



Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Pirehill
Please ask for Kay Johnson
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SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday 21 April 2016
10.30 am
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters,
Pirehill

A Chair and Vice-Chair's Preview (for Mrs K M Banks and Mrs S E Woodward) has been arranged for 10.00 am)

Howard Norris
Secretary to the Authority
12 April 2016

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2016**
4. **Terms of Reference of the Committee** - Members are advised that following recommendations made by the Terms of Reference Working Group to the Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 31 March 2016 there was only one change to the Terms of Reference of this Committee and that was to increase the quorum from 3 to 5 Members.
5. **Working with HM Prison Service**

Report of Paul Shaw, Fire Safety Manager and Fire Investigation Lead. Bob Millar, Regional Representative from HM Prison Service will also be attending the meeting.

6. **Items for Future Meetings**

To be reviewed by Members

13 July 2016	Performance Report
	Safer Roads Partnership (Work Steams and Benefits)
	Shared Fire Control Update (including Vision and Firewatch interaction at Fire Control)
On-going over the Next 12 Months	Response Standards
Future Items date not yet specified	Previous Working Group updates
	Scrutiny of the Innovations and Transformation Process
	Retained Update report

7. **Date of Next Meeting** – The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 2.15 pm

**MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2016**

Present: Mrs K M Banks (Chairman)

Chapman, F A	Marshall, R J
Davies, M W	Winnington, M J
Day, W D	Wood, Miss C B
Irving, R A	Woodward, Mrs S E

Also in Attendance: Mr R Barber, Director of Response, Ms K. Bourne, Business Intelligence Team Corporate Manager, Mr R Daniels, Retained Liaison Officer, Mr D Armstrong, Retained Support Officer WSDG and Mr S Barry, West Midlands Fire Service.

PART ONE

Documents referred to in these minutes as schedules are not appended but will be attached to the signed copy of the minutes. Copies, or specific information in them, may be available on request.

Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2016

40. **RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the Scrutiny and Performance Committee held on 21 October 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Fire Control Update
(Schedule 3)

41. The report provided an update for Members on the progress of the shared Staffordshire and West Midlands Fire Control. The Staffordshire and West Midlands Fire Control went live on 31 March 2014 following a two year project. Over the last year there had been £1.5m of savings realised, £1m for West Midlands and £0.5m for Staffordshire. From the inception of the Shared Fire Control Project to date a significant amount of effort had been made to improve the working practices of Fire Control and to align business processes across the two services, where appropriate, to assist in meeting the organisations' strategic objectives. The report provided a summary of the work done to date and on-going work across the "Working Practices" and "Business Alignment" piece under the following headings:-

- Alignment of process, procedure, supporting Information, data and action plans
- Improvements to data to support mobilising accuracy
- Best Practice, Performance and Improvement Group (Change Team)
- Business continuity, planning and testing
- Tri-party resilience
- Issue Management
- Staff support and development
- Cultural Framework
- ICT projects and enhancement of technology to support efficient and dynamic call handling and dynamic decision making:-
 - Integrated Communication Control System (ICCS)
 - Vision 4 Command and Control System

- The Home Safety Centre move towards integration and a 'One Team' approach
- Fire Control "Vision" and potential re-naming to reflect the 'One Team' approach
- Performance Management
- Support for SFRS Operation Peer Assessment
- Structural Review

Mr Barber advised that the move to one control centre had not all been plain sailing as it was combining two businesses and a great deal of work had gone on behind the scenes to allow it to happen.

A Member asked why the Service in Staffordshire was paying a substantial amount more for over the border attendance than it did prior to the merger of the fire controls. Mr Barber advised that under that Section 13 Agreement the Service in Staffordshire did pay a charge to West Midlands Fire Service for over the border calls. Prior to the joint control the charge was circa £36,000. Migration to the facility had seen an increase in over the border calls. Page 10 of the report set the number of calls. Members were advised that they had amended the over the border rules to reduce the burden to the Authority. Staffordshire and West Midlands Service had a different structure, with West Midlands having no retained firefighters. The fire control system would automatically mobilise the quickest appliance. For non life risk they would mobilise the host brigade, for the retained pump there was always a 5 minutes delay built in and therefore the system would always put the Whole-time West Midlands pump in front of Staffordshire's appliance due to the 5 minute delay for Staffordshire retained appliances. Members were concerned that they may be duplicating the service in South Staffordshire and asked for a commitment from officers to look at this. Mr Barber advised that there a body of work was completed each quarter to analyse each mobilisation, line by line and to discount any discrepancies. Mr Barber outlined the complexities of retained availability in some areas, with retained staff giving a commitment of 84-120 hours per week. A Member commented upon the availability at Codsall which was sometimes low. If they were not available then the appliances would be mobilised from West Midlands. Members asked for feedback on the progress on this matter at a future meeting.

Mr Barber advised that the Service had three retained support officers working around the County who worked through retained issues on a daily basis. The Service had changed the way it trained retained staff and now used a modular approach as it was previously difficult for staff to get three weeks leave from their primary employment. More courses were held in an evening and for some courses they took training to the location rather than expecting the retained personnel to come to headquarters. The Service knew when their highest demand was and was trying to maximise the availability during those times rather than for 100% of the time. The Service was looking to part time contracts to resolve this, but all things were in the melting pot at the moment.

The retained service was fundamentally unchanged since it was set up and nationally services did not capture the whole costs of the retained service eg Station manager and support officer costs for such things as recruitment and retention. All around the Country they were looking at different ways of providing the necessary cover. There was a national conference in March where best practice would be shared for the benefit of all.

Members highlighted the difficulties of providing cover at remote stations such as Longnor. Members were advised that the consultation on retained pay would end on 28 April. The objective of this work was that by the end of the process the Service would have a fit for purpose payment scheme for retained firefighters.

A Member asked for reassurance from Mr Barry from West Midlands Fire Service, that the control staff were not favouring West Midland's appliances and was advised that he was confident that control room staff mobilised the quickest appliances regardless of where it was from. To a certain degree they were the victims of advanced technology as the control system knew where all the vehicles were and highlighted the fastest response.

Mr Daniels advised that because appliances were not being mobilised in Staffordshire this was having an effect on Retained Pay Bandings. The Service was working to put in place business practices to address these issues. Fire control was in a difficult position and it was about getting these rules right and not putting the public at risk.

With regard to "issues" Mr Barber advised that last year they had a log of 400 issues. Officers had worked hard to reduce these down to a small number.

Members discussed the issue with the Home Safety Centre. There had been problems with referrals and actions had been put in place to mitigate the issues. The Chairman of the Authority had written to the Chairman of West Midlands in December to say that Staffordshire were looking to remove the Home Safety Centre. This was due to performance issues and also to changes in the way the Service in Staffordshire would deal with calls in the future. Mr Barber had met with Mr Barry and a West Midlands ACO to agree an approach to removing the centre. Mr Barber and Mr Luznyj would work through the project. There was a lot of TUPE legislation to consider and the removal was only agreed on the previous Friday. Members commented that it was the only time that they had ever received complaints about the Service. There were a number of reasons for the move back to Staffordshire. The biggest concern was the gap between referrals and visits. There were many cancellations of visits for a variety of reasons. The Service was not willing to take the risk of knowing about the referral and not doing anything about it. The Service would do all it could to reduce the backlog. A Member commented that it was important that the public got the service they expected and when an appointment was made they were not kept waiting. Members were disappointed with the situation but were reassured that the issue would be addressed. Members asked to have an update on this at a future meeting. A Member advised that a report had recently been put to the Service Improvement Committee regarding this matter from an Equality and Diversity point of view.

Members discussed the proposed name change for the fire control. They did not like "Resource Management Centre" as this would mean nothing to a member of the public. They indicated that Members should be asked their views on this. It was important to reflect that it was a control centre.

Members discussed the time taken to deal with calls. Fire Control operators had only a short space of time to mobilise the correct resources. It was sometimes difficult to establish the severity of a fire and an example of that was the initial call regarding a "rubbish fire" within the West Midlands that turned out to require a significant number of appliances (approximately 50).

Members discussed the control attendance figures and recognised the pressurised environment in taking life or death calls. Mr Barber advised that the position could be pressurised. It was important that officers made sure to provide a good working environment and provide resilience in the organisation. Staff were debriefed on stressful calls and could get trauma counselling. The Services took all steps to mitigate risks to the control staff as it could be a very stressful environment at times.

There were peaks in the number of days lost. Out of a full establishment of 70, 8 were on long term sick with a variety of conditions. Mr Barry advised that fire control was not currently running at the full establishment levels and had 60 staff and 8 were on long term sick. A Member commented that this really needed to be looked at carefully.

Mr Barber advised that a 12 month structural review had been undertaken and there were proposal to reduce the number of staff. Mr Barry advised that the report on the review went to the Fire Governance Board on 20 October, after which it was shared with staff for their comments. Officers had received an alternative proposal from the FBU which challenged what the review had put forward. Consultation was still ongoing and officers were looking at the alternative. The review would ensure that they were prioritising the level of staff to the periods of highest demand and were also looking at the level of supervision. A Member shared her concern at reducing supervisory staff as less senior staff needed support to carry out the role and they should not loose sight of that. Mr Barber advised the number of supervisory staff was previously disproportionate.

The cultural framework which had been developed by staff was appended to the report for Members information.

Members thanked Mr Barry for his attendance.

42. **RESOLVED** – That the Fire Control Update be noted.

Performance Report (Schedule 1)

43. Ms Bourne presented the report to Members which provided information regarding Service performance for a three year period up to December 2015/16. The report presented key performance measures for the organisation in Statistical Process Control (SPC) format and some additional statistical information as required.

All attended incidents and accidental dwelling fires had decreased over the year whereas accidental dwelling fire deaths and injuries had increased over the recent period, including two fire deaths. One fire death involved an electric blanket and the other involved cooking being left unattended, with alcohol being a factor. Cooking continued to be the largest single cause of Accidental Dwelling fires, however fires caused by faults in equipment or appliances was the second highest cause and produced a greater number of severe fires.

Members discussed the categorisation of “severe” fires, which went further than the item first ignited. Severity was difficult to quantify and the Business Intelligence Team were looking at ways of breaking down severity categories.

The number of HFRCs delivered in year was on an upward trend as was the numbers delivered to gold, silver and bronze groups.

Members discussed business fires which included figures for prison fires. Mrs Banks advised that the anticipated report relating to working with HM Prison Service had been deferred to the next meeting to allow the Prison Service the opportunity to send a representative to the meeting. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee together with Service Officers had, following the last meeting, met with representatives of the prison service who indicated that they would wish to come in when the report was presented. Since the last meeting the number of prison fires had reduced. The Business Intelligence Team was, in the future, to separate the statistics for prison fire from other

business fires. Also they would identify figures for Crown prisons and privately run prisons. Members welcomed this change and the Service was keen to assist the prison service in reducing these fires. It was important for the prison service to understand that the Service was keen to help in whatever way it could to keep these fires down and try and improve the situation for very vulnerable people. A Member commented that the reduction in prison fires had been a good result from the piece of scrutiny. Mrs Banks advised that she was hopeful that the prison service would attend the next meeting but should they not attend then the Committee would continue with its scrutiny work and receive a report on the joint working with the prison service. Members discussed the difficulties of preventing prison fires. Members were hopeful that representatives from both the Crown and privately run prisons would attend the next meeting.

Road traffic collision (RTC) performance was consistent with expectations and issues were monitored and managed locally on an ongoing basis. The introduction of MAST information into the Service would enable the production of additional intelligence about the nature of the RTCs, which would greatly assist in the management of this issue.

For the year to date, 31 calls which originated as Automatic Fire Alarms turned out to be fires. This was 1% of all Automatic Fire Alarm calls received. Of these calls 22 were to domestic properties with the largest number being to Sheltered Accommodation/Nursing Homes (9), followed by Single Occupancy Bungalows (7). The numbers of Non Attended Automatic Fire Detection False Alarms continued to increase, reflecting the excellent work done by Control in Call Challenging. The numbers of Attended False Alarms were reducing and were concentrated on domestic and policy exempt properties. Of those incidents attended this year, 85% were to domestic or policy exempt properties with only 15% to commercial properties. The numbers of Attended False Alarms had been on a downward trend since the introduction of the revised Service policy in June 2015. A Member asked whether there was further scope to further reduce these calls. Mr Barber advised that some of the calls were to vulnerable people who, for example, burnt toast regularly. These small incidents may be a precursor to more serious incidents and it gave the Service the opportunity to work with them to ensure their future safety.

Data Confidence levels were at 99% and related to those incident records used for analysis in the report.

There had been three instances of physical attacks on staff in the first quarter of the year involving fireworks in the Northern Service Delivery Group Area which were detailed in the report. Members held a discussion on the attacks which were taken very seriously by the Service. A Member asked whether local councillors were advised of the issues in their particular area. The attacks took place in a specific area and the Service was working with partners and community leaders on the matter. It was not clear if those involved were from the area or whether they were coming in from outside of the area to make trouble. Members were sure that the "prevention" arm of the Service would take up these issues with community leaders.

A Member commented upon on the successful prosecution last year following an attack on a firefighter. It was important that the perpetrators of these attacks were brought before the courts.

In relation to injuries at work in the first three quarters of 2015/16 there were 11 operational and 34 routine injuries. One of the injuries resulted in reports being made to the Health and Safety Executive under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries Diseases and

Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) in quarter three. A firefighter stepped over a hose and onto a raised curb during an incident and twisted and ankle.

Response standards for 2015/16 were at 86.7% for the first appliance in attendance.

Members discussed retained availability/unavailability and had concerns about some of the figures. In particular a Member commented upon the 50% crewing in Codsall. Officers advised that they were working to support crew manager with the progression pathway and in house training. The shortfall was not because there were insufficient drivers but they had insufficient crewing. There had been a significant number of leavers. Members discussed the over the border responding by West Midlands in this part of the County and the negative effect on the crewing at Codsall and urged officers to monitor this.

In response to a question Members were advised that West Midlands Fire Service did charge Staffordshire for over the border calls, all other neighbouring authorities responded on a knock for knock basis. The charges for this year had been an additional £90,000.

A Member commented that one of the reasons for the shortfall in crewing could be due to the low payments made to retained staff. Mr Barber advised that the average pay was £5000 per annum, depending upon their declaration of availability. The Service was trying to find a balance to still get people into the Service and to retain them.

In response to a question Members were advised that leavers from the Service did not always give a reason for leaving.

With regard to Lichfield and Leek retained availability the figures were skewed and it was more accurate to add the two pump results together.

With regard to Rising Brook with only 65% availability the Service had employed a member of staff to look at this. The issues related to pay and the fact that some staff did not feel that they were cut out for the role. 27 people had applied on the last recruitment campaign with 14 being shortlisted as suitable candidates. Issues such as time commitment and demographics in the area also contributed to the staffing issues.

Members discussed the use of retained personnel to cover wholtime posts and was advised that this exposed the retained firefighters to more incidents but this then had an adverse impact on their retained declaration at their own station.

The number of invoices paid within the target number of days was better than the target set. Members indicated that this was excellent practice.

After starting the financial year with lower than average absence levels, the Service had seen this increase, although with the exception of a peak in September, this has been broadly typical of the average. Musculoskeletal absence accounted for the greatest proportion of days lost for both short and long term absences, however there was no clear trend in relation to which area of the body this occurs. Mental Health related absence was also a high contributor to long term absence, which was consistent with previous years. The Service was working closely with Occupational Health to actively manage long term cases. The Service also provided early intervention triage for any notifications of absence related to musculoskeletal or mental health related absences.

44. **RESOLVED** – That the Performance report be noted.

Retained Update Report (Schedule 2)

45. The report advised Members of the Service's retained personnel's availability, retention and developments within the retained duty system. Mr Daniels thanked Mr Armstrong who had assisted in preparing the report.

The Service remained committed to a high level of performance which had always been measured against 100% availability of Retained Duty System (RDS) appliances; however as previously reported this was not always achievable due to a variety of reasons including difficulties in recruiting for specific areas.

The report provided an analysis of Retained crewing figures for the most current six month period July 2015 – December 2015. The table and charts set out in the report detailed the average availability of personnel with individual columns depicting the amount of time that the number on duty would normally be sufficient to crew appliances as either; a pump with 4 or more personnel; crewed with 3 riders as a Targeted Response Vehicle (TRV) or unavailable due to insufficient crewing. The report set out the factors affecting availability. The report advised that there were occasions when due to a skill deficiency within the crew (no driver, no Officer in Charge, insufficient BA wearers etc) that the appliance maybe unavailable. The report also informed Members of leavers data from July 2015 – December 2015.

In order for the Service to continue to improve performance a number of initiatives were being introduced and developed that would support appliance availability. These included a successful recruitment campaign throughout the County and changes to delivery of training courses to allow flexibility to attend which was seen as a barrier to recruitment in the past. Alongside these changes was a rolling recruitment campaign and flexible working by appropriate Grey book staff to assist with availability, which had been successful.

The Service had been utilising retained staff in temporary whole time posts around the County.

Members were advised that discussion were on going with the potential for businesses to allow fire engines to be parked outside the workplace and for firefighters to respond directly from there. There were issues when some retained staff responded from work for some companies as it may take staff 2/3 minutes to get out of the company and clear security.

Officers were fully aware of the drop in the number of call outs in relation to the "southern leg" of the County due to a drop in demand and an increase in over the border attendances, which had affected morale. The over the border attendances were being addressed through fire control.

FireWatch – Members had received a report at the last meeting on FireWatch which recorded the availability and calculated the payments for retained personnel. FireWatch training had successfully been rolled out and went fully live on 3 August 2015 across all Retained stations. FireWatch recorded the actual number of personnel on duty and this information was then used by Vision enabling Fire Control to identify which appliances were available. It had been extremely useful to use when assessing the availability of resources along with the management of stations.

Retained pay consultation - The Service had undertaken to consult on a single retained payment method based upon national terms and conditions. Opportunities for staff to supplement their income with other activities such as Part Time working and community safety would form part of the package. The end of consultation was expected to be 28 April 2016 and the outcome of the consultation would be reported to Service Delivery Board.

A Member asked whether the Service was looking to train Retained Firefighters to first responder level and was advised that the Service already trained firefighters to “first person on scene” level. In explanation of the level of that training Mr Daniels advised that Firefighters would require one additional module to their First Person on Scene training in order to be able to intervene in some types of medical emergencies. Firefighters had always been competent in first aid prior to the introduction of “First Person on Scene” level.

A Member suggested that changes to the retained service could be looked at, for instance by targeting certain times of the day where there was highest demand. If the Service changed from retained to a “part time” system then the Service could see 100% availability of staff when they were actually needed. He commented that the Service needed to ensure that the rural service was still fit for purpose.

Mr Barber advised that the Service was running a trial of part time working in the East of the County so that the Service could evidence how this would work. If staff were paid positive hours then they could be engaging in preventative work. This would be a most cost effective use of money.

A Member asked about the pension implications for retained firefighters and was advised that retained firefighters were on PAYE.

A Member commented upon the changes in society eg not living in the vicinity of where you work etc.

Members recognised that the retained role was different than it used to be, which may lead to recruitment issues. The Members commented that this may be an item for Members to look at. **Note by Secretary:-** The Human Resources and Ethics Committee had recently received a report on recruitment and the issues involved.

Mr Barber advised Members of the huge commitment given by retained firefighters of between 80 and 124 hours per week. Officers were fully aware of station’s mobilising trends and establishment levels. Firefighters also had to live five minutes from the station which reduced the pool of people which were eligible to become retained. In addition with the reduction of incidents firefighters did not go out to incidents as frequently due to the reduction in demand that the Service had worked hard to achieve. A Member commented that it was crucial for the Service when recruiting to the role to manage the potential recruit’s expectations and be honest about what the role now entailed. If the Service recruited on a “part time” basis then firefighters would not need to live within five minutes of the Station.

Mrs Banks thanked the officers for their input.

46. **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

Items for Future meetings

47. As outlined on the Agenda the following items be brought to a future meeting of the Scrutiny and Performance Committee.

21 April 2016	Working with HM Prison Service
13 July 2016	Performance Report
On-going over the Next 12 Months	Response Standards
Future Items date not yet specified	Previous Working Group updates
	Scrutiny of the Innovations and Transformation Process
	Safer Road Partnership (Work streams and benefits)
	Vision and Firewatch interaction at Fire Control
	Scrutiny of Shared Fire Control Update
	Retained Update report

Date of next Meeting

48. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 2.15 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Scrutiny and Performance Committee

21 April 2016

Working with Her Majesty's Prison Service

Report of Paul Shaw. Fire Safety Manager & Fire Investigation Lead

SUMMARY

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service have had an increase in Prison cell fires over the last fiscal year. The fires have been confined to the item first ignited and the ignition source has been either a cigarette lighter or electrical cables fashioned to cause localised heating. All the fires have been a deliberate act by the occupant of the cell.

HM Prisons (HMP) are governed by the Crown Premises Inspection Group (CPIG), this is a team of Fire Inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to enforce the Fire Safety Order within Crown Premises. Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service has no jurisdiction in HM Prisons.

• Prison Cell fires	2010/11	22
• “	2011/12	17
• “	2012/13	33
• “	2013/14.	50
• “	2014/15.	51
• “	2015/16.	101 (up to 24 th March)

A smoking ban was introduced at four English Prisons in March 2016, none in Staffordshire. The Government intends to introduce the ban to all 136 Prisons in England. This ban should see a natural fall in Prison cell fires.

Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service will support HMP and our privately run Prisons in reducing the incidents of cell fires.

A review of our Prison Cell Fire Procedure (Impact Witness Assessment Statement) will take place to ensure it is fit for purpose. This will be amended, if required, to ensure the deliberate act of setting fires is discouraged with an additional tariff attached to the prisoners' sentence.

The mobilising of resources to incidents in Prisons will be reviewed to ensure the correct level of attendance, this will include intelligence lead mobilising through Fire Control.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the content of the report and to ask questions as appropriate.

Financial Implications

The cost of attending these incidents on a purely financial cost is notional and the approximate cost per attendance may be figured at £250.

Equality and Diversity

The impact will be on prisoners and HM Prisons have their own policies and procedures covering prisoner equality and diversity.

Consultation and Engagement undertaken

Delivery Group Leads, CPIG, National Offender Management Service Fire Safety Team, HM Prison Service, Business Information Team and Operational Staff.

Other implications

The statistics for business fires will be skewed by the inclusion of Prisons as technically Prisons are a sleeping risk and not a business. We still need to monitor the incidence of Prison cell fires but not at the expense of creating an unfounded problem within Staffordshire's businesses.

1. Background

Under current legislation Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service have no jurisdiction under the Fire Safety Order and can only use its powers under the Fire & Rescue Services Act to gather information and fight fires. Therefore a close working relationship has been developed with the HMP Fire Safety Inspector for Staffordshire, this relationship will give us an understanding of what their issues are and how we can support HMP and use our expertise in communicating Fire Safety under challenging conditions.

This work will involve the three Delivery Groups working closely together to support their local HMP Fire Safety Inspector. The support will be designed and developed in conjunction with our partners to ensure we have the correct level of expertise. Support will be available to HM Prison Service as and when required.

On conclusion of an incident at a Staffordshire Prison the Governor and the Incident Commander complete an 'Impact Witness Assessment Statement'. This statement details to the Governor the impact of a cell fire and the dangers associated with this type of incident within the prison environment. A fire started within a prison cell has great potential to cause harm to all relevant persons, these include the perpetrator, other inmates and prison staff. A serious fire would impact on the day to day running of the prison and has the potential to create significant business continuity issues within the prison post incident.

A cell fire has the potential to place all relevant people in significant danger. A fire started in a prison cell will produce toxic fumes and smoke which can not be avoided due to the products of combustion. A fire has the potential to produce large quantities of carbon monoxide with fatal consequences. During a cell fire an average adult can inhale a fatal amount of carbon monoxide in less than 1 minute.

A prison has been designed as a secure unit to prevent uncontrolled egress, therefore the means of escape are both restricted and complex in their design. A fire has the potential to affect the means of escape for all relevant persons, placing all concerned at significant risk of harm.

Fire crews are placed at significant risk when mobilising, attending and dealing with this type of incident. This risk is increased during the evening/early morning periods when prison staff numbers are limited due to the lock down-phase.

This information is given in support of the internal adjudication process and should act as a deterrent from further acts of deliberate fire setting.

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