



Bonfire Period Report 2019

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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, and nuisance fires. This places pressure on the resources of Cheshire Fire & Rescue 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 a period referred to as 'Mischief night' on the 30th November which also presents both Fire and Police staff with increased levels of ASB.

The Service's Bonfire Period recording dates align with dates also 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, the alignment of Police and the Service's dates (this started in 2017) 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 reporting period.

2. Recording of Incidents

The bonfire reporting period 2018 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

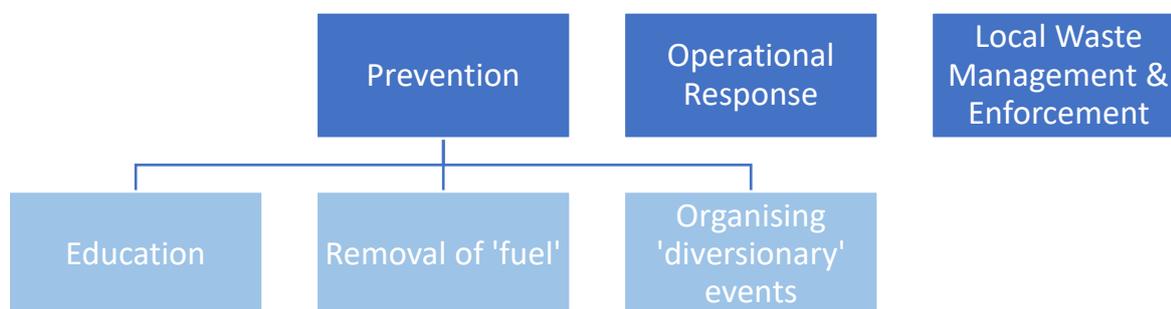
As there is no specific bonfire reporting category on the Incident Recording System (IRS) (this is the national method used to complete a fire report) this report relates to all small deliberate fires (SDF). The reason for this is that the difference between a bonfire and a pile of rubbish set on fire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

The following guidance was promulgated to operational crews, as in previous years, to outline reporting parameters during the bonfire period for use on the IRS system.

- If a Bonfire is lit prior to a planned celebration, i.e. as an act of Anti Social Behaviour, and needs to be extinguished because it is a nuisance or dangerous, then this must be recorded as a **small deliberate fire**.
- If a Bonfire is lit for celebratory purposes and needs to be extinguished because it is dangerous, out of control or deemed a nuisance, then this will be recorded as an **accidental small fire**.
- If a Bonfire is lit for celebratory purposes and is allowed to burn, and we do not need to take any action other than give advice then this should be recorded as a **false alarm good intent**. Add to the stop message that a Dynamic Risk Assessment has been completed and advice has been given. When completing the IRS please note that there is a specific category for a Good Intent false alarm >> Fire >> Bonfire.
- Other small deliberate or accidental fires e.g. wheelie bins, refuse, hedgerows, must be recorded as normal, and the investigation recorded fully on the Police Notification Report.

3. Pre Planning and Partnership Activity

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, and 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 did 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

All Areas –The Street-scene type format of the reporting and removal of waste continues to occur in all council areas, there are some subtle differences across areas but essentially the public could access a free of charge a service where by using a free phone number to report the location of the waste, it is then removed.

All Areas – Operational crews increased their pre-planned arson route activities in 2019 enabling them to provide valuable real time information to Street-scene and other fuel removal services operating in their local areas.

5. Educational Events and Activities

A targeted approach to education has been adopted by the Service in recent years, and this continued across all areas in 2019. 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, the detrimental impact of ASB, and firework safety was delivered by our own staff using a presentation developed by Prevention staff.

Bespoke presentations have been utilised for delivery at primary and secondary schools. Operational staff organised and delivered the primary school educational visits, in conjunction with key stage 2 visits scheduled for the weeks preceding bonfire night.

Information was also delivered to the public, relating to having safe bonfires at home. This is the first year the Service has adopted this approach as we recognised there were a large number of the local communities who did/could not attend organised displays. This was as a result of intelligence from previous years showing a need to address problem bonfires held on private property.

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 public houses, community groups, parish councils, PTAs etc. Encouraging people to attend organised displays continues to be Service's approach to bonfire safety, and upon notification of these events, by the organiser(s), they are publicised on the Service website.

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 limited partnership activity and the formation of a specific strategy in Cheshire East is not required.

Cheshire West and Chester – The Winsford Bonfire Strategy Group worked in partnership with Cheshire Police, CWAC Council, Weaver Vale Housing, the local ASB team and Youth Engagement team to minimise SDF activity during the Bonfire

period. The Service and partners held events for young people within the known areas of fire related ASB throughout the lead up to Bonfire Night, events were held at Wharton and Over Verdin Youth Clubs. This included 2 discos, a Halloween Party and a Smoothie and Pizza night.

Sessions were used to engage with the young people and to receiving guidance from Police and Firefighters and partners. The Police increased patrols and presence in the Winsford area for the period, and 3 multi agency 'ward walks' enabled Fire, Police and Weaver Vale housing staff to engage with residents. The Service also utilised the On the Streets team in the area to directly engage with the public.

The key firework events in CW&C are displays in Chester, Ellesmere Port and Winsford. Held at the Roodee, Whitby Park and Barton Stadium respectively. 10 Family tickets were purchased for members of the public for the Winsford Town Firework Display. To ensure they could not be re-sold the names were on the tickets, of the persons attending and therefore were not transferable.

In the Chester and Ellesmere Port area Youth Anti-Social Behaviour (YADE) events were held from the 26th Oct – 3rd November to act as diversionary events and to improve engagement with the local young people.

In Ellesmere Port extensive partnership working took place. This included joint engagement initiatives and intelligence sharing and community engagement. An initiative to create a community group in the Bunbury Green area has resulted in residents feel safer and more confident to report anti social behaviour and its perpetrators. Cheshire Police also had dispersal orders in place in hot spot areas in Ellesmere Port.

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 being monitored.

Prevention and Operational teams also gave safety advice during school visits within the areas.

All of these events were supported financially by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire Police and local partners.

Warrington – Crews targeted several areas within Warrington by use of current and historical fire related ASB and data.

A multi agency impact event took place on 9th October at Leicester Street and Whitecross Street, 29 Home safety assessments were completed. This also included a temporary trial of mobile CCTV, which was funded from the Police and Crime Commissioner these CCTV units are available for future joint working.

Torus Housing increased visits to the Leicester Street location as part of the local Bonfire Strategy as a follow up from the event on the 9th October. They continued to remove potential bonfire waste and promoted the safer bin storage. During one of

these site visits, they identified an abandoned caravan near to the Leicester Street roundabout which was subsequently removed.

Protection teams visited small businesses at Manley Gardens promoting safe storage of materials as some areas held tyres and pallets.

Cheshire Police added 5 additional patrols which were staffed from the 25th Oct to 5th November, also using Dispersal Orders in high activity areas. PCSO's attended several local schools giving Bonfire and Firework safety.

Halton Borough Council (HBC) - Organises one large firework display, which was well very well attended. This took place on the bank of the Mersey and Ship Canal. The council do not advocate other smaller bonfire events to be organised by local groups at this time.

Crews continued proactive work in the run-up and during the period, reporting any waste removal that was required.

Runcorn crews completed Arson routes and used bin stickers, utilising intelligence gained from previous fire locations for a targeted approach. Crews engaged with the owners of bins left out and placed a sticker on the bins of owners not present which gave safety advice relating to bin storage.

A Multi Agency Impact Day Event was held in Orford. Police, Torus Housing Association and Fire Crews delivered Safe and Well visits to residents. Prevention teams also worked with individual PCSO's to reassure the community that Police & Fire would be visible over the period.

Several School and Nursery visits were completed to promote fire safety and firework advice.

7. Operational Response

Small Incident Units (SIU) have been deployed in the busier areas during the bonfire period for several years. The appliances used for these additional resources in 2019 were the On-call appliances from Penketh, Runcorn, Winsford, Northwich and Macclesfield.

These SIU were deployed flexibly during five evenings from the 31st October – 5th November between 1600-2200 hrs. The services Deliberate Fire Reduction Manager attended North West Fire Control (NWFC) on the busiest evenings, 31st, 1st 2nd and 5th to enable risk based mobilisation to take place, often overriding the 'proposed resources' offered by the NWFC mobilising system in order to support and maintain cover levels across the County.

Due to the proposed Brexit withdrawal date planned for 31st October 2019 an additional 2 SIU were deployed. To minimise any detrimental impacts as a result.

Availability of SIU at times of peak activity allows other appliances to be available for incidents that may pose a threat to life or property and allows on call staff in development to gain operational experience, it is recommended that this practice continues in future. SIU provision and deployment continues to be an effective

means of maintaining structural appliance availability. The services Deliberate Fire Reduction Manager has thanked all the Oncall crews for their continued support and flexibility in this period which resulted in the completion of 80 periods of cover in total whilst not effecting the availability of their stations structural appliance.

Throughout the period these additional resources were programmed at NWFC as SIU. These were specifically instigated to deal with small fires prevalent over the bonfire period. However, due to the pre planning and support of Oncall personnel, we were able to staff these additional resources with the appropriate skill sets required, to attend life risk incidents, this enables us if the appliance is the nearest to a life risk it could attend.

8. North West Fire Control

Extensive planning took place for the 2019 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 during the period. NWFC staff were permitted to over-ride resources offered by the mobilising system and to leave certain calls unattended for a short period if appropriate. The mobilising decisions in each pod were the responsibility of a Station Manager (or higher) from each FRS.

9. Media and Corporate Communications

The Corporate Communications team actively promoted a number of key messages for the Service over the Halloween and Bonfire period which ran from 08:00 on October 24 to 08:00 on November 7.

Communications were promoted for the campaign internally and via the local press and social media for both events, with the main focus on Bonfire Night celebrations.

A briefing was sent by the Arson Reduction Manager to all stations via The Green to let them know what service activity was taking place and giving them a heads up about the Corporate Communications campaign.

Leaflets were produced and placed on the intranet for stations to draw down and hand out in their communities. (The leaflets were also utilised in the Burns Awareness Pack that personnel delivered in October 2019).

The Service issued three press releases during the Bonfire Period: “Tips to keep you safe this bonfire period”, “Mindless vandal’s cause disruption across Halton” and “Warrington and Warning to residents following increase in wheelie bin fires”.

The press releases received coverage from a number of local press outlets.

On Bonfire Night itself (5 November 2019), a Communications Officer went to North West Fire Control and updated incidents on the service website as they happened and published more serious incidents onto social media.

The Service issued 22 messages on Twitter and Facebook throughout the Bonfire period. Ten of these were issued on Bonfire Night, 5 November.

For Facebook the top three posts that received the most engagement from the public were:

 **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**
5 November 2019 ·

We're coming to you live from North West Fire Control to provide up to the minute news on any incidents that occur tonight - traditionally one of our busiest of the year. Keeping our 🙏 for a quiet one! (yes, we've used the 'q' word!) So far, so good.



 **Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service**
5 November 2019 · 🌐

Remember, remember the 5th of November!
Remember today for all the right reasons and make sure your Bonfire night goes off with the right sort of bang!
Stay safe and enjoy your celebrations! [socsi.in/sGYB7](https://www.socsi.in/sGYB7) #BonfireNight



Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
5 November 2019 · 🌐

Lots of people ringing into the control room tonight about bonfires - well, it is Bonfire Night after all
It's always better to be safe than sorry - if you see any sign of fire that you think's unusual, or concerning, get in touch. More info here

CHESHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
CHESHIREFIRE.GOV.UK
Bonfire night - list of bonfires in Cheshire
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service - We work 24 hours a day to keep Cheshire safe from fires and other emergencies.

Two out of the three top posts were on the night live by the press officer in the control room.

For Twitter the top three posts that received the most engagement from the public were:

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service @CheshireFire

🔥 Support us in reducing deliberate fires by ensuring wheelie bins and rubbish are not left out in the open - once your bin has been emptied please put it away securely! socsi.in/ZbGdo 🔥

Let's all enjoy the Hallowe'en and bonfire period together – and safely!



9:50 AM · Oct 30, 2019 · Orlo

15 Retweets 22 Likes

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service @CheshireFire

Bonfire is better together! We would always recommend that you attend an organised bonfire/firework display as it is much safer to do so.

Not sure where to go? We have a list of organised displays on our website. socsi.in/mmAoS



7:39 AM · Oct 28, 2019 · Orlo

12 Retweets 13 Likes



Two of the three posts contained safety advice regarding reducing arson and attending organised displays.

An evaluation of the effectiveness of these posts found:

- The posts issued during the Bonfire period didn't create that much engagement on Twitter in comparison to what the Service normally achieves, however some of the posts on Facebook managed to achieve a good engagement from the public in comparison to what the Service normally achieves.
- The live incident posts from the control room were better received on Facebook than they were on Twitter.
- Our overall reach from every post on Twitter was 2,193,219 screens.
- Our overall reach from every post on Facebook was 183,813 screens.
- The total number of clicks through to our website containing safety advice for Twitter was 726.
- The total number of clicks through to our website containing safety advice for Facebook was 455.
- The total engagement (comments, likes, shares, clicks) from every post on Twitter was 1235.
- The total engagement (comments, likes, shares, clicks) from every post on Facebook was 1449.

10. Incident Data and Performance Summary

Incidents recorded during the bonfire period

The following graph (*Fig. 1*) illustrates the overall trend of Deliberate Small Fires in Cheshire over the last 5 years. The 2019 Bonfire Period saw the lowest number of Deliberate Small Fires on record, showing a 7% reduction from 5 years ago, and 22% reduction from 1 year ago:

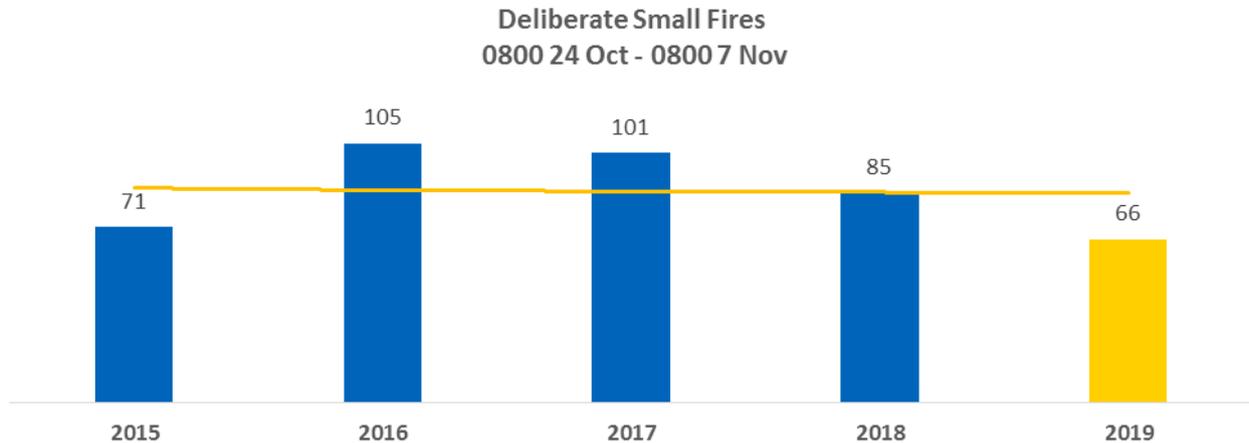


Fig. 1

A total of 18 Deliberate Small Fires were recorded on bonfire night, however a total of 56 bonfire related incidents were attended – 26 (46%) of these incidents were ‘False Alarms Good Intent’ and 12 incidents (21%) were ‘Accidental Small Fires’.

The graphs below (*Fig. 2 & Fig. 3*) display both Fire & Police activity levels by day and incident type, showing comparisons between small deliberate fire activity and ASB/Criminal Damage reported to the Police during this same time period. As can be expected, peaks are noticeable on 31/10 ‘Halloween’, and 05/11 ‘Bonfire Night’. Firework Related ASB was the most common type throughout the period, peaking on 5th Nov.

Fig.2

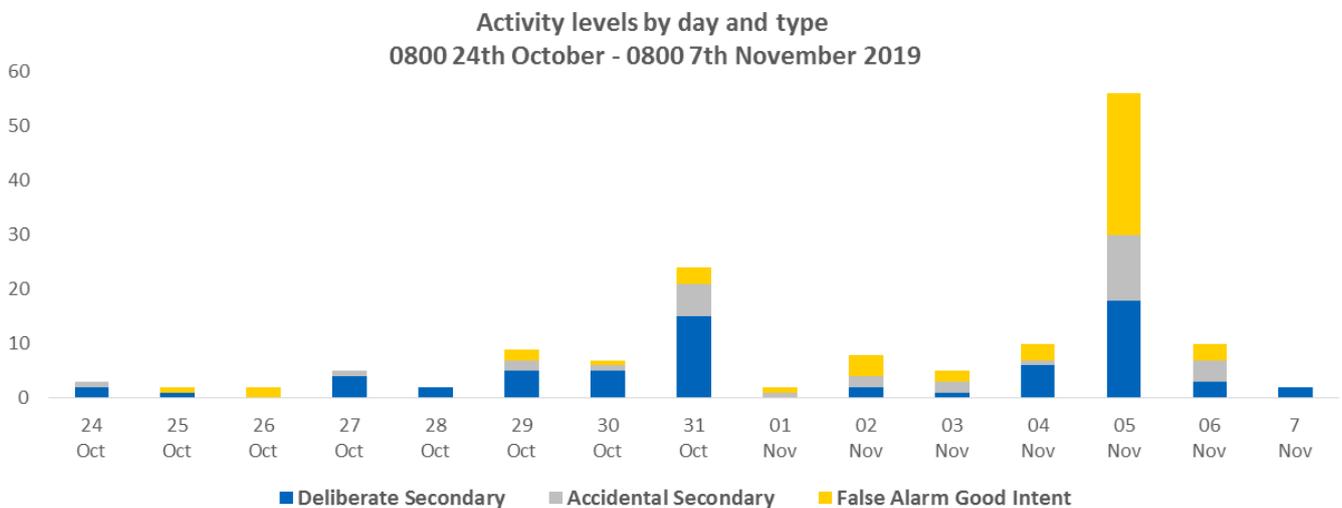
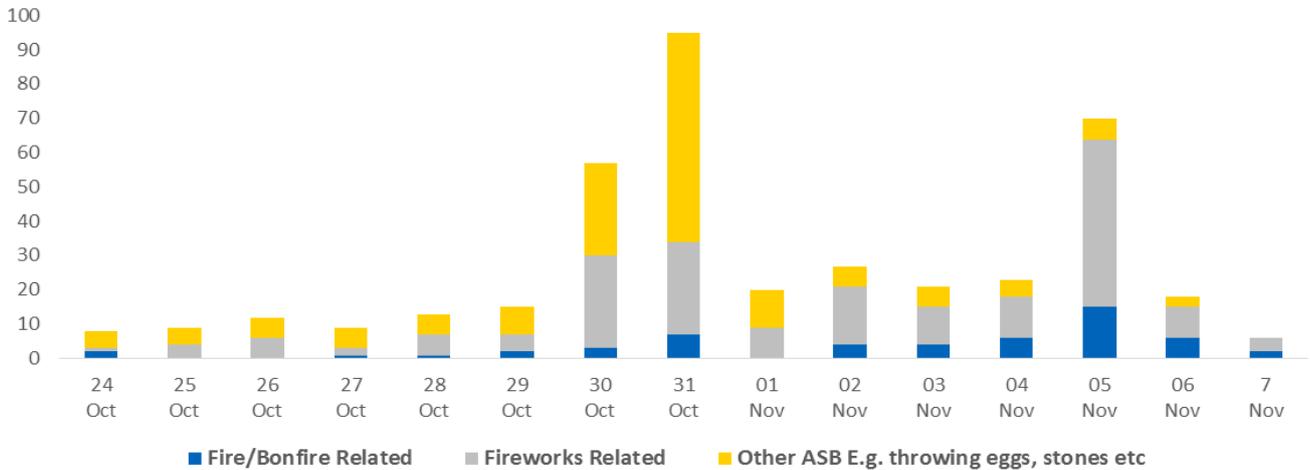


Fig.3

ASB & Criminal Damage incidents by Day & Type
24 October - 7 November



The following two charts also shows a comparison of the time and day of when activity occurred for both deliberate fires and ASB/Criminal Damage. 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%	1.5%	4.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	6.1%
01	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
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%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
05	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
06	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%
07	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
08	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
09	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
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%	0.0%	0.0%
14	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
15	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%
16	1.5%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%
17	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
18	3.0%	6.1%	1.5%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	15.2%
19	3.0%	3.0%	1.5%	7.6%	0.0%	1.5%	1.5%	18.2%
20	1.5%	10.6%	3.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	19.7%
21	0.0%	1.5%	1.5%	3.0%	1.5%	0.0%	1.5%	9.1%
22	0.0%	6.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.5%	7.6%
23	1.5%	4.5%	0.0%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.6%
Total	12.1%	34.8%	12.1%	28.8%	1.5%	3.0%	7.6%	100.0%

n=66

ASB/Criminal Damage

Hour	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
00	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	1.5%
01	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
02	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%
03	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
04	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
05	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
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%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
08	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
09	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	1.2%
10	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%
11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
12	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	1.5%
13	0.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.2%
14	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	1.7%
15	0.5%	0.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.5%	2.7%
16	1.0%	1.0%	0.5%	1.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	4.2%
17	0.5%	1.2%	1.0%	2.7%	0.7%	1.0%	0.2%	7.4%
18	1.5%	2.0%	0.7%	3.2%	1.2%	1.5%	1.2%	11.4%
19	1.5%	4.5%	4.5%	4.5%	2.0%	1.7%	2.0%	20.6%
20	1.5%	5.0%	4.2%	6.9%	0.2%	0.7%	1.2%	19.9%
21	0.7%	3.2%	1.7%	4.0%	0.2%	2.0%	0.5%	12.4%
22	0.2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	0.7%	1.0%	0.0%	6.5%
23	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%	0.2%	4.0%
Total	8.9%	21.1%	18.6%	27.0%	7.2%	9.7%	7.4%	100.0%

n=403

The majority of Deliberate Small Fires and ASB occurred on Bonfire Night and Halloween. The majority of fires occurred between the hours of 18:00 – 21:00 (53%), which again mirrored the most common times of day for ASB (52%). Overall, deliberate small fires saw a 22% decrease from the 2018 Bonfire Period, whereas ASB incidents saw a 21% increase from the same period.

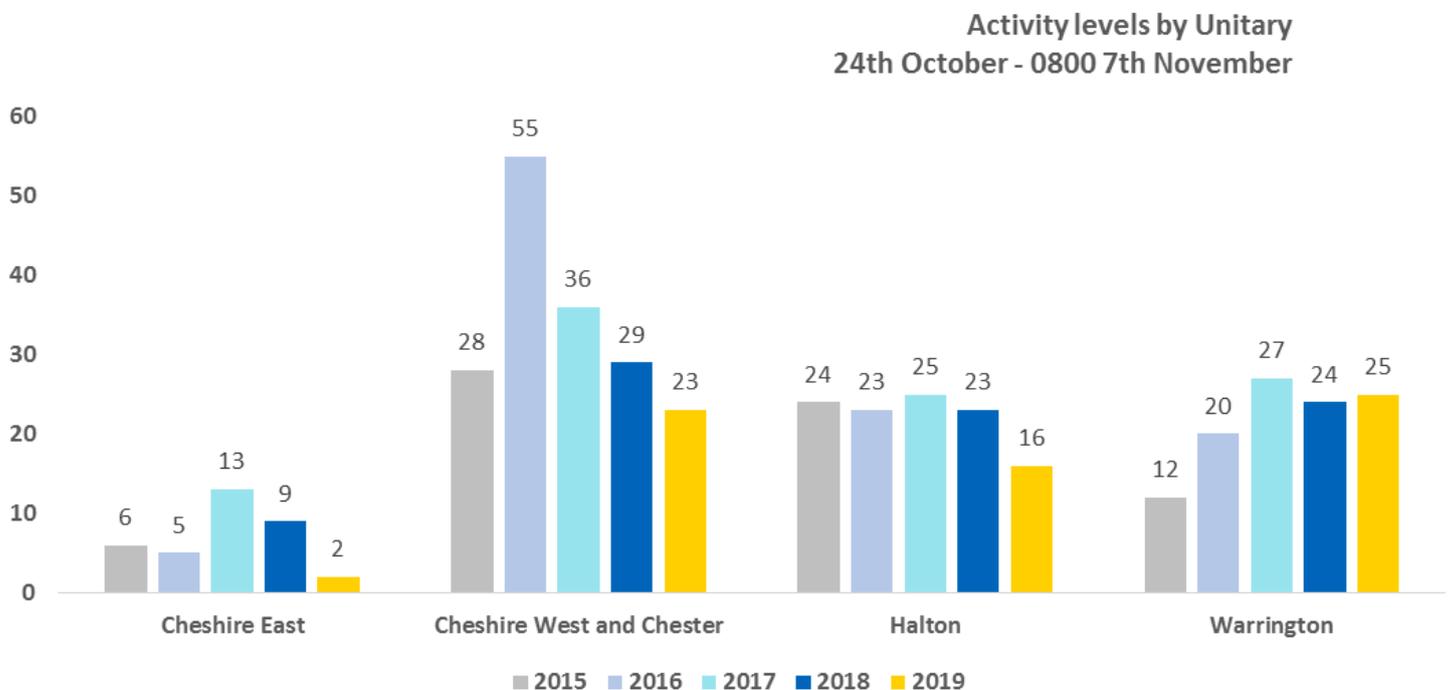
Unitary Performance

All but one of the four unitary areas recorded a year on year decrease in Deliberate Small Fires during this year’s bonfire period. Warrington was the only Unitary Area to have seen an increase compared to 1 and 5 years ago respectively. This can be seen as follows (Figs. 4 and 5):

Fig.4

	2019	2018	Year on year	2015	5 Year change
Cheshire East	2	9	-7	6	-4
Cheshire West and Chester	23	29	-6	28	-5
Halton	16	23	-7	24	-8
Warrington	25	24	+1	12	+13

Fig. 5



Station Performance

In total, there were 11 station areas which recorded Deliberate Small Fire activity during the Bonfire Period, with 4 of these only reporting 1 incident each.

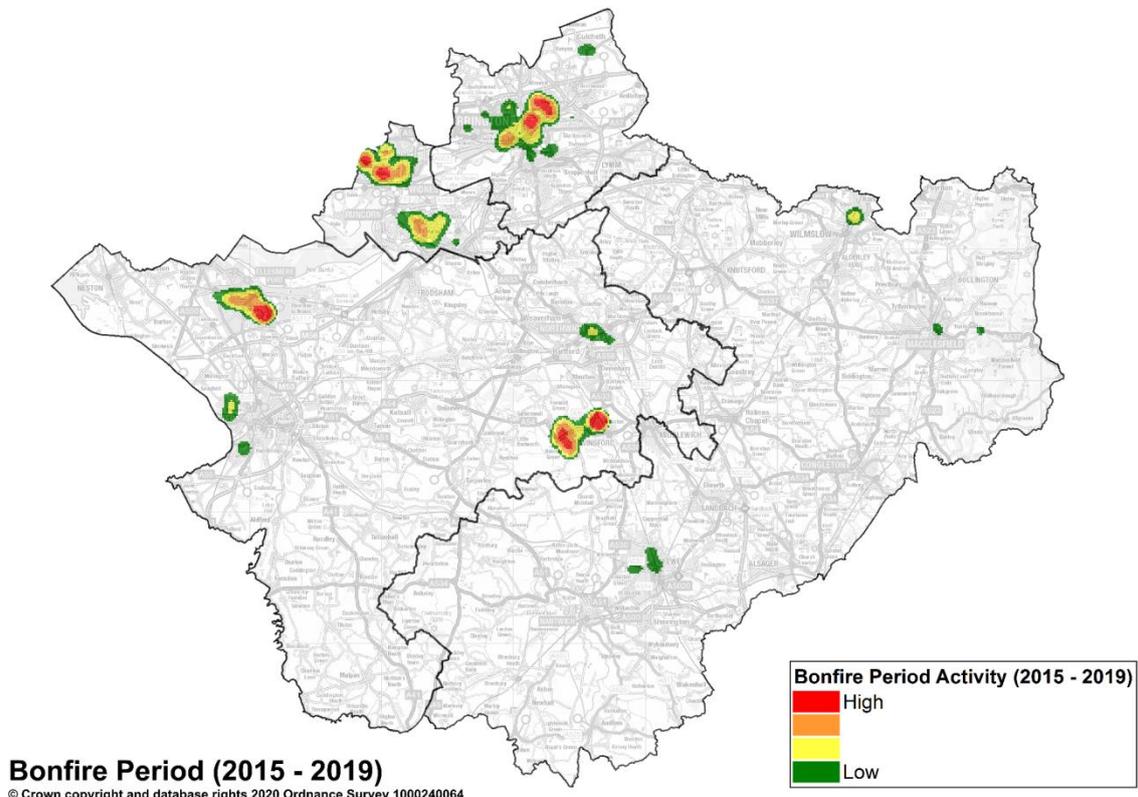
The following table (Fig. 6) summarises activity by the station areas with the highest volume of activity during the 2019 reporting period.

These 5 station areas accounted for 86% of all Deliberate Small Fire activity recorded during the period.

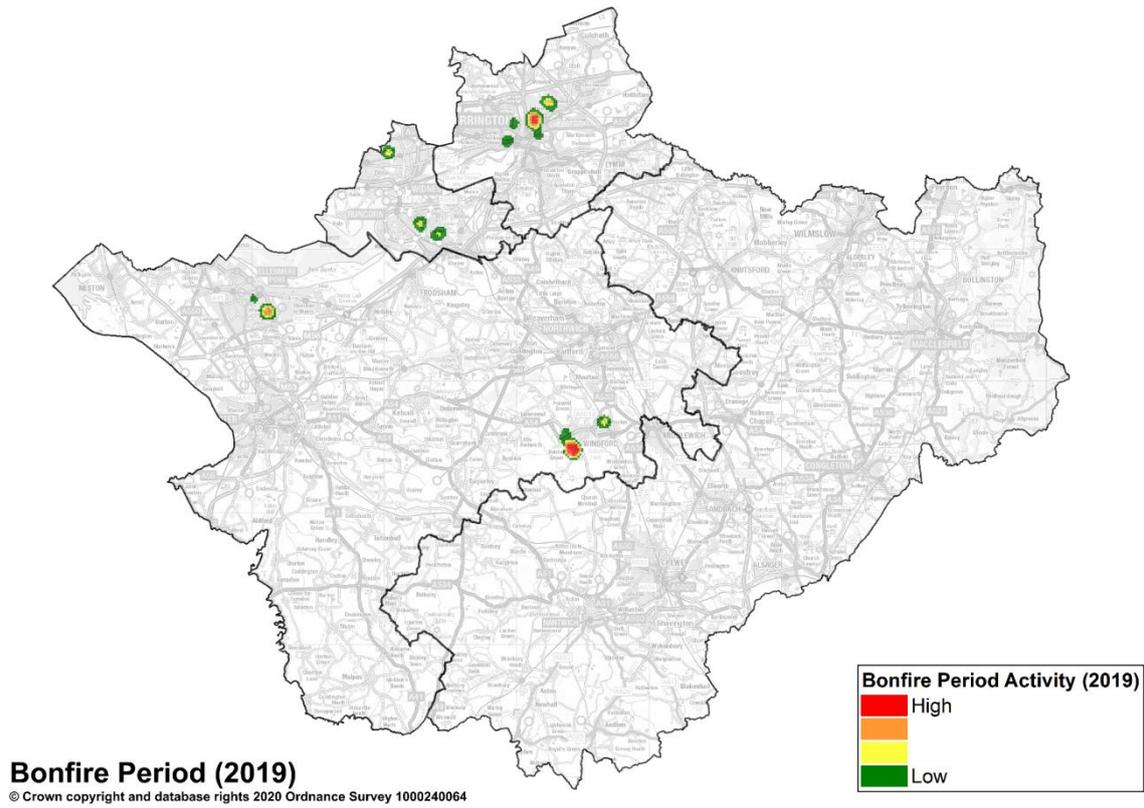
Fig. 6

Station	2019	2018	Year on year	2015	5 Year change
Warrington	21	18	+3	10	+11
Winsford	14	12	+2	5	+9
Runcorn	9	10	-1	10	-1
Ellesmere Port	7	15	-8	16	-9
Widnes	6	12	-6	14	-8

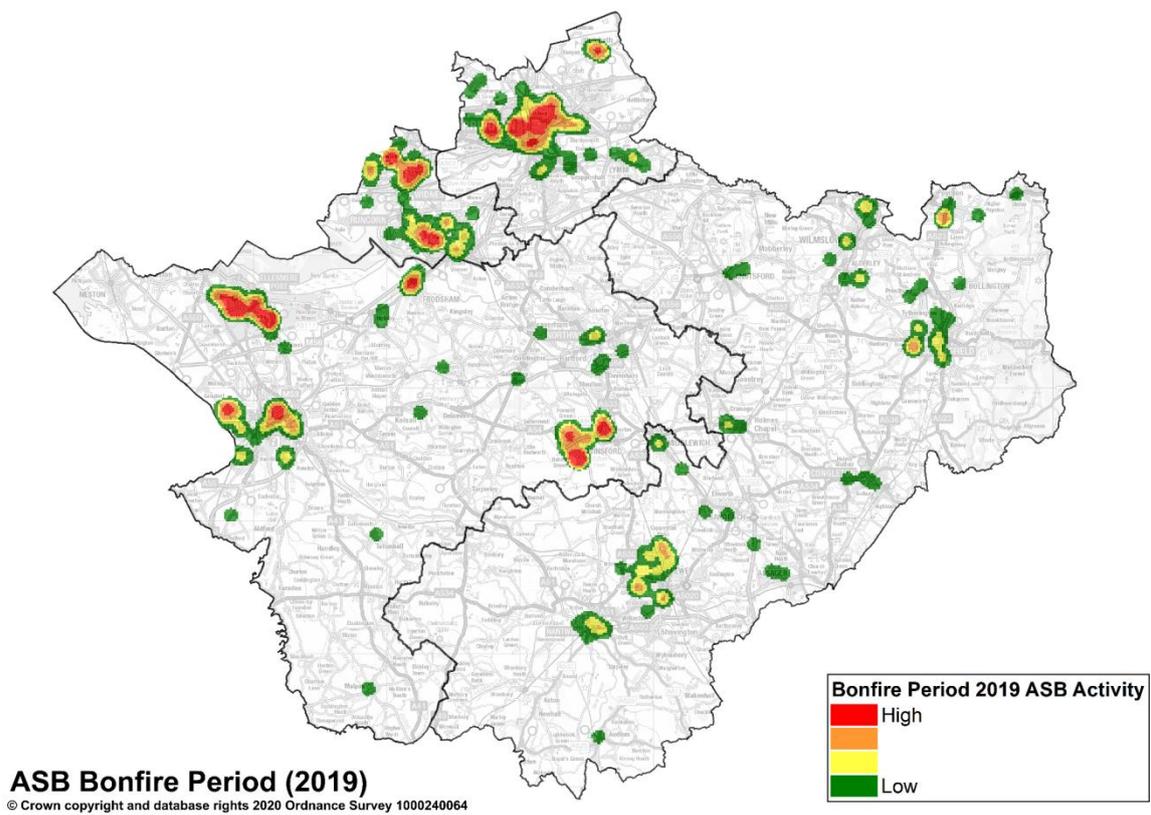
Below shows Bonfire Period Deliberate Small fire hotspot areas from 2015 – 2019:



Below shows the 2019 Bonfire Period Deliberate Small Fire hotspot areas:



Below shows the 2019 Bonfire Period ASB hotspot areas:



11. Accidents and Near Misses

There were no accidents or near misses affecting service personnel or resources during the bonfire period for 2019.

12. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- a) The delivery of targeted and timely education to schools in all Service Delivery areas should continue occur
- b) 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.
- c) Planning meetings for the relevant Bonfire Strategy Groups should start well in advance of the bonfire period.
- d) Use of SIUs should be targeted over an appropriate number of evenings and the number of vehicles to remain as a minimum at 3 to cover the known risk areas.
- e) Service and partner agency resources and efforts should continue to be focused in areas where intelligence suggests that high incident volumes may occur.
- f) Where possible, partner agencies should be persuaded to continue the free removal schemes for the removal of large items, (normally a chargeable service). This will continue to be “championed” at Bonfire Strategy Group planning meetings.
- g) The tolerance approach adopted by the Service has proven successful and should be continued. The desire to celebrate bonfire night is present in most areas, and residents will continue to be primarily advised to do so in a safe manner, at organised events.
- h) Targeted youth activity should be repeated using the On the Streets Team and volunteers, utilising data provided by the Business Intelligence Unit.
- i) Communication team colleagues should continue to provide live social media updates.
- j) Consideration should again be given to having a local newspaper reporter riding appliances accompanied by a communications team member in the areas of higher activity.

- k) Consideration should be given to the of making of cash contributions towards organised displays, particularly in areas of high deliberate fire activity.
- l) Diversionary activities should continue to be funded in known areas of high deliberate fire activity.
- m) The programme of Primary Respect courses in targeted schools should continue.
- n) Consideration be given to understand the way we staff the SIU this is dependent on personnel's availability, skill sets and external influences and may fluctuate year on year.

13. Summary and conclusions

The total number of SDF attended during the period was lower than in previous years. It should be noted that there are considerable improvements to the totals of almost 300 SDF 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. 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 SDF. 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 SDF.

Weather: It has been found that weather conditions experienced over the bonfire period will have an impact on incident volumes. Rainfall was present during the period and does suppress 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 SDF would have been much greater.