



Merthyr Tydfil Community Fire Station Plan Overview

Introduction:

Merthyr Tydfil Community Fire Station serves the town of Merthyr Tydfil and the surrounding areas of Cefn Coed, Heolgerrig, Dowlais, Pant, Twynrhodyn, Pentrebach, Ynysfach and Penyard, together with the old mining villages of Troedyrhiw, Aberfan and Merthyr Vale. Within this area are the housing estates of Gurnos, Galon Uchaf and Gellideg, these are currently owned and managed by Merthyr Valley Homes. The type of residential accommodation in the area ranges from low cost housing of the council owned estates, to the larger privately owned housing in the more affluent areas.

Overview of Performance for 2009/10:

Key Community Achievements for Year 2009/10

The community achievements for 2009/10 at Merthyr Fire & Rescue Station were:

The continued reduction of deaths and injuries from fire by:

§ Working with partners to increase the effectiveness of our fire safety and arson reduction activities.

§ Educating all members of the community in fire safety particularly underrepresented groups.

§ Ensuring the operational preparedness of firefighters to safely and effectively perform their role.

Reducing deaths and injuries from road traffic collisions by:

§ Working with partners to develop strategies and increase the awareness of road safety to all members of the community.

§ Targeting high risk young drivers.

§ Ensuring the operational preparedness of firefighters to safely and effectively perform their role at road traffic collisions.

reducing the large number of unwanted fire signals and deliberate fire setting by:

§ Working with partners to educate those at risk and to reduce the opportunity available to start fires.

§ Working closely with the local community to direct improvements in the management and maintenance of automatic fire detection systems.

Key Operational Achievements for Year 2009/10

The Operational achievements for 2009/10 at Merthyr Fire & Rescue Station were:

Maintaining the operational capability of all appliances by:

§ Researching a new type of contract for wholetime crews in order to primary crew the Hydraulic Platform.



- § Ensuring 100% availability of all appliances.
 - § Maintaining and developing all operational skills by ongoing training.
 - § Providing development opportunities for staff via the Personal Development Review (PDR) system.
- The station continued working with local groups within the community, identifying and forging new partnerships to reduce the risk of fire through education and understanding. This partnership work and education has resulted in a steady reduction in life threatening incidents within the community and a reduction in costly deliberate incidents.

Top 5 Achievements in 2009/10:

1. 20% increase in HFSC.
2. 40% reduction in overall sickness.
3. Completion of 4 IRU training week's at station delivering significant training to support stations.
4. Development of many new partnerships's in particular Merthyr Valley Homes and Merthyr Housing Association. Thus enabling 'high risk' properties to be identified and offered support.
5. 20% reduction in overall incidents.



Equality and Diversity:

The station staff are well aware of the recent influx of migrant workers within the local community. Large numbers of Eastern European workers, particularly Polish (around 4000) and many Portuguese now reside within our community. It is the intention of all station staff to access these groups and provide support to them in all areas of Community Safety. The local authority have recently appointed a 'Ethnic Minority Support Worker' and the Station Commander holds regular meetings with the support worker, in order to identify best protocols to follow whilst accessing these groups.

We will strive to target these groups and provide them with Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC), and provide support through literature and ongoing activities. We will at all times comply with the 'mission' of SWF&RS by:

- § Offering in-house advice and guidance on equality and diversity issues to promote legislative compliance.
- § Advocating equality & diversity improvements.
- § Working with key partners to gain, share, and implement best practice.
- § Enabling ownership of diversity by supporting managers and staff.
- § Promoting real and meaningful mainstreaming throughout the business.
- § Assisting the Service in assessing how best to meet the diverse needs of its staff and the communities it serves.
- § Encouraging the organisational and cultural development of the Service
- § Empowering staff by providing information, awareness sessions, and related support services.
- § Celebrating improvements, good news, and changes which brings our diversity ethos to life for service users as well as current and future staff.
- § Acting as an equality & diversity contact point for external service users and partners.

Welsh Language:

The Directorate is dedicated to the aims and objectives of the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Welsh Language Scheme. In particular station staff will carry out the following activities to fulfil our obligations:

- § Provide community safety advice through the medium of Welsh.
- § 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 station signage to be bilingual).
- § Provide Key stage 1 & 2 school visits through the medium of welsh.

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 address this issue an 'Environmental Champion' (EC) has been appointed on each watch. The Station Manager and the EC's will be working closely and attempting to achieve Green Dragon Level 2 in Environmental Management Systems. Station staff are only too aware of the requirement on them in relation to sustainability.

All station staff will strive to:

- § Minimise the damage to our environment from our activities.
- § Work in partnership with MTCBC to improve the quality of life of the public of Merthyr Tydfil, and the rest of South Wales.
- § Monitor and decrease our energy consumption by 10%.
- § Improve our levels of recycling in line with local and national legislative requirements.
- § Maintain environmental awareness and commitment at all times.

Budgetary and Resource Implications:

N/A

Efficiency Gains:

Geographical Risk Profile:

Number of Dwellings in Station Area:

22000

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

996

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

4.53%