

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	30 JULY 2015	REPORT NO:	CFO/069/15
PRESENTING OFFICER	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR:	GM GARY OAKFORD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	DEB APPLETON AND JOHN FIELDING – STRATEGY & PERFORMANCE.		
TITLE OF REPORT:	10 YEAR ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRE FATALITY REPORT		

APPENDICES:	APPENDIX A: HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF FATALITIES IN ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES BETWEEN 2005/06 AND 2014/15
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Purpose of Report

1. To request that Members consider performance and analysis concerning Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities between 2005/06 and 2014/15.

Recommendation

2. That Members note performance in relation to this report concerning deaths in accidental dwelling fires during the period 2005/6 to 2014/15..

Introduction and Background

3. The purpose of this report is to analyse fatalities from accidental dwelling fires (ADF) between 2005/06 and 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. Compared to other incident types that Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MF&RS) attends, fire fatalities are relatively rare, though their impact is most significant to family members, friends and neighbours of the deceased.
5. Fatalities in accidental dwelling fires are reported in Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's Service Delivery Plan as Key Performance Indicator 45 on a quarterly and annual basis.
6. In 2005/06 there were 11 fatalities in accidental dwelling fires. Since then there were gradual reductions in fire deaths, with a low of 5 deaths for the years 2010/11 and 2011/12. However this figure increased to 10 during 2014/15.

7. Concerning the demographic of fire fatalities, there is little bias towards gender with 37 female fatalities and 42 male fatalities. When age is analysed the risk of death in accidental dwelling fires increases with age. The two age groups at greatest risk are the: 80-84 and 85+ groups.
8. When analysed by district, Liverpool had the greatest overall number of fire deaths with 26, closely followed by Wirral with 24. When compared proportionally to incidents per 100,000 population, Wirral has the greatest number of deaths with 7.49 deaths per 100,000 population, compared to Liverpool's 5.52 per 100,000 population.
9. Concerning Deprivation and the use of Community and Local Government's (CLG) Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010, the general trend is that fatalities tend to occur more often in deprived areas, with fewer fire deaths affecting affluent areas. When the average age of victims is added to the equation it has been found that victims die younger in deprived areas with victims being older in affluent areas.
10. In 45 cases a smoke alarm was fitted and actuated, however there were 20 occurrences where a smoke alarm was not fitted within the property therefore meaning that the resident had no means of early warning.
11. In recent years there has been a general trend where in the majority of incidents where a fatality has occurred the smoke alarm was fitted and actuated.
12. When analysing ignition sources it has been found that of the 79 fire fatalities, 40 were as a result of smokers materials. However since a peak in fatalities in 2009/10 where 7 deaths were a result of smokers' materials, there has been a gradual reduction with only 1 death attributable to this ignition source during 2011/12 and 2012/13. However during 2013/14 and 2014/15 there were 3 deaths attributable to smokers materials
13. When analysing the fire room of origin and the ignition source it has been found that smokers' materials were responsible for the majority of fire fatalities in both the living room and the bedroom. When the influence of alcohol consumption is taken into account it is apparent that the majority of deaths involving smoker's materials in the bedroom also involved the consumption of alcohol (8 out of 14). Concerning the living room the same principle does not apply.
14. The majority of victims to have perished in accidental dwelling fires were the sole occupants of the dwellings in which they resided in 52 out of 79 cases. In combination 63 victims out of 79 were alone at the time of the fire.
15. When analysing incidents by month, the winter months of November and January have seen the greatest number of fire deaths.
15. Concerning fire deaths and day of week, the Service is most likely to attend such an incident on Saturday and especially Monday.

16. 16. The analysis contained within this report will be used to inform the Home Safety Strategy for 2015 onwards included in the Community Fire Prevention Functional Plan 2015/16, the introduction of which is the subject of a separate report for this committee.

Equality and Diversity Implications

17. The report identifies risk groups using data relating to equality and diversity. 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 ...*“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 very important in the development of MFRA's prevention strategies. Contribution to Our Mission: Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters

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 Vision of “Safer Stronger Communities” by identifying at risk individuals (and their characteristics) across Merseyside. This report could be shared with partners as a means of encouraging greater data sharing between MFRA and external organisations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CFO/111/11 If this report follows on from another, list the previous report(s)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

MFRA Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority is the physical and legal entity. When writing reports MFRA is the “object”.

MFRS

Merseyside **F**ire and **R**escue **S**ervice is the service provided by MFRA.
When writing reports MFRS is the “action”

E.G.

You are employed by the Authority (MFRA). The job you do forms part of the Service (MFRS) provided by the Authority (MFRA).
If in doubt use MFRA.