

Annual Report



2005/06



A new name, greater responsibilities

WELCOME to our Annual Report 2006 - the first we have produced in our new name of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The name change highlights the far greater responsibilities the Service now has:

- as an emergency response on a local, regional, national and international basis to the twin threats of terrorism and climate change;
- to formally respond to emergencies other than just fires such as road traffic collisions, chemical emergencies and major accident hazards;
- to try to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place



• (Far left) Steve McGuirk, Brigade Manager - Chief Fire Officer.



• (Left) Cllr. Tony Hooton, Chairman, Cheshire Fire Authority.

through a range of community safety and preventative work.

This report highlights just some of the key recent projects we have been carrying out to make sure we have a modern, flexible and responsive Service able to

meet these new responsibilities.

However, our central focus remains firmly on improving the safety of all communities in Cheshire and achieving our vision of 'zero preventable deaths from fire or other emergencies'.

Major campaign on target to succeed

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"A smoke alarm saved my life..."

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Pushing the boat out for new gear

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Online updates on safety laws

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A MAJOR campaign to visit 47,000 homes in just 12 months and offer free smoke alarms and safety advice is currently on target for success.

Latest figures indicate that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service has already carried out nearly 20,000 Home Safety Assessments (HSAs) in the first five months of the financial year.

Achieving the annual target is important as the Service's overall objective is to offer a HSA to every home in Cheshire by 2010.

"HSAs have the biggest impact of all of our community safety work in protecting people from the dangers of fires in their homes," said Chris Turnock, Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Community Risk Reduction.

"We already have a number of examples where lives have been saved as a direct result of advice and smoke alarms provided by the Service.

"Achieving the overall target is a massive undertaking and to tackle it we have brought together a wide-ranging team including firefighters, community safety advocates, volunteers and partner organisations. The results so far have been excellent and we are determined to keep the momentum going."

Residents are being encouraged to register for their free HSAs by either calling 0800 389 0053 or applying online via the Service's website - www.cheshirefire.gov.uk. Priority is given to more vulnerable groups such as older people and those with disabilities.

In addition, a series of high profile 'impact events' are being staged when a range of staff go out into local communities with a mobile 'fire station' and other appliances.

By spending up to a week in an area they ensure most households receive a HSA and minimise time spent on organising appointments.



Up, up and away...



THE sky was the limit for student safety when the Service recently teamed up with one of the tallest hot air balloons in the world (left).

As part of an initiative to highlight safety at the start of the academic year, crews from Chester joined forces with Chester University, Chester City Council and Chubb Fire Protection, whose unique 120 foot balloon is shaped like a fire extinguisher.

A student who has contributed to community initiatives and a private landlord who has contributed most to student safety were given the chance to enjoy a flight in the balloon from Chester Racecourse. Landlord Rob Windsor and radio reporter Mairead O'Kane are pictured (top) during take-off.

For the latest news visit: www.cheshirefire.gov.uk