



MARCH 2018

INFORMATIVE

➤ The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service



FUNDING FOR NEW FLOODING EQUIPMENT

Powerboats and High Volume Pump to benefit flooding response

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR DISUSED HELMETS

Donating fire helmets to Portugal

ASSISTING MORE THAN 1000 PEOPLE

Important milestone for Community Assistance Team

FIRE CADETS HELP TO PROMOTE COOKING SAFETY

Putting their pancake skills to the test

WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING SECURES NEW FLOODING AND WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has recently received funding from the Welsh Government to review and upgrade equipment to support crews at flooding and water rescues.

The refresh is taking place across all three fire and rescue service in Wales and includes new inflatable powerboats together with water rescue personal protection equipment.

The funding has also enabled North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to procure a new High Volume Pump (HVP) which will provide regional and national resilience.

All this new equipment supports the new water rescue statutory duty for the three Welsh fire and rescue services.

Darren Jones, Head of Technical Support at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, explained:

"The procurement process brought together experts from the three fire and rescue services as well as from other partner agencies such as the RNLI, who have relevant skills and knowledge."

"The new powerboats prioritise firefighter safety; they will offer better performance and resilience at large flooding events and improved and safer boat handling, with reduced maintenance. They also take into account environmental considerations and are a more robust and resilient vessel to future proof the Welsh response to flooding incidents."

In all, 16 power boats and trailers have been procured for Wales - this includes two training vessels to be utilised for training or resilience for power boat operators. These boats will be kept and maintained at Menai Bridge fire station on Anglesey.

The boats were delivered at the end of February and staff will become familiar with the equipment in the coming months.

Darren added: "Testing for the new powerboats took the form of challenging trials, using the procedures and boat handling skills required to operate at flooding incidents. This ensured the boats will meet the highest standards and improve public safety when responding to calls for assistance.

"Our high volume pump will ensure we are best equipped both regionally and locally to be able to combat the effects of flooding, as evidenced in incidents across Wales and the rest of the UK.

"In all, this funding has enabled us to invest in the highest specification of equipment which will benefit the Welsh flood response and improve the capabilities and safety of personnel, giving us the best resources to help us protect the communities of Wales."



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE TEAM HELPS OVER 1,000 PEOPLE SINCE LAUNCH

The demand for the services of the specialised Community Assistance Team continues to grow ever since this initiative aimed at protecting people in their homes began in August 2016.

The Community Assistance Team has now benefited over a thousand people since emergency services first came together to launch the pilot in Denbighshire and Conwy.

The aim of the initiative is to reduce the number of people who need to attend hospital as the result of a fall in their home, thereby reducing the pressure and demands on ambulance and medical services.

A specialised team of staff work together to respond to vulnerable people who experience a fall. The team consists of fully trained staff members, recruited from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service who are equipped to provide a service of excellence and an improved patient experience.

Kevin Roberts, Senior Fire Safety Manager at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We are extremely pleased with how this initiative is going and are proud that our team has been able to assist over a thousand people."

"The benefits of collaborative working with other emergency and public services are obvious, both in monetary savings and in respect of delivering improved services to our communities."

"By responding as a specialised team to non-injury falls in this way we hope to alleviate some of that pressure as well as provide a much improved service."

Liz Hughes, Ambulance Operations Manager at the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "The Community Assistance Team is a perfect example of how emergency services can work together to better patient care and community safety."

"The scheme is also helping to reduce the number of people who need to attend hospital, which in turn is reducing the pressure and demands on ambulance and medical services – and when you're in the midst of a very busy winter period, this is a huge support."

"Well done to the team for helping over 1,000 patients."

Mrs Eileen Harrop, who has witnessed the team assisting her husband, Rodney, said: "What a brilliant service. It is better than waiting for an ambulance as the team was with us in less than an hour. There was no need for an ambulance to attend as my husband has never been injured when falling so this frees up vital resources for high importance calls."

The initiative is supported by Welsh Government in conjunction with the three emergency services, Denbighshire County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Galw Gofal / Care Connect, and North Wales Regional Call Monitoring Service.

The team members work a shift pattern covering known peak times between 7am - 11pm. They respond in a branded Community Assistance Team vehicle that is fully equipped with all of the necessary specialist equipment, including lifting devices, so as to safely assist a person back to a seated position.

The service is mobilised through Ambulance Service control, so the public do not need to do anything different than they would have done previously, however if it is appropriate the Community Assistance Team will be deployed instead of an ambulance.

This initiative and others has already been recognised at the All Wales Continuous Improvement Community Awards 2016 in the 'Collaboration' category that celebrated the success of the Tri Service Prevent and Respond Project Team.



NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR DISUSED FIRE HELMETS

Fire helmets from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service have taken on a new lease of life in Portugal, following a recent request through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).

The helmets were donated to Portuguese firefighters in a move coordinated through the NFCC National Resilience UK.

Kevin Roberts, Senior Operations Manager, explained: "We responded to an appeal made by the resilience programme, and decided to make 400 helmets available after our recent helmet refresh programme."

Kirsty Hayes, British Ambassador to Portugal, presented the helmets. She said: "Portugal suffered devastating forest fires last year. I was tremendously shocked by the loss of human life and suffering inflicted on vast sectors of the population in the central region of



Portugal, but also impressed by the courage and dedication of Portuguese fire men and women. This is a beautiful area of the country which is becoming increasingly popular among British citizens coming to live in Portugal and I felt we had a duty to share the responsibility of trying to ensure tragedies like this are not repeated in the future.

"So we launched a plea through the NFCC National Resilience UK and were delighted by the response of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who offered to donate their helmets to Portuguese counterparts in the Coimbra region."

"This was a very generous offer which has been greatly appreciated and I was honoured to be able to personally hand over the helmets on behalf of the Welsh fire and rescue service."

PANCAKE DAY TIPS FROM LOCAL FIRE CADETS



Fire and rescue service cadets were busy promoting kitchen safety on Shrove Tuesday in February.

People are often distracted when cooking pancakes so fire safety may not be at the forefront of their mind. However, kitchen fires can be devastating, with a very high proportion of these fires resulting in injuries.

Neil Upton, Watch Manager, said: "Making pancakes can be lots of fun for the whole family and they certainly can be delicious. However, we were keen to highlight that over 50% of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen so it's always important to take care, especially when cooking with hot oil."



"And when you have finished cooking, all the appliances should be turned off and the cooking area made clear."

"Fire cadets from the Ruthin branch helped us to promote the message this year, showing off their excellent skills as they got into the spirit of the occasion."



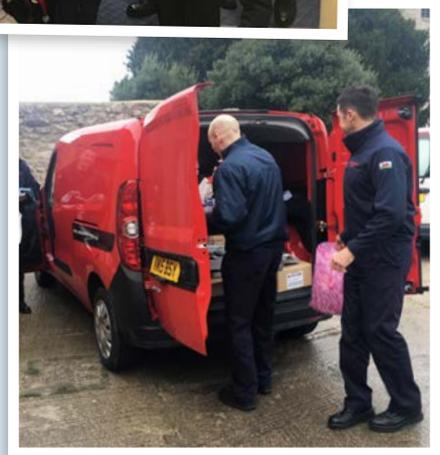


SANTA TO A SENIOR

As part of the Service's Christmas Campaign, staff in Conwy and Denbighshire took part in the 'Santa to a Senior' programme organised by Home Instead Senior Care. This was the second year staff took part in this initiative as it proved such a success last year.

Staff from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service worked in partnership with Red Cross, Contact the Elderly, and Age Connect to help deliver donated gifts to older people living on their own over the Christmas period.

During these visits crews were able to carry out safe and well checks as well as install smoke alarms where necessary at the properties of potentially vulnerable residents.



HARD HITTING WORKSHOPS TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE CONSEQUENCES OF ARSON



Staff from the Arson Reduction Team have been working alongside North Wales Police to help deliver a series of workshops to young people on the consequences of deliberate fire setting.

Justice in a Day is a dynamic and transformative educational workshop aimed at preventing young people from committing crime. It raises awareness about the criminal justice system and the negative effects of crime.

The workshops consisted of showing the 'Burning your Future' DVD, a hard hitting short film commissioned by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and North Wales Police, followed by an educational talk, and question and answer session.

Arson Reduction Manager, Tim Owen, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity to deliver daily educational workshops over a five week period to young people – something which would not have been achievable without departments coming together in this way to deliver one robust message, which is more likely to have a lasting positive impact on the audience."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHRISTMAS COMPETITION WINNER!

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service held a Facebook competition over Christmas aimed at encouraging people to share important fire safety messages.

The competition was part of a wider campaign to promote fire safety over the festive period when the number of incidents attended can notably rise.

Sarah McKenzie triumphed and was presented with a chocolate hamper prize at Rhyl Community Fire Station.

Over 800 people took part in the competition throughout December, assisting the Service in reaching thousands of Facebook accounts to spread the word on safety messages such as remembering to switch off Christmas lights, avoiding drinking and cooking, and looking after the elderly in the winter.





SUPPORTING WELSH HAPPINESS DAY 2018

Fire and rescue service staff took part in wellness walks to support 'Welsh Happiness Day' in January.

According to official figures, Wales consistently falls behind the rest of the UK in terms of levels of happiness. To counteract this, BBC Wales this year promoted 'Welsh Happiness Day' and appealed to organisations across the region to support the initiative.

Chelsey Hughes, Physical Fitness Adviser, said: "It was great to get involved with an initiative like this to promote the importance of happiness and good mental health.

"The World Health Organisation describes 'Mental Health as a state of well-being in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community'.

"Physical activity can impact on your mental wellbeing - short bursts of 10 minute activity can significantly increase energy, mood and alertness. This was something that we were able to fit in during the working day easily."

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING



Gwasanaeth Tîm ac Aduro Fire and Rescue Service

Did you know that Rhyl Community Fire Station is available for public use?

Have you thought about using our facilities?
We can host your meeting or training course
We welcome local people and organisations to come along

Facilities available include;

- Variety of large and small meeting rooms to suit everyone - all with overhead projectors
- Free wi fi
- Free parking
- Accessible via public transport
- Viewing area to see working fire station

Costs from as little as £7 an hour for a room



It's the first purpose built facility of its kind in Wales - reaching out to the local community and promoting fire safety

Call us on 01745 352 722 or visit www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk