

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	30 JULY 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/068/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR:	GM GARY OAKFORD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	DEB APPLETON & JOHN FIELDING – STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE		
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANALYSIS OF FATALITIES IN ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES BETWEEN 1ST APRIL 2014 AND 31ST MARCH 2015		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: ANALYSIS OF FATALITIES IN ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES BETWEEN 1ST APRIL 2014 AND 31ST MARCH 2015
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members scrutinise the performance and detailed analysis relating to the Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities that occurred during 2014/15.

Recommendation

2. That Members note performance in relation to this report concerning deaths in accidental dwelling fires.

Introduction and Background

3. The purpose of this report is to analyse fatalities from accidental dwelling fires (ADF) during the year 2014/15; analysing the circumstances and socio demographic background of such occurrences in a way that can then be used to target risk and carry out prevention work.
4. This report sits alongside the 10 year report (also on this agenda) which analyses fire fatalities as a result of accidental dwelling fires between 2005/06 and 2014/15.
5. Compared to other incident types attended by the Service, fire fatalities are thankfully relatively rare, although they have a devastating impact on the family of the victims and in the community where they live.
6. Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires are reported in Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's Service Delivery Plan as Key Performance Indicator 45.
7. The Service Delivery Plan is reported on a quarterly and annual basis.

In summary

8. During 2014/15 there were 10 fatalities in Accidental Dwelling Fires in Merseyside, 2 more than in 2013/14 and 5 more than during 2011/12.
9. Of the Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities that occurred; there have been no incidents in Knowsley, 4 in Liverpool, 2 in Sefton, 1 in St Helens and 3 in Wirral.
10. Of the 10 fire deaths; 7 of the victims were over 65 years of age.
11. The investigations into the causes of the fires identified that 3 were linked to smoking materials, 2 were due to an electrical fault, 2 were related to careless use of heating appliances, 2 related to cooking practices; and 1 related to the use of candles.
12. With regards to deprivation, 6 of the 10 fatalities occurred within the 50% most deprived deciles of Merseyside – this suggests a possible link between deprivation and fire death. The use of Customer Insight Community Profiles supports this finding, with more deaths occurring in profiles associated with deprivation than affluence.
13. Of the 10 fatalities; 5 occurred on a Friday.
14. Of the 10 fatalities; 9 victims lived alone and were alone at the time of the incident.
15. With regards to smoke detection systems, 8 of the properties had received a Home Fire Safety Check. On 5 occasions the smoke alarm actuated, whilst on 1 occasion the fitted smoke alarm had been disabled. On a further occasion a smoke alarm was fitted and did not operate and finally there was 1 occurrence where a HFSC was conducted though the victim had earlier refused to have a smoke alarm fitted.
16. The analysis contained within this report will be used to inform the refresh of The Home Safety Strategy which is an action within the 2015/16 Community Fire Prevention Functional Plan. The new Home Safety Strategy will be brought to a future meeting of this Committee for consideration, before being submitted to the Full Authority.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. The report uses Gender, Lifestyle and Age Group data in order to identify risk groups across Merseyside.

Staff Implications

18. There are no staff implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

19. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 6 provides that (1) a Fire and Rescue Authority must make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area. This includes making arrangements where reasonable to provide information, publicity and advice.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

20. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

21. The analysis of data and information relating to deaths in accidental dwelling fires is a key factor in the development of MFRA's prevention strategies.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

22. This report provides analysis of accidental dwelling fire fatality data held by MFRA. The report contributes to the Mission of "Safer Stronger Communities" by identifying at risk individuals (and their characteristics) across Merseyside and this report could be shared with partners as a means of encouraging greater data sharing between MFRA and external organisations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS
