

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

10. Chief Fire Officer's Service Report

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Authority of recent key developments and activities.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the report be noted.

Large fire at wax recycling plant in Bromsgrove

2. At 18:30 on Monday 19 September, the Service was called to a fire at a wax recycling plant on the Saxon Industrial Estate in Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove. On arrival crews were faced with a large building which was fully involved in fire. The fire was also threatening to spread to adjacent units.
3. In addition to a severe fire crews were faced with other significant hazards including gas cylinders and a running fuel fire. At its height a total of 15 fire appliances (65 firefighters), including specialist foam, water, aerial, environmental and command units, fought the fire.
4. In spite of difficult conditions and an extremely intense fire, crews worked hard and managed to contain the fire to the recycling plant and prevent significant damage to surrounding businesses.
5. Several workers from neighbouring units were safely evacuated and thankfully nobody has been hurt at the incident. Fire crews remained on site, working with colleagues from the Police, Ambulance, Environment Agency and Public Health England, to resolve the incident.

Worcestershire Awards and Medals Ceremony

6. On 16 September, firefighters and Fire Service support staff from across the county received awards at the annual Worcestershire Medals and Awards Ceremony. The event, which was held at Worcester Guildhall, honoured staff for their outstanding service and commitment to the Fire Service.
7. During the ceremony, accolades were presented to employees by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire Viscount Cobham, High Sheriff of Worcestershire Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt, Chairman of the FRA Cllr Derek Prodger MBE, and Chief Fire Officer Nathan Travis.

8. A separate awards ceremony for the Herefordshire area will follow on 18 November at Hereford Town Hall.

National Challenges

9. The National UK Rescue Organisation Challenge's competition, this year which was hosted by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, featured six award categories including extrication that saw casualties freed from road traffic collision scenarios, water rescue, trauma, urban search and rescue, animal rescue and rope rescue.
10. Kidderminster and Hereford duo, Jayne Collins and Simon Griffiths gave an outstanding performance to win the Trauma Challenge, which consisted of being assessed on their scene safety, initial patient contact, assessment of injuries and condition, treatment of casualty and patient handover. The Extrication Team from Ross-on-Wye finished in second place after being tested on a complicated two car, two casualty scenario and our Animal Rescue Team from Bromyard and Pershore also took second place.
11. Broadway and Worcester on-call (RDS) competed in the National Breathing Apparatus competition at the Fire Service College on 8 October 2016. The outcome of the competition will be reported at the meeting on 11 October 2016.
12. Participating in such activities really helps teams to develop their key skills and confidence in a rescue environment but more importantly, such enhanced skills and teamwork supports both firefighter and public safety.

Service Exercise

13. On 1 October 2016 crews from across both counties joined Warwickshire and West Mercia Police Alliance, West Midlands Ambulance Service and other agencies at the annual Service Exercise at The Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh. The exercise was designed to examine the Service's response to a large scale road traffic collision on the motorway network, resulting in over 100 casualties with multiple entrapments across all lanes.
14. All Members were invited to the exercise which provided an excellent opportunity to observe multi-agency response and co-ordination at a large scale incident.

Station Open Days

15. During the summer months visitors flocked to various open days at fire stations throughout the two counties where the public had the opportunity to observe a plethora of activities and demonstrations for all ages to enjoy, with a range of vehicles and equipment on show. These events provide a useful opportunity to show the public the varied work undertaken by the Service but also provides an opportunity for the emergency services and volunteer agencies to come together to promote safety awareness in a number of key areas.

Safety Campaigns

16. The Service recently supported the following national safety campaigns:
 - Drowning Prevention Week, an initiative of the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK) which ran from 18 to 26 June 2016
 - Gas Safety Week (19 - 25 September) which provided an opportunity for the whole industry come together to bring gas safety to the forefront of people's minds.
17. The Service also undertook local campaigns on Business Fire Safety, Chimney Fire Safety and were involved in Dying to Drive at Leominster, Peterchurch and Worcester Fire Stations.

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