

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
18 SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY IN LONDON – HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN LANCASHIRE UPDATE

Members received an update report from Group Manager Tony Crook on the Grenfell Tower Fire investigation process and the actions being undertaken to reassure the public in Lancashire. The Grenfell Tower Fire occurred on 14 June 2017 at the 24-storey tower block. It caused at least 80 deaths and over 70 injuries. A definitive death toll was not expected until at least 2018. Sadly, this was the biggest loss of life from fire in the UK in a generation.

GM Crook advised that the Public Inquiry had opened on 14 September 2017. Police and Fire services believed that the fire had started accidentally in a fridge-freezer on the fourth floor. The rapid growth of the fire was thought to have increased by the building's exterior cladding which was of a common type in widespread use. An independent review of building regulations and fire safety had been launched. The National Fire Chiefs Council was co-ordinating a Fire and Rescue Services' inspection of high rise premises and the Building Research Establishment were testing all ACM (aluminium composite) cladding material. The National Fire Chiefs Council had put forward a submission to the Inquiry, outlining what it thought should be included in the terms of reference to help shape the Inquiry.

The Authority was pleased to note that at the Lancashire County Council's full Council meeting held on 20 July 2017 a resolution was unanimously approved that called for the Government to legislate for the retro-fitting of sprinklers into residential high-rise buildings and that this should be called the Grenfell Act in memory of many lives lost in the disaster and it resolved to install sprinklers in all new Lancashire County Council schools and major school extensions.

GM Crook advised that inspections had been carried out by the Service. 100% of 'Residential high rise' buildings, 72 had been inspected and other buildings were being inspected on a risk based approach. It was noted that no school fell into the category of 18 metres or more. The findings from the inspections would be reviewed to inform our risk based inspection programme for 2018/19, along with the recommendations from the Public Inquiry and potential future governmental changes to fire safety standards.

2. FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

Members received a report that detailed prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 June 2017 to 1 September 2017. In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information were included in the report which included an update on the Primary Authority Scheme and business Safety Advisor activity.

In response to Member questions it was confirmed that the Service looked at trends in relation to arson incidents which occurred across the county. In addition, it was noted that the Service was currently running a number of pilots for the training and education of young people in year 7 at school which included anti-social behaviour and deliberate fire

setting. A new training education programme was planned for delivery to all year 7 pupils across Lancashire in 2018.

3. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

As part of the report Members received a presentation by Area Manager Simon Fryer on the Service's response to a Pylon Rescue at Howick Cross.

AM Fryer advised that the call was received at 15:03 on 7th August 2017, reporting that a man, alive but incapacitated was trapped at a height of 20 metres above the ground hanging upside down from an electricity pylon.

The Air Support Unit was requested and Fire crews from Penwortham, Fulwood, Hyndburn and 'Rope Rescue' colleagues from St Annes and Urban Search and Rescue were assigned. The utility company shut off the electricity to the pylon and members of the Rope Rescue Team ascended the pylon, initially securing the casualty to prevent him falling, then they administered medication provided by medical personnel at the scene.

Agencies in attendance were Lancashire Constabulary, North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), NWAS HART, Millers Recovery and the National Grid. The casualty had climbed the side of the pylon, which had been electrically isolated for maintenance purposes. The hem of his jeans had caught on a pylon nut which had prevented his fall. At 6.36pm the casualty was rescued. He was then transferred by the Rope Rescue personnel to a stretcher on Hyndburn's Aerial Ladder Platform, then lowered to the ground and attended to by paramedics.

In response to Members that staff be acknowledged for their dedication, professionalism and bravery the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the process to recognise staff who had undertaken such difficult deeds was the Chief Fire Officer Commendation Award.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood