



## Chief Fire Officer, Rob Barber welcome

Welcome to this latest edition of our latest community newsletter. We start this edition highlighting a really important topic as we enter into the summer months. A sunny dry spring has meant the grass is already tinder dry and with just one spark a fire will spread rapidly with the potential to cause devastation. We're urging people to take note of our summer safety advice in the article below.

The other articles we cover are follow on stories from previous editions, including our 50th anniversary year and the money we have managed to raise for The Fire Fighters Charity. Our new recruits - last year we were announcing our recruitment drive, fast forward 12 months and we have 16 new firefighters currently going through their initial training course.

Our "Home From Hospital" scheme which is going from strength to strength and is now award winning! And finally our latest vehicles, last year we introduced two new aerial ladder platforms. This year we have welcome two new enhanced rescue pumps to improve our response to incidents.

To find out more about what we do why not head down to one of our open day events, taking place on 21 June at Tamworth Belgrave Fire and Police Station, 19 July at Tutbury Community Fire Station and 13 September at Sandyford Community Fire Station.

Follow our social channels for more information.

## Summer Safety

We're urging people to enjoy the weather safely ahead of the summer period in Staffordshire.

People will be enjoying the sun in a number of different ways, from barbecues with family and friends, walks across beauty spots or getting their gardens ready for summer.

Head of Prevent and Protect, Ian Read, said: "We're not here to spoil the fun for anyone during the warmer weather, but we want people to make sure they enjoy themselves safely across Staffordshire.

"Warm and dry periods like this greatly increase the risk and severity of outdoor fires. Preventing these fires from happening in the first place, or speaking to a young person about the dangers of starting these fires deliberately, can be the difference between life and death."

### We are reminding people to:

- Never use barbecues or campfires in the countryside as they can easily spread
- Never leave a barbecue unattended, especially when there are children or pets around
- If you are having a barbecue in your garden make sure it is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste
- Only light a barbecue with appropriate fuels - never use petrol or white spirit
- If you're in charge of the cooking, don't drink alcohol
- Speak to young people about the dangers of starting outdoor fires deliberately. What might seem like a bit of fun can quickly escalate out of control and can have a catastrophic effect on people, wildlife, the environment and emergency services
- Don't burn garden waste, particularly toxic and flammable items



## Over £50,000 raised for charity in 12 months

We have smashed our target of raising £50,000 for The Fire Fighters Charity over the past 12 months.

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations that started in April 2024, we pledged to raise £50,000 before 1 April 2025.

Through a series of activities including car washes, open days, a cabaret, bake sales and fitness challenges, we have raised a whopping total of £54,280.

More than 40 fundraising events took place. One of the final efforts was a gruelling Everest-style challenge on 20 March 2025. This event saw our Chief Fire Officer, Rob Barber, and a team of firefighters, staff and volunteers climb Mow Cop numerous times throughout the day. In total, the team climbed higher than Mount Everest in miles.

Chief Fire Officer, Rob Barber, said: "It's been amazing to see the whole service come together for an incredible year of fundraising and I'm very proud of what we have achieved together. Teamwork is a fundamental part of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and we have demonstrated what can be done when we come together.

"I have seen first-hand the level of support that The Fire Fighters Charity gives to so many former colleagues and their families, both in Staffordshire and across the country. I know that this money is going to a worthy cause."



## Sixteen new wholetime recruits begin careers at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

We have welcomed 16 new firefighters to our service, who are currently undertaking an intensive 15-week training programme.

They will carry out a series of tasks that will equip them with the practical and technical skills needed to meet the demands of a modern-day firefighter.

These include training sessions on hose and ladder use, breathing apparatus, hazardous materials, water rescue, working at heights, home and business fire safety, road traffic collisions and trauma care.

Once they have completed the course, a presentation ceremony will be held, before the firefighters are posted to local stations.

When asked about their reasons for joining Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, our new recruits gave a number of responses, including being inspired by firefighters in their personal lives and wanting to give back to the community.

Three of our new recruits have also worked as an on-call firefighters for a number of years.

Learning and Development Station Manager Duncan Cole, said: "This journey will challenge them physically and mentally, but it will develop them in a number of different ways learning new skills and personal attributes.

"This will prepare them for one of the most rewarding careers protecting lives whilst serving our communities within Staffordshire."





## Fire crews welcome new enhanced rescue pumps

We have welcomed two new enhanced rescue pumps (ERPs) to help firefighters to best serve local communities.

The ERPs, which include specialist ladders, winches, cutters and platforms, are based at Longton and Stafford and have replaced some of the current appliances used there.

The new appliances will enable crews to assist in: collisions on motorways involving HGVs, public service vehicles and agricultural machinery; collisions between vehicles and buildings, incidents involving machinery, trains, aircrafts and theme park rides, building explosions and collapses.

The relevant crews have received heavy rescue operator training as well as extra driving training due to the additional driving aids and weight of the vehicles.

Station Manager, Chris Craddock, who was the project lead, said: "These really are state of the art appliances that offer the latest technology in heavy duty rescues.

"The vehicles' specialist equipment, combined with the training crews have received, greatly enhances our ability to deal with incidents involving large vehicles, machinery or other significant incidents.

"These vehicles have been strategically positioned at Stafford and Longton for their central locations and access to major road and rail networks.

Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime, Ben Adams, said: "These new enhanced rescue pumps are a significant investment in the future of our fire and rescue service, and the capabilities of the teams.

"Together, the new vehicles will help to ensure the safety of our firefighters and the communities of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent in a range of specialist emergency situations."



## Fire service wins trust award for home-from-hospital partnership service

We have been recognised with a special award for our partnership work in delivering a home-from-hospital scheme to help vulnerable people across Staffordshire.

The CEO award from the University of North Midlands NHS Trust acknowledges the success of the joint project which has helped almost 2,000 elderly patients safely return home from hospital since its inception in 2023.

The scheme, which runs seven days a week, sees specialist fire and health partnership technicians collect patients from Royal Stoke University Hospital and help them return home while also providing a series of fire safety and wellbeing checks with the aim of preventing patients' re-admission.

Ian Read, Head of Prevent, Protect and Partnerships said: "Home-from-hospital is about us working together for the common good, whilst giving us an opportunity to keep people who could be at risk from fire, safe.

"We work directly with UHNM's Integrated Discharge Hub, who select patients that would benefit from the service. After collecting patients from hospital, our technicians transport them home and make sure they're safe, warm and have everything they need. This can include ensuring the water and heating supplies are working, identifying any potential hazards, checking they have food and access to a phone and completing a fire safety check."

The award, which was presented at a special ceremony at the Royal Stoke University Hospital, recognised the service's ongoing support for patient care in partnership with the Trust.



## Performance information

This section provides the data in relation to our performance for the last six months in the county.

All Attended Incidents	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
Tamworth	41	43	34	24	40	71	253

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 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
Tamworth	4	1	7	0	2	2	16

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 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
Tamworth	3	2	4	0	1	3	13

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.

Safe and Well Visits	Oct 24	Nov 24	Dec 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	Mar 25	Total
Tamworth	98	103	101	108	102	88	600

These figures detail the number of safe and well visits. A safe and well 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.

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**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**