

Annual REPORT 2012-13

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FIRES REACH ALL-TIME LOW

Fire Chiefs say they are delighted that the number of fires in Cheshire is now at the lowest level ever recorded but have vowed to continue campaigning for more safety improvements in the future.

Figures show that the total number of primary fires – those involving homes, businesses, cars, injuries and incidents where more than five fire engines were used – fell to 1,181 in 2012-13, a reduction of more than a third over the last five years.

There were four fire deaths during the year and 52 fire-related injuries, again a reduction on the previous year.

“We have a very clear focus on making Cheshire safer for everyone and these excellent results are largely due to the hard work of our staff in providing safety advice and help to those most at risk,” said Fire Authority Chair Cllr. John Joyce.

We have always believed strongly that prevention is better than cure and even though we face major cuts in our funding, we think it is more important than ever that we continue investing in our community safety work.

In 2012-13 the Service carried out nearly 23,000 visits to high risk households across Cheshire, giving out key safety advice and fitting free smoke alarms as part of its Home Safety Assessment (HSA) programme. Over the last 10 years firefighters and community safety advocates have completed over 357,000 HSAs throughout Cheshire.

“There is no doubt that our work has been a key factor in reducing fires to their lowest ever level in Cheshire but we can’t be complacent,” added Chief Fire Officer Paul Hancock.

That’s why our high profile campaigns for the fitting of sprinklers and smoke alarms to be compulsory are vital if we are to maintain these safety improvements going forward.

For more performance information see page 6

Events focus on road safety



Fire Authority Member, Cllr Bill Livesley joins firefighters in encouraging drivers to take extra care on our roads during a series of events that took place across Cheshire East.

Safety plea to public

Fire chiefs are reassuring communities that they will still be able to provide a fire and rescue service across Cheshire during any potential industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

Members of the FBU have voted in favour of industrial action as part of a dispute with the Government over plans to reform firefighter pensions.

But Cheshire’s Chief Fire Officer Paul Hancock said: “We have put in place plans and procedures that will enable us to continue to protect the communities of Cheshire if strikes go ahead.

“Clearly, however, there will be fewer fire engines and firefighters available than normal and we would urge residents and businesses to take extra care by following our key safety messages.”

Public safety campaigns are underway, while the Service’s website – www.cheshirefire.gov.uk – will carry up to date information about the potential strikes. Residents are urged to follow the Service on Twitter @CheshireFire or visit it on Facebook at CheshireFRS.

New system to keep you Alert

A new system aimed at keeping local communities across Cheshire informed about incidents, emergencies and key safety campaigns is being launched by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Fire Alert System is a free two-way community messaging system allowing people to receive important alerts from the Service not only by text message but also by email and phone.

“Incidents and emergencies can have a very real impact on the lives of residents and workers and it is important we continue to develop ways in which we can let people know what is going on,” said Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark Cashin.



“This system offers us a fast and efficient way of providing basic updates and safety advice and I hope that as many Cheshire residents and business owners as possible take just a couple of minutes to register for this free service”.

The secure countywide portal has been developed in partnership with Cheshire Police and means users can also register to receive updates from them and other partners.

Registration is via the Service’s website and users can put in their home or work post code or that of a relative and choose what alerts they would like to receive. People without the internet can call 01606 868422.



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COMMUNITY OUTCOMES KPIs			
Indicator	Actual	Year End Target	Year on Year Change
Primary fires per 100,000 population	117.01	124.07	↓
Fatalities in primary fires per 100,000 population	0.4	0	↓
Injuries in primary fires per 100,000 population	5.06	4.56	↓
Deliberate fires per 10,000 population	14.36	20.96	↓
RTCs attended	364	327	↑
Customer satisfaction with the Service	83%	85%	↑

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COMMUNITY PROTECTION KPIs			
Indicator	Actual	Year End Target	Year on Year Change
Thematic Inspections Completed	1,859	1,848	↑
NDP fire safety audits completed	2,055	1,894	↑
Arson conviction rate	13%	6-8%	↑
Unwanted Fire Signals per 1,000 non-domestic premises	51.40	54.91	↓
Hits to business safety internet pages	5,594	None*	New KPI

PREVENTION KPIs			
Indicator	Actual	Year End Target	Year on Year Change
HSAs delivered to high risk dwellings	22,723	20,000	↓
Contact assessments acceptance rate	33%	40%	↑
Number of young people completing a youth programme	1,026	708	↑
Number of people reached through road safety events	40,820	21,844	↑

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Sandbach opens its doors to thousands



Sandbach firefighters once again welcomed thousands into their station during the town's ever popular Festival of Transport.

Crews threw open their doors during the weekend to give visitors an insight into a modern day fire and rescue service. Watch Manager, John Brownrigg said: "We are very proud of our close links with our local community and so this is a wonderful opportunity for us to show people around the station, the vehicles and pass on some potentially life saving advice."



Firefighters were joined on the day by young people from the Station's award winning Fire Cadet Unit.



Pub blaze proves a challenge

Firefighters rose to the challenge as they were called to tackle a blaze involving the thatched roof of a Cheshire pub.

The incident happened at the White Lion Inn at Barthomley. Four fire engines from Cheshire attended the scene where they were confronted with the fire in the thatched roof of the property.

The thatched roof of the pub was well alight and everyone was out of the property. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus used two hose reel jets and one main jet to tackle the fire. The hydraulic platform from Macclesfield was sent while further fire engines were requested to bring extra staff to tackle the fire and maintain water supplies.

Crews managed to make a fire break in the roof to prevent the fire from spreading. Firefighters on the hydraulic platform and on 13.5 metre ladders began removing smouldering thatch and damping it down. The fire was contained to approximately a third of the roof and at around 7.30pm officers began to reduce the number of engines at the incident. Crews remained at the scene checking for hotspots and damping down for several hours.

Following an investigation the fire was found to have been caused by embers from the chimney setting light to the thatch.



Heritage day in Knutsford

The Service's Community Fire Protection team hosted a Heritage Impact Day in Knutsford to highlight the steps businesses can take to keep themselves and their properties safe from fire.

Fire safety audits were carried out by officers who focused on Grade II listed buildings in the town centre. A total of 85 properties were visited on the day in Adams Hill, Canute Place, Tatton Street and Toft Road.

The Business Safety Team also provided free arson prevention guidance and information on the day advising business owners of their responsibilities under current fire legislation.

Head of Community Fire Protection, Area Manager Keith Brooks, said: "We are committed to helping businesses protect themselves, their customers and their properties from fire and arson, all of which can have a devastating impact."

Cheshire East Unitary performance area profile



In the last three years, primary fires in Cheshire East have reduced by 15%. These are fires that involve property such as buildings and vehicles and include both accidental and deliberate incidents. In 2012-13 we saw the lowest number ever recorded. The numbers of fire related fatalities and injuries have also decreased.

Accidental dwelling fires are included in the primary fires category and these have reduced by 9% in the last three years. Delivery of Home Safety Assessments continues to be focused on those households most at risk and this is backed up with publicity campaigns highlighting key safety messages, particularly around safety in the kitchen where around 50% of house fires start.

Deliberate fires in Cheshire East are always low compared with other areas of England, but they decreased by more than 40% between 2011-12 and 2012-13 resulting in an all-time low. The most significant decrease has been in the number of small (secondary) deliberate fires which are often associated with anti-social behaviour. The wet weather during 2012-13 may have contributed to this, however, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service's approach to identifying 'hotspot' areas has become more sophisticated and these problem areas are tackled with a range of arson and youth engagement initiatives.

Fire Authority Members



David Brickhill Dorothy Flude Bill Livesley Gillian Merry



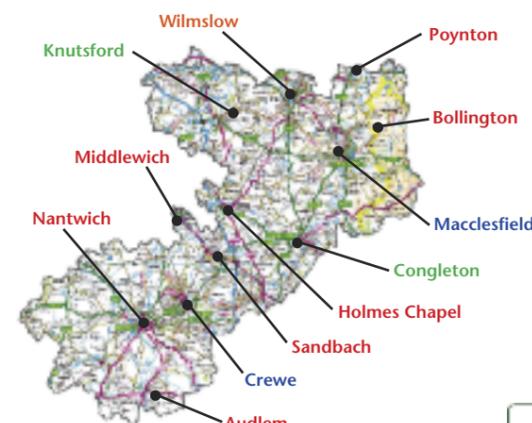
Margaret Simon Chris Thorley David Topping Jacqui Weatherill

Key statistics	2010-11	11-12	12-13
Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population	3.6	3.7	2.5
Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000	9.2	9.3	5.0
Primary fires per 100,000	125.0	133.6	106.6
Fatalities from primary fires per 100,000	1.7	0.8	0.3
Non-fatal casualties per 100,000	4.4	8.0	4.3

Key contacts



Simon Gibbins Service Delivery Manager
Lorraine Page Locality Safety Manager
Bev Hughes Hub Administration Manager
Ian Swan Station Manager - Community Fire Protection



■ Wholtime station
■ Day crewed station
■ Day crewed 12hr shift
■ On-call station

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Ordnance Survey 1000240064

Your local station

For more information about your local fire station, its opening times and any upcoming open days or other events please visit our website www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

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