

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS)
Wirral Community Safety Plan 2012/13
Wirral JSNA update – September 2013

Background

This update for the JSNA is intended to provide local residents, service planners and commissioners with the latest information as to how Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS) are working towards the achievement of their objectives. In particular how their work is changing as they use local data and information that informs their activity, practice and the possibilities and opportunities this provides for further partnership work.

MF&RS Objective 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires.

What this means?

These are fires that occur by accident in the home and are the focus of our Home Fire Safety Check strategy.

Details (2012/13)

Between April and June 2012 and January and March 2013 figures exceeded those seen in the same months in 2011-12 which prompted further analysis. It was found that there had been an increase in cooking-related incidents involving elderly occupiers. Fortunately the majority of these incidents required little or no fire fighting action due to the early warning provided by fitted smoke alarms. In order to prevent further rises, a targeted programme of education has been put into place utilising partner agencies such as Older Peoples Parliament, Fire Community Safety Officer within NHS Wirral, Age UK and support from the office of the Bishop of Birkenhead to reach parishioners.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 2 – Deliberate Primary Fires.

What this means?

This objective relates to deliberately started fires involving property or premises where a claim on an insurance policy could be made. This includes such things as homes, businesses, cars and motorcycles. Deliberately started fires are a crime and called arson.

Details (2012/13)

Between April and September 2012 (Quarters One and Two) there was a good performance with totals below last year and also below what we would expect if figures were historically averaged over four years. However, incidents increased in the second half of the year, with a spike in the final quarter. Subsequent analysis of those incidents has identified a trend in hate-related fires. Our Arson Advocate is working very closely with partners to prevent such incidents and we are protecting victims by providing such help as additional smoke alarms and other advice.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 3 – Deliberate Secondary Fires.

What this means?

These incidents relate to the deliberate ignition of items where a claim on an insurance policy would not normally be made. Examples would be fires involving grassland, rubbish and bonfires.

Details (2012/13)

These incidents have seen a dramatic decline during 2012/13 with a reduction of 633 incidents. This reduction is in part due to work by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service staff and partners over the bonfire period, targeted patrolling of “hotspot” areas, where there has been repeat incidents of deliberately started fires, and ongoing education of young people about the impact and consequences of starting these fires. Poor weather has also been a factor which means sustaining performance will be challenging. Staff and partners are working hard in historical hotspot areas to prevent fly tipping, create fire breaks to stop fires spreading if they start and engage with young people to prevent an increase in incidents.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 4 – Special Services.

What this means?

These incidents are defined as any incident other than a fire that we may be required to attend due to our skills and equipment for humanitarian or public interest reasons. Examples include: chemical incidents, entrapments, railway incidents and flooding. It should be noted that due to the diverse nature of such incidents it is difficult to target preventative measures.

Details (2012/13)

Even though performance in every quarter was well ahead of what we would expect from applying an historical four-year average, we experienced 18 additional incidents during last year. An analysis of those incidents showed a significant number that, on attendance, did not require any action. This maybe because the incident had resolved itself prior to Fire and Rescue Service arrival or that the incident wasn't something Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS) would deal with. Also the floods experienced across the Wirral between July and September 2012 contributed greatly to the overall total.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 5 – Road Traffic Collisions.

What this means?

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service responds to Road Traffic Collisions in which people are trapped or suspected of being trapped.

Details (2012/13)

Overall we have seen a reduction of 21 incidents in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12. It was also encouraging that figures for quarters 1, 3 and 4 (April/June 2012, October/December 2012 and January/March 2013) fell far below what we would expect when compared to an historical four-year average. However, there was a spike in the second quarter (July /September 2012) which corresponded with the heavy rain and flooding experienced across the borough. This analysis has allowed us to modify our messages to motorists encouraging preparation for unseasonable deterioration in weather and to ensure vehicles are prepared for such conditions. This advice is also being reinforced by our Fire Community Safety Officer embedded within Wirral Council Road Safety Team.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 6 – Automatic Fire Alarms.

What this means?

Calls from Automatic Fire Alarms have historically made up around 27% of all incidents attended by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS). Of those incidents, around 95% turned out to be false alarms. This places significant strain both on the day to day business in the alarmed premises and on the availability of emergency response resources in Merseyside.

Details (2012/13)

From November 2012, MF&RS changed their protocol for responding to calls generated from Automatic Fire Alarms where an emergency response will only be sent where there is confirmation that there is either a fire or physical signs of a fire. This does not affect response to exempted premises which include single private dwellings or dwellings where the responsibility for the safety of the occupier rests with the individuals that reside there. MF&RS intended to implement the new protocol across 24 hours a day. However, following stakeholder consultation, as an interim measure for the first 12 months (November 2012 to October 2013) the protocol will only be active between the hours of 7.30am and 7.30pm. This was to allow all stakeholders an opportunity to address any associated deficiencies in their fire risk assessment, prior to full 24 hour implementation of the new protocol in November 2013. Consultation was also being carried out ahead of extending the approach to 24 hours a day during September 2013 and October 2013. The precise details on extending this approach to Automatic Fire Alarms during the full 24-hours of a day and night will be announced through www.merseyfire.gov.uk . Actual performance has shown a reduction of 163 incidents over the year.

More information on the approach and contact details for any questions can be found by going to:

<http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/aspix/pages/LatestNews/NewsDetail.aspx?id=567> and <http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/aspix/pages/protection/automaticFireAlarms.aspx>

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)

MF&RS Objective 7 – Non Domestic Property Fires.

What this means?

Such incidents largely involve fires in commercial or industrial premises.

Details (2012/13)

Overall numbers of this type of incident are low but we have seen a reduction of 25 incidents over the year. The actions of Fire Protection Team, who visit sites to help ensure adequate fire protection measures are in place, combined with education provided by our Arson Advocate, has contributed to this reduction.

Charts comparing performance can be viewed [here](#)