



Making Cheshire Safer

Bonfire Period Report 2017

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1. Introduction

The annual bonfire season represents a period of increased activity for Police and Fire & Rescue Services (FRS) in the UK. As such, plans for limiting deliberate fire activity and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) are put in place during this time.

ASB includes the setting of deliberate fires, in addition to nuisance and celebratory bonfires. This places pressure on the resources of Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service (the Service) due to an increase in call levels to incidents classed as small deliberate fires (SDF).

The Service and its partners recognise the damage inflicted on communities by ASB during the bonfire season. Significant amounts of time, effort, resources and money are expended in an attempt to ensure the safety and well-being of communities, whilst allowing and encouraging people to celebrate the season safely.

We have also considered that Bonfire Period dates coincide with Halloween, and it is recognised that these dates are opportunities for ASB of all types, not just fire related ASB. There is also an event called 'Mischief night' on the 30th November which also presents both Fire and Police staff with increased levels of ASB.

We have therefore decided this year to align the Service's Bonfire Period recording dates with the fixed dates historically used by Cheshire Constabulary to record ASB so it is a more accurate method of comparing all types of ASB together. The data section in this report will explain this more fully.

In summary, this new alignment of Police and the Service's dates changes the overall perceived trends when we align the data retrospectively. Although the annual SDF trend continues downward year on year, there are some year on year increases in SDF activity in some station areas during the Bonfire and ASB period.

2. Recording of Incidents

The bonfire reporting period 2017 captured data from 0800hrs 24th October to 0800hrs 7th November. Data from these dates has also been examined for the preceding 4 years for all types of ASB.

As there is no specific bonfire reporting category on the Incident Recording System (IRS), this report relates to all secondary (small) deliberate fires. The reasoning for this is that the difference between a bonfire and a pile of rubbish set on fire is a very subjective one for crews attending, so the inclusion of all SDFs in this report will continue.

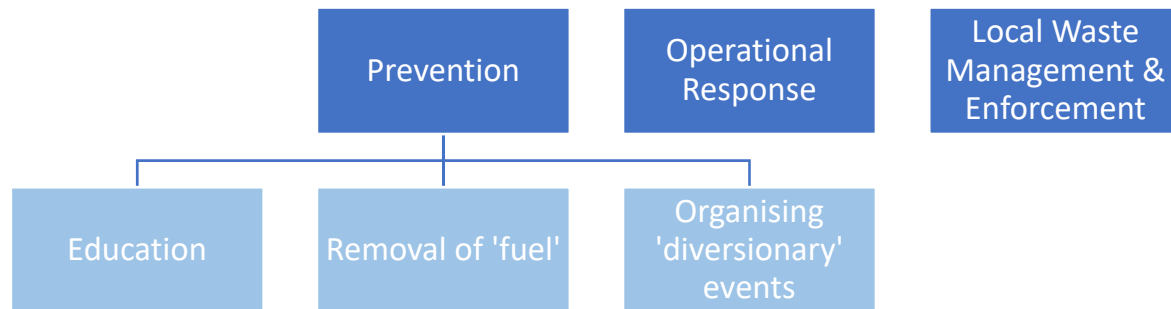
Guidance was detailed in the Green Bulletin, as in previous years, to outline reporting parameters during the bonfire period.

Bonfires, allowed to burn as safe celebratory fires, were to be recorded as 'Good Intent false alarm', instead of fires that required action or controlled burning. This is consistent with recording procedures in other FRSs.

Following the issue of this guidance, there were 18 of 64 incidents recorded as False Alarm Good Intent on Bonfire night, and others throughout the recording period.

3. Pre Planning and Partnership Activity

Service Delivery Group Managers, Station Managers and Lead Advocates engaged with local partners to plan a variety of interventions and strategies based on local needs and historical data. The objectives of these interventions and strategies were as follows:



Local strategies were again produced for Ellesmere Port, Winsford, Warrington, and Halton. Each of these four local 'Bonfire Groups' is attended by the local Station Manager and/or the Station Manager responsible for arson reduction. Bonfire activity levels in any of the individual Cheshire East station areas do not warrant the formation of a specific strategy. SDF activities are however addressed at regular local meetings and appropriate interventions are planned if necessary.

4. Bonfire Removal Schemes and Waste Management

Cheshire East - the bonfire collection service in Cheshire East is offered by the local authority as part of the 'Streetscene' service. Much of this service is delivered by the community payback offenders working for the Probation Service. Additional fly-tipping and bonfire removals are provided by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) - Plus Dane in the Congleton area, and Wulvern Housing in Crewe. These services apply only to issues on land belonging to them.

Cheshire West and Chester (CW&C) - the bonfire removal service has been provided by Streetscene staff for a number of years, with support from Weaver Vale Housing Trust and Plus Dane who also operate an additional collection and clearance service on their own land in Winsford and Ellesmere Port.

A proactive stance was taken by CW&C council staff regarding 'fuel' removal. Wheelie bins and recycling containers left out or abandoned were removed by regular patrols in known areas of high fire related ASB activity. Enforcement letters are distributed to properties that fail to comply with standing instructions regarding domestic waste management, for example where wheelie bins were kept permanently on the pavement. Bonfire removals were once again provided by a separate team patrolling known areas of activity based on the Service's data and reports from our staff. This

additional bonfire removal team is provided for approximately one week each year and funded by the local authority.

Halton - the bonfire removal scheme in Halton has previously been provided by a contractor (Smiths). Following a review of the cost of this service, which is shared by the RSL's, it was decided to bring the bonfire removal service back 'in house' and this work would be done by Halton Borough Council (HBC) staff. HBC now operate the service in the same way as other local authorities, responding to reports from our staff, and patrolling the known risk areas to identify potential incidents and remove them.

Warrington - Bonfire removal services in Warrington have historically been provided by Warrington Borough Council (WBC), with support from Cheshire Probation Service and community payback offenders. A specific bonfire removal service was not provided due to a lack of demand in previous years. However, the service was dealt with and fast tracked via the 'Contact Warrington' telephone number for members of the public. In addition, operational crews were able to communicate directly with the bonfire removal team via a dedicated mobile phone. Targeted arson routes were planned and patrolled by operational crews using local data. Any fly-tipping or unlit bonfires found were then reported to WBC for removal.

All Areas – Operational crews increased their pre-planned arson route activities in 2017 enabling them to provide valuable real time information to Streetscene and other fuel removal services operating in their local areas.

5. Educational Events and Activities

A more targeted approach to education has been adopted by the Service in recent years, and this continued across all areas in 2017. Using local intelligence, educational events were planned and delivered in specific locations based on fire related ASB and school catchment areas. Educational events were delivered by the Service's Prevention team and operational staff in partnership with Cheshire Police at a number of schools, community centres and other locations. A consistent message promoting organised displays, ASB, and firework safety was delivered by our own staff using a presentation developed by Prevention staff.

Separate presentations have been developed for delivery at primary and secondary schools. These educational packages were refreshed last year, and physical resources were delivered to each of the key stations where targeted education was scheduled. Operational staff organised and delivered the primary school educational visits, in conjunction with key stage 2 visits scheduled for the weeks preceding bonfire night. Feedback from crews delivering the education and school staff has been excellent.

In Halton, 8 primary schools have historically received additional education in all forms of fire safety via the Phoenix schools programme. This gives each watch additional contact to allocated schools throughout the year. All 8 Phoenix schools were attended this year and the presentation was delivered by operational crews.

Warrington schools were again targeted very precisely according to known historical areas of fire related ASB and bonfire data.

Secondary school visits were coordinated by Prevention managers and delivered by Advocates and Cheshire Police staff. In CW&C, the efforts were targeted at Winsford High Schools and Primary Schools known to be 'fed' by the residents of high activity areas.

6. Diversionary Events, Activities and Enforcement.

The term Diversionary Events and Activities refers to any activity intended to reduce opportunities for fire related ASB and which encourages residents to enjoy the celebrations in a safe manner. These include organised bonfire and firework displays, youth work and other events.

Diversionary events vary across the 4 local authority areas and the relevant local strategy groups in Warrington, Halton, Ellesmere Port, and Winsford. There are dozens of organised displays held by local pubs, community groups, parish councils, PTAs etc. Encouraging people to attend organised displays continues to be Service policy, and these events are publicised on the Service website when we are notified of them.

Cheshire East - fire related ASB and deliberate fire activity in Cheshire East is still at a relatively low level in comparison to other unitary areas.

Youth and community groups organise a number of events during the bonfire weekend and the preceding half-term school holiday and there were a number of organised bonfire and firework events. Due to relatively low levels of fire related ASB, there is little need for partnership activity and the formation of a specific strategy in Cheshire East.

Cheshire West and Chester – The key firework events in CW&C are the Lions' displays in Ellesmere Port and Chester. The Chester event at the Roodee is well established, and the Lions have staged an event in Ellesmere Port following a request by the Service in 2010. The Service no longer support these events with funding.

Northwich and Winsford have similar large local events organised by local charity groups, held at local sports stadia, and a further organised display in the Wharton area. These events are well attended by local residents.

The Winsford Bonfire Strategy Group responded to the expected increase in SDF activity during the Bonfire period by increasing the number of diversionary activities for 2017. The Service and local groups held Pizza and Smoothie nights for young people within the known areas of fire related ASB. Throughout the lead up week to Bonfire Night, a 'Bonfire Boot Camp' and 'Streetwise Soccer' event was staged to engage with the young people and encourage them to keep fit as well as receiving guidance from Police and Firefighters. The Police increased patrols and presence in the Winsford area for a three week period, and multi agency 'ward walks' enabled Fire,

Police and Weaver Vale housing staff to effectively engage with residents. The Service also employed the On the Streets team in Wharton.

Cheshire Police again engaged with known previous fire related ASB offenders in Winsford and Ellesmere Port during half-term to demonstrate to them that their behaviour was not acceptable, and was being monitored.

Halton - HBC organises and funds one large firework display, which is always very well attended. This takes place on the bank of the Mersey and Ship Canal to ensure a good view from several locations. The council do not encourage other smaller bonfire events to be organised by local groups at this time.

Halton has a known problem on Mischief Night (30th October) when ASB activity of all types increases. Local youth groups targeted locations during the Halloween period and on bonfire night. The brief for these youth workers was to coordinate distraction activities. Community centres were made available as drop in centres for residents, attended by police officers, youth workers and our staff.

Warrington (Birchwood and Stockton Heath) - the Warrington Bonfire Strategy group has not previously engaged in diversionary events, preferring to concentrate on the management of bonfire fuel by removing waste from targeted areas, and schools education provided by Service staff. The WBC Regulatory Services Team is proactive in enforcing illegal firework sales and illegal bonfires, and the WBC Community Safety team endeavoured to locate and publicise all of the planned organised events in the area and encourage residents to attend and enjoy.

7. Operational Response

Small Incident Units (SIUs), have been deployed in the busier areas during the bonfire period for several years now, specifically Warrington, Halton and Winsford. Deployment has been varied and the additional cost reduced significantly by paying closer attention to planning and limiting deployment based on risk and data from previous years. The appliances used for these additional resources in 2017 were the on call appliances from Penketh, Runcorn and Winsford. This deployment allows on call staff in development at those stations the opportunity to gain experience of 'spate' conditions, whilst leaving the wholetime appliances available for life risk incidents.

Deployment costs for these 'additional' appliances have therefore reduced considerably year on year; the total cost for the Bonfire Period is now well below £10k, which compares well to the £40+k costs when we first deployed SIU's in 2010. These appliances were deployed flexibly during four evenings from 1600-2200 hrs. It is necessary to maintain a presence of at least one SM with good local knowledge in NWFC to enable risk based mobilisations to take place, often overriding the 'proposed resources' offered by the system in order to maintain availability.

Availability of SIUs at times of peak activity allows other appliances to be available for incidents that may pose a threat to life or property and, it will be recommended that

this practice continues in future. SIU provision and deployment continued to be a cost effective means of maintaining structural appliance availability.

8. North West Fire Control

Extensive planning again took place for the 2017 bonfire period in North West Fire Control (NWFC). Prior to 2014, each FRS control had their own methods of dealing with expected spate call conditions. This was in addition to separate procedures for unlit bonfires, firework incidents, filtering or challenging calls, and mobilising procedures. NWFC planning meetings examined and retained best practice already in place in previous FRS Controls and evaluated and reviewed the systems adopted by NWFC in 2015 with an intention to adopt them as a common practice where possible.

Many of the practices adopted across all 4 Services by NWFC are based on procedures previously used only in Cheshire. Of particular note is the call challenging procedure adopted by NWFC in 2014; this originated in Cheshire and has resulted in risk based non attendance to incidents in all NWFC FRS areas. This call challenge has also been adopted by Cheshire Police Control so that bonfire incidents are assessed before referral to NWFC. The call challenge and 'tolerance' procedure was also communicated to all operational police staff in order to reduce the number of calls from patrols.

A call handling and mobilising procedure was operated on 4th, 5th and 6th of November. This consisted of a group of staff whose task it was to receive calls, apply call filtering questions and then stack incidents for mobilising by a pod of 3 or 4 staff according to local risk and local knowledge. Pod staff were permitted to over-ride resources offered by the system and to leave certain calls unattended for a short period if appropriate. The mobilising decisions in each pod were the responsibility of an attending Station Manager (or higher) from each FRS.

NWFC 5th November 2017 Statistics

These figures are between the hours of 1600-0000 hrs on 5th November 2017:

Total number of emergency calls: **782** (average of 98 calls per hour) however the busiest time was between 1800-2200 hrs the hourly rate of incidents created (including duplicate incidents) is shown below:

1600 – 1700hrs = 56

1700 – 1800hrs = 97

1800 - 1900hrs = 130

1900 – 2000hrs = 142

2000 – 2100 hrs = 156

2100 – 2200hrs =107

2200 – 2300hrs = 65

2300 – 2400hrs = 49

Total = 800 incidents created

Total Bonfire Incidents reported: 409

25 x CuFRS
63 x CFRS
223 x GMFRS
96 x LFRS
2 x OTB (Merseyside)

See table below showing the percentage of non-mobilisations through call challenge:

FRS	Mobilisation	No Mobilisation	%	Total Challenged
Cheshire	32	12	27.27%	44
Cumbria	13	4	23.53%	17
Greater Manchester	109	41	27.33%	150
Lancashire	42	26	38.24%	68

Breakdown of Incidents:

175 x Duplicate Incidents
18 x Abandoned Calls
42 x Administrative Incidents (planned events, hazard zones etc)
13 x AFA Residential
3 x Animal Rescue
1 x Arson Threat
4 x Assist Other Agency
20 x AFA Able to Check
50 x Building Fires
1 x Caravan/Camping
1 x Carbon Monoxide Alarm
6 x Casualty Care (First Aid)
1 x Dangerous Structure
3 x Flooding Affecting Electrics
1 x Late Fire Call
1 x Malicious Call
1 x NWAS Gaining Entry
1 x Person locked in/out
10 x Persons Reported
1 x Rescue of Persons threatening to jump in water.
1 x Ring Removal
6 x RTCs
1 x Ship Sinking in Dock
417 x Small Fires
4 x Smoke Alarms
13 x Vehicle Fires
5 x Incident Cancelled

9. Media and Corporate Communications

During the bonfire period, two key messages were pushed out on the Service website and via social media:

1. To encourage residents to attend an organised bonfire or firework display.
2. To discourage people from starting a bonfire for a 'laugh'.

Other safety messages were also included on the website and in the social media plan, including messages about firework safety advice, sparkler safety advice, etc.

There was a comprehensive list of community bonfire and firework displays on the Service website.

Summary of social media posts on Facebook and Twitter

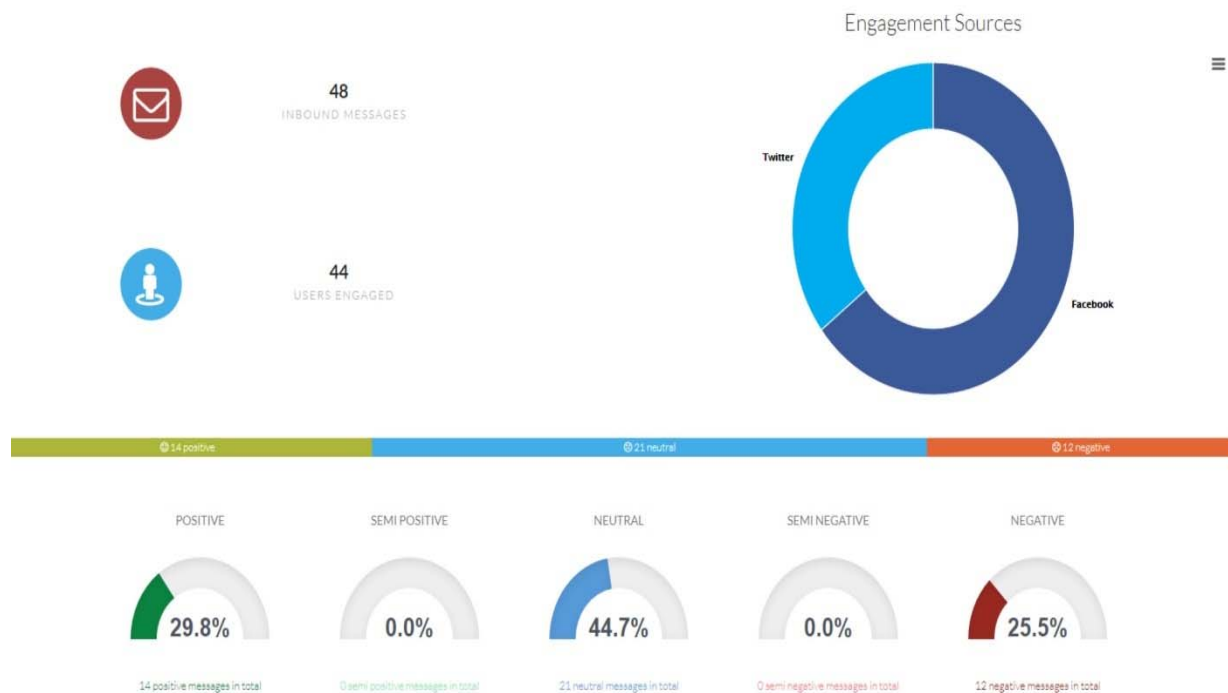
Report start	Report end	Total posts	Total clicks	Total reach	Total retweets / shares	Total likes	Total comments
18/10/2017	08/11/2017	69	820	2,372,997	364	496	43

Top posts by clicks

Account	Date	Reach	Shares	Likes	Comments	Text
Facebook	02/11/2017	3063	5	4	3	Do you know which bonfire/fireworks display you're going to this weekend? Why not choose from our list - http://socsi.in/vGcEK
Twitter	02/11/2017	47635	6	4	1	Do you know which bonfire/fireworks display you're going to this weekend? Why not choose from our list - http://socsi.in/oIOBh
Facebook	04/11/2017	2946	5	7	0	Loads of organised bonfire/firework displays taking place tonight. Visit our website for a list http://socsi.in/F0ZgB Have a great time!
Twitter	28/10/2017	219928	18	17	0	Attend an organised firework display if possible, rather than hosting at home. List of displays on our website - http://socsi.in/FmuAn
Twitter	04/11/2017	46719	3	0	0	Loads of organised bonfire/firework displays taking place tonight. Visit our website for a list http://socsi.in/nuuCF Have a great time!
Twitter	31/10/2017	40786	0	0	0	Emergency Services working together to keep people safe as Bonfire Night approaches - http://socsi.in/lzi0C
Twitter	05/11/2017	45103	6	3	0	Have a great Bonfire Night this evening - and remember to stay safe! http://socsi.in/oV1zD
Twitter	05/11/2017	42139	5	3	0	Following a burn or scald, make sure you cool call and cover - http://socsi.in/OPs1a
Twitter	28/10/2017	67080	12	12	0	Residents can reduce the risks of arson by ensuring their wheelie bins are stored away and secure http://socsi.in/cLZPU
Twitter	31/10/2017	45157	4	9	0	Happy #Halloween everyone! 🎃 We hope you have a great evening but please stay safe http://socsi.in/DgvT3

Top posts by reach

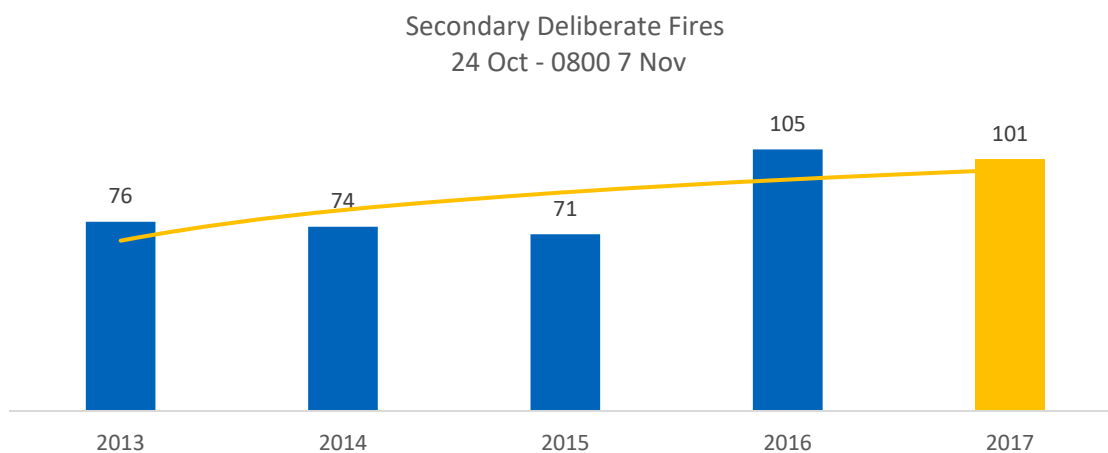
Account	Date	Reach	Shares	Likes	Comments	Text
Twitter	31/10/2017	242611	21	14	0	Blow off the cobwebs this #Halloween and make sure your smoke alarm is working - it could save your life! #TestItTuesday 📢 🧡
Twitter	28/10/2017	219928	18	17	0	Attend an organised firework display if possible, rather than hosting at home. List of displays on our website - http://socsi.in/FmuAn
Twitter	27/10/2017	208228	12	7	0	You can do your bit to reduce the likelihood of deliberate fires by making sure wheelie bins and rubbish are not left out in the open
Twitter	31/10/2017	97463	9	10	0	Happy #Halloween! Follow our safety advice to make sure you have safe and enjoyable day 📢 🧡 http://socsi.in/fhawa
Twitter	01/11/2017	95328	13	6	0	Bonfires and nuisance fires can quickly spiral out of control and can cause devastation to the local community - even risk lives!
Twitter	31/10/2017	89798	6	1	0	Keep those Halloween costumes away from flames. But if they DO catch fire – STOP, DROP & ROLL - http://socsi.in/1nDGc
Twitter	04/11/2017	75760	7	8	0	Remember remember!! Attend an organised bonfire or fireworks display this weekend - they're much safer! http://socsi.in/o6Z72
Twitter	03/11/2017	70818	14	15	0	Did you know that sparklers get five times hotter than cooking oil? Please follow our sparkler safety advice http://socsi.in/LGZwp
Twitter	28/10/2017	67080	12	12	0	Residents can reduce the risks of arson by ensuring their wheelie bins are stored away and secure http://socsi.in/CLZPU
Twitter	03/11/2017	58866	4	2	0	It's safer to attend an organised bonfire/firework event, but if you're organising your own follow our safety advice http://socsi.in/IYxY9



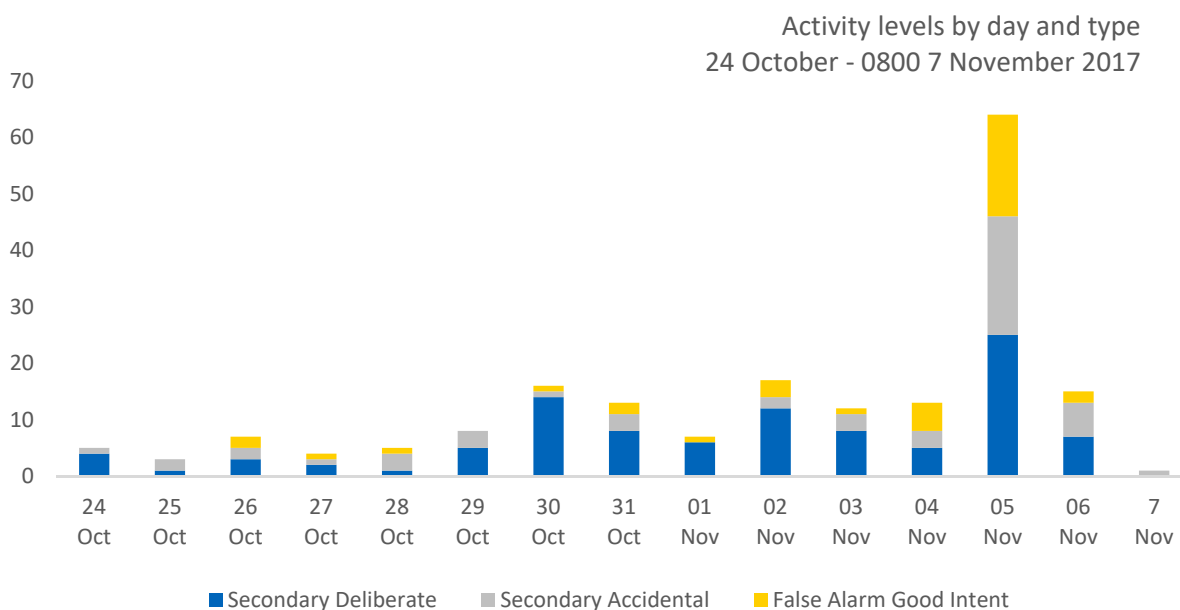
10. Incident Data and Performance Summary

Incidents recorded during the bonfire period

The following graph illustrates the overall trend of deliberate small fires in Cheshire over the last 5 years – although there were more fires recorded than 5 years ago during this year’s Bonfire Period, the 2017 period has seen a positive year on year reduction of 4%



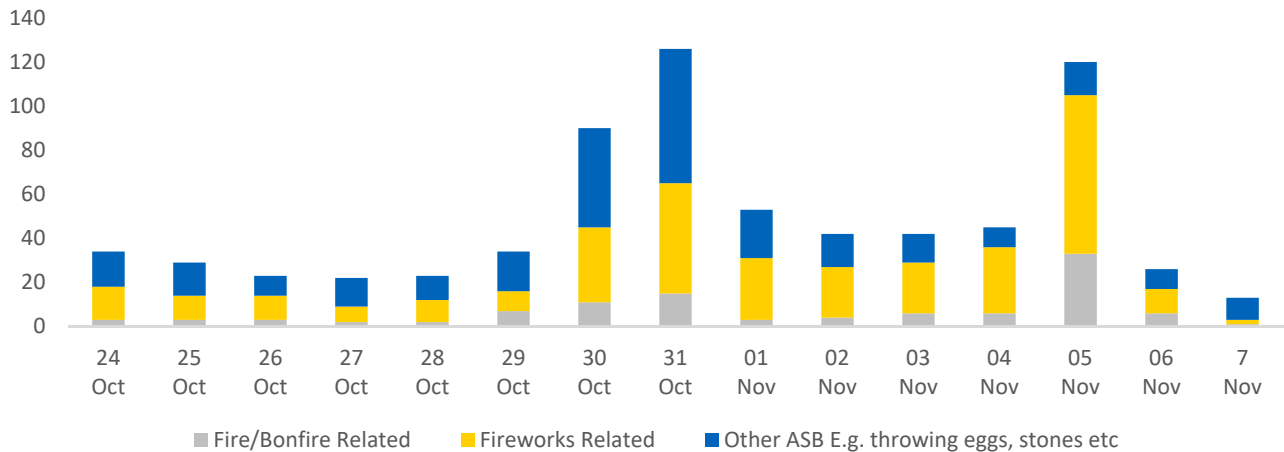
- A total of 25 secondary deliberate fires were recorded on bonfire night, however a total of 64 bonfire related incidents were attended – 18 (28%) of these incidents were ‘False Alarms Good Intent’ and 21 incidents (33%) were ‘Secondary Accidental’.
- The following shows activity levels by day and recording type:



Using the previous graph and the following graph to compare SDF fire activity to levels of ASB/Criminal Damage reported to the Police during this same time period, they both show similar trajectories throughout with the same peaks noticeable on

31/10 ('Mischief Night') and 05/11 (Bonfire Night) as to be expected – however recorded incident volumes of ASB/Criminal Damage are noticeably higher than deliberate fire incidents.

ASB & Criminal Damage activity by day & type
24 October - 7 November



The following two charts also shows a comparison of the time and day of when high or low activity is occurring for both deliberate fires and ASB/Criminal Damage – again apart from differences in incident volumes they show very similar peak times and days.

Deliberate Fire Activity

Hour	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
00	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	2.0%
01	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
02	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
03	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
04	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
05	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
06	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
07	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
08	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
09	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
10	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
13	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%
14	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	3.0%
15	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	5.9%
16	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.0%	0.0%	4.0%
17	2.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	5.0%	9.9%
18	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	4.0%	12.9%
19	2.0%	0.0%	2.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.9%	16.8%
20	5.0%	0.0%	1.0%	4.0%	2.0%	2.0%	5.9%	19.8%
21	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	11.9%
22	1.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.0%
23	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	4.0%
Total	20.8%	11.9%	6.9%	14.9%	9.9%	5.9%	29.7%	100.0%

ASB Activity

Hour	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
00	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.7%	1.4%
01	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%
02	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
03	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
04	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
05	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
06	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
07	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
08	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%
09	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	1.2%
10	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	1.2%
11	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%
13	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	1.8%
14	0.1%	0.4%	0.8%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	1.0%	3.2%
15	0.7%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	0.4%	3.2%
16	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	1.0%	3.2%
17	1.7%	2.5%	1.0%	0.8%	0.4%	0.6%	2.4%	9.3%
18	2.2%	4.2%	1.7%	0.7%	0.3%	1.0%	3.0%	13.0%
19	3.0%	5.1%	1.8%	1.8%	2.1%	1.5%	3.3%	18.7%
20	4.0%	4.8%	1.8%	2.1%	1.9%	1.5%	3.0%	19.3%
21	1.8%	2.5%	1.4%	1.0%	0.6%	1.5%	2.5%	11.2%
22	1.1%	2.1%	0.4%	0.3%	1.1%	1.4%	1.2%	7.6%
23	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	2.1%
Total	16.1%	24.0%	11.4%	9.0%	8.9%	9.4%	21.3%	100.0%

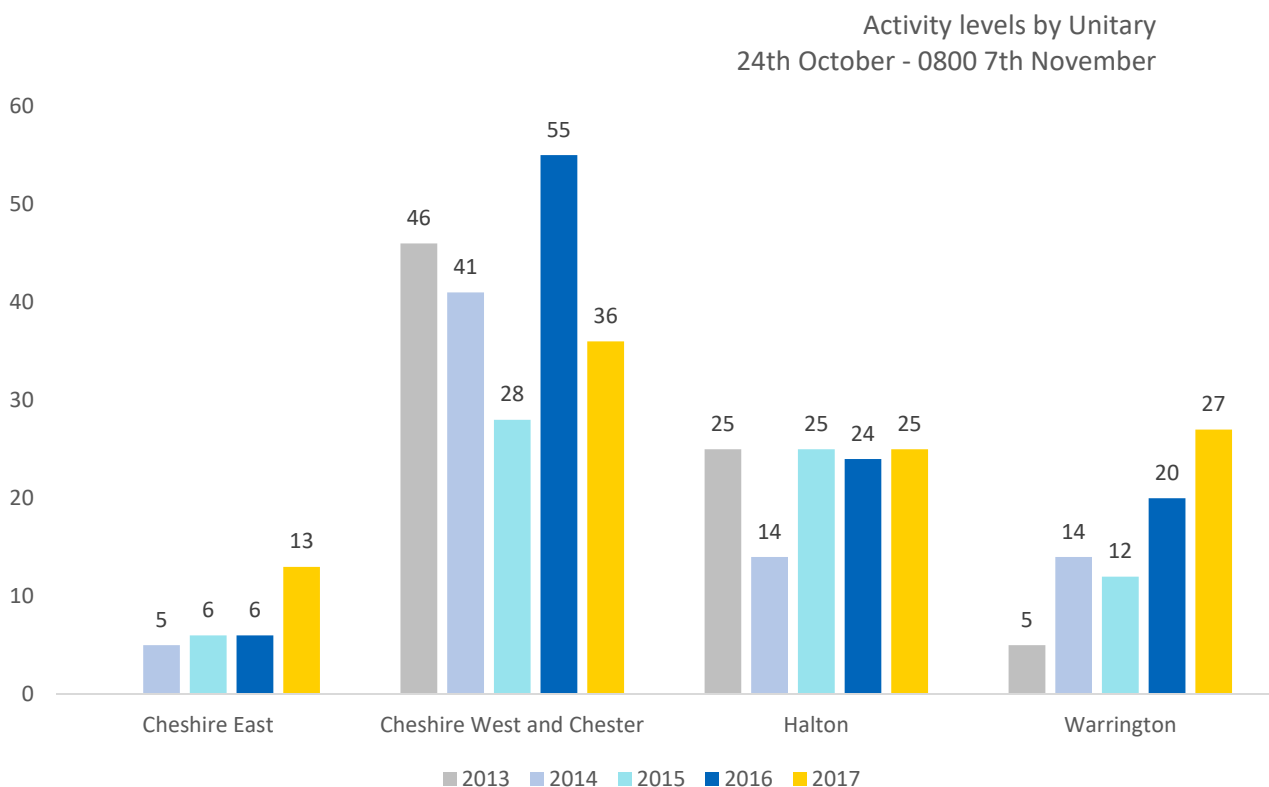
Unitary Performance

Just one of the four unitary areas (Cheshire West & Chester) recorded a year on year decrease in SDF during this year's bonfire period, with the same unitary area the only one to have seen decreases compared to 5 years ago. This can be seen as follows (Figs. 2 and 3):

Fig.2

	2017	2016	Change	2013	5 Year change
Cheshire East	13	6	+7	0	+13
Cheshire West & Chester	36	55	-19	46	-10
Halton	25	24	+1	25	0
Warrington	27	20	+7	5	+22

Fig. 3



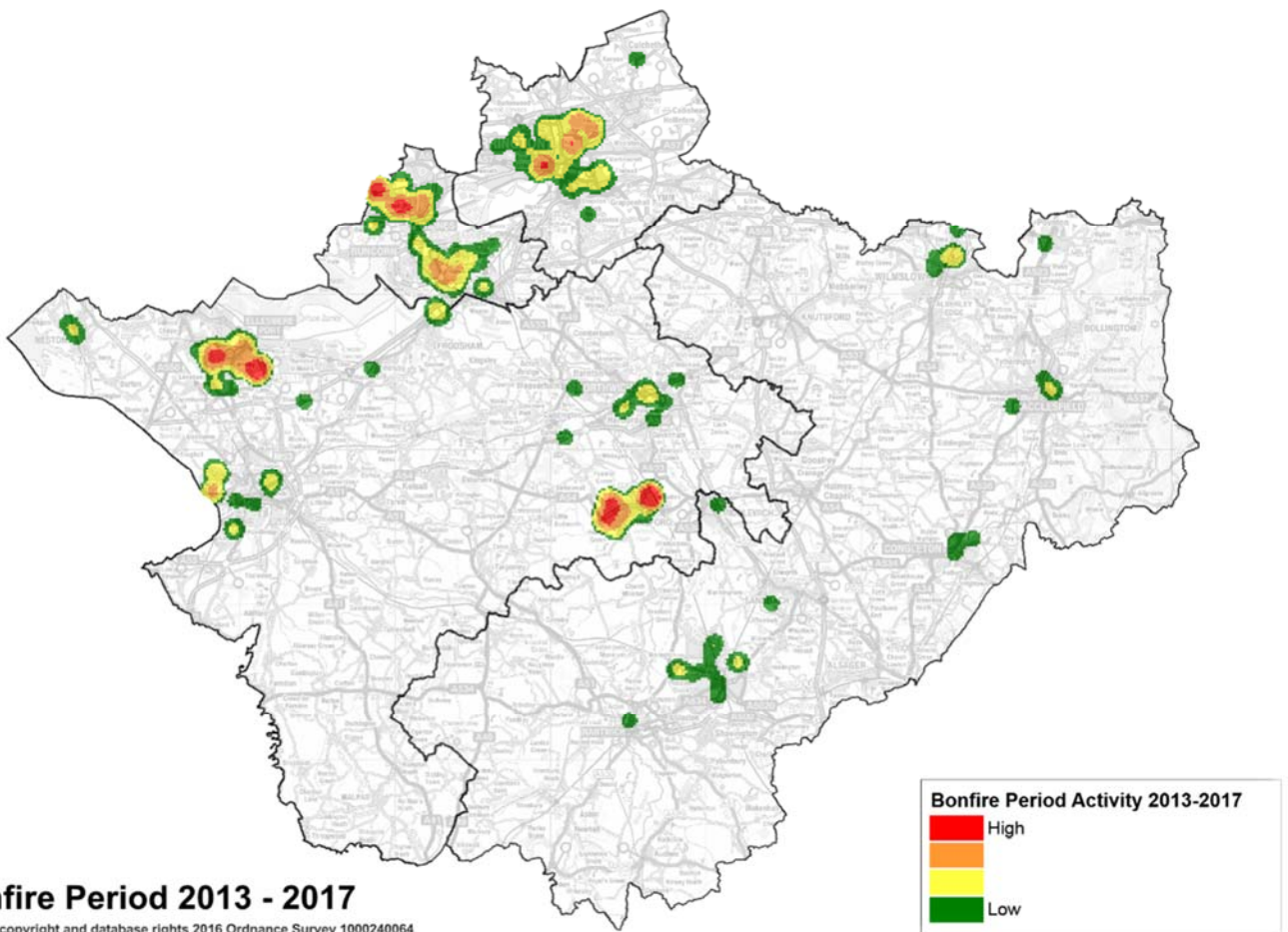
Station Performance

In total, there were 15 station areas which recorded SDF activity during the Bonfire Period, with 6 of these only reporting 1 incident each.

The following table summarises activity by the station areas with the highest volume of activity during the 2017 reporting period.

These 5 station areas accounted for 79% of all SDF activity recorded during the period.

	2017	2016	Change	2013	5 Year change
Warrington	24	19	+5	4	+20
Widnes	19	17	+2	19	0
Ellesmere Port	16	9	+7	16	0
Winsford	15	31	-16	24	-9
Runcorn	6	7	-1	6	0



11. Accidents and Near Misses

03/11/2017	16:45	November	17/18	Near miss attack	1	Appliance came under attack by way of fireworks and stones - no injuries or damage to appliance	Ops Fire	Near Burma Star Pub, Halton Brook, Runcorn	Hit by a moving, flying, or falling object
30/10/2017	20:17	October	17/18	Near miss attack	1	Crews attended reports of lit bonfire, found large rubbish fire and youths throwing fireworks at firefighters	Routine off premises	Conway Ave, Winsford	Exposed to fire/heat

12. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a) The delivery of targeted and timely education to schools in all Service Delivery areas should continue to be led by the Service, ahead of other organisations. A working group of Lead Advocates and the Station Manager responsible for arson reduction will review the education currently offered and implement improvements.
- b) This educational plan should be incorporated into Service Delivery plans for 2018/19 and monitored closely to ensure compliance and level of engagement, particularly with secondary schools where contact has been difficult to date.
- c) Bonfire Strategy Groups should continue to encourage safe organised displays to allow people to safely celebrate bonfire night. Where possible or appropriate, these should be supported by the Service and partners.
- d) Planning meetings for the relevant Strategy Groups should start no later than June 2018.
- e) Use of SIUs should be targeted over an appropriate number of evenings and the number of vehicles to remain at 4 to cover the known risk areas.
- f) Service and partner agency resources and efforts should continue to be focused in areas where intelligence suggests that high incident volumes may occur.
- g) Where possible, partner agencies should be persuaded to continue the free removal schemes for the removal of large items, (normally a chargeable service), during the preceding month. This should be discussed with partners at Bonfire Strategy Group planning meetings.
- h) The tolerance policy adopted by the Service this year has proven successful and should be continued. The desire to celebrate bonfire night is present in most areas, and residents should be encouraged to do so in a safe manner.
- i) Targeted youth activity should be repeated using the On the Streets Team and volunteers, based on data provided by the Business Intelligence Unit.

- j) The use of our Communications staff to provide live social media updates should continue.
- k) Consideration should again be given to a local newspaper reporter riding appliances in the areas of higher activity. An SIU would be appropriate.
- l) Continually review the practice of making cash contributions to organised displays, particularly in Chester and Ellesmere Port, and as an alternative fund the provision of diversionary activities in known areas of increased call activity.
- m) Continue to provide an ongoing programme of Primary Respect courses in targeted schools.

13. Summary and conclusions

The total number of SDF attended during the period was slightly higher than in previous years. Some areas maintained the levels recorded in previous years, or showed reductions, whilst others showed increased levels of activity. It should be noted that there are considerable improvements to the totals of almost 300 SDF's that we experienced less than 10 years ago.

Engagement: Some areas received increased engagement by our staff and other agencies. Consistent, timely and targeted delivery of bonfire and firework education was delivered to plan. The timeliness of this delivery is important to its effectiveness.

Fuel removal: Bonfire removal schemes continue to be an effective means of reducing the numbers of SDFs. A visual presence of teams actively removing material also discouraged the rebuilding of bonfires.

Incident recording: The tolerant, risk based approach to dealing with incidents and recording will have impacted on the number of incidents recorded as SDFs.

Weather: It has been found that weather conditions experienced over the bonfire period will have an impact on incident volumes. For example, we know from previous years that rainfall will suppress activity; it can therefore be reasonably assumed that the fair weather experienced during the 2017 bonfire period will have presented increased opportunities for ASB activity.

Cross Departmental Work: Departments throughout the Service were proactive during the run up to and including the bonfire period. Without the efforts of staff and partners it is likely that the number of SDFs would have been much greater.

The positive effect of the combined efforts of all involved on the quality of life of the residents of Cheshire is difficult to quantify, but is important to recognise.