

CHIEF OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT

April 1 – June 30 2012



GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



► INTRODUCTION

WELCOME to the activity report covering the period from April to June 2012. This report aims to highlight just some of the wide range of work Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) does and how we support and engage with our diverse communities.

It has been a busy quarter for crews and support staff who have continued to deliver a professional and efficient response to a wide range of incidents, while engaging with and supporting the people of Greater Manchester in various ways.

There is no better example of this ethos in practice than the huge gas explosion in Shaw, Oldham, which happened in June – tragically taking the life of a two-year-old boy, injuring others and destroying several homes.

After carrying out the initial search and rescue operation – led by the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team and involving numerous crews from across the service – firefighters were joined by volunteers from the newly-launched Post Incident Team, who spent several days helping the hundreds of residents evicted from their homes get their lives back on track.

Unprecedented heavy rainfall in June led to many areas of Greater Manchester being flooded, prompting numerous calls to the GMFRS Control Room for help.

Once again, crews demonstrated their professionalism in dealing with a variety of emergencies varying from making properties safe, helping people from their homes and even assisting the RSPCA with rescuing a number of animals caught up in the water.

But GMFRS isn't just about dealing with incidents and protecting the public, although that is our priority, our staff are constantly striving to think of new ways to engage with

the public, promote the work that we do and spread vital messages about staying safe.

One way staff have done this recently was by getting involved in the Olympic torch relay events which came to Greater Manchester in May and June prior to the start of the London 2012 Games.

Crews got into the Olympic spirit as the torch passed by many of our fire stations – some opening up the station doors to the public for open days while others went one step further by washing the dirty kit of the Metropolitan Police security team!

This just goes to show that our staff are never really off-duty and always willing to go the extra mile to help out in a difficult situation – something that was highlighted in a more serious incident when an off-duty firefighter went to the aid of two young women trapped in a car.

The firefighter was on his way to work when he came across a collision in Stockport in May and noticing that there was no emergency service on the scene, he pulled over to help – securing the car and taking care of the casualties until further assistance arrived.

Finally, congratulations must go to the twelve GMFRS firefighters and staff who collected medals recognising 20 and 40 years of service on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen at the Long Service and Good Conduct Awards held in May.



Steve McGuirk

CBE, QFSM, DL, MA, BA (Hons), BSc, FRSA, FIFireE

County Fire Officer and Chief Executive

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▶ OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS

DEVESTATING EXPLOSION IN OLDHAM

CREWS faced scenes of devastation when they turned out to an explosion in Oldham – the biggest incident for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service since the Irlam gas blast.

Firefighters from fire stations across the service dealt with the incident and its aftermath, which saw hundreds of people evacuated from their homes.

Sadly, the blast killed a two-year-old boy and injured others, attracting media attention from across the world.

The initial call came into GMFRS at 11.15am on Tuesday, June 26, to a suspected gas explosion in the Buckley Street area of Shaw.

Hours were spent searching the debris of what had been four terraced houses just that morning, with the Urban Search and Rescue Team leading the efforts.

The investigation into the cause of the blast is still underway.

GORTON FATAL CHIP PAN FIRE

A MAN died following a chip pan fire in Gorton after a smoke alarm was removed.

Firefighters from Gorton and Ashton fire stations were called to a flat on Reddish Lane at 6.30pm on Friday, June 1.

Firefighters found that there had been a fire but it was out by the time they arrived.

A 29-year-old man, who had been in the flat, was found dead inside the flat.

The flat had, at some point, been fitted with smoke alarms but they had been taken down.

As a result of the incident, a demonstration was set up at Whitehill Fire Station's open day on June 3 where firefighters and staff showed

the crowds the dangers of chip pans by setting fire to one in a special unit.

It was also an opportunity to highlight to the public, via the media, the effectiveness of sprinklers which could have saved both lives if they had been installed.

LITTLEBOROUGH MILL FIRE

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a huge fire involving silos of solvents at a factory in Littleborough.

People in the area were advised via social media, radio and the GMFRS website to keep their doors and windows shut and drivers were advised that road closures were in place.

GMFRS received a number of calls reporting a fire at a roofing products mill on Calderbrook

DEVESTATING EXPLOSION IN OLDHAM



Road calls just before 1pm on Monday, May 28.

Crews from Littleborough and Rochdale fire stations went to the scene and found a number of silos of solvent were on fire.

A large plume of smoke could be seen for miles around and the GMFRS Control Room received more than 100 calls reporting the fire.

Ten crews tackled the blaze and put foam on to extinguish it.

They had the fire under control by about 4pm but crews remained on the scene overnight dealing with the fire and damping down.

Two men suffered burns and were taken to hospital.

INDUSTRIAL UNIT BLAZE IN STOCKPORT

A FIRE at an industrial unit in Stockport left a man in hospital with serious burns.

Crews from Stockport, Cheadle and Offerton were called to a blaze at an industrial unit on Bramhall Lane, at 9.30am on Thursday, May 24.

The alarm had been raised when a man from the unit went into a café next door with his clothes on fire – generating significant interest from the media.

Staff from the café put out the flames and called the emergency services, and crews went to the scene and found the building heavily smoke-logged.

Two of the crew went in wearing breathing apparatus and tackled the fire with a hose reel.

The man was treated at the scene by paramedics and airlifted to hospital.



LITTLEBOROUGH MILL FIRE

The injured man told firefighters that he had thrown paint thinner on a wood burner to get the fire going and the jar he was holding in his hand caught fire when the liquid made contact with the burner.

RADCLIFFE CHIP PAN DISASTER

A MAN died and a firefighter was injured after a chip pan fire at a house in Radcliffe.

Three fire engines were called to a report of a fire in Coomassie Street at 1.32am on Tuesday, May 22, where people were trapped inside the building.

When fire crews arrived at the scene they were met by an established fire on the ground-floor of a mid-terraced house.

► OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS

A 44-year-old woman and an eight-month-old baby girl had escaped but a 43-year-old man was still inside the house.

Six firefighters wearing breathing apparatus forced their way in to search for the missing man and fight the fire using hose reels.

The man was quickly located by firefighters, but sadly had already died.

The woman and baby girl who escaped from the house were treated at the scene and then taken to hospital for further treatment.

Due to the intensity of the fire, one firefighter received blistering to his arms during the search and rescue operations.

He was treated at the scene by North West Ambulance Service paramedics and subsequently retired off duty for a time.

It was discovered that the cause of the fire was accidental due to a chip pan.

STOCKPORT MILL BLAZE

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze at a flour mill in Stockport in the early hours of Friday morning, June 1.

Crews from Whitehill, Stockport, Hyde, Offerton and an operational support unit were called to Albion Mills on Lancashire Hill at 5am.

The fire involved a hot air compressor, which is part of the ventilation system, on the ground floor of the main flour mill.

Two firefighters in breathing apparatus went in and tackled the blaze with a hose reel and used a jet to prevent the fire spreading.

Sprinklers fitted inside the building had also activated as result of the fire, controlling it until crews arrived to tackle it fully.

Four people had evacuated the mill before firefighters arrived.

The incident was an opportunity for GMFRS to step up its publicity around the benefit of having sprinkler systems installed in businesses.



DOG RESCUE AND HAMSTER RESUSCITATION IN WIGAN

DOG RESCUE AND HAMSTER RESUSCITATION IN WIGAN

A DOG called Lucky lived up to his name when he was rescued by firefighters after a house fire in Tyldesley over the May bank holiday weekend.

In the same incident fire crews brought two hamsters back to life by giving them oxygen.

Three crews from Atherton and Leigh were called to the house on St George's Street at 3pm on Friday, June 1, after off duty firefighter Gareth Ellis spotted smoke on his way home.

As fire crews arrived and were breaking into the house to search the house and fight the fire, Julie Hughes and her children Greg (15) and Bethany (13) were arriving home at the same time.

Watch Manager Ian Gardener said: “The young lad came round the front of our fire engine and was very worried about their pet dog.

“When the lads brought him out he was black because he was covered in soot. We found him cowering in the kitchen, which is where the fire started behind the washing machine.”

But while crews wearing breathing apparatus were putting the fire out, they found a pet hamster inside a cage in the kitchen.

“To be honest, the hamster was completely motionless so we thought it was dead,” explained the Watch Manager.

“We got another hamster out of an upstairs bedroom and it was unconscious as well - both looked like they were goners.

“We made a make-shift oxygen tent out of a small plastic bag and gave both hamsters a small amount of oxygen and they both came round, we didn’t think it was going to work, but it did - the kids seemed happy anyway.”

OLDHAM WAREHOUSE FIRE

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a large fire in a plastic storage warehouse in Oldham.

Crews from Oldham, Chadderton and Hyde fire stations were called to Meek Street in the Higginsshaw area at 2.43pm on Saturday, May 12.

Station Manager Ian Tracy said: “The warehouse was packed tightly with carpets, vinyl and foam, so when we arrived crews were faced with a very intense fire that was burning well.

“We had a large amount of plastic inside that was well alight and because of the way the metal roof of the building collapsed in on itself we had difficult job getting water onto the fire.”

An aerial appliance allowed crews to get jets of water onto the fire which was giving off a huge cloud of acrid black smoke.

Station Manager Tracey added: “People would have been able to see the smoke cloud from some way away and working with colleagues from Greater Manchester Police, we got the message out to people in a neighbouring housing estate to shut windows and doors and to stay inside.”

Crews from Oldham, Broughton and Gorton remained at the scene until Monday fighting the fire.

It is believed that the fire was started deliberately and an investigation is underway.

OLDHAM WAREHOUSE FIRE



► SERVICE DELIVERY ► **BOLTON**



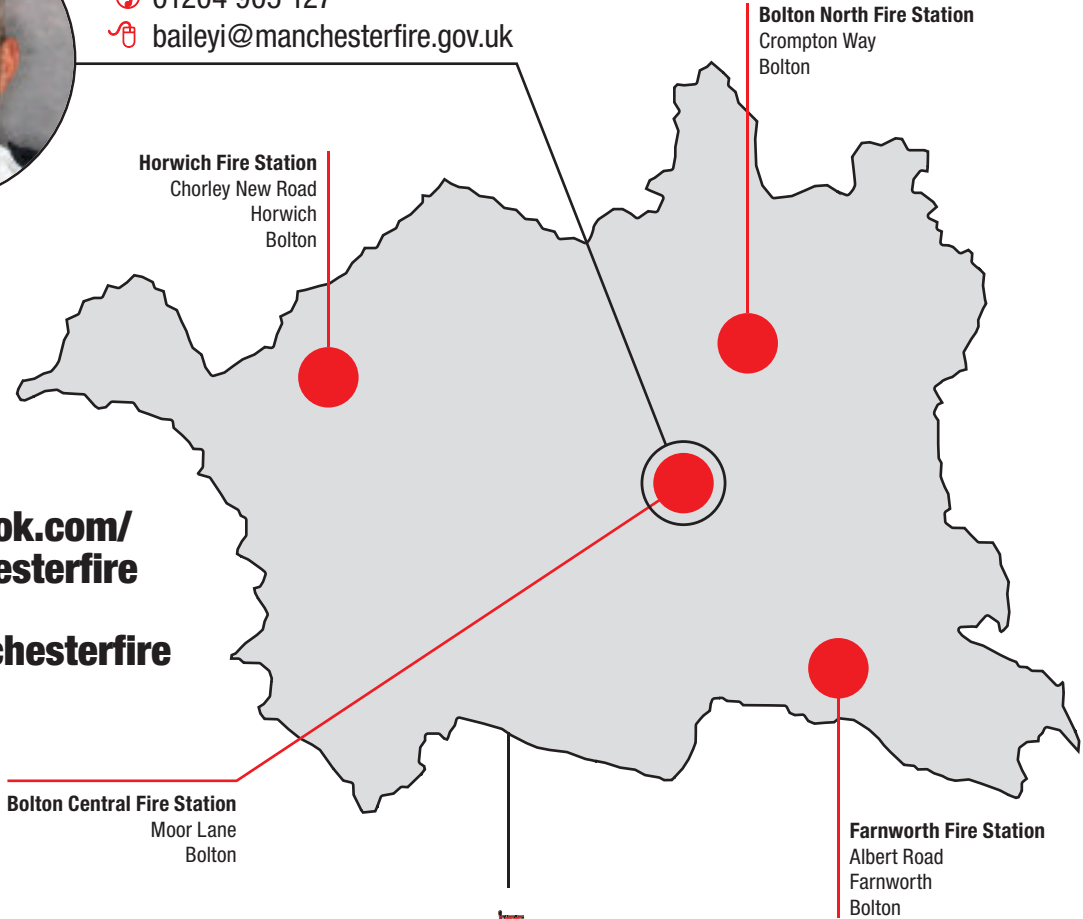
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Bolton North Fire Station
Crompton Way
Bolton



Bolton Central Fire Station
Moor Lane
Bolton

Farnworth Fire Station
Albert Road
Farnworth
Bolton



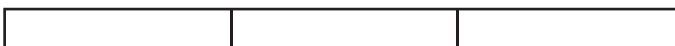
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MOHAMMED AYUB
LABOUR



LYNDA BYRNE
LABOUR



HILARY FAIRCLOUGH
CONSERVATIVE

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	58	60	58	65
Total deliberate fires	243	360	243	389
- Primary fires (dwellings)	62	57	62	67
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	181	303	181	322
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	1
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	14	9	14	10
Building fires	144	162	144	181
Number of people rescued from fires	7	0	7	6
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	25	0	25	17



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	160	180	266.5
Completed volunteer hours	152	112	184.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	8	68	82
% of hours completed against requested	95	62	69

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
28 Fire safety audits completed
3 Enforcement notices
1 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

2,035

BOLTON FIREFIGHTERS TRAINED BY PARAMEDICS TO TEACH HEARTSTART

FIREFIGHTERS in Bolton have been trained to demonstrate life-saving techniques to local schoolchildren by North West Ambulance



BOLTON FIREFIGHTERS TRAINED BY PARAMEDICS TO TEACH HEARTSTART

Service (NWS) paramedics to become accredited teachers.

They were joined by Bolton West MP Julie Hilling at Bolton Central Fire Station on Friday, May 11, 2012, as 16 firefighters were taught British Heart Foundation HeartStart.

Station Manager Steve Parkinson said: "Cardiac problems affect a lot of families in Bolton so as a community fire station we see it as our responsibility to help make everyone more aware of heart health and emergency life support procedures.

"Working with our partners at NWS the accredited HeartStart course will mean we can teach life support to youth groups and schoolchildren of all ages."

Thanks to the training, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service now has 45

accredited HeartStart teachers among their firefighters in Bolton, Farnworth and Horwich.

OLYMPIC TORCH OPEN DAY AT BOLTON CENTRAL FIRE STATION

AS the Olympic torch made its way through the North West – Bolton Central Fire Station opened its doors to hundreds of school children as the relay passed by.

It was carried past the Moor Lane Fire Station on Thursday, May 31, as part of its 70-day journey around the UK for the 2012 Olympic Games.

Station Manager Steve Parkinson said: "We opened the stations doors to the community and around 100 children from local primary schools joined us to watch the Olympic torch pass.

"There was a real party atmosphere, we had an old fashioned vintage turntable ladder fire engine down from our museum, our hydraulic platform was up and there was lots going on."

Later that same day, crews from Horwich Fire Station got even more involved with the event – by washing the support team's dirty kit!

At Farnworth, Green Watch firefighters Rik Ridings and John Naylor took part in an alternative Olympic torch relay involving pupils from 12 schools in Little Lever and Kearsley on Thursday, May 24.

GMFRS AND BOLTON COUNCIL OF MOSQUES WORK TOGETHER AFTER FIRE

FRIDAY Prayers was used to highlight to the community the importance of smoke alarms following a fire in the town which left two children in hospital.

GMFRS has been working in partnership with Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM) after early indications showed there were no working



GMFRS AND BOLTON COUNCIL OF MOSQUES WORK TOGETHER AFTER FIRE

smoke alarms in the house where the fire happened – so there was no early warning to the fire.

Manager at BCoM, Inayat Omarji, said: “The Imam of the mosque in the area talked about the importance of home safety and smoke alarms and escape routes in his sermon during Friday Prayers.

“Our BCoM volunteers and champions also accompanied fire safety staff and firefighters to help break the ice when visiting homes for safety visits.”

Firefighters have been visiting homes across Greater Manchester for many years to fit smoke alarms but during those visits they also provide important fire safety information and plan escape routes to give families the best possible chance of survival should a fire occur.

However, there are some households where it has been difficult to get into homes to do this work because of barriers such as language, disability or cultural customs and practices.

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL VISIT BOLTON CENTRAL FIRE STATION

TWELVE children affected by the Chernobyl disaster were treated to a guided tour of Bolton Central Fire Station by firefighters from GMFRS.

The children aged between seven and 12, visited the Moor Lane station on Friday, April 13, 2012 during a two week stay in the North West of England organised by the Medicine and Chernobyl Special Aid Group charity.

Green Watch gave the children a tour of the station and fire engines before showing them how to squirt water from hoses in the station yard.

Watch Manager Carl Haslam said: “It was a privilege to show the children around and they really enjoyed hearing the sirens and learning about what we do.”



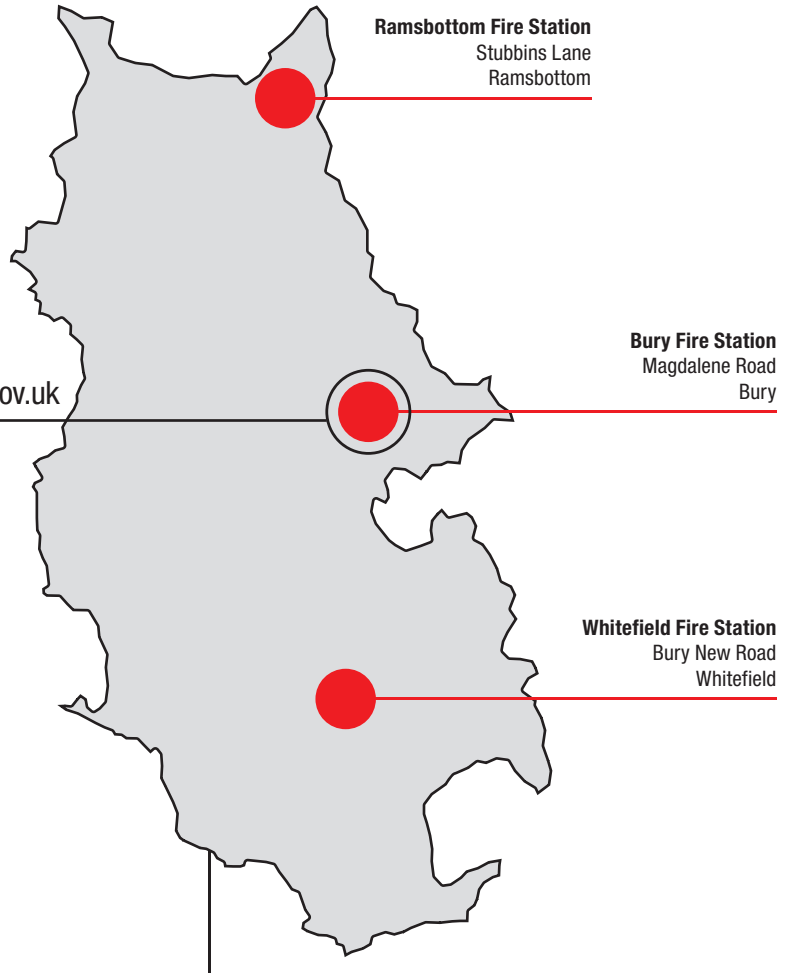
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MEMBERS



ALAN MATTHEWS
LABOUR



SANDRA WALMSLEY
LABOUR

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	30	24	30	26
Total deliberate fires	97	153	97	167
- Primary fires (dwellings)	22	33	22	39
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	75	120	75	128
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	0
Fatalities	1	0	1	0
Injuries	11	3	11	3
Building fires	82	75	82	83
Number of people rescued from fires	7	0	7	2
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	16	0	16	12



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	66	222	96
Completed volunteer hours	54	216	84
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	12	6	12
% of hours completed against requested	82	97	87

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
60 Fire safety audits completed
0 Enforcement notices
1 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

725

JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN RAMSBOTTOM

RESIDENTS joined firefighters and cadets for a special jubilee party at Ramsbottom Fire Station over the Jubilee Bank Holiday.

People of all ages enjoyed a variety of cakes and sandwiches at the station in Stubbins Lane to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne.

It was also a chance to promote the station's new community room and generate Home Safety Checks in the area.

Crew Manager Kris Bailey said: "It was a wonderful day and we couldn't have done it without the generous donations and support from the local Women's Institute, the cadets and other helpers, who gave up their Bank Holiday to run stalls and serve the guests.

"The residents and children seemed to really enjoy themselves, there were lots of people and plenty of cake to go around – a fantastic way to celebrate a special occasion."

TEAM COMPLETE 80-MILE CHARITY WALK

A TEAM of four men and two dogs walked from Ramsbottom to Cumbria to raise money for charity.

Watch Manager Ady Tonge, from Blue Watch Ramsbottom, and Firefighter Paul Doggett, from Green Watch Rochdale, were joined by Alfie the Border collie and Gravel the Border terrier, along with two local businessmen for the three-day trek.

The team – which included Lee White, owner of Whites of Ramsbottom walking store, and The Oaks pub landlord Aiden Roberts – set off at 9am on Thursday, June 28, from the landmark Peel Tower on Holcombe Hill, Ramsbottom.

They spent three days walking approximately 80 miles to England's tallest mountain, Scafell Pike in Cumbria, where they arrived on Saturday, June 30.

Ady and Paul wanted to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity while Lee and Aiden chose to raise funds for local girl and Beijing gold medallist Zoe Robinson who is competing in the London 2012 Para Olympic Games team and individual Boccia events.

TIME CAPSULE DISCOVERED AT OLD BURY FIRE STATION

A TIME capsule was discovered behind a commemorative stone at the old Bury Fire Station just months before the new station opened.

Crews were shocked to uncover the 47-year-old capsule containing historical artefacts at The Rock station in April.

Inside were original building plans, various coins, costing sheets for building work and an original copy of the Bury Times newspaper, dated Saturday, January 30, 1965.

The time capsule was buried during a stone laying ceremony when building work first began on the station.

Contractors John Pickstone and Co, from Bolton, began building work on the station on Saturday, January 30, 1965, when a

JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN RAMSBOTTOM





TIME CAPSULE DISCOVERED AT OLD BURY FIRE STATION

ceremony was held to mark the laying of a foundation stone.

There was also an Order of Proceedings from the ceremony in the time capsule which details other dignitaries at the ceremony, including The Reverend A. Hulse, Vicar of St John's, and Alderman F. Aspinall, Chairman of the Fire Services and Civil Defence Committee, along with other Town Council members and their wives.

END OF AN ERA CELEBRATED IN BURY

RETIRED firefighters and their families joined current staff to say farewell to Bury Fire Station at The Rock.

On Sunday, May 27, the station opened its doors to former staff for one last tour around the station before the new site opened.

Old photographs and memorabilia were on display inside the station with an old fire engine brought over from the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Museum and placed in the station yard.

Station Manager Mark Threader said: "We felt it was important to mark this occasion and reunite former staff with their colleagues at the station where they spent so many of their working years. Bury Fire Station has been on The Rock site for many years so it really was the end of an era.

"What was particularly nice to see was the retired firefighters talking about jobs they had or things they did and realising that we're still doing the same job today. It was great to see them chatting to the young firefighters we have today and interacting with them."

► SERVICE DELIVERY ► **MANCHESTER**

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Moss Side Fire Station
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Moss Side

Wythenshawe Fire Station
Brownloey Road
Wythenshawe

Blackley Fire Station
Rochdale Road
Blackley

Manchester Central Fire Station
Thompson Street
Manchester

Gorton Fire Station
Birch Street
West Gorton

Withington Fire Station
Wilmslow Road
Withington

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OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	105	125	105	139
Total deliberate fires	421	585	421	637
- Primary fires (dwellings)	114	123	114	143
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	307	462	307	494
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	3
Fatalities	1	0	1	2
Injuries	15	27	15	28
Building fires	317	330	317	369
Number of people rescued from fires	8	0	8	9
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	38	0	38	38



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	245	174	604
Completed volunteer hours	206.5	149	506
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	38.5	25	98
% of hours completed against requested	84	86	87

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
121 Fire safety audits completed
14 Enforcement notices
2 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

2,824



MUM AND SON REUNITED WITH FIREFIGHTERS

MUM AND SON REUNITED WITH FIREFIGHTERS

WHEN five-year-old Denzel Mabuyaku's mum collapsed he knew exactly what action to take – thanks to local firefighters.

Firefighters from Blackley Fire Station visited Denzel's school to teach pupils what to do in an emergency.

Denzel very soon needed to put the lesson into practice as his mum collapsed to the floor.

He dialled 999, directed police and paramedics to their home and looked after his mum, Precious Makun, 35, until paramedics arrived. She was at the family home in Ringley Street, Blackley, with just Denzel, his six-year-old brother Emerald and four-month-old baby Daisy, when she collapsed.

Asked afterwards how he knew to react in such a swift but calm way, Denzel put it down to what the firefighters had told him.

To recognise his brave actions, the crew that visited Denzel's class at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School invited him and his mum down to the station on Thursday, May 17.

Watch Manager Paul Marston invited Denzel and Precious down to the station and gave them a tour, showed them the fire engines and demonstrated some of equipment they use to deal with fire, road traffic collisions and other emergencies.

WITHINGTON FIREFIGHTERS HONE SKILLS IN TRAINING DAY

FIREFIGHTERS now rescue more people from road traffic collisions than house fires – so ensuring they are ready to deal with what they find at the scene of a crash is vital.

White Watch at Withington Fire Station spent Thursday, May 10, working on their skills and testing the equipment they use to bring people safely out of cars.

The crew also demonstrated how firefighters use the equipment they are provided with for training to test a number of techniques – before finally cutting the car up.

Watch Manager John Moore said: "We don't waste the opportunity to work on a real car and try out a number of different rescue techniques and different bits of kit on it before cutting it up."

“There is a lot we can do without cutting the car up. So, we’ve practised removing the seats, detaching the boot and getting a casualty out safely on a spine board.”

The firefighters showed that they get the best out of the materials they are provided with by using the car for as much training as possible before cutting it up – getting value for money as well as making the most of the opportunity.

SHOCK TACTICS USED TO INFLUENCE STUDENTS

SHOCK tactics were used as part of a package to influence students about cooking more safely at an event in Manchester.

Manchester community safety staff and firefighters from Moss Side’s Red Watch took part in the activities as part of Health and Safety Week at Manchester University in June.

The team from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service were at the event, which was held at the university’s campus on Oxford Road, for two days.

Community Safety Advisor Lewis Jeffrey said: “The students and passing public got to witness first-hand how devastating a chip pan fire can be - numerous demonstrations were conducted using the Kitchen Fire Safety Unit and general fire safety advice was given to all spectators.

“Students might not necessarily be people we would expect to be using chip pans but this is about cooking more safely on the whole and if it gets them, their parents or grandparents to be safer, then its worthwhile.”

FIREFIGHTERS IN GORTON INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE

FIREFIGHTERS in Gorton are inspiring young people to focus on their futures with the launch of a new course.

Five young people aged between 14 and 19 took part in a six week project at Gorton Community Fire Station beginning in June.

The youngsters were from the Gorton STEPS project at the West Gorton Youth Centre and the crews put on a Mini Firefighter Course for the group.

The six-week programme of two hour sessions followed a structured curriculum and set of lesson plans.

Gorton Station Manager Stuart Millington said: “The feedback from the project leaders has been really positive with one particular young man becoming more focused on preparing for his future than ever before.”

The project sessions have been shared by all watches at the station and they have mixed practical sessions where they get involved in the training and techniques that firefighters use in their day-to-day roles along with more theoretical sessions to challenge them mentally as well.



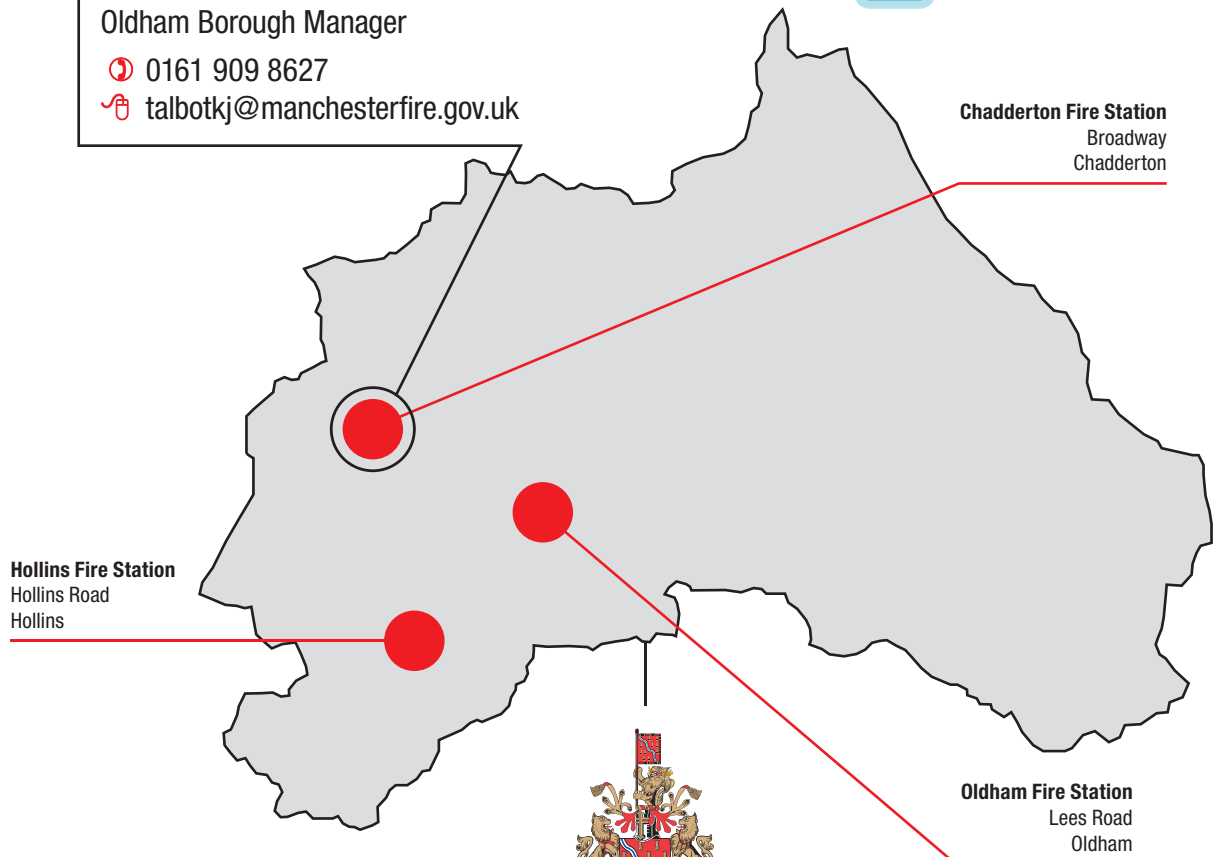
SHOCK TACTICS USED TO INFLUENCE STUDENTS



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DEREK HEFFERNAN
LIB DEM



BERNARD JUDGE
LABOUR



STEVE WILLIAMS
LABOUR

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	51	36	51	37
Total deliberate fires	251	378	251	406
- Primary fires (dwellings)	59	63	59	73
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	192	315	192	333
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	2
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	15	9	15	10
Building fires	133	120	133	134
Number of people rescued from fires	11	0	11	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	8	0	8	15



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	67	138	155
Completed volunteer hours	67	132	118
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0	6	37
% of hours completed against requested	100	96	76

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
7 Fire safety audits completed
0 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

1,408

► SERVICE DELIVERY ► **OLDHAM**

BAN THE PAN CAMPAIGN IN OLDHAM

A DRIVE to ban the pan was launched in Oldham in June after two elderly women suffered chip pan fires in the town in the space of 24 hours.

Firefighters and community safety staff helped launch the campaign from Oldham Fire Station and secured major coverage in the Oldham Chronicle by putting on a chip pan fire demonstration for local journalists.

Catherine Dunn, whose fire was the second in the same town in just 24 hours, is now a supporter of efforts to ban the pan and helped the campaign by telling her story for the media.

Firefighters and community safety staff went out in the community to make sure others got the message to ditch their chip pans in favour of safer ways of cooking and help people be safer in their homes and kitchens generally.

Catherine Dunn, aged 83, was cooking chips at her home on Thorp View, Royton, at 6.30pm on Sunday, June 17, when the chip pan burst into flames.

Catherine thought she had turned the stove off and is testament to how just one lapse in concentration can lead to a fire.

DISTRAUGHT GRANDMOTHER CELEBRATES HERO THANKS TO GMFRS

A GRANDMOTHER affected by the explosion in Shaw thought she was going to miss a proud family moment until Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service came to her aid.

Sixty-five-year-old Marjorie Coppinger was due to travel to Birmingham on Saturday, June 30 to watch her 23-year-old granddaughter Private Haylie Cailleau receive a medal for serving in Afghanistan.



BAN THE PAN CAMPAIGN IN OLDHAM

But Marjorie's outfit was stuck inside her home on Chancery Lane, along with her other granddaughter's passport and case – just yards away from where the blast occurred on Buckley Street on Tuesday, June 27, 2012.

When GMFRS's Police Liaison officer Kev McDermott found out, he was keen to help.

Kev said: "I was up at the cordon and I could see a lady distraught. I listened to her story, she said her granddaughter has spent six months in Afghanistan and she was due to be presented with a medal.

“Marjorie had bought a new dress, handbag and shoes – all of which were in the house still.

“We did an assessment and our crews went in and got her suitcase that was already packed, along with her purse, so she could still go.”

Marjorie said: “I am so grateful, the fire service has just been fantastic and I really can’t thank them enough.”

SMALL INCIDENT UNITS A SUCCESS AT BRASS BAND CONTESTS

SMALL incident units (SIUs) proved a resounding success at one of the loudest and most vibrant events in Oldham’s calendar.

Oldham firefighters used two SIUs to make a real impact on this year’s competition and supported visitors, participants and partner agencies in ensuring the contest went well.

The Saddleworth and District Whit Friday Brass Band Contests take place every year on the afternoon and evening of Whit Friday and dates back to 1884.

It has been an event that has, in the past, proved challenging for operational firefighters to be involved in due to the narrow winding roads in the town becoming packed with revellers and musicians.

This year – thanks to the SIUs – GMFRS’s Oldham Borough was better able to participate in ensuring the safety of the event.

It meant that had there been an incident, the SIUs would be able to provide an initial response to smaller incidents and, because of the intelligence picture firefighters were building by being at such a large-scale event in a small community, it would have allowed easier access by crews on a regular fire engine.

Hollins Station Manager Glyn O’Reilly said: “It was a very successful event and we were well received by members of the community.”

ARMY CADETS ACT AS VICTIMS IN REALISTIC TRAINING

BLOOD was spilt at Chadderton Fire Station when the army cadets visited – thankfully it was only fake blood when they posed as victims for firefighters to rescue from a road traffic collision.

The youngsters, army cadets at Royton, visited the station’s Blue Watch crews on Saturday, May 5, and showed their discipline and enthusiasm by throwing themselves whole-heartedly into what the crews had planned for them.

Firefighters demonstrated a number of scenes they can end up facing when they arrive at a road traffic collision to rescue people.

One of the firefighters narrated throughout the demonstrations to explain exactly what they do to rescue the victims of a road traffic collision and the reasons why they do particular things.

Techniques covered included showing the group how they rescue people by removing a door, removing the centre door post from a car, taking the roof off and by forcing the dashboard forward.

ARMY CADETS ACT AS VICTIMS IN REALISTIC TRAINING

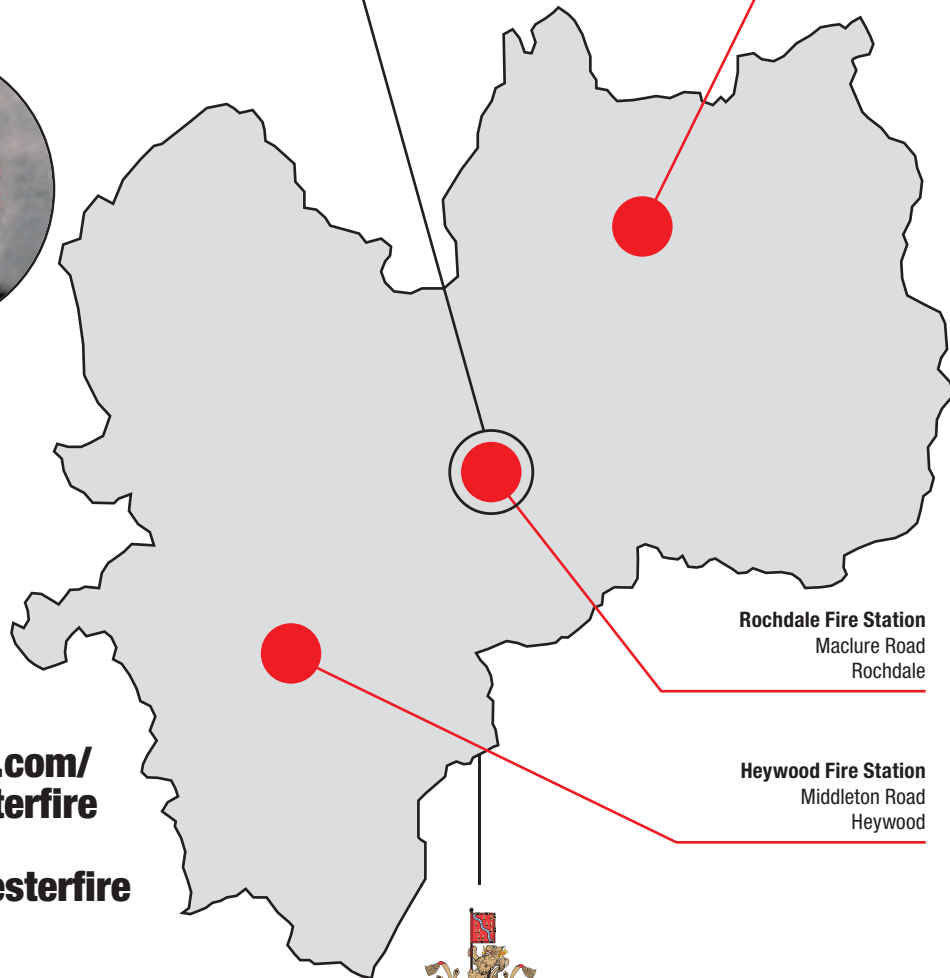


Tony Lander

Rochdale Borough Manager

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Littleborough Fire Station
Whitelees Road
Littleborough

Rochdale Fire Station
Maclure Road
Rochdale

Heywood Fire Station
Middleton Road
Heywood



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GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
MEMBERS



AMNA MIR
LABOUR



SHAUN O'NEILL
LABOUR

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	38	39	38	43
Total deliberate fires	199	327	199	354
- Primary fires (dwellings)	47	42	47	50
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	152	285	152	304
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	2
Fatalities	0	0	0	1
Injuries	8	9	8	11
Building fires	110	108	110	121
Number of people rescued from fires	2	0	2	13
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	18	0	18	16



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	37	48	101
Completed volunteer hours	0	48	89
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	37	0	12
% of hours completed against requested	0	100	88

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
39 Fire safety audits completed
12 Enforcement notices
2 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

871

MAJOR CHEMICAL TRAINING EXERCISE FOR CREWS

CREWS from across Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service were joined by cadets and volunteers for Rochdale's annual borough-wide training exercise.

Ten fire engines and four special appliances attended the large-scale exercise on Saturday, June 30, which involved a mock chemical leak.

The scenario involved a number of schoolchildren (played by the cadets) who had broken into a disused refrigeration plant, where one of the youngsters had fractured a pipe and valve leading to a large ammonia storage tank.

As part of the scenario, the tank released approximately 10,000 litres of liquid ammonia, causing a large toxic gas cloud which had overcome the youngsters inside the premises.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus attempted initial snatch rescues of the

youngsters before further resources arrived who were then committed in gas tight suits to deal with the leak and remaining rescues.

HUNDREDS ATTEND SEATBELT SAFETY PRESENTATION

STAFF at Rochdale Fire Station held another successful seatbelt campaign thanks to a partnership with Greater Manchester Police and Rochdale Council.

The scheme was part of the Impact Partnership which aims to reduce the number of collisions on the town's roads.

During one weekend in May, officers stopped anyone who was not wearing a seatbelt or driver using their mobiles while travelling on the roads.

A total of 189 Penalty Charge Notices were issued and 160 offenders attended a 20-minute presentation delivered by fire safety officers at Rochdale Fire Station as an alternative to paying a fine.

MAJOR CHEMICAL TRAINING EXERCISE FOR CREWS



Rochdale Borough Manager, Tony Lander, said: "It surprises me, the number of people who are still driving without a seatbelt or while chatting on their mobile phones when every day we are seeing people seriously injured or even killed in road traffic collisions."

In addition, four vehicles were seized for no insurance and two drink-drivers were arrested as a direct result of being stopped for not wearing seatbelt.

CREWS ATTEND CHARITY EVENT

KIND-HEARTED firefighters in Rochdale supported a special charity event to help send a young boy to America for life-changing surgery.

Firefighters from White Watch at Rochdale Fire Station went to a fun day and football match at Sacred Heart playing fields in Belfield Mill Lane on Sunday, April 15.

The event was organised by the family of nine-year-old Rochdale lad Adam Kutreba, who suffers from cerebral palsy, in a bid to raise £65,000 to send him to America for pioneering surgery.

White Watch Manager Paul Wilkinson said: "Adam's dad Richard asked if we could attend with a fire engine to be a part of the day, which of course we were happy to take part in.

"As well as helping to raise money for a fantastic cause, the day also gave us an excellent opportunity to engage with the public offering fire safety advice, collecting HSC referrals and showing people around the fire engine and explaining what we do."

CREWS SHARE STUDENTS' PROUD PASSING OUT

FIREFIGHTERS from Heywood shared a proud moment with scores of young people and their families at a passing out parade.

Hundreds of people attended the ceremony at Hopwood Hall College in June to mark the students' completion of the Uniformed Public Services BTEC course.

During the ceremony, the students, aged 16 to 18, marched onto the parade square at the



CREWS SHARE STUDENTS' PROUD PASSING OUT

college's Middleton campus where they were inspected by the visiting officers.

This was followed by various displays in front of the crowd, including fitness classes, assault courses and a horn pipe dance.

For the second year there was a display by the students and operational crews involving fire engines from Heywood and Manchester Central fire stations.


The drill concluded with the students reporting "drill completed, sir" to Rochdale Borough Manager Tony Lander.

After the event, there was a prize-giving ceremony and a huge tug of war contest between the students and the guests, followed by an informal session where students and parents mingled with each other.

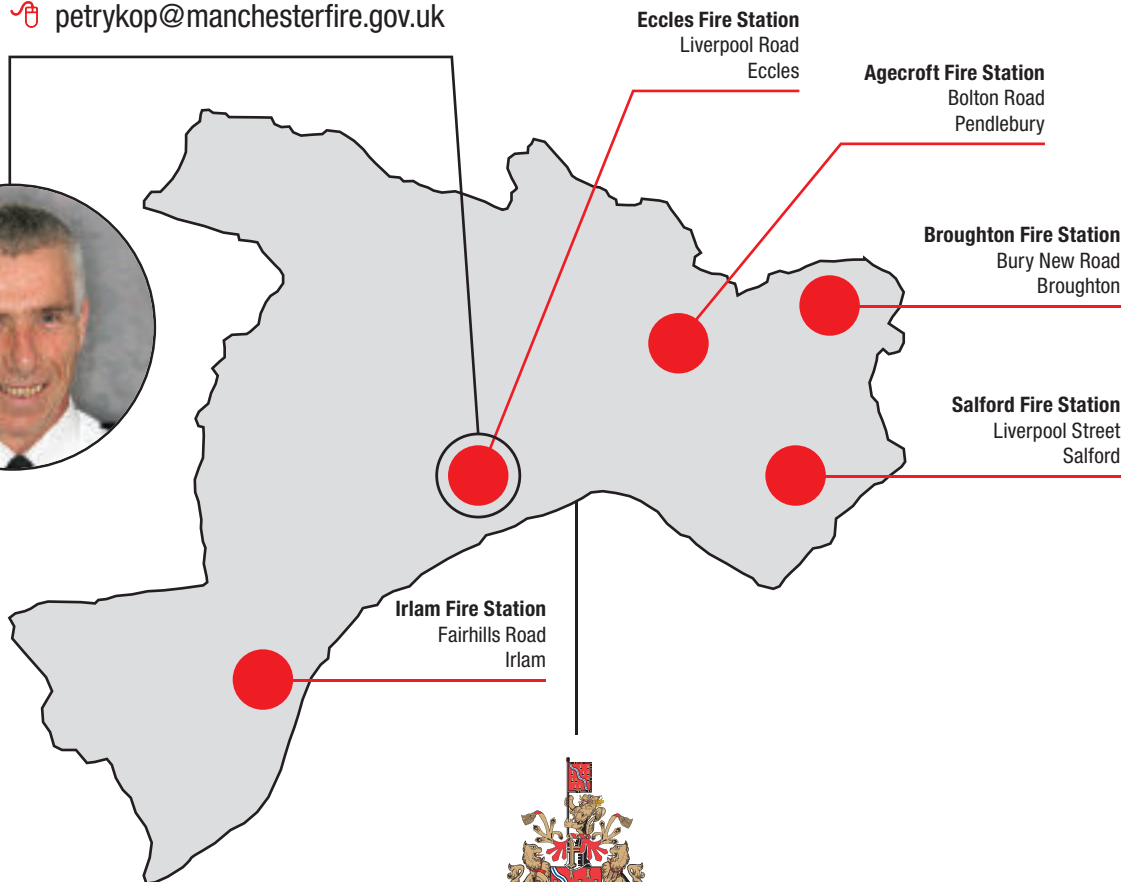
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**GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
MEMBERS**



OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	49	51	49	54
Total deliberate fires	236	303	236	330
- Primary fires (dwellings)	45	60	45	71
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	191	243	191	259
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	2	0	2	0
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	4	12	4	13
Building fires	119	141	119	155
Number of people rescued from fires	1	0	1	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	20	0	20	23



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	313.5	346	243
Completed volunteer hours	307.5	332	233
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	6	14	10
% of hours completed against requested	98	96	96

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
58 Fire safety audits completed
7 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

1,900

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT FIRE STATIONS IN SALFORD

FIRE stations in Salford are opening their doors to teach lifesaving skills and fire safety tips to pupils from local high schools as part of a new youth engagement partnership, called YE@.

Salford Borough Manager Paul Petrykowski said: "As a service we work closely with our partners, in this case Salford's Team Around School (TAS) workers, to have a positive influence in the communities we serve.

"This youth engagement initiative, which we've called YE@ (Youth Engagement@) - is a good example of how we can use our

Aimed at pupils who are not fully engaging in the school curriculum, over four sessions, groups of up to 12 pupils from the high



ECCLES CREWS TAKE PART IN PRAYER RELAY

schools learn about anti-social behaviour and its impact on GMFRS and the community inside their local fire station.

ECCLES CREWS TAKE PART IN PRAYER RELAY

FIREFIGHTERS from Eccles Fire Station took part in a Relay of Prayer alongside pupils from two Salford schools in celebration of the Olympic Games.

Linking in with St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School in Eccles as part of the Diocese of Salford's Catholic schools event, they carried the Relay of Prayer baton in their fire engine to St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School in Ordsall on Monday, June 25.

Green Watch Crew Manager Gabs Campbell said: "We were delighted to be asked to take part in the event by St Mary's because they explained how the event was all about how



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AT FIRE STATIONS IN SALFORD

standing in the community to have a positive impact."

The YE@ partnership between Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Salford City Council follows a successful pilot scheme involving around 20 pupils from Buile Hill High last year.

both sport and religion could bring people together.

“By using our fire engine to transport the Prayer Torch, we were able to show how Eccles Fire Station really is at the centre of the community in Salford.”

The event which is supported by Pope Benedict XVI involves 214 catholic schools across the Diocese of Salford, with each school paired with a country participating in the Olympic Games.

Each school was encouraged to choose a variety of ways to transport the beacon between schools, which is how Green Watch at Eccles got involved.

QUICK-THINKING CSAs HELP OUT

QUICK-thinking GMFRS staff were able to put their Heart Start training into practice recently when they came to the aid of a teenage motorcyclist after a road accident in Worsley.

Salford and Trafford cluster Community Safety Advisors (CSAs) Jonathon Cooper and Debra Collinge were driving to Little Hulton to carry out a number of Home Safety Checks on Tuesday, May 15, when they stumbled upon the road traffic collision.

Debra said: “We were just driving past and we could see the guy on the opposite side of the carriageway sprawled in the road – but in order to pull over safely we had to drive on a bit and park.

“By the time we got over to him a policeman had arrived but we were able to assist using what we’d learnt in our training to keep him comfortable and at ease.

“It was pretty basic what we did, he was conscious so we didn’t have to carry out Heart Start – but we were able to reassure him and chat to him for a while to keep him calm.”



BIG LUNCH AT IRLAM FIRE STATION

Jonathon said: “We were able to monitor his condition and contact his relatives and work, telling his mum he was going to the Salford Royal Hospital and we were able to help paramedics transfer the 19-year-old into the ambulance.”

BIG LUNCH AT IRLAM FIRE STATION

THE torrential rain couldn’t dampen spirits as the community and partners from Greater Manchester Police came together recently to enjoy a Big Lunch at Irlam Fire Station.

Using the engine house to keep celebrations dry, Blue Watch hosted the lunch which was organised by Police Community Support Officer Mark Fitzgerald.

Blue Watch Manager Paul Swinnerton said: “It was a fantastic community get together despite the rain – we’d planned on eating outside, but the watch came together and put bunting up in the engine house.

“It was organised by Mark, one of the PCSOs based in our fire station and not only was it a great example of us working with partners, we were able to engage with the community and youngsters as well as generating a number of Home Safety Checks.”

The Big Lunch is organised by the Eden Project and is designed to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

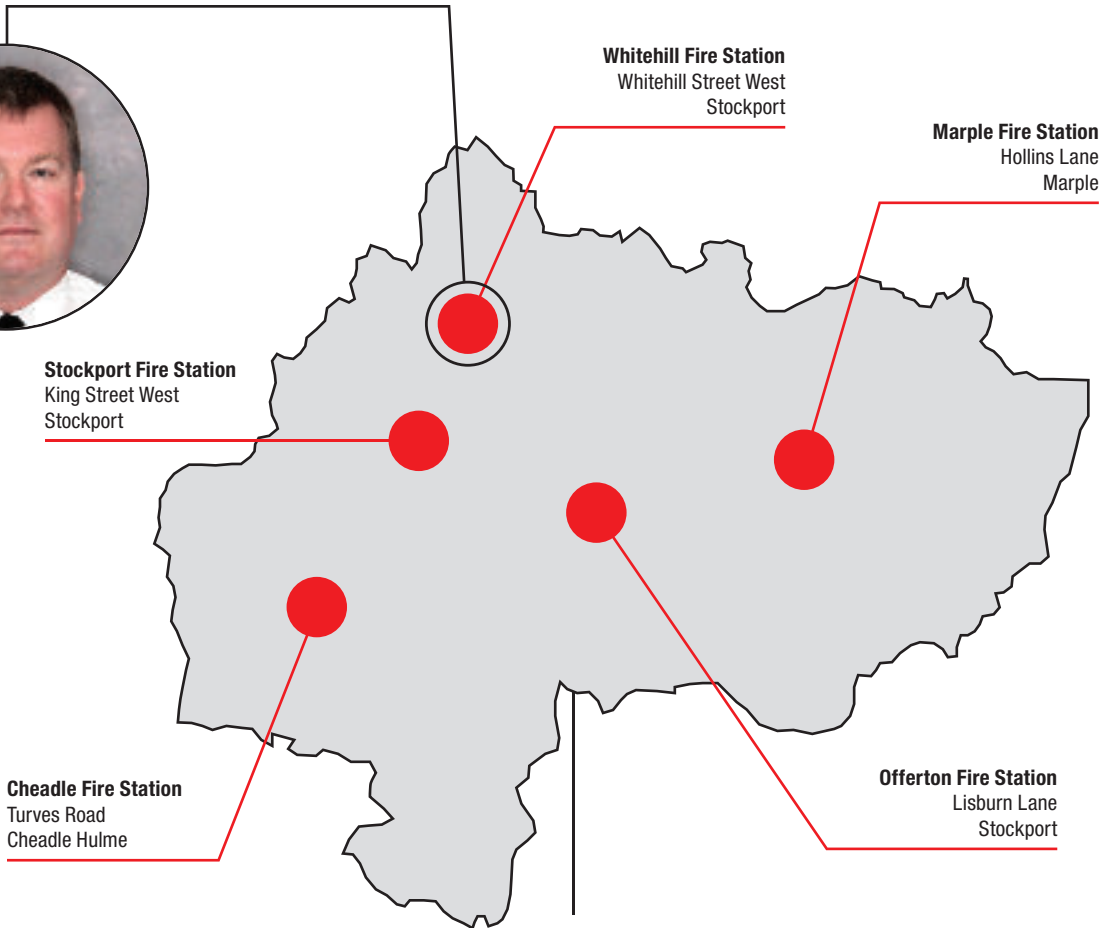
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WALTER BRETT
LABOUR



WENDY MEIKLE
CONSERVATIVE



LISA WALKER
LABOUR

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	43	49	43	54
Total deliberate fires	128	197	128	240
- Primary fires (dwellings)	32	22	32	32
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	96	175	96	208
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	2
Fatalities	1	0	1	0
Injuries	10	9	10	10
Building fires	105	92	105	112
Number of people rescued from fires	5	0	5	4
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	24	0	24	15



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	264	374	233
Completed volunteer hours	264	330	233
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	0	44	0
% of hours completed against requested	100	88	100

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
76 Fire safety audits completed
10 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

1,884



OFFERTON FIRE STATION OPENS ITS DOORS TO VOTERS

decided to get involved by visiting some of the local events.

A crew visited parties in Radford Close, Offerton, and Warwick Drive, Hazel Grove – both of which had been organised by local residents.

The firefighters were a big hit with the locals, young and old, who offered them party food and chatted to them.

Crew Manager Stuart Hall said: “We got a fantastic reception and also generated a large amount of Home Safety Check referrals from the residents.”

OFFERTON FIRE STATION OPENS ITS DOORS TO VOTERS

OFFERTON Fire Station opened its doors to voters for the first time when it became a Polling Station in the local elections.

A steady stream of people cast their vote at the station on Thursday, May 4, 2012.

Station Manager Andy Ross said: “Many of the people voting had never seen the inside of a fire station before. Here at Offerton, we are slowly becoming a focal point for the community with initiatives like this and by inviting local groups and partners to use our community room.”



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT COMMUNICATION AND TEAMWORK

STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT COMMUNICATION AND TEAMWORK

A GROUP of school pupils working to improve themselves showed what they were capable of when they visited Whitehill Fire Station on May 23.

The young people from Reddish Vale Technology College spent a day with the station's Green Watch to enhance work they had been doing to learn the importance of gaining qualifications and aiming high.

STOCKPORT CREWS JOIN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

STOCKPORT crews got into the party spirit when the country celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Despite poor weather over the Bank Holiday on Tuesday, June 5, street parties were being held throughout the community and a fire engine and crew from Offerton Fire Station

The eight-strong group spent the morning debating some of the broad range of work Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is involved in and joined the firefighters in a drill in the afternoon.

Laura Saidler, GMFRS's Children and Young People Co-ordinate for Stockport, said: "This was a great opportunity for them to work with firefighters."

Watch Manager Eamonn Lyons said: "Our intention was to involve them in a practical problem solving exercise, involving working together as a team, communication skills and raise their self-esteem through achievement.

"The group worked well together and achieved their goal, which seemed to lift their spirits and understanding of how working together can achieve things."

MARPLE CREWS MAKE 50TH CARNIVAL A SUCCESS

WET weather and grey skies didn't dampen spirits in Stockport at this year's Marple Carnival.

A fire crew from Marple Fire Station joined the celebrations in Memorial Park to mark the 50th anniversary of the annual event.

The fire engine led the afternoon's procession at the event in June, involving around 20 vehicles which made their way through the village.

Crews chatted to the crowds along the way and gave out stickers before showing children around the fire engine once it arrived in the park.

Fire safety advice was given out and Home Safety Checks were generated amongst the crowds.

Money was also raised on the day for a range of charities, including The Fire Fighters Charity.

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORED THANKS TO KINDNESS

WHEN the people of High Lane in Stockport felt their local war memorial was in need of some restoration they turned to a Marple firefighter.

He enlisted the help of eleven young people from one of GMFRS's Prince's Trust team who made it happen.

On Monday, April 2, the team set about weeding, cleaning and planting the area around the memorial.

Charlie Brown, Team Leader of GMFRS's Stockport Prince's Trust said: "The young people chose this as an extra community project because they wanted to help make the area look better.

"They worked really hard cutting back the ivy, planting roses, brushing and tidying and they really enjoyed it and got a lot of satisfaction out of it because they could see the results fairly quickly."

► SERVICE DELIVERY ► TAMESIDE

Ashton-under-Lyne Fire Station
Slate Lane
Audenshaw

Mossley Fire Station
Stamford Street
Mossley

Stalybridge Fire Station
Rassbottom Street
Stalybridge

Hyde Fire Station
Railway Street
Hyde

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 @manchesterfire



 JOHN BELL CONSERVATIVE	 BARRIE HOLLAND LABOUR	 MICHAEL SMITH LABOUR
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OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	34	25	34	28
Total deliberate fires	137	238	137	259
- Primary fires (dwellings)	33	36	33	41
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	104	202	104	218
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	0
Fatalities	0	0	0	0
Injuries	9	9	9	11
Building fires	84	83	84	94
Number of people rescued from fires	6	0	6	3
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	13	0	13	14



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	79	70	129
Completed volunteer hours	57	66	74
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	22	4	55
% of hours completed against requested	72	94	57

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
32 Fire safety audits completed
5 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

882

► SERVICE DELIVERY ► TAMESIDE

TAMESIDE BIKERS GIVEN COLLISION TRAINING

THE first person at the scene of a collision involving a motorcyclist and how they react can make all the difference to how the rider recovers.

Firefighters at Mossley Fire Station ran a course for bikers aimed at giving them some knowledge and advice on what to do as the first rider on the scene of a collision.

Watch Manager Graham Singleton said: "The session lasted about two hours and covered what to do if one of them is the first at the scene of a bike collision, what to do prior to



TAMESIDE BIKERS GIVEN COLLISION TRAINING – PICTURE COURTESY OF REPORTER AND CHRONICLE NEWSPAPERS

us or any of the other emergency services arriving, how not to make injuries any worse.

"We also looked at helmet removal if needs be and CPR.

"A section of the course was about reducing speed and what the consequences of driving at excessive speed can be."

Following on from the success of the course in May, another one was due to run in August.

TAMESIDE CREWS VISIT SPORTING SCHOOL CHILDREN

SPORTING youngsters in Tameside were treated to a visit from their local firefighters to be presented with the shield for winning the schools competition at the Fire Service English Cup Final.

Crews from Ashton and Stalybridge fire stations visited the Dukinfield school in May to present the pupils with their trophy for winning the children's tournament at Sportcity in April.

Watch Manager Gaz Phillips said: "We went to a special school assembly where we were treated to some excellent singing by the whole school.

"Then we had the opportunity to speak to the children to highlight all the other excellent work the fire and rescue service does in the community.

"During the visit we presented the school with the shield their football team won during the community event run alongside the Fire Service English Cup Final at Sportcity. We were also asked to present the team their trophy for winning the Tameside Schools league Cup – and we also showed off the Fire Service English Cup."

Afterwards, the crew took the children outside and showed them the fire engines and equipment close-up and explained more about how they use the various items to rescue people from fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies.

FIREFIGHTERS DON'T GROUSE WHEN RAIN STOPS PLAY

YOUNG grouse prevented firefighters, park rangers, wildlife experts and others who deal

with moorland fires from taking part in a training exercise in Tameside!

The moorland birds and potential flooding forced firefighters to adapt moorland fire training between Stalybridge and Mottram.

Up to 10 crews were due to train on Friday, June 22, but plans changed to protect wildlife at the site due to the weather conditions and also to ensure they were prepared to respond to any emergencies the torrential rain may have caused.

Those gathered still went through the principles of the scenario they were due to face on the moors to test what they would have done in those circumstances.

Sean Prendergast from the Peak District National Park gave a presentation to give everyone an insight into local sites, their history, how they are currently managed, what wildlife is up there, how and where fires can start and the problems that can be faced in fighting fires in such unique remote areas.

Staff from each organisation got to familiarise themselves with the vehicles, equipment and techniques each other would use to reach and tackle a moorland fire.

BUZZ AT HYDE FIRE STATION

THERE was quite literally a buzz around Hyde Fire Station when it became the first Greater Manchester fire station to become a home for bees.

The garden at the back of the station and borough headquarters now houses three bee hives after Borough Manager Jon Heydon gave a local bee keeper a new home for her hobby.

As well as helping out a local who was in need of some support, it has put the borough team a step closer to being a sustainable fire station at the heart of the community.



BUZZ AT HYDE FIRE STATION

Beekeeper Catharine Edwardes-Evans, 67, initially kept her bees on a field but had to move them when the charges became too much and moved them to some allotments, which was not a suitable location and meant she lost three colonies last year.

Catharine met Jon by chance at the allotments and he thought the space at the back of Hyde Fire Station might be the solution to her problems.

TAMESIDE CREWS VISIT SPORTING SCHOOL CHILDREN



► SERVICE DELIVERY ► **TRAFFORD**



Andy Dugdale
Trafford Borough Manager

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Stretford

Sale Fire Station
Cranleigh Drive
Sale

Altrincham Fire Station
Manchester Road
Altrincham

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GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
MEMBERS



DAVID ACTON
LABOUR



DYLAN BUTT
CONSERVATIVE



DAVID HIGGINS
CONSERVATIVE

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	37	33	37	36
Total deliberate fires	75	138	75	149
- Primary fires (dwellings)	21	15	21	17
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	54	123	54	132
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	0	0	0	1
Fatalities	0	0	0	1
Injuries	5	6	5	6
Building fires	76	72	76	81
Number of people rescued from fires	2	0	2	4
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	15	0	15	16



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	185	155	154.5
Completed volunteer hours	180.5	155	130.5
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	4.5	0	24.5
% of hours completed against requested	98	100	84

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
85 Fire safety audits completed
9 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

1,556

ALTRINCHAM FIRE STATION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

SNOOKER player Jimmy White was born, the World Cup was played in Chile and Altrincham Fire Station opened – the year was 1962.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the station, members of the public joined current and former staff and colleagues for an open day on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7.

Firefighters and staff made it a welcoming event and, as well as giving visitors an insight into the station's current work and history, made it a wonderful celebration for the achievements of everyone who has contributed something during the last half century.

Altrincham Fire Station was opened on May 7, 1962, by Alderman Sir Wesley Emberton, Chairman of Cheshire County Council.

Sid McMullen a firefighter who started his shift at the old Altrincham Fire Station on May 7, 1962, but had to finish his duties at the new fire station after getting called out to a fire at the exact time the changeover took place.

He said: "The open day was marvellous – so many colleagues I used to work with were there and it was very nice to meet the current serving crews."

Borough Manager Andy Dugdale gave a short presentation to the former staff and firefighters to look over its history and High Sheriff George Almond, a former Altrincham station manager, and Trafford Mayor, Councillor Jane Baugh cut the anniversary cake.

ALTRINCHAM FIRE STATION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The open day also had plenty for the rest of the community to enjoy and gave them an insight into the wider work of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

YOUNG OFFENDERS IN SALE GIVE FIRE STATION A FACELIFT

YOUNG offenders have transformed a piece of land into an outdoor community learning area at Sale Fire Station.

A group of around 12 young people from different backgrounds worked together on the garden as part of a youth offending programme being run by GMFRS.

The young people – who are referred onto the project by Trafford Council’s Youth Offending Service – are from two different groups: younger teenagers at risk of offending due to family lifestyle or background; and older teenagers who have already committed crimes.

Firefighter Rob Sanders from GMFRS’s Prevention and Protection team, who ran the session, said: “The feedback from the young people is that it went really well and the Youth Offending Service has said they will maintain the garden in the future.”

TRAFFORD’S FIRST CADET SCHEME LAUNCHED

TRAFFORD’S first cadet scheme for young people has been launched at Stretford Fire Station.

The programme was the first in a series of new Community Fire Cadets schemes being launched across GMFRS.

Stretford Station Manager Ben Levy said: “After a number of years managing activities for GMFRS’s Children and Young People department, nothing has made me quite so proud as having a Community Fire Cadet unit at Stretford Fire Station.



YOUNG OFFENDERS IN SALE GIVE FIRE STATION A FACELIFT



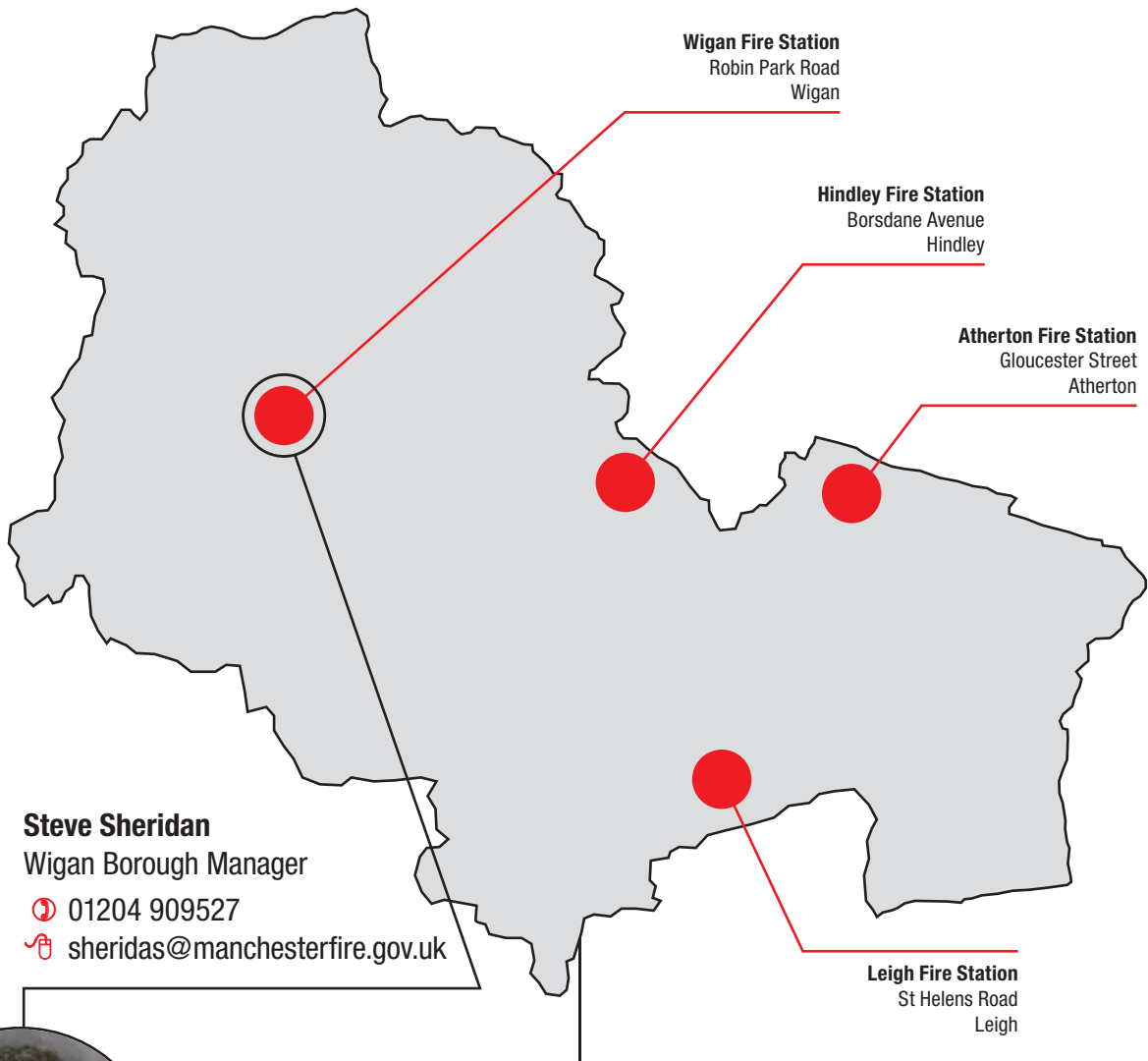
TRAFFORD’S FIRST CADET SCHEME LAUNCHED

“Our intention is to develop these cadets to be a real and valid part of the community, embedding them into local projects and developing activities by which the cadets can support the wider aims of the fire and rescue service.”

Community Fire Cadets is two-year educational and developmental scheme aimed at young people aged 14 to 17 who attend a fire station one evening a week.

Some young people have the opportunity to become junior instructors and some become volunteer instructors at the age of 18.

► SERVICE DELIVERY ► **WIGAN**



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Wigan Borough Manager
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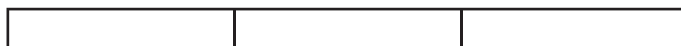
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JIM ELLIS
INDEPENDENT



JOHN O'BRIEN
LABOUR



FRED WALKER
LABOUR

OUR PERFORMANCE	THIS QUARTER	TARGET TO DATE	YEAR TO DATE	PREVIOUS YEAR TO DATE
Number of accidental dwelling fires	48	42	48	47
Total deliberate fires	271	447	271	482
- Primary fires (dwellings)	43	75	43	86
- Secondary fires (rubbish etc)	228	372	228	396
The number of incidents involving hostilities towards firefighters	1	0	1	3
Fatalities	1	0	1	0
Injuries	4	9	4	10
Building fires	118	156	118	175
Number of people rescued from fires	1	0	1	5
Total number of calls to road traffic collisions	21	0	21	19



Volunteers Activity	Apr	May	Jun
Actual generated activity	448.25	588.5	511
Completed volunteer hours	432.25	445.5	375
Cancelled activity / no volunteer available hours	16	143	136
% of hours completed against requested	96	76	73

REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY) ORDER
36 Fire safety audits completed
0 Enforcement notices
0 Prohibitions

Home Safety Checks completed

1,677

DUKE OF EDINBURGH COURSES AT WIGAN FIRE STATION

SIX young people have become fire safety ambassadors after completing a unique course with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Taking part in a 12-week course led by firefighters at Wigan Fire Station, the young people learnt safety skills including how to tackle a fire and safety on the water.

Wigan Station Manager Geoff Thornley said: "We want these young people to look to us as role models and it is part of our duty at GMFRS to set a good example.

"If we can educate them on fire safety, they can then go home and educate their parents and friends in their peer group.

"We're happy to support the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as a nationally recognised qualification and by running the course at our station it's all part of Wigan Fire Station being at the heart of the community it serves."

Firefighter Barry Taberner co-ordinated GMFRS's course which involved all watches at Wigan Fire Station and culminated in the young people being presented with fire ambassador certificates on Tuesday, May 1, 2012.

JUBI-LEIGH CELEBRATIONS TRIGGERED BY FIREFIGHTER

FIREFIGHTER Paul Smith celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by lighting a jubilee beacon on the roof of Leigh Town Hall.

The GMFRS white watch firefighter turned celebrations into a 'jubi-Leigh' party by lighting the beacon on Sunday, June 3.

Firefighter Paul Smith said: "It was an honour to be involved and light the beacon, I used to



JUBI-LEIGH CELEBRATIONS TRIGGERED BY FIREFIGHTER

serve the Queen in the forces and now I can say that of all the 3000 beacons being lit to celebrate her 60 years on the throne, I lit one!"

More than 300 people including local school children watched as Paul lit the beacon, triggering a celebratory firework display, before the crowds sang the National Anthem and Land of Hope and Glory.

WIGAN BOROUGH FIREFIGHTERS ARE CANCER AWARE

FIREFIGHTERS across Wigan Borough have been made cancer aware after visits from

health professionals during a partnership throughout May.

Every single watch at every station was paid a visit by Greater Manchester Public Health Network professionals who used teaching aids to show crews how to check for lumps and bumps.

Borough Manager Steve Sheridan said: “Be Clear on Cancer was a great initiative because every single member of staff in the Borough was able to get to one of four dates.

“The Public Health team was able to give advice on how to look for symptoms of various cancers.

“It was a free self-health check for men and women and a chance to raise concerns and find out what to look for.”

The pilot initiative – which saw 16 sessions held at Wigan, Leigh, Atherton and Hindley stations – could result in similar projects be rolled out across GMFRS as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Lynne Calvert from Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Public Health Department said: “It’s all about improving awareness of cancer and tackling any fear in order to encourage people to go to their doctors early on if they think they could have symptoms.”

LEIGH OPEN DAY GOES DOWN A STORM

HUNDREDS of people flocked to an Open day at Leigh Fire Station which raised thousands of pounds for charity while spreading fire safety messages to the community.

Hollyoaks star Stephanie Davis was on hand for the community gala day which was held on Saturday, June 23.

Organiser, Crew Manager Gary Mercer said: “It was great because there was a steady stream of people all day and thankfully the weather stayed dry despite heavy rain and flooding in the borough the day before.

“We had a fairground, donkey rides, go-carts and a charity auction with lots of prizes including hotel breaks in Dublin and golf lessons.”

The open day raised £3300, which was to be split between the Fire Fighters Charity and Wigan and Leigh Hospice.

Station Manager Brian Highlands said: “We had the chip pan unit going to raise awareness of GMFRS’s Ban the Pan campaign and show how dangerous chip pans can be and our crews gave out general safety leaflets to more than 300 people.

“Not only that, our crews, community safety staff, cadets and volunteers generated lots of Home Safety Checks proving that Leigh Fire Station is at the heart of the community.”



LEIGH OPEN DAY GOES DOWN A STORM

► PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

FIREFIGHTERS, STAFF AND PUBLIC DECIDE FUTURE OF PREVENTION WORK

THE future of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's Prevention work was put in the hands of firefighters, staff and the public during a consultation that ran from April to June.

The consultation ran for 12 weeks – with the earlier focus being on gauging the views of crews and staff and the latter weeks seeing staff go out and speak to the public and partners about plans.

The first six weeks were dedicated to consulting with groups of staff on boroughs and providing them with all the material required for them to go out and seek the views of their own communities on plans.

Officers and staff took a similarly innovative approach as they had done with the Corporate Plan to consulting with the public during the final six weeks.

The culmination of activities was two citizen panels that took place at Moss Side and Eccles fire stations in June and the wider Greater Manchester public were brought into the debate with traditional media coverage, use of the GMFRS website and social media activity.

The feedback on the Prevention, Home Safety and Road Safety strategies was due to be collated throughout the summer and presented to Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority in September.

GMFRS DEVELOPS FIRE SAFETY PLANS FOR STUDENT TOWER BLOCK

GMFRS fire engineers have been working with designers, building control services and consultants to develop fire safety designs for

a new student tower block being built in Manchester.

Work is underway on the 100 metre high development which will cater for students from both Manchester Metropolitan University and The University of Manchester.

The new development consists of a high-rise tower providing student accommodation – from single studios to five-bedroom apartments – with office space and common rooms.

GMFRS's Fire Safety Engineering Manager, Peter Buckley, said: "The design team consulted with GMFRS very early in the design phase of the project and this approach is welcomed and encouraged by GMFRS. Any problems encountered can be ironed out

GMFRS DEVELOPS FIRE SAFETY PLANS FOR STUDENT TOWER BLOCK





DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION SHOWS DEVESTATING CONSEQUENCES OF DRINK DRIVING

early in the project to prevent delays additional project costs.”

Fire safety measures in the student block include structural fire resistance of 120 minutes, protected entrance halls to provide 30 minutes fire resistance, apartments separated by 60 minutes fire resistance, escape signage, firefighting stair and fire service access to 50 per cent of the building.

The building also features a water sprinkler system, emergency lighting, firefighting lift with a ventilation system, enhanced automatic fire detection and alarm system, and enhanced mechanical ventilation system to protect residential common corridors.

Once the new students have moved into the building, GMFRS will work in partnership with the residents to provide fire safety advice and devise a longer term plan for delivering fire safety to all new tenants.

DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION SHOWS DEVESTATING CONSEQUENCES OF DRINK DRIVING

THE difficult work that goes into rescuing someone from a collision was made clear to shoppers and workers passing through Manchester on June 1 as firefighters took over Albert Square for a demonstration to launch the summer drink drive campaign.

Crews from Manchester Central Fire Station staged a scene as if a car had collided into a tree on the square and cut the driver and front seat passenger free.

Police cordoned off the area as they would at a real collision and paramedics were on hand to deal with the casualties.

Area Manager Dave Keelan, GMFRS’s Head of Prevention Services, said on the day: “Our crews now rescue more people from collisions than they do from fires – so we see the devastation a smash can cause on a daily basis.”

► PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

Emergency services were particularly keen to drive home the don't drink and drive message this summer as they feared that people enjoying the Jubilee weekend and Euro 2012 may put lives at risk by getting behind the wheel after a few drinks.

Due to the many factors affecting inebriation they say that it is almost impossible to personally accurately gauge how fit you are to

to the aftermath of the explosion in Shaw in June.

Councillor David Acton, Chair of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "The team will provide practical support by helping victims get their home back to normal as quickly as possible and, hopefully, put them on the road to getting over their ordeal that little bit sooner.

"It's not something we have been able to do in the past with the resources we had available and is only possible because of our growing team of volunteers, who are adding new skills and a wider range to the work our staff and firefighters do."

The Post Incident Team is able to help clean up inside the home of people who have suffered a fire and remove and dispose of damaged property.

FURNITURE FIRM GIVEN £14,000 FINE

A FURNITURE firm was fined £14,000 for flouting fire safety laws in the biggest fine secured in Greater Manchester under fire safety laws at the time.

CFS Furniture was fined £14,000 for seven offences that put workers at risk.

The fine was handed out at Oldham Magistrates' Court on Thursday, May 31, after the case was adjourned twice because the company failed to send anyone to the previous hearings.

CFS was fined £2,000 for each offence and ordered to pay GMFRS's costs of £3,500.

Fire safety officers discovered a raft of dangers at their units – an inadequate alarm system, inadequate fire escapes, a lack of emergency lighting, the failure to train staff in how to act in a fire and the storage of items that were a high fire risk.



VOLUNTEER POST INCIDENT TEAM LAUNCHED

drive and recommend drivers steer clear of alcohol altogether.

VOLUNTEER POST INCIDENT TEAM LAUNCHED

A PILOT using the GMFRS volunteers to help victims of fire and other emergencies restore their lives to normal was launched in May.

The innovative scheme helps those who find their lives disrupted by an emergency, give them support to clean up their homes and cope with the devastating aftermath.

The volunteer Post Incident Team was piloted in Wigan, Bolton and Manchester and has since been called on several times – including

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Peter O'Reilly, Director of Prevention and Protection at GMFRS, said: "This fine reflects the serious failings of the company to take their responsibilities seriously. These units were being used to make furniture and were full of items that would burn quickly in a fire.

"The company employed more than 40 people and, by failing to take basic fire safety measures, put their lives at risks."

ELT CONFERENCE

PREVENTION and Protection work at GMFRS was discussed in depth at the Extended Leadership Team (ELT) conference in April.

It also gave new members of staff in the service the chance to introduce themselves and the work they will be doing to enhance the excellent service we already provide to the communities we serve.

Around 70 delegates attended the day-long event at Training and Development Centre on Wednesday, April 4, and many have said how worthwhile the day was.

Assistant Chief Officer Peter O'Reilly, Director of Prevention and Protection, said: "The sessions were really lively and the directorate team had worked really hard in the run-up to the event to highlight their specialised area in a vibrant and engaging way.

"Feedback from the extended leadership team has been really positive and they were grateful at having the opportunity to meet our staff and get a better understanding of the direction we hope to lead the organisation."

FASHION STORE OWNER FINED

A FASHION store owner admitted fire safety breaches which put staff and customers at risk at his Prestwich business.

Joel Lever, of Ringley Road, Whitefield, appeared before Bury and Rochdale Magistrates' Court on Thursday, May 17, 2012.

The 47-year-old pleaded guilty to seven offences under the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005 and one offence under the Health and Safety at Work Act following an



ELT CONFERENCE

inspection of Mon Amie Studios in Bury Old Road, Prestwich, in April 2011.

Lever was fined a total of £5,200 for two of the offences with no separate penalties for the others. He was also ordered to pay costs of £3,178 and a £15 victim surcharge.

However, he is now appealing the fine.

COMMUNITY TEAM LEARNS ABOUT WOMEN IN ASYLUM

VULNERABLE people in our communities can now be better supported by GMFRS after a number of community safety advisors spent a day learning about women and asylum.

► PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

Community Safety Advisors Wendy Hall, Julie Roberts, Robina Yasmin and Sofina Duloth Joy went to the event called Women and Asylum to learn more about people they might encounter while doing their day-to-day roles.

The four of them are some of the Community Safety Advisors who have particular responsibilities for bridging cultures and are particularly likely to encounter those facing the issues that were discussed at the seminar.

CSA Wendy Hall said: "For me, it was a really enlightening day – what these women go through is a process and often they are not seen as people."

Women and Asylum was a conference organised by the British Red Cross in Manchester in May.

The sessions were particularly useful because it gave those attending an overview of the asylum process and what it is like for women to go through it, some insights into women who have faced violence and their access to justice, how people dealing with trauma are dealt with by the asylum system and were given individual case studies.

FIRES INVOLVING SARIS AND LOOSE CLOTHING PROMPT TALKS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

OLDHAM'S community safety gave talks and demonstrations in town following incidents where people suffered fire-related injuries involving saris and loose clothing.

Community Safety Advisors from the GMFRS Prevention Team went to community groups and health centres to teach and advise people about safety in the home from Monday, April 2.



COMMUNITY TEAM LEARNS ABOUT WOMEN IN ASYLUM



HOTEL BOSS ADMITS FIRE SAFETY BREACHES

Practical advice and support for staying safe while wearing cultural and traditional dress was an area they gave particular attention to.

During the course of the visit throughout April and May, the community safety advisors spoke to more than 250 people at various venues.

More than 50 Home Safety Check referrals were taken with the community safety

advisors completing some additional visits them themselves.

Oldham Community Safety Advisor Robina Yasmin said: "We wanted to support everyone in the community to live their lives as safely as possible wearing clothes they feel comfortable in – whether it's for culture, tradition or style.

"We gave talks and presentations offering tips for being safer at home, particularly while cooking, and there was the chance for people to have informal one-to-one chats with us."

HOTEL BOSS ADMITS FIRE SAFETY BREACHES

A HOTEL boss has admitted breaching fire safety laws and putting the lives of his guests in danger.

Sultan Chaudhry was convicted of ten offences under the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005 in relation to the White Lodge Hotel, in Cheetham Street West, Salford.

Chaudhry, aged 55, of Grosvenor Gardens, Sharston, pleaded guilty to all ten charges at Manchester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, April 4, 2012.

The prosecution followed an inspection by GMFRS fire safety officers who visited the hotel after a fire on April 13, 2011.

At 4am, fire crews were called to the hotel after a fire occurred in the lobby.

Firefighters in breathing apparatus searched the building and rescued a guest from the first-floor, despite the manager telling crews that all 13 residents were out of the building at the time.

The court heard that when fire safety officers attended later that day, they were so concerned about the lack of fire safety

measures that a Prohibition Notice was served preventing anyone staying in the hotel.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Peter O'Reilly, GMFRS's Director of Prevention and Protection, said: "Chaudhry was running a hotel business and guests at the hotel are entitled to be safe. Fortunately, when the fire occurred nobody was injured, thanks to the professionalism of our crews who attended.

"However, this could have been a very serious incident. It is unacceptable for a hotel business not to have proper procedures in place and put lives at risk.

"Members of the public using this hotel were placed in danger by Chaudhry's failings. Anyone running a business has a responsibility to comply with the law."

► EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

MANCHESTER DAY PARADE SUCCESS

ONE hundred Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service representatives added to the sea of colour that wound its way through the city centre at this year's Manchester Day Parade on Saturday, June 9.

Mascot Cracker joined firefighters, staff, volunteers and their families to support the event that allows individuals and groups to celebrate their pride in the city.

This year's theme was particularly appropriate as the parade aimed to celebrate heroic achievements – something GMFRS's people do on a daily basis.

Firefighters, staff and their families were joined by cadets, volunteers, the pipe band and Prince's Trust representatives for the annual parade – which is now in its third year.

Around 80,000 spectators lined the streets of Manchester city centre to watch spectacular puppets and displays parade while celebrating the theme The Sky's The Limit – a celebration of heroic achievement.

The GMFRS Pipe Band led the service's contingent and those walking were supported by a fire engine from Farnworth, the small incident unit, fire bikes, mascot Cracker and giant fire costumes.

RECOGNISING YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS EVENTS

STAFF from across GMFRS were recognised for their good work at two events.

The Recognising Your Achievements events were held at Fire Service Headquarters on Friday, April 27, and Friday, June 29 to thank those who have helped, in one way or another, to bring down the number of fires in Greater Manchester in recent times.



MANCHESTER DAY PARADE SUCCESS

The event gives members of the Extended Leadership Team the chance to thank a member of any department for their hard work by nominating them for a certificate.

Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Steve McGuirk said: "The colleague recognition event is a wonderful way to mark the hard work of staff from various departments within the organisation. The recent events in the first quarter of the year were a huge success and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves."

GREEN PIGS MAY FLY ON STATIONS

A STATION pig was one of the most imaginative suggestions made at the launch of a new environmental award for GMFRS staff.

The Green Hose Awards were launched an event on Thursday, June 14, to help fire stations go green.

In a bid to become the greenest fire station, firefighters acting as environmental champions came up with a number of great ideas to go green including turbines on

training towers and rainwater for flushing toilets and washing appliances.

Every station is expected to be greener and each has been given the green light with saver flush devices added to every station toilet system, reducing the amount of water used.

There are already a number of green activities taking place across GMFRS including rainwater harvesting, automatic LED lighting, community gardens, beehives and herb gardens and of course refuse recycling.



LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The first Green Hose Awards will run for six months, and fire crews have this time to make any improvements and fill in the entry for their station.

After six months, a sample of sites will be visited, and the winners will then be announced.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

TWELVE GMFRS firefighters and staff have been awarded for their long service.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Warren Smith presented medals recognising 20 and 40 years of service on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen – in a ceremony held at GMFRS’s Training and Development Centre on Thursday, May 31.

Medal recipients gathered with their families in the presence of Greater Manchester Fire Authority Chairman, Councillor David Acton and CFO and Chief Executive Steve McGuirk.

Councillor David Acton said: “It is only right that we should acknowledge and recognise long service within GMFRS and it was fantastic to see families gather to watch their loved ones being awarded with their medals.

“And all the people receiving the awards really deserve them, and should be proud because all together there was almost 300 years total service in the room collectively – an incredible amount of experience, commitment, bravery and endurance.”

Receiving the Authority 40 Years Long Service Award Medal was Group Fire Control Officer Carol Gleaves and Human Resources Business Partner Brendan McDonagh.

Receiving The Queen’s Fire and Rescue Service Long Service Medal was Firefighter Mark Appleton, Watch Manager Mark Blackman, Watch Manager Mick Bloomfield, Firefighter Tony Carroll, Firefighter Andrew Chesters, Firefighter David Guy, Crew Manager Tony Hurley, Station Manager Dean Nankivell, Station Manager Angus Robinson, and Watch Manager David Wilson.

► **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

CHILDREN HIT THE AIRWAVES

MORE than half a million people heard fire safety radio adverts about the dangers of starting deliberate fires and making hoax 999 calls voiced by children from high schools in Salford and Rochdale.

Children from The Albion High School in Salford and Kingsway Park High School in Rochdale were heard during the summer holidays thanks to a partnership between Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Key 103.

The media bus visited both schools and after coming up with scripts and ideas for their adverts, Year 8 children then spent a day at the Key 103 studios putting together and recording their adverts with the seasonal fire safety theme.

Pupils from each school went head to head during the project, to make the best advert.

Each school chose their favourite advert to be put through to the final before Salford Borough Manager Paul Petrykowski, Rochdale Borough Manager Tony Lander and Key 103 gave each school's advert a listen.

With the judges unable to pick an overall winner, the two winning adverts from The Albion High School and Kingsway Park High School will be aired on Key 103 for four weeks during the summer holidays from Monday, July 16, 2012.

CADETS RECOGNISED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

FAMILIES watched with pride as scores of young fire cadets were recognised for their achievements at GMFRS's first cadets awards evening.

The youngsters gathered at the Training and Development Centre in Manchester on



CHILDREN HIT THE AIRWAVES



CADETS RECOGNISED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Thursday, May 24, to collect certificates and celebrate their success.

Cadet groups from Farnworth, Littleborough, Eccles, Ramsbottom and Leigh attended the event, along with GMFRS staff and cadet instructors, and many of the young people shared their experiences.

Community Fire Cadets Coordinator Jane Berry said: "The event was held to recognise the achievements of the cadets who have

worked extremely hard to gain a BTEC qualification or certificate for Fire and Rescue Services within the Community.

“It was also a fantastic opportunity to bring together the cadets, their families and their instructors and we want to make this an annual event.”

At the event, cadets were presented with awards and certificates by GMFRS’s County Fire Officer Steve McGuirk and High Sheriff of Greater Manchester George Almond CBE, who was County Fire Officer at GMFRS when the cadets scheme began.

CADETS AND VOLUNTEERS AT DALAI LAMA EVENT

THE Dalai Lama was the guest of honour at an event attended by GMFRS cadets and volunteers from Stretford and Eccles recently.

They joined thousands of other young people at the Century of Dialogue – Stand up and be the Change event at the Manchester Arena on Saturday, June 16.

Adam Tormey from GMFRS’s Children and Young People’s department said: “It was a great event for our young people to take part in, because the whole idea of it was to encourage young people to avoid violence and conflict to change the world for the better.

“It was particularly poignant after the violence last summer and a fantastic opportunity for our Community Fire Cadet units from Stretford and Eccles to learn from an iconic figure such as his holiness the Dalai Lama.

“His aim of encouraging young people to peacefully resolve disputes, personally, locally and globally through compassion, understanding and dialogue was great to hear and had an impact on all the young people who attended.”

FORMER FOOTBALLER INSPIRES PRINCE’S TRUST TEAMS

A VISIT from former Manchester City and England star Earl Barrett provided a motivational morning for members of GMFRS Prince’s Trust teams.



FORMER FOOTBALLER INSPIRES PRINCE’S TRUST TEAMS

On Monday, June 18, the former defender – who hails from Rochdale and also played for Oldham Athletic – delivered a rousing presentation to 24 members of GMFRS’s Prince’s Trust teams from Manchester East and Wythenshawe at the Training and Development Centre.

Manchester East Prince’s Trust Team Leader George Hayden said: “It was fantastic to have Earl down to talk to the teams because he’s a really inspirational figure.

“As a former England defender he brought his caps and medals down and the young people were able to learn all kinds of things from Earl about hard work, dedication and motivation.”

► TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE DAY RAISES MONEY FOR CHARITY

FOUR ladies swapped glamour for graft when they took part in a firefighters' experience day for charity.

Co-operative workers Siobhan Hayes, Lisa Twemlow, Julie Darlington and Lisa Hicks won



FIREFIGHTER EXPERIENCE DAY RAISES MONEY FOR CHARITY

the prize at an auction to raise money for Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton.

They spent a rainy day at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's Training and Development Centre (TDC) in June where they were given a tour of the centre's facilities and Manchester Central Fire Station which is next door.

They were shown around the fire engines and equipment before donning protective clothing to take part in various training exercises including squirting water, running out hose reels, climbing ladders and cutting up a car – all aspects of being a firefighter.

The ladies bid a total of £300 for the experience at a ladies lunch event organised

by Co-operative worker Loretta Dean and held at the Park Inn hotel in Manchester.

Loretta organised the event after being inspired by her friend Bradley Middlehurst from Stalybridge who suffers from Motor Neurone disease and GMFRS Station Manager Paul Etches offered to host a firefighters' experience day to support the cause.

In total the event raised more than £8,000 for the charity which will fund specialist treatment.

EXERCISE SWAN

THE largest exercise in GMFRS's history took place on Sunday, April 29, with up to 25 crews taking part.

The idea was to test the service's resilience and capability, while at the same time maintaining operational response across the county, and Exercise Swan proved successful.

Area Manager Sean Booth, one of the exercise's organisers, said: "It was a success in terms of testing our ability to mobilise that many crews and maintain fire cover across the county."

The exercise took place in a disused building on the UMIST site off Sackville Street, near to the Mancunian Way, in Manchester.

Exercise Swan began at 9.40am with a report coming in that fires had started on a number of floors and people were still inside.

Onsite security guards had rang the GMFRS Control Room to report that there were squatters in the building and during an eviction process they had started a number of fires on the sixth, seventh and eighth floors.

Firefighters tackled the blaze, rescued six casualties and even had to contend with a

firefighter collapsing from a suspected heart attack – all while members of the public and media (played by members of the Corporate Communications team) did their best to be a nuisance to officers at the scene.

Simulated smoke was used inside the building to make conditions as challenging as possible for the firefighters going into the building.

At one point, 30 pumps, an incident command unit and an operational support unit were in attendance with approximately 150 firefighters and officers on the scene.

LEARNING AT WORK WEEK

LEARNING at any age is good for development and GMFRS's Learning at Work Week saw more than 100 people take part and find out more about personal development.

The event gave staff across the organisation the chance to take up the opportunity to learn a new skill, from photography to coaching.

Sessions took place at Fire Service Headquarters, the TDC and Leigh Technical Centre and Leigh Fire Station from Monday, May 14 to Friday, May 18.

GMFRS's Learning and Development advisors were available between 10am and 2pm to provide information along with representatives from Bolton University.

Learning and Development Advisor Lisa Smith said: "It was really encouraging that so many GMFRS firefighters and staff came to the sessions during the week to benefit from all the information about learning.

"We worked in collaboration with Unionlearn which meant that as well as everything we offer at GMFRS, we also had other agencies at the sessions offering all kinds of vocational courses."

FIVE STAFF MEMBERS JUDGED INCIDENT COMMAND COMPETENT

FIVE staff members have been deemed incident command competent following a Flexi Duty System (FDS) selection and assessment process at the TDC.

The selection process, designed and delivered by TDC, took place between April 16 and 23 to identify staff for progression from a 42-hour station manager role to that of an incident commander, conditioned to the GMFRS FDS.

Group Manager Mark O'Brien said: "This was the first process delivered at GMFRS to identify FDS officers through a competitive assessment process, in line with the newly launched Flexible Duty System assessment and selection process."

The process assessed the individuals' operational incident command capability whilst dealing with a realistic practical scenario and, separately, a simulated high-rise incident.

It also assessed the individuals' underpinning knowledge and understanding of the incident command framework and GMFRS' policies and procedures via a written exam.

The criteria for assessment of the scenarios was based on compliance against the National Occupation Standards which provides the framework for incident command methodology, together with a requirement to manage the scenarios safely and to identify any risk critical activity taking place on arrival.

The assessors were also looking for candidates to demonstrate a good command style and presence on the incident ground.

The successful candidates were: Jon Heydon, Jim O'Byrne, Mick Rothwell, Ken Kendall and Geoff Thornley.

► RESILIENCE AND URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG ECHO CALLED TO BUILDING COLLAPSE

SEARCH and rescue dog Echo got his paws dirty when he was called to assist at a collapsed building in Stoke.

The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service dog travelled to the West Midlands on Tuesday, May 22, to search a collapsed house following an explosion in the Shelton area.

Along with his trainer Mike Dewar and a search and rescue dog from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Echo responded to a call from the National Coordinating Centre at 4.45pm.

Following a long journey through rush-hour traffic, Echo arrived on the scene and was first to search the mid-terraced property.

Watch Manager Dewar said: "It was a tough search for Echo not only because it was the hottest day of the year so far but the building had been disintegrated by the blast and he slashed his paw on some glass. He was black all over when he came out because he was covered in dust and his eyes were streaming, but he was okay.

"Merseyside's dog went in next and did a quick sweep of the building but neither dog found anybody. After the crews from West Midlands Fire Service secured the building so it didn't collapse on the dogs, they went in again and did another sweep but didn't find anything."

The incident has now been passed to the local police and an investigation is underway.

SEARCH AND RESCUE DOG ECHO CALLED TO BUILDING COLLAPSE



RESILIENCE TEAM TAKES PART IN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING EXERCISE

GMFRS welcomed Dutch visitors in May during a hazardous materials training exercise at a hospital in Bury.

The exercise took place at Fairfield General Hospital where A&E staff, consultants, nurses and support staff were given the knowledge and practical training to deal with a situation involving a person who may turn up at the hospital contaminated with a hazardous substance.

It was the second time that Pennine Acute NHS Hospitals Trust, which runs the hospital, had invited GMFRS's Resilience team to take part in a training exercise.

The GMFRS team delivered general awareness training to emergency services and hospital staff and detailed how the Service's Hazardous Detection Identification and Monitoring capability may be able to assist staff dealing with this type of incident.

There was a practical exercise involving the arrival of a number of contaminated patients at the A&E department, with staff from the Resilience team setting up decontamination facilities and advising hospital staff on the decontamination process.

Several members of the Dutch CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) hospital teams attended to look at how GMFRS works and the procedures we use, with the intention of introducing similar training in Holland.

Garry O'Neill, CBRN Manager for GMFRS, said: "The training was well received by all, with hospital and fire service staff gaining a lot from an increased awareness of the capabilities, limitations and strengths of each of our teams."

GMFRS FIRST IN UK TO TRAIN AT LANDMARK TOWER

GMFRS scaled new heights during a training exercise in Lincolnshire in May.

The organisation became the first in the country to be invited to carry out rope rescue training with the RAF Aerial Erector School at Stenigot Tower – a structure almost as high as Blackpool Tower.

Four members of the Urban Search and Rescue team – Crew Manager Martin Foran (Agecroft), Martin Fisher (Training and Development Centre), John Hughes (Salford) and Andy Horridge (Gorton) – travelled down to the site at the end of May for a day-long session which included Safe Working At Height training and technical rescue scenarios.

Stenigot Tower is 360ft high and was previously used by the RAF as a radar transmitter in World War II.

It is now used to train new recruits to the Aerial Erector School and to test their aptitude for heights – and GMFRS is the first fire and rescue service to be asked to train there.

The day began with a safety briefing and tour of the tower, before a sloping tensioned cableway – similar to a zip-line – was set up from a 200ft platform to the ground to simulate how the team would evacuate someone from the higher levels of the tower.

USAR Rope Supervisor and Crew Manager Martin Foran said: "The scenario produced some valuable learning points and the experience the team gained on a personal and group level was massive. Each operator was then lowered to the ground on the system and a thorough debrief was carried out."



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