



Abercarn Station Overview Overview

Introduction:

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The station is currently Day-Crewed with 2 watches consisting of 5 personnel and is managed by Station Commander Owen Jayne who is also the Commander at Abertillery. The station however is now recruiting RDS personnel in line with the requirements of the 2007 Risk Reduction Plan, which will see the end of the day-crewed system in SWF&RS. The station has 1 water ladder, 1 L4P 4x4 vehicle and an Environmental Protection Unit (EPU), which serves the whole of South Wales.

The socio-economic situation as indicated by national statistics indicates a high level of unemployment particularly with young people (under 24's). This together with an increased level of people with disabilities and long-term illness highlights the need of a focused ongoing community safety and education initiative. In 2008 all local groups and organisations were contacted by station personnel and asked what assistance and advice they would like from the F&RS. This was met with varying degrees of success but has resulted in some groups receiving Fire Safety presentations and some HFSC referrals have been generated

Incorporating the above information the station has generated and prioritised a number of safety initiatives.

- Community home fire safety visits.
- Educational visits targeted at key stage level one and two.
- Visits to local Retirement complexes/ residential care establishments.
- Seasonal campaigns
- Joint RTC initiative with the Police Force and Welsh Ambulance Service
- Fire Safety courses for the local Scout group
- Duke of Edinburgh course for Cwmcarn High School
- Fire Watch course at Cwmcarn High School and Newbridge Comprehensive
- "Safety with Sparklers" at local Primary Schools
- "Fun in the Forest" grass fire campaign also at local Primary Schools
- "Pass Plus Cymru" driving course

The station has also conducted educational visits to local playgroups, organisations and nurseries, which it intends to



continue.

A recent and highly successful station initiative is the focussed attempt to reduce road traffic collisions. Co-ordinated visits to local fifth and sixth form school children with the Police Authority and the Welsh Ambulance Service targeting those approaching minimum driving age. Although last years figures showed an improvement, the 5 yearly trend is still upwards. It is planned to work more closely with the Police and the RTC Reduction Team to reverse the direction of this trend.

A new community fire-fighter team was set up in January 2009 and is now based in Abercarn Station. The team consists of 1 crew manager and 1 fire-fighter.

The team's role is to identify and reduce risk through education and initiatives in Abercarn and the surrounding area in line with the Intervention Directorate Plan.

The team will reduce risk by carrying out additional HFSC. There are 8191 residential properties within our administration area of which 1696 checks have been completed which equates to 20% of the properties, the CS team is working in partnership with Station personnel to target the most at risk properties in the area, working with existing groups and partnerships as well as pro actively seeking and creating links with new groups.

Monitoring of the Plan

Holding regular progress meetings will monitor progress against the activities specified in the plan.

This plan is a living document and will be added to and amended as circumstances change. The Plan will be revisited as least quarterly and all revised versions of the plan will be made available via South Wales Fire & Rescue Service intranet site.

Overview of Performance for 2009/10:

Top 5 Achievements in 2009/10:

1. Recruit 8 more RDs staff to progress project
2. Managed to get all new and existing RDS staff on to initial courses and they have now completed most if not all modules
3. During the transition and disruption to the station maintained our service to the community with regards to HFSC
4. Reduction in sickness figures ???
- 5.



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 and minority groups and identify what their individual needs are and what services we can provide for them. All staff have had a CRB (Criminal Records Board) check for their work with children and vulnerable adults. The station will also attempt to contact local BME groups but as the Caerphilly Unitary Authority area is 99.1% White it is expected that there are no such groups. In addition we will promote and develop the Organisations core values through development training and the PDR process as well as encouraging open discussion and debate, and inclusion on all Station management meeting agendas.

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 ensure the Welsh language continues to play an increasing role in all station activity. The overall figure as recorded on the last census was eleven percent Welsh speakers in Caerphilly Unitary Authority. It is perceived to be higher in our station area as there is a Welsh language school. There is currently only one fluent Welsh speaker at Abercarn fire station however there are systems in place within the service such as the Welsh Language Line and Welsh language courses aimed at teaching personnel to speak Welsh. In order to satisfy the needs of our expanding community Welsh awareness sessions have been delivered to all station personnel, encouraging personnel to pro actively seek opportunities to deliver initiatives through the Welsh language. Although currently there is only one fluent Welsh speaker on Station it is our intention to utilise our personnel and the Welsh language Dept to promote and support the many initiatives we have planned this year.

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.

We will appoint an environmental champion on Station, and ensure through training, all personnel are aware of their environmental responsibilities.

We will continue to recycle as much as is practically possible.

We will strive to further reduce our use of electricity and gas, by



embedding an environmentally aware culture and by monitoring our performance.

Through training we will ensure our operational personnel consider potential environmental impacts and the control measures available.

Budgetary and Resource Implications:

Efficiency Gains:

Geographical Risk Profile:

Abercarn Fire Station is situated on the Prince of Wales industrial estate adjacent to the A467. This location affords the station rapid road travel to all areas including neighbouring stations bordering Abercarn's area. The station area includes the villages of Abercarn, Newbridge, Cwmcarn, Swffryd and Crumlin. It serves a population of over 22,000 people covering an area of over 5180 hectares.

Incorporated within the station area is a wide array of risks including a range of commercial and industrial premises, residential properties and a substantial forested area within which sits the "Scenic Drive" tourist site.

The level of risk of the latter of the above can be greatly impacted by environmental/weather conditions. These risks coupled with reinforcing other stations result in Abercarn receiving in excess of 500 calls per annum.

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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