have resulted in the upper floors being prohibited from sleeping or other uses to alleviate the risk of inadequate means of escape or inadequate early warning.

Guidance has therefore recently been issued by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) 2011/011 'Regulators Guidance'

and suggests it may be more appropriate to prohibit the use of the commercial premises.

'For situations in which relevant persons in domestic premises over commercial premises are at risk ...the premises ought to be prohibited or restricted, enforcing authorities should consider prohibiting the commercial premises in the first instance, e.g. commercial and domestic premises share a common staircase which terminates in a kitchen.....the scope of the term 'premises' may be broadened to include the domestic premises that do not constitute a house occupied as a single private dwelling.

This is a new approach in the way we deal with serious threats to life risks within such premises that fall under the Fire Safety Order 2005.

In one example, Fire Protection Officers visited a takeaway type premises to undertake an intelligence led audit. They found a commercial operation on the ground floor with the only means of escape from the first and second floors through a

commercial kitchen; this property was also found to have no fire separation to the single staircase and no means of raising the alarm in case of fire. A prohibition notice was served for inadequate means of escape from the first and second floor, as well as inadequate means of escape raising the alarm in the event of fire. This meant the ground floor use as a workplace was prohibited – and lead to the responsible person having to close the shop.

As a result, the family moved from the first and second floors to alternative accommodation, fire doors were replaced on the ground floor, creating fire separation and compartmentation from the single staircase to the upper floors and a fire alarm system installed.

Three days after serving the Prohibition Notice, it was lifted. This case study tested the CFOA application and was a success – this is now the way GMFRS will proceed in premises of this nature to ensure the safety of people living in accommodation such as this in the future.

FIRE SPARKED PROSECUTION

FOLLOWING a fire in a flat on Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, fire officers arranged an inspection of the property the following day.

The property was a house converted into five self contained flats over three floors and an unused basement floor. On entering the premises it soon became apparent that the property was not being maintained to a satisfactory standard.

No fire alarm had been fitted in the premises, the fire separation between flats was compromised due to the lack of maintenance to the fire doors, and no emergency lighting had been installed.

Evidence was gathered for a possible prosecution for the breaches of the Fire Safety Order and the evidence was presented to the Magistrates Court in the June 2011.

The owner of the property, Mr Adams, pleaded guilty to three charges, each receiving a fine of £750 along with £1960.40 in costs.

The District Judge in his summing up accepted that Mr Adams pleaded guilty to the offences, had no previous convictions against him and had carried out the necessary works to rectify the issues within a short period of time.

However he went on to say that the offences committed were of a very serious nature and could have resulted in a far more serious outcome. Any mitigating circumstances were not in any way reason not to provide a safe premise for relevant persons to live in.

NO VACANCIES AFTER FAULTY ALARM SYSTEM

WHEN fire officers were notified of a fire alarm system not working in a hotel, they were faced with the possibility of prohibiting the building due to insufficient fire safety measures.

Fire officers met with the building manager of the hotel who confirmed that the fire alarm was not working and that the engineer had been out to the premises, but could not repair the system. He was told that the hotel couldn't continue trading without a satisfactory fire alarm system.

After talks with the owner and the alarm engineer an interim measure was sought to prevent the closure of the hotel. The alarm engineer managed to bypass the panel and install a manual means of raising the alarm utilising the existing audible warning devices, but this would only operate from one location - the office. For this reason, additional measures were also put in place to install a single point battery-operated detector to all 64 bedrooms within the hotel.

In addition a wakeful watch/patrol would operate throughout the day/night monitoring the premises with air horns to raise the alarm, which would subsequently allow the main audible alarm to be activated from the manned office on hearing the air horn/s.

These proposed interim measures were explained to senior fire officers and confirmed in the prohibition documentation to be served on the hotel. This was fully explained to the owner of the property and after further visits to the hotel it was noted that work had started on installing a new addressable system, with a final inspection made after the new alarm system had been commissioned.

The following incidents were investigated by the Fire Investigation Team (FIT)



CONTAMINATED RAG STARTS FIRE

CONTAMINATED RAG STARTS FIRE

AFTER a fire broke out in a care centre in Oldham the Fire Investigation Team were called to help establish the cause of the fire that broke out in the property.

The incident involved a fire that had broken out in a Bio Diesel generator within the radiator compartment of a unit that was stored in a timber framed building within the grounds of the property.

The fire scene investigator quickly managed to identify where the fire had originated, with further investigations indicating that no persons had entered the building that housed the generator, that morning. Further investigations established that the radiator compartment did not contain an

electrical installation, but had stored items used to service the machine, along with a number of rags that were contaminated with B100 Bio diesel – it was established that the B100 Bio diesel was prone to self heating within given environmental conditions and that this was the likely cause of the fire.

Following the conclusion of the investigation all other locations in which these generators are installed were inspected and all items removed from the unit. The management company also stated that they would visit the way in which items contaminated with Bio Diesel are disposed off.

ELECTRICAL FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

WHEN a fire broke out at a house in Farnworth completely destroying the entrance hall, stairs and first floor landing and ceiling fire investigation officers were called to the property to establish the cause.

Fire and burn patterns lead fire investigation officers to an area beneath the stairs where there was a mains electrical supply that was live. With debris and restricted space in this location making it difficult to investigate, the first course of action was to make the area safe for working by isolating the electrical supply.

The damage to this location was extremely severe with very little



ELECTRICAL FIRE DESTROYS HOUSE

visible apart from the copper conductor and terminal connections of the apparatus - everything else had been totally consumed by the fire.

However, after closer examination of the conductors and terminals it became apparent that there was a strong possibility that the electricity supply had been tampered with.

Due to the damage caused by the fire, Fire Investigation Officers along with Electricity North West concluded that due to the degree of damage to the supply, it would be unlikely that tampering could be proved in a Court of Law.

Therefore the cause of the fire was determined to be an electrical short circuit resulting in local overheating and subsequent ignition of combustible materials under the stairs. The copper conductors and terminals were removed, with conductors retained for photography and training purposes.



HEALTHCARE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SALFORD COMMUNITIES

HEALTHCARE OF EXCELLENCE FOR SALFORD COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES of Salford will soon be getting a new 222 bed acute hospital that will host outpatient and inpatient facilities as well as a new Emergency

Village, which will include the emergency assessment unit and critical care facilities adjacent to one another.

The new build will replace the current outdated 125 year old Victorian wards and with additional features such as a new educational centre that will house lecture theatres, a library, 30 seminar/training rooms as well as numerous interview rooms, to create a hospital which meets staff and patient expectations of a modern NHS hospital with brighter, roomier areas and buildings.

Members of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service have worked with contractors Consort Healthcare in Salford to provide a

number of fire engineering solutions to the complex building designs, which includes a large atrium serving a concourse and shopping facilities for patients and visitors.

The atrium incorporates a complex smoke control system designed to achieve appropriate means of escape standards for escaping occupants and to assist firefighters entering the building in the unlikely event of a fire. The three main buildings on site are joined by large underground thoroughfares which have been designed with smoke ventilation systems which allow temperatures and visibility to be maintained within acceptable limits of tenability.





**FIRE DIRECTOR
NEIL O'CONNOR VISITS GREATER MANCHESTER**

FIRE DIRECTOR NEIL O'CONNOR VISITS GREATER MANCHESTER

DIRECTOR of Fire, Resilience and Emergencies, Neil O'Connor, visited Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to find out about the many fire safety initiatives taking place across the 10 boroughs.

The visit began at Fire Service Headquarters in Swinton where he met County Fire Officer and Chief Executive Steve McGuirk along with other members of the Corporate Leadership Team.

In the afternoon Neil arrived at Moss Side Fire Station to a warm welcome of local school children, who were out on the yard taking part in a fire service drill. He then moved onto the fire station's boxing gym where a group of super fit youngsters were in the middle of a vigorous training session.

Neil bravely agreed to hold up boxing training pads for six year old Otto Bruchard, who has a natural talent for the sport and looks promising to follow in his Great, Great Uncle's footsteps, Gene Tunney, who was the World Heavyweight Champion 1926 to 1928.

The day ended with the Service's Initiatives Roadshow where a number of small displays showcased a range of community engagement projects organised by the fire service currently running throughout Greater Manchester - closing the day Neil joined Moss Side's Green Watch in the station's community room for a quick chat and refreshments.

SAFE4SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's latest seasonal campaign safe4summer started on June 1 and fed the communities of Greater Manchester with safety advice through to August 2011. The fire service led website, www.safe4summer.com, covered a number of seasonal topics such as safety tips, advice for parents, fun things to do, plus much more.

The campaign helped to tackle antisocial behaviour by urging young people to keep out of trouble over the summer months. Safe4summer encourages teenagers to think about the impact antisocial behaviour can



SAFE4SUMMER CAMPAIGN

have on their communities – from the dangers of riding off-road motor vehicles, starting fires or making hoax calls to emergency services.

Youngsters can also be educated on a range of subjects, from healthy eating, alcohol consumption and bullying, as well as being offered a whole host of free sports, activities and volunteering opportunities.

As part of the safe4summer campaign Blackley firefighters committed to informing as many children as possible about the initiative.

over 90 pupils throughout the day and because the children were split into different age brackets, the presentations could be tailored to suit that particular age group.

Green Watch at Blackley visited a number of schools in the area in an attempt to deliver an

educational package before the school holidays and on June 14, 2011 they visited Crumpsall Lane Primary school.

The day was a huge success and fire crews managed to speak to over 90 pupils throughout the day and because the children were split into different age brackets, the presentations could be tailored to suit that particular age group.



MANCHESTER DAY PARADE

MANCHESTER DAY PARADE

THOUSANDS flocked to our city centre on Sunday, June 19, to celebrate the 2011 Manchester Day Parade. The event was the second of its kind and paraded its way around the streets, bringing the city centre to life.

Over 100 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service staff and volunteers joined in the celebrations - and what a reception they received from the crowds of people who cheered

and clapped them along!

Led by the musical delights of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's Pipe Band, entry included volunteers from the Community Action Team, fire bikes, the new 4x4 vehicle, fire safety costumed characters, fire crews and a fire engine, plus The Fire Fighters Charity mascot Blaze Bear.

FATAL DISTRACTION

SHOCKED motorists watched in horror as firefighters and fire service volunteers acted out real life Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) in demonstrations across Greater Manchester.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) launched the 'Fatal Distraction' campaign in May in support of the United Nations' Decade of Action for Road Safety aimed at reducing injuries on our roads.

During 2010/2011 GMFRS attended 793 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) across Greater Manchester. International statistics reveal that worldwide 1.3 million people are killed as a result of road accidents each year, with road traffic collisions being the number one killer of young people.

The aim of the campaign was to



FATAL DISTRACTION

drive down RTCs across Greater Manchester, through educating drivers and their passengers on the harsh realities of bad driving habits, such as not wearing a seat belt and speeding.

The audiences at the demonstrations fell silent as they experienced first-hand how dangerous the consequences of a crash can be.

FIRE STATION OPEN DAYS ARE A HUGE SUCCESS

FIRE stations across Greater Manchester have once again opened their doors and invited local people to come along to their annual open days to meet firefighters and get fire safety advice.

With an action packed programme of events the open days cater for all the family - offering a wide range of stalls, inflatable slides and bouncy castles, as well as spectacular demonstrations from firefighters using cutting equipment to rescue 'casualties' in mock-up road traffic collision.

At Moss Side, the day also included an outdoor boxing display. This gave the boxing gym an opportunity to showcase the skills of its young members in a number of competitive bouts under ABA rules. A team from Northern Ireland also attended

and praised the opportunity for boxers to compete in the open air, which they seldom experience.

The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's Urban Search and Rescue Team also took part in a demonstration to show the residents of Moss Side the specialist equipment used in disaster situations such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan.

Overall the open days were a huge success as people turned up to meet and chat to their local firefighters, offering us the opportunity to help strengthen community relationships as well as pass on fire safety information to keep people safe from fires.

Thank you to everyone who came along and for helping to raise hundreds of pounds for the Fire Fighters Charity through the sale of children's fire helmets. For details about more great events please visit www.manchesterfire.gov.uk



FIRE STATION OPEN DAYS ARE A HUGE SUCCESS



FIRE STATION OPEN DAY





TRAINING HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

TRAINING HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS

A NEW six-month corporate training theme 'high rise firefighting training' will start in September.

The location of the training is Pear Tree Court in Salford, a building recently vacated and managed by Salix Homes. Each day three to four appliances will be programmed to attend and will be faced with realistic scenarios designed to test knowledge and understanding of high rise firefighting procedures and policy.

This is the first time the Service has secured the use of a specific venue long term and much thanks

goes to the staff at Salix Homes for recognising the importance of the Service obtaining such a venue.

The 17 storey building will be used on a daily basis in order to provide consistent training to all operational staff, ensuring their safety when attending incidents in high risk buildings throughout Greater Manchester.

A number of engagement initiatives with the local community are also underway to inform them of the project.

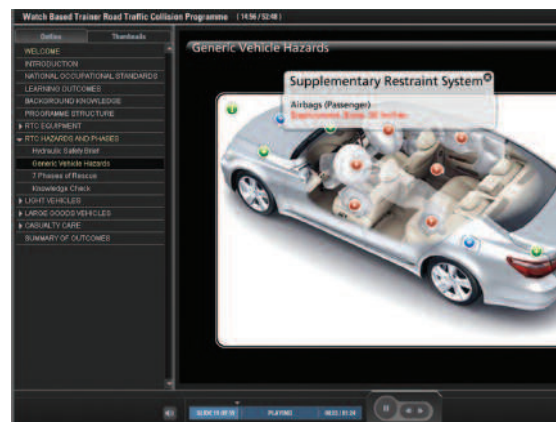
LAUNCH OF E-LEARNING – HAVE YOUR SAY

A KEY part of the People and Organisational Development Directorate's plan is to provide the 'most effective training and development processes' – that will include the roll out 'e-learning' across our Service.

A project team has been established and initial work is underway to compile bespoke packages to underpin in the first instance the knowledge requirements of our operational crews.

The first of the packages is designed to assess the knowledge of operational instructional staff in Road Traffic Collision (RTC) procedures.

The team are currently working at the Training and Development



LAUNCH OF E-LEARNING – HAVE YOUR SAY

Centre and are compiling 'storyboards' to supplement our current operational training packages.

Working closely with dedicated support from the ICT department, interactive packages are being created. With the constant evolution of technology it is envisaged that e-learning will become a fundamental part of the organisations knowledge base and provide support across all areas of our work for both initial and refresher training

Each package will be built with the functionality of a 'knowledge check' with the additional ability to carry out a final examination with results recorded directly into iTrent at a later stage.



COMPARTMENT FIRE BEHAVIOUR SITE UP AND RUNNING.

COMPARTMENT FIRE BEHAVIOUR SITE UP AND RUNNING.

On the recommendation of the Health and Safety Executive Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service started to explore some of the potential ways in which 'real fire' could be simulated to help with training staff in fire behaviour. This process started in March 2010

and included site location, procurement of tendering companies, environmental impact, planning permission and public consultation.

The new compartment fire behaviour training site was successfully installed at the rear of Oldham Fire Station and training started in July 2011.

These facilities are to support and emphasise the importance to operational personnel the importance of being able to perform their role safely and effectively. All our crews will receive training to ensure they are competent to:

- Understand the burning characteristics, development and behaviour of compartment fires
- Recognise and assess the risk involved when dealing with compartment fires

- Prevent Flashover and backdraught or mitigate their effects where possible
- Implement control measures to protect themselves from the effects of fire
- Control and extinguish fires
- Recognise the operating limitations of firefighters' personal protective equipment and firefighting and ancillary equipment

Operational crews at all levels will be able to both attain and maintain competence in compartment firefighting in-line with the Fire Service Manual Volume 4 Guidance and compliance frame document Compartment fire behaviour training.





NEW FIRE ENGINES ROLL OUT

NEW FIRE ENGINES ROLL OUT

NEW fire engines have arrived at fire stations and are now out and about on the streets of Greater Manchester.

The new Volvo appliances are part of an investment programme in last year's budget. The investment in the additions to the fleet means that a third of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's front line appliances are being replaced, with roll-out expected to be complete by September.

The new Volvo's have a new style crew cab, with a light weight, non

corrosive polypropylene body supplied by Staffordshire's Strong's Plastic Products and fitted by John Dennis Coach Builders of Guildford. In addition the fire engines are built on a 15 tonne chassis and have a seven litre engine to Euro 5 emission standards, a six-speed automatic transmission and a Godiva 30-10 two stage water pump.

To date a total of 15 new appliances have been delivered across Greater Manchester, with a remaining seven to be delivered once the radio and CCTV equipment has been fitted.

NEW TECHNOLOGY KEEPS PROJECT 'AFLOAT'

NEW TECHNOLOGY that measures water consumption on the fireground has been introduced with the system already being fitted to new appliances on the run in Wigan, Leigh, Oldham and Phillips Park - with a further four appliances being adapted later in the year.

The project named 'AFLOAT' involves reconfiguring the main pump on an appliance to provide better information to the pump

operator, whilst capturing and providing live data to a web portal via onboard telemetry equipment.

The system works by capturing the flow rates from any of the low pressure outlets and the hose reels to provide the operator with a readout that displays the total pump output. Furthermore, an additional flow meter is fitted in the tank fill line to capture the flow rates of the incoming supply. The incoming supply is controlled by a motorised valve which opens and closes the tank fill line as the tank is filled and empties. This gives the operator a clear indication of the level of incoming water supply as well as the current consumption of water at an incident.

This 'Live' data will offer the effective management of water on the fireground and will promote sound operational decision making regarding effective water management, enhancing firefighter safety. Further development of the web portal will follow in the coming months and will enable live and post incident data to be viewed remotely by operational officers.



VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

VOLUNTEER TRAINING DAY

A Training day was on the agenda for our Community Action Team volunteers in a bid to help them support the local communities through raising awareness on fire safety.

Green Watch from Wigan facilitated the training day, working with the volunteers to teach them about the potential dangers of fire, so that they can go out into the community relaying the advice to members of the public.

After the day had finished, volunteers Chris Simm and Will Kendall, noticed a scrap yard on fire, using the information and the skills they had picked up from the day they stepped into action.

The volunteers successfully managed to direct traffic away from danger and direct fire crews to the fire from the main road. This not only assisted the crew but protected the public from a fire which affected the adjacent roadway. Their quick thinking actions showed initiative and demonstrated their commitment to public safety.

HEINZ TRAINING IS SUCCESS

CASUALTIES with severe burns and open fractures were all part of a training exercise that took place at Heinz in Wigan.

Community Action Team (CAT) volunteers took part in the exercise that simulated an explosion in a plant room. With billowing smoke, poor visibility, lots of noise and extreme heat – it

left a number of casualties from the walking wounded to those that had to be placed onto a stretcher and taken to safety.

The training objectives on the day compared the operational procedures between Heinz's Emergency Response Team's procedures and GMFRS fire crews.

Everyone worked well which made the exercise a huge success. It enabled all involved to assess the different working practices in a safe, professional manner.



HEINZ TRAINING IS SUCCESS





NEW CHAIRMAN OF GREATER MANCHESTER RESILIENCE FORUM ANNOUNCED

NEW CHAIRMAN OF GREATER MANCHESTER RESILIENCE FORUM ANNOUNCED

COUNTY Fire Officer and Chief Executive Steve McGuirk has been appointed the new Chairman of Greater Manchester Resilience Forum and replaces Assistant Chief Constable, Dawn Copley, who stepped down as Chairman in April. Steve's first meeting as Chairman took place in June 2011.

The Greater Manchester Resilience Forum is a partnership of agencies from across the Greater Manchester Sub-Region with responsibility for coordinating and overseeing emergency planning. It's overall purpose is to ensure that there is an appropriate level of preparedness to enable an effective multi-agency response to emergency incidents which may have significant impact on the communities of Greater

Manchester.

WAYS 2 WORK GET BIG TICK

CARING for the environment has earned Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) the overall Example of Excellence prize in the Ways2Work category in the Business in the Community's 2011 Awards for Excellence.

Following on from the Big Tick award win at the North West regional Business in the Community's (BiTC) awards in June, the announcement was made at a gala dinner event in London's Royal Albert Hall, hosted by comedian Jack Dee and BBC broadcast journalist Mishal Hussain, in front of a packed audience of over 1,000 high profile business leaders.

The awards highlight the best examples of the positive impact businesses are having in the environment, amongst their employees, through the supply chains and in the local communities in which they operate.

GMFRS scooped the award for their Green Travel Plan which was set up in order to meet the overarching goal of long-term sustainability, taking a holistic approach to fleet management; reducing direct and embedded CO2 emissions at all stages in the vehicle lifecycle, from construction to day-to-day use and final



FIRE SERVICE KICK START NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

disposal. The plan also includes sustainable travel initiatives such as fuel efficiency training for all fleet drivers, public engagement on safe and fuel-efficient driving techniques as well as the introduction of a cycle-to-work scheme.

FIRE SERVICE KICK START NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

A NEW community initiative set up to promote community engagement and healthy living launched at a summer fete in Gorton.

'Caged Soccer' is Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's new addition in helping to engage with young people, in a bid to build better relationships between firefighters and young people through sporting activities.

The new mobile football pitch offers a new dimension to the extensive work already taking place across Greater Manchester, and will sit in the heart of the

community at local fire service and community events, where young people live and interact.

Hoads of young people joined in to practise their football skills and took full advantage of the Caged Soccer - amongst those were six-year-old Shane Bernard, nine-year-old Hayden Green and seven-year-old Ben Lewis.

Cage Soccer is a unique feature that aims to have a positive influence on young people through fun and sport. This in turn will hopefully improve better relations between firefighters and young people, helping to reduce deliberate fires, hoax calls and attacks on firefighters.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE CHILDREN OF BELARUS

A FUN packed day of learning about life as a firefighter was on the agenda when a group of children from Belarus visited fire stations across Greater Manchester.

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service invited the group for a tour as part of their visit to the UK. After the infamous nuclear disaster at Chernobyl in 1986, Belarus received 70 per cent of the radioactive fallout following the explosion which resulted in abnormally high levels of some forms of cancers in the population.

The visit to the UK offers the

children a respite break from the effects of the radioactive fallout, which still blights the area where they live - simply enjoying the fresh air and nutritional food helps boost their immune system and can add years onto their young lives.

Fire crews from Green Watch in Oldham and Blue Watch in Wigan spent hours with the children showing them around the different appliances, getting a real feel for the workings of a fire station, as well as the undisputed favourite activity of the day - taking it in turns to use the water hose while dressed as firefighters.

NEW COMMUNITY FIRE STATION IS PATHWAY TO YOUNGSTERS

RESEARCHERS went out and about in Rochdale and Bury in a bid to ask residents what type of facilities they would find useful to have in their new community fire station.

The exercise formed part of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's (GMFRS) community engagement programme, designed to give the new fire stations a strong community focus. The research was carried out by a group of 18-24 year olds working for Pathways CIC (Community Interest Company) who are working in partnership with GMFRS on the project.



A BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR THE CHILDREN OF BELARUS

Before beginning their research, the team were put through an intensive two-day training programme to ensure they were fully equipped to answer any questions local residents may have about the project.

Sumiyya Bibi, one of the Pathways researchers said: "The two day training has been really interesting. I have learned a lot about the fire and rescue service, and have got more knowledge and understanding of how to approach the community. It was very informative and valuable."

GMFRS Community Engagement Officer Rachel Stanley said: "By working in partnership with Pathways, we generated lots of interest around our new community fire stations, whilst at the same time giving opening up an opportunity to a group of local people to get involved in shaping their own local community space."

YOUNGSTERS CELEBRATE COMPLETING PRINCE'S TRUST PROGRAMME

AROUND 70 young people celebrated after successfully completing a 12 week Prince's Trust programme aimed at helping them to change their lives forever.

The programme which is run by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with the Prince's Trust helps unemployed young people aged between 16-25 to gain new skills and qualifications, increasing employment and opening up opportunities for the future.

The scheme covers a number of topics from community safety issues and road safety, to good citizenship values and team working.

The Prince's Trust Programme offers a great opportunity for young people to change their lives around – and one great example includes Eddie Afekafe, who now

works in his dream job as Social Inclusion Manager for Manchester City Football Club.

For more information about the Prince's Trust programmes please visit our website:

http://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/community_work/princes_trust.aspx

FUTURE PLAN SAVED NATURE RESERVE FROM RAGING FIRE

MORE than 40 firefighters tackled a blaze, that swept over a two square mile area of the Red Moss nature reserve in Horwich.

The Red Moss Nature Reserve is a site of special scientific interest and home to one of Greater Manchester's largest varieties of moss species. It is also a key breeding ground for a vast array of priority species for conservation action.

But thanks to a Fire Management Plan that was developed following a similar fire last year, the effects of this blaze meant that it was far less catastrophic.

The plan, developed by Horwich firefighters working with the Wildlife Trust, built upon the lessons learned from last year's fire and involved marking areas for special attention, putting in fire breaks and using beaters instead of hoses to fight the fires.

Conservation Manager at the Wildlife Trust Tim Micham said: "We were delighted at the effective way the fire was treated and the way in which the Horwich team used the plan to good effect on the site. A trust team worked with the firefighters on the day and were delighted at the joint working and positive mental attitude towards the site's sensitivities."

Firefighter Jason Martin was closely involved with developing the plans for the site and after working on the Operational Intelligence System, used his specialist skills to input the information on to the pumps' mobile data terminals, so that firefighters attending a fire at the site would be aware of its special nature.

Once firefighters put out the fires a group of Wildlife Trust's volunteers began digging the peat over to ensure the fire was



extinguished and had not become deep seated. Overall the plan was extremely successful with the Wildlife Trust happy that the incident was dealt with quickly and efficiently.

GORTON'S PROLIFIC OFFENDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

A CONVICTED arsonist vowed to end his fire setting ways after a bespoke counselling programme was delivered by Watch Manager Bob Walker based at Gorton Fire Station - Blue Watch.

Due to Bob's previous experience of pulling together bespoke presentations, Station Manager Wayne Shields felt the offender would benefit from additional support.

After researching the offender's profile he put together a presentation that included a video

of the BBC Crime Watch programme of Little Holme Walk in which three people died and Firefighter Steve Morris was seriously injured.

Following the presentation an open and honest discussion took place between the offender, Bob and Wayne discussing the personal reasons which led to the offences and what strategies were open to prevent any further incidents.

The offender was very honest throughout and confirmed Station Manager Shields suspicions that the offender was responsible for many more incidents (over 70) than those that were detailed during the court hearing. The session ended amiably with the offender pledging to repay the faith demonstrated by them by not re-offending.



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