



Aberdare Community Fire Station Overview Overview

Introduction:

Aberdare Fire Station is located close to the old market town of Aberdare in the upper part of the Cynon Valley. The Station provides fire cover for a population of approx 90,000 in an area of some 30 square miles.

Included in this are the electoral wards of:

- Penywaun
- Cwmdare
- Trecynon
- Llwydcoed
- Cwmbach
- Cwmaman
- Abercwmboi
- Mountain Ash
- Penrhiwceiber

Aberdare Fire Station has been on its current site since 1967 and serves the people of the Cynon Valley within the boundaries of R.C.T. The station is located close to the town centre, but with easy access to both the A470 trunk road to the south and the A465 Heads of the Valley trunk road to the north.

The Station comprises of four Wholetime Duty System (WDS) watches, each with seven personnel and is currently managed by Station Commander Jason Evans. In addition to the four WDS watches, the Station also has a compliment of 22 personnel who are employed on the Retained Duty System (RDS). These personnel are drawn from the local community and play an important role in provision of fire cover at Aberdare Fire Station.

Aberdare Fire Station has two fire engines (one crewed by wholetime personnel and one crewed by RDS personnel), A recently acquired Foam Tender (crewed by WDS) A Water Bowser, A Hose Layer (both crewed by RDS) and a 4x4 vehicle. In April 2009 it also took ownership of a new all-terrain Argocat vehicle that is used on grass and forestry fires in the locality.

Overview of Performance for 2009/10:

To be added at End of March

Top 5 Achievements in 2009/10:

Look at achievements for 2009 and add.



Equality and Diversity:

The station actively encourages equalities and diversity in its day-to-day activities and it is intended to re-contact local groups such as disabled groups and identify what their individual needs are and what services we can provide for them. The station will also attempt to contact local BME groups but as the RCT Unitary Authority area is 98.4% White, such groups will be of limited number. It has been established from relevant statistics that there have only been 415 applications for working registrations in the whole of RCT from 2004-2008. Nevertheless the Station has established links with the local mosque and it is planned to pursue this avenue in order to improve our Service delivery.

Welsh Language:

The Directorate is dedicated to the aims and objectives of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Welsh Language Scheme 2007-2010.

In particular we will

- Provide community safety advice through the medium of Welsh where appropriate.
- Ensure all literature is bilingual.
- Offer further training for those members of staff keen to learn Welsh.
- Provide an environment where Welsh speakers are not disadvantaged (e.g. all future station signage to be bilingual).
- Provide Key stage 1 & 2 school visits through the medium of Welsh where appropriate.

Sustainable Development:

In discharging the Service's aims and objectives, consideration will be given to minimising the negative impact we have on our natural environment as a result of our activities.

In order to achieve this the Station will actively promote a campaign of "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle". This will assist the objective of the Service to achieve Green Dragon Level 2 in Environmental Management Systems. The Station has elected an Environmental Champion who along with 3 other Watch representatives and the Station Commander will look at ways in which improvements can be made to our efficiencies and emissions

Budgetary and Resource Implications:

Look at budget impact on resources

Efficiency Gains:

Look at efficiency - waste/best use of resource

Geographical Risk Profile:



The Station area is mainly residential, but has a number of Industrial areas, which have been developed on reclaimed 'Brownfield' sites left over from industries that previously occupied the valley. The main commercial areas covered by Aberdare station are Aberaman Industrial Estate to the southeast and Cwm Cynon Industrial Estate on the outskirts of the nearby town of Mountain Ash.

On the mountainside above the town is located one of the largest gas storage sites in Europe, the National Grid, Dynevor Arms LNG storage facility at Llwydcoed. It is a COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard) regulated site and is a major industrial risk within the area and Aberdare Fire Station provides initial fire cover for the premises. Regular training events and exercises are held at the site to ensure that our firefighters are equipped with the skills and experience to deal with any emergency scenario that may occur on or off site. (The plant has recently been decommissioned and SWFRS pre-determined attendances to the plant have been reduced in line with the reduction in perceived risk. Officers at Aberdare are working in partnership with RCTCBC Emergency Planning officers to ensure robust risk planning procedures are implemented prior to the re-commissioning of the plant expected around May 2010.)

Aberdare Community Fire station also provides primary fire cover for 5 comprehensive schools. Due to this high concentration in the area, Aberdare station is working closely with these schools to promote Community Safety issues and is heavily involved with the Education Business Partnership attending regular events.

The hills and mountains surrounding the valley are a mixture of forestry, rough heathland and farmland. During dry periods these areas can become tinder dry and reckless fire raising has become a major problem. Surveys have shown that the cost implications of Grass Fires in Rhondda Cynon Taff area during 2009 alone amounted to £3.8m. The commitment of our resources to these incidents impacts massively on service delivery to the community. Multi agency initiatives are currently being developed to combat and reduce the problem. The task group involves RCT Local Authority, The Forestry Commission, The Probation Service, Anti Social Behaviour Officers, The Fire Service, RCT Off Road Bike Team and South Wales Police. Sm Jason Evans as Commander at Aberdare sits on the Grass Fires Sub Committee of the RCT Problem Solving Forum which assists in developing multi-agency approaches to reducing the impact of these issues. Education will play a major part this year and it is intended to commence delivery of the "Fun in the Forest" packs to appropriate groups. The Fire Crime Unit have also dedicated their Officers to look at the relevant problem in the



RCT area, crews from Aberdare will link with the Fire Crime Unit to facilitate 'Days of Action' in the Cynon Valley area.

Personnel from the station are also involved in the Services "Wildfire" group which looks at how the Fire Service deal with grass and forestry fires. A pilot scheme in RCT will train and develop personnel to alter the way in which these fires are tackled and should reduce the amount of resources used. New vehicles and equipment have and will be purchased including An "Argocat" all terrain vehicle used to transport equipment and personnel to areas only accessible by foot in the past.

*****Revise at End of March*****

Aberdare Fire Station responded to 947 Calls Between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2009. These can be broken down into the following main categories:

INCIDENT TYPE	Year 07/08	Year 08/09
Accidental FDR1	52	58
Deliberate FDR1	80	78
Accidental Dwelling Fires	28	38
Deliberate Vehicle Fires	54	54
Unwanted Fire Signals	77	92
Malicious False Alarms	34	22
Road Traffic Collisions	32	25
FDR3	632	407

It can be seen from this simple comparison that compared to the previous year the call trend is rising. The important statistic relating to accidental dwelling fires however has increased and this statistic in particular is one in which the station will address as a priority for 2009/10. Another target for the year is to reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Signals that waste a great deal of our resources. Visits will be made to some of our worst offenders to encourage them to take steps to improve their past record.

It is encouraging to see that the number of RTC's has reduced and it is a priority to see that this downward trend continues with continued visits to the local schools and partnership working.

In order to build upon this excellent work, efforts will be made this year to engage with new groups in the community. Each watch will be tasked with identifying new groups and developing a relationship with them to deliver community safety talks.

To facilitate this work, efforts will be made to improve the lecture facilities at Aberdare Station as it is anticipated that some groups will wish to visit the station or be invited to see first hand, the work of the Firefighters.



Number of Dwellings in Station Area:

Number of HFSC's completed in Total Prior to April 2010:

% Dwellings in Station Area Received HFSC since HFC's Commenced:

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