

SECTION 41 MEMBER BRIEFING



NOVEMBER 2016

Please find below information from your
Section 41 Member representative on South
Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Cllr Pat Haith



Campaign to curb kitchen blazes kicks off



A major new campaign to curb kitchen blazes has been launched, as the fire service reveals it's tackled nearly 1,000 cooking related incidents in the last three years.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says it has attended 925 house fires caused by cooking since 2013, resulting in more than 200 injuries and two deaths. Most of the blazes are caused by cooking that's been left unattended, chip pans that overheat or dirty ovens that ignite due to a build up of fat and grease.

Factors contributing to the fires also include alcohol, drugs and mental health issues, including dementia. Head of prevention and protection Steve Helps, said: "The cooking fires we go to range from burnt toast to serious blazes which gut houses and destroy lives. But what all these incidents have in common is that they are nearly always entirely preventable.

Whether it's remembering to keep an eye on your cooking, giving your oven a good scrub or buying a takeaway after a night out, rather than attempting to cook, this campaign is all about asking residents to take some simple steps to protect themselves and those they love."

The fire service has issued the following advice to cut kitchen fires:

- Clean out ovens and grill pans regularly to avoid a build up of fat and grease
- Ditch old fashioned chip pans, use oven chips or thermostat controlled fryers instead
- Don't attempt to cook if you've been out drinking, buy a takeaway instead.

For more information on preventing fires, visit www.syfire.gov.uk

Sheffield firefighters win top national challenge for second year in a row

A fire crew from Sheffield is celebrating after coming out on top in a national competition to test firefighters' search and rescue skills in heat and smoke.

Central White Watch were awarded first place in the UK finals of the Breathing Apparatus (BA) challenge - defending the title they won last year.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue firefighters competed against 15 other fire crews from across the UK, including West Yorkshire, West Midlands and Cornwall.

Each team tackled a series of scenarios involving the rescue of 'casualties' from inside smoke-filled buildings at Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Awards were also won by Will Selby, who was named best entry control officer, and Chris Moore and John Taylor who won best BA team. A second team from South Yorkshire, made up of officers and instructors from across the service, finished fourth.

Judges at the competition named the Central crew overall winners after scoring firefighters in a number of different skill areas including BA search and rescue, firefighting while in BA, pump operator, BA entry control officer and incident command.

Officers say the competition is proof of the skill and professionalism of the county's crews.

Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Roberts, who attended the event, said: "We're very proud that for the second year in a row a crew from South Yorkshire has taken first place in a national competition that was filled with ultra professional, highly-skilled firefighters. The standard is always extremely high but is rising year on year, so for our crew to perform again to such a high standard on the national stage is a fantastic achievement."

Stronger, Safer Communities Reserve Fund

The Stronger Safer Communities Reserve fund is a Fire Authority scheme which reinvests money into local communities to support our work to prevent emergencies. The money has been set aside from the Authority's reserves.

We have already delivered two rounds of successful projects through this scheme, benefiting more than 40 projects with charities and community groups able to bid for sums ranging from £5,000 to £150,000.

You can view summaries of the projects by visiting this link—

<http://www.syfire.gov.uk/safety-advice/stronger-safer-communities-reserve/>

Work starts on new fire and police station in Maltby

Work has started on a new joint fire and police station in Maltby.

Chief Fire Officer James Courtney, Police & Crime Commissioner Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police Superintendent Sarah Poolman and Fire Authority member Cllr Pat Haith attended an event to formally begin work on the site.



From left to right:

PCC Dr Alan Billings,
Chief Fire Officer James
Courtney
Superintendent Sarah
Poolman,
Kier's Kevin Keyes and
Cllr Pat Haith, Member of
South Yorkshire Fire and
Rescue Authority

Maltby fire station will close and Maltby police station will be modified to accommodate fire service vehicles and staff, under the plans approved by Rotherham Council last year.

The project won Government Transformation Funding of £560,000 and will help save both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue money by sharing building running costs, enabling funding to be targeted at frontline services.

The move will shift fire service resources around a mile closer to the east side of Rotherham, which traditionally accounts for a greater volume of emergency incidents compared to lower risk areas to the east of Maltby.

It will also improve services by making it easier for police and firefighters to share knowledge, skills and expertise when tackling common issues, like anti-social behaviour and road traffic collisions. In a similar way, it will also help both organisations to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.

Chief Fire Officer James Courtney said: “This move makes perfect sense for us, for the police and for the taxpayer. Instead of having two public buildings, and all the running costs associated with them, we will be able to combine our resources into one facility to provide a more efficient frontline service.

“By working alongside each other under one roof, the move will also benefit both organisations by improving how we work together to solve problems we both face, which can only help to improve the quality of the service we offer to local people.”

Dr Alan Billings, South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner said: “The move to accommodate both South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue staff under one roof is a huge step in our commitment to the public to reduce costs and work more collaboratively.

“The diminishing government grants for both organisations are requiring all of us to be most cost effective, whilst still providing the same levels of service. I hope that the police and fire station will prove to be a successful pilot and we can identify further opportunities for blue light services to work together.”

South Yorkshire Police Superintendent Sarah Poolman said: “The layout of this purpose-built facility will assist internal information and intelligence sharing among police staff, as it’s better designed to help meet the demands of modern policing, demands that have changed substantially since the existing station was constructed many years ago on Main Street.

“We envisage that sharing the building with our partners at the Fire and Rescue Service will improve both parties input into collaborative projects too, delivering a better coordinated service to the public.” Kier has been appointed as the main contractor for the building work and the new facility is expected to open in spring 2017.

Last year the Government announced new proposals to transform the way the police, fire and rescue and ambulance services work together. It wants to encourage collaboration by introducing a new statutory duty on all three emergency services to look at opportunities to work with one another better to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

In South Yorkshire, fire crews already attend hundreds of ‘medical break-ins’ every year, where they gain access to properties where people are thought to be in need of urgent medical attention, but where ambulance service paramedics cannot get to them. This work used to be carried out by the police.

Plans were announced earlier this year to create ambulance stand-by points at up to five fire stations in South Yorkshire. The existing fire stations at Aston Park, Barnsley, Birley Moor, Edlington and Parkway will be modified to allow ambulance staff to share space in one of the first schemes of its kind in the country.

A Local Intervention and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team has been also been set up in Sheffield which sees fire and police staff visit hundreds of homes in the city to reduce fire risk in properties, improve security and help people who have fallen and contribute to reducing the risk of falls.



Did you know you can watch all Authority meetings LIVE?

All Fire Authority meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on the internet. Visit www.southyorks.gov.uk. You can also view previous meetings.

Whilst viewing the meeting you can contribute comments and debate proceedings with other viewers via CoveritLive or Twitter.

Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter



@syFireAuth

MP visits project to transform Swinton as part of fire and police youth development scheme

Wentworth and Dearne MP John Healey will meet young people taking part in a major local youth development programme this week- the first scheme of its kind to be jointly run by the police and fire services anywhere in the UK.



The Prince's Trust Team Programme is being delivered by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and South Yorkshire Police from Dearne fire station.

Team Programme is a 12 week personal course for unemployed 16 to 25 year olds, offering work experience, qualifications, practical training and a residential development week.

The programme also gets young people to nominate their own community project, with those on the current scheme choosing to transform the centre of Swinton- fixing benches, clearing graffiti, picking litter and planting trees and flowers.

John Healey MP said: "Young people are the future of this area and it is fantastic that both fire and police are working together to transform not only the lives of those on this programme, but also the places where they live."

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Team Leader John Daley said: "Team Programme is about more than simply boosting young people's employment skills. It gives them hope, confidence and the opportunity to make a difference. The community project the young people are involved in this week is the perfect proof of that aspiration and we hope the sense of achievement it gives them will give them the self-belief which they can transfer to their future lives."

A second Team Programme is also running currently from Barnsley fire station.

Safe as Houses?

Are you a housing provider with properties in South Yorkshire?

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue would like to invite you to attend a free event to find out about your fire safety responsibilities to protect your tenants and residents.

Protecting the Vulnerable from Fire

The event will take place on **Weds 11 Jan 2017** at SYFR Training and Development Centre, Beaver Hill Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, S13 9QA.

How we can support you:

Clear information

The event will include speakers from the SYFR Business Fire Safety team and guests focussed on identifying best practice and legal responsibilities in high risk residential settings.

Sprinklers and suppression

Our sprinkler and suppression advocate will be on hand to show how assisted technology can reduce fire risk to occupants.

Funding

Find out about the Fire Authority's **Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR)** and how to apply for funding to help with the cost of installation of fire suppression systems.

The SSCR Fund Co-ordinator will be presenting along with representatives from successful projects.

Spaces are **limited** and will be available on a first come first served basis. Please register your interest by email to: TFSCennSupp@syfire.gov.uk



**South Yorkshire
FIRE & RESCUE**



CFOA
Chief Fire Officers
Association

