



Community Newsletter

Summer Edition 2026

Newcastle Borough

Welcome

Welcome to this latest edition of our community newsletter and my first as Chief Fire Officer, having recently taken over from Rob Barber, who has now retired. It's an absolute honour for me to lead the organisation that I joined 30 years ago now as a trainee firefighter based at Newcastle.

Whilst I take on this role with the organisation in a strong position, it's important to acknowledge we are facing a number of challenges. These include increasing and changing demand for our services. Last year during spring/summer alone the number of outdoor fires was up a massive 70 per cent, this could increase again if we have another dry summer. We're also seeing an increase in flooding incidents along with the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads.

The service is under growing financial pressure due to higher demand, tight budgets, and wider economic uncertainty. Rising costs—like staffing, energy and day-to-day operations are stretching budgets further. Leaving a gap between what we can afford and what's needed to deliver services.

Another major challenge for us is governance and local government reorganisation, as it is causing a great deal of uncertainty for us.

Despite this we are confident in our ability to overcome and manage these challenges. This is because the people we have working here at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service are committed to our vision of making our county the safest place to be.

In addition to this organisational vision I take up this role with a personal vision of what I want to achieve during my tenure. This is to create a future where more lives are saved than ever before, the wellbeing of our people is protected and our service is transformed to make our communities and environment safer. It is essential that we build a fire and rescue service that is smarter, stronger and ready for the future.



**Chief Fire Officer,
Glynn Luznyj**



Successful schemes extended after supporting nearly 3,500 vulnerable people.

Two successful schemes have been extended after they supported almost **3,500 vulnerable people** in Staffordshire over the past year.

Our falls response team attend non-injury falls to relieve pressure on the ambulance service whilst our home-from-hospital team transports patients back home after a hospital stay and ensure they are settled back into their properties. Both teams have dedicated personnel that are not on duty firefighters.

Our falls response team, which was launched in December 2022, attended **1,161 incidents in the last year.**

In around 80 per cent of the incidents that the team attended, the person who fell was picked up and no further action was required, significantly reducing demand on NHS staff.

The scheme has now received further funding which will allow it to continue until at least November this year.

Our home-from-hospital team, which was launched in December 2023, has **assisted 2,266 people** in the past year, ensuring that their heating, lighting and water works properly, the home is secure and ensuring they have refreshments before leaving.

The team has also received additional funding, meaning the scheme will continue until at least January next year.

As part of both schemes, the occupant will receive a free home fire safety visit, where fire risks in the home are identified and advice is given on how to reduce these risks.

Importantly access to both of these schemes is via the NHS, not by contacting the fire and rescue service.



Stay safe this summer.

We are into our busiest time of the year as we often see an increase in outdoor fires and water rescue incidents as the weather warms up. Latest statistics have shown that there were **241 outdoor fires in April alone.**

Head of Protect, Prevent and Partnerships, Nick Jones, said: *“Over half of the outdoor fires we were called to in April were caused deliberately, so I would like to remind people of the dangers of setting fires.*

“Fire not only damages landscapes but also put lives in danger and a strain on our resources.

“Secondly, accidental fires are often preventable – whether that’s using disposable BBQs and dropping cigarettes, or burning waste in your garden, these actions can quickly start fires.”

We are also reminding people of the dangers of entering open water after a child was rescued from a lake in May.

People might be tempted to cool off in open water during periods of warm weather, but there are many hidden dangers such as strong currents and sharp objects.

If you see someone or a pet in trouble in the water, do not try and rescue them yourself, **call 999 immediately** and where possible **use the What3Words app to pinpoint your location.**

If you get into difficulty in the water lie back with your arms and legs extended and float, avoid thrashing.

Please enjoy summer safely.



Working to make Staffordshire businesses safer.

Our dedicated team within the Protection department work to make Staffordshire businesses safer by offering tailored support and fire safety advice.

The team work proactively to ensure businesses and public buildings comply with fire safety laws, carry out fire safety inspections and offer guidance to reduce fire risks.

The team also have the power to enforce fire safety legislation where necessary and can impose written notices or pursue prosecutions.

Protection Lead, Matt White, said: *“We work alongside local businesses to ensure they are aware of their fire safety responsibilities and help them put measures in place to limit the chances of fire.*

“Fires in business premises can damage the livelihoods of the owners and put the public at risk of serious harm, so providing and maintaining a safe working environment for staff is paramount for any business.

“A suitable fire risk assessment should be carried out and includes procedures needed to keep people and assets safe. This includes identification of hazards, evaluating, removing or reducing any risk factors identified, preparing an emergency plan and providing adequate training to members of staff.

“We are keen to support local businesses and make sure employees and residents in our communities are protected from the risks of fire. However where the safety of individuals is put at risk, we will not hesitate to use our full suite of powers and take the relevant enforcement action.”

For more information visit the [business safety section of our website.](#)



Later this year, we will be opening recruitment for full-time firefighters in Staffordshire.

To encourage others to apply, one of our newest recruits, Thea Millward, has shared her experience so far.

Thea has been a full-time firefighter based at Tamworth Belgrave Community Station for around a year, but before becoming a full time firefighter, she served as an on-call firefighter at a different fire service.

She said: *“It was a childhood dream of mine to become a firefighter and once I had a taste of the job with on-call, I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.*

“I really enjoyed the training, and it was great to cover a wide range of skills starting with pumps and ladders, followed by road traffic collisions, first aid, working at heights and water rescue, then ending on the breathing apparatus module.

“My favourite part was the hot fire training and seeing fire behaviour up close.

“In this role, I’ve got to meet and work with incredible people from all different backgrounds, and I love engaging with the community through initiatives like home fire safety visits and school visits which are really rewarding.

“Being a firefighter means that every day is different, you’re always learning and pushing yourself to strive for excellence.”

To find out more about the role of a firefighter, what it entails and how to apply, visit the [careers section of our website.](#)

Performance information

This section provides our performance information over a six month period for the local area. Full year performance statistics for the county can be found on our website, search "Statement of Assurance."

All Attended Incidents	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Total
Newcastle Borough	91	72	73	74	55	81	446

These figures detail the total number of incidents firefighters attended. These incidents can vary but typically include business fires, house fires, outdoor fires, road traffic collisions and animal rescues.

Accidental Dwelling Fires	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Total
Newcastle Borough	5	3	4	6	0	1	19

These figures detail the number of accidental house fires firefighters attended. The most common cause of these incidents is cooking, however other common causes are electrical fires and cigarettes not fully put out.

Road Traffic Collisions	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Total
Newcastle Borough	4	2	9	10	10	5	40

These figures detail the number of road traffic collisions firefighters attended. Firefighters don't attend all road traffic collisions however of the ones they do they are either required to make the vehicles safe or at the most serious collisions they often have to cut casualties free from their vehicles using specialist cutting equipment.

Home Fire Safety Visits	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Total
Newcastle Borough	141	137	153	126	130	117	804

These figures detail the number of Home Fire Safety Visits. A Home Fire Safety Visit involves a member of staff going into the homes of the most vulnerable to talk to them about fire safety and put measures in place, such as smoke alarms, to improve their safety.

In an emergency always dial 999.

General enquires: **0300 330 1000** (freephone)

Safe and Well: **0800 0241 999**

For people who are deaf or hard of hearing text: **07528 983 101**



www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
 preventing • protecting • responding