

APPENDIX B BONFIRE SUMMARY REPORT



**MERSEYSIDE
FIRE & RESCUE
SERVICE**

Bonfire Period 2020 Summary

This is a summary of the 2020 bonfire period. It was recognised that current challenges relating to Covid-19 would have impacted on some of the services and plans that MFRS and our partners would have implemented in the past and we therefore endeavoured to ensure contingencies and alternative resources were put in place to address any areas of risk.

Over the period, the service experienced a 10.3% increase in our attendance at deliberate ASB fires (deliberate secondary fires). This is being compared to 2019's figures for the bonfire period from 19th October to 7th November.

This year, we attended and dealt with 268 deliberate secondary fires.

Planning started for the bonfire period back in June with regular meetings being convened with partner agencies.

Plans were formulated in each Local Authority area which were brought together to create the service wide bonfire plan and also Merseyside Police's Operation Banger plan.

The ownership of the district plans by each Arson Officer allowed for local plans to be devised which were specific to the local communities for whom we serve and despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the figures clearly reflect the hard work undertaken and the collaboration with partner agencies.

Merseyside Statistical Summary

Deliberate Secondary Fires

Comparison of incidents attended by district, between 2019 and 2020 bonfire periods (with incidents per 10,000 population)¹

District	2019	2020	Difference	% Difference
Knowsley	43 (2.9)	33 (2.2)	-10 (-0.7)	-23.3%
Liverpool	116 (2.3)	126 (2.5)	10 (0.2)	8.6%
<i>Liverpool North</i>	77	77	0	0.0%
<i>Liverpool South</i>	39	49	10	25.6%
Sefton	19 (0.7)	32 (1.2)	13 (0.5)	68.4%
St Helens	35 (1.9)	31 (1.7)	-4 (-0.2)	-11.4%
Wirral	30 (0.9)	46 (1.4)	16 (0.5)	53.3%
Grand Total	243 (1.7)	268 (1.9)	25 (0.2)	10.3%

N.B. 43 incidents during the bonfire reporting period have been tagged "Bonfire Covid". These are incidents that during the tolerant approach would not have been extinguished however were extinguished this year to prevent a gathering, to mitigate the spread of the virus and to aid the adherence of Covid legislation.

3, 5 and 10-year average

The below data shows that despite the challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the slight increase in deliberate secondary fires compared to 2019, the overall figure still falls below the 3, 5 and 10-year average.

Call Date	2018 Period	2019 Period	2020 Period	3 year average	5 year average	10 year average
19 Oct	12	5	11	8	16	14
20 Oct	26	14	19	18	31	27
21 Oct	35	22	23	24	39	40
22 Oct	46	25	32	30	50	54
23 Oct	62	32	46	42	67	71
24 Oct	87	41	49	55	81	88
25 Oct	102	42	57	66	95	105
26 Oct	110	50	62	75	107	119
27 Oct	124	60	62	86	122	137
28 Oct	135	77	68	100	134	150
29 Oct	151	98	71	120	153	168
30 Oct	171	134	91	154	190	200
31 Oct	185	149	99	174	212	220
01 Nov	198	154	107	185	226	233
02 Nov	220	156	112	201	243	248
03 Nov	241	161	114	218	259	264
04 Nov	271	172	131	236	276	284
05 Nov	329	207	209	287	338	354
06 Nov	361	242	243	327	384	406
07 Nov	366	243	268	334	398	427

Firework Incidents

District	2019	2020	Difference
Wirral	5	2	-3
Liverpool	5	11	+6
<i>Liverpool North</i>	3	7	+4
<i>Liverpool South</i>	2	4	+2
Sefton	3	1	-2
Knowsley	2	2	0
St Helens	1	0	-1
Merseyside Total	16	16	0

Violence at Work Incidents

District	2019	2020	Difference
Wirral	1	1	0
Liverpool	3	6	+3
<i>Liverpool North</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Liverpool South</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>+3</i>
Sefton	0	0	0
Knowsley	3	1	-2
St Helens	0	0	0
Merseyside Total	7	8	-1

IIT Summary

Incidents attributed to the bonfire period attended by IIT between 19th October and 7th November

Date	Station Ground	District	Incident Type	IIT Summary
17/10/20	25	Wirral	Deliberate Dwelling	Lit cat 2 rocket pushed through letterbox
20/10/20	25	Wirral	Deliberate Dwelling	Firework pushed inside letterbox
23/10/20	15	Liverpool	Deliberate	Firework set off inside lift
25/10/20	42	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Lit firework put through a window
30/10/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate Non-Domestic	Cat 2 firework thrown in to shop
30/10/20	11	Liverpool	Deliberate ASB	Firework discharged in females hand
	14	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Cat 2 firework pushed through letterbox
03/11/20	11	Liverpool	Deliberate dwelling	Firework thrown through a smashed window
05/11/20	15	Liverpool	Deliberate Vehicle	Firework put inside vehicle
06/11/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate Dwelling	Cat 2 rocket pushed through letterbox
06/11/20	19	Liverpool	Deliberate vehicle	Firework put inside vehicle

Trojan Fire Appliance

The Trojan Fire Appliance was stood up proactively on 30th October and 6th and 7th November supported by Merseyside Police. During its deployment, the Trojan Fire Appliance was mobilised to 4 incidents. The Trojan Fire Appliance carried out high visibility patrols of high demand areas and also visited Fire Stations to engage with Fire Crews who had recently experienced violence at work incidents to explain the concept of the Trojan Fire Appliance.

Tipper Truck Final Tonnage

A key piece of work that stands out is the combustible waste removal utilising MFRS Staff. This year, an exceptional 52.38 tonnes of potential bonfire material was removed from the streets of Merseyside.

Target Hardening Visits

Target hardening visits completed by Arson Officers between 19th October and 7th November

District	Visits
Wirral	16
Liverpool	20
Sefton	3
Knowsley	12
St Helens	14
Total	65

Arson Team

The ownership of the district plans by each Arson Officer allowed for local plans to be devised which were specific to the local communities for whom we serve and the figures clearly reflect the hard work undertaken and the collaboration with partner agencies.

Street Intervention Teams

Our Street Intervention Teams deployed over a total of 38 evenings in Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and Knowsley.

OSR

The Operational Support Room (OSR) was established within the JCC on six nights over the bonfire period staffed by the Arson Team Community Safety Coordinator, a Station Manager plus a Watch Manager. The OSR was in operation on the three Operation Banger Key Nights (30th, 31st Oct, and 5th Nov) with the addition of 4th, 6th and 7th November. The OSR assisted staff in the community that were not riding fire appliances who were deployed across Merseyside. This facility complimented Fire Control, allowing staff to concentrate on the increase in emergency calls for service via the 999 system. The OSR monitored Arson Officers, Home Safety Advocates, Street Intervention Teams and Youth Engagement Staff.

Bonfire Sweep

A post Bonfire night sweep took place on the morning of Wednesday 6th November. This involved fire crews patrolling their station areas in order to extinguish smouldering bonfires in known fire locations. Appliances remained available for redirection by Fire Control. This enabled tipper trucks to remove remain debris from bonfires.