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INFORMATIVE

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



LAUNCH OF CO-RESPONDING PILOT

Partnership scheme with Ambulance Service

NEW JOINT FIRE AND POLICE STATION IN TYWYN

Staff move in ahead of official opening

BONFIRE EVENT PROCEEDS DONATED

Money raised from fireworks display benefits charities

CO-RESPONDING PILOT IN NORTH WALES



The three Fire and Rescue Services in Wales and the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Services are collaborating in the launch of a new pilot scheme across Wales, working together to save lives.

The intention is to improve the quality of the services provided to Welsh communities and the pilot is expected to continue across Wales until June 2016.

It will take place in specific geographical response areas, and members of the public living within these areas who may require emergency assistance for a medical incident may receive a response from their local fire and rescue services.

The pilot will involve firefighters based at Holyhead, Holywell, Colwyn Bay, Pwllheli, Llangollen and Dolgellau. Co-responding teams of two will be mobilised via fire control, as directed by the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Services, travelling in a car at normal road speed.

The vehicles will carry specialised equipment enabling specially trained staff to respond to a set of specified clinical conditions where their arrival could be achieved the soonest and where they would be adding the most value commensurate with their training and equipment. This includes being mobilised to cardiac arrests, casualties who are reported unconscious or choking, and catastrophic bleeding.

Richard Fairhead, Assistant Chief Fire officer, said: "We would like to reassure residents across Wales that there will be absolutely no reduction in emergency response and service delivery, either from the fire and rescue services across Wales or from the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Services, during the pilot period.

"The pilot will involve mobilising responders who are suitably trained individuals who will work to preserve life until the arrival of either an ambulance or rapid response vehicle.

"The exact nature of the pilot will vary in each Welsh fire and rescue service region but the overall aim of working together to save lives will be a common approach in the three regions."



Greg Lloyd, Head of Clinical Operations at the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "Every second counts in an emergency. If our fire and rescue service colleagues can get to a scene before one of our ambulances they can begin to deliver life-saving treatment – that's only going to improve that patient's chance of surviving.

"All co-responders are being trained to administer life-saving treatment, including CPR and the use of a defibrillator. We must stress that they will not replace the normal response of a paramedic in a rapid response car or an emergency ambulance, but will form part of an integrated approach to providing immediate, life-saving treatment to patients in our communities.



"Co-responders play an important role alongside frontline ambulance staff in making sure patients get appropriate help quickly and efficiently, and they're very much part of the Welsh Ambulance Service family."

LANDOWNERS URGED TO 'CALL BEFORE YOU BURN!'

Following on from the successful controlled burning campaign which has been running for the last five years, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service visited livestock markets and animal food stores in January, February and March to conclude the controlled burning campaign for this season.

This year celebrity farmer Gareth Wyn Jones has lent his support to the campaign and joined staff at the Winter Fair in Builth Wells to promote our messages in December. He also features in two new videos promoting the campaign which can be viewed on the Service YouTube channel (nwalesfireservice).

The livestock market visits are aimed at ensuring landowners take on board some basic safety procedures and notify the Service's control room when conducting a burn on their land. This will help avoid false alarms and crews being sent out unnecessarily, as well as ensuring we are ready to respond in the event of a burn getting out of control.

The Heather and Grass Burning Code states that burning is allowed only between the 1st of October and the 31st of March in upland areas and between the 1st of November and the 15th of March elsewhere.

Many farmers take the opportunity towards the end of the period to undertake controlled burning of heather, grass, bracken and gorse on their land.

This campaign has resulted in some positive results with a substantial increase in the number of farmers calling to notify us of controlled burning – between October and mid November, the calls rose by 185 (56%) – from 425 during the same period in 2014 to 610 this year.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, added: "I'd like to thank communities for the excellent response to our 'Call before you burn!' campaign before Christmas – by visiting local markets again and meeting landowners face to face we hope that our messages will continue to resonate. The Winter Fairs events are very popular and presented another opportunity for us to talk directly to farmers who burn.

"As the end of this year's burning season approaches, we continue to urge all landowners who may be thinking of undertaking controlled burning to notify us by calling our control room on 01935 522006.

"And we're also asking these landowners to be responsible when it comes to controlled burning. The fires are often set in areas where access is extremely difficult and water supply is limited. If such a fire gets out of control, this can place tremendous pressure on resources, with firefighters tied up for a considerable length of time trying to bring it under control. These fires can also put homes, livestock and the lives of crews and residents at risk as firefighters are kept from attending genuine emergencies."



Farmers and landowners are asked to follow the guidelines below if they are planning a controlled burn:

- Ensure you have sufficient people and equipment to control the fire
- Check wind direction and ensure there is no risk to property, roads and wildlife
- If a fire gets out of control contact the fire and rescue service immediately, giving details of location and access
- It is illegal to leave a fire unattended or to have too few people to control it
- Always ensure a fire is completely out before you leave it and check next day to ensure it has not reignited.

NEW JOINT FIRE AND POLICE STATION IN TYWYN

Firefighters from Tywyn moved into a new joint fire and police station on Pendre Enterprise Park, Tywyn in February and will be joined by colleagues from North Wales Police at a later date.

New features at the station include a large drill yard and training tower, solar panels on the appliance bay roof, rainwater harvesting system, heat recovery units, a natural ventilation system, sun pipes for natural daylight, and a building management system to control and monitor the mechanical and electrical equipment.

Dawn Docx, Deputy Chief Fire Officer for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The new facilities are a vast improvement on the previous fire station on Frankwell Street which was showing its age and did not meet current legislation. Today we work more closely with our partners at North Wales Police; therefore it made clear sense for both police and fire and rescue service staff to operate from the same building.

"It is important that as a Service we continue to invest in our buildings for the future as part of our strategy to keep costs down in the long term.

"Projects such as this new station in Tywyn involved a substantial investment on behalf of the fire and rescue service and demonstrate our commitment to both our firefighters and to the local communities.

"As well as providing modern facilities and offering more opportunities for establishing closer links with the local community, this new station is also presenting an opportunity to work collaboratively with our partners to improve services and make future savings."



Before...



...after!

An official opening of the new facility will be organised for later in the spring to celebrate the move.

'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU!' CAMPAIGN VISITS FLINTSHIRE

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's successful 'We don't want to come dine with you' campaign moved to Flintshire in December to help drive down the number of cooking related fires in the area and educate local residents about the importance of cooking safely.

Cooking is a major cause of accidental fires in the home in North Wales – this 'Think Safe, Cook Safe' initiative highlights the dangers of leaving cooking unattended and is part of a wider campaign which has received an excellent response across the region.

In Flintshire county, between the 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015 over 60% of all primary dwelling fires started in the kitchen.

Firefighters were out and about in December and January, educating shoppers across Flintshire about how to stay safe in the kitchen, providing free washing up brushes to encourage people to think safe when cooking and to remember to keep ovens and grills clean at all times.

People were able to put their safety knowledge to the test by taking part in a cooking safely quiz with a chance to win £100 worth of supermarket vouchers.

An online cooking quiz is also available to help those who could not make it to the supermarket visits to learn about safety in the kitchen and have a chance of entering the competition.

Paul Scott, County Safety Manager for Flintshire and Wrexham, said: "It is our responsibility to do everything we can to highlight that cooking causes a high number of house fires and to change behaviours to prevent these fires from occurring, however, whilst we can advise and educate the individual must want to change the things that they do in order to make themselves safer.



"Time and time again we attend house fires which have started in the kitchen – it is so easy to forget your cooking, especially if you are tired, distracted or have been drinking or on medication, and the consequences can be devastating. We don't want to come dine with you and tackle your kitchen fire!"

Further information about the campaign is available on www.nwales.fireservice.org.uk



DO YOU RENT OUT A PROPERTY IN WALES?

Landlords and agents are now required by law to be registered or licenced. A new law – The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 – has been introduced in Wales which applies to all landlords and agents of private residential property. If you own, rent out, manage and/or live in a rented property then this law will impact on you.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "If you are a landlord and you rent your property out in Wales you now need to register. This is a new law which came to force in November 2015 and you might not be aware of it yet.

"It has been introduced to improve the living and safety standards of the private rental sector and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is supporting this new legislation as it will assist to improve safety in rented accommodation in Wales.

"Landlords who supply solid fuel appliances in their property now need to ensure that they have carbon monoxide detectors installed in their property as well."

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ARE YOU A LANDLORD?

If the answer is YES to all the following questions you will need to register as a landlord:

- Do you own a residential property that you don't live in?
- Do you let someone else live in it?
- Do you receive money for them living there?
- Do you manage a rental property?

If the answer is YES to any of the following questions you will need to apply for a licence:

- Are you a landlord who self-manages your property?
- Are you an agent who lets and manages properties on behalf of landlords?
- Are you a friend, family member or associate of a landlord who looks after their property for them?

To apply for a licence or for further details visit www.rentsmart.gov.wales or call 03000 133 344.

FIREWORKS PROCEEDS PLOUGHED BACK INTO COMMUNITY

Firefighters from Mold have presented local charities and organisations with money raised from their annual bonfire and fireworks displays.

Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer presented £500 to each of the four chosen charities – Tŷ Gobaith, Home Start, Daffodils Club and New Life.

Peter Edwards, Watch Manager at Mold Fire Station, thanked everyone involved in organising last year's bonfire; "It was a real team effort with everyone pulling together to produce an excellent event that was enjoyed by the whole community.



"We are proud to be working with the residents of North Wales to keep them as safe as possible, and seeing the money going back into the community makes all the organisation and hard work worthwhile."

CHANGE IN LAW FOR SPRINKLER INSTALLATION

On the 1st January 2016 Wales became the first country in the world where it is mandatory for all new domestic properties to be installed with fire sprinklers.

Sprinklers are now required in all new build or converted houses, flats, care homes, halls of residence and other residential accommodation designed as an individual's primary residence.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said:

"North Wales Fire and Rescue Service welcomes this legislation as an important step in providing a safer living environment in all new residential accommodation in Wales."

"If you live in a property with a domestic sprinkler you have an enhanced protection from fire and any accidental fire is far more likely to be contained or even extinguished quickly."

Further information about sprinkler systems and how to keep them effective is contained in the guide to fire sprinklers published by Welsh Government. It is available to view on www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk

