

Business Liaison team

Our Business Liaison team is a new concept; expanding the advisory and educational role of the Service in line with government expectations for more information and less regulation (Hampton Report 2005). We believe that by making the business community better aware of its legal obligations under the Fire Safety Order it will be safer and less enforcement action will be necessary.



More than 700 business safety visits 2009-2010

We look at alternative ways of working with the business community to promote fire safety and business continuity in the workplace. We recognise that business needs may limit the opportunities for managers to attend dedicated Service fire safety events. Thus, we work on an “us to them” approach with our team of Advocates and Volunteers delivering advice in the workplace and targeting the heart of the business community with a range of initiatives providing information on fire safety, arson reduction, unwanted fire signals and sprinklers.

Our recent successes include:

- Impact Days in Macclesfield, Ellesmere Port, Chester, Crewe, Warrington, Runcorn & Widnes
- Fire safety campaign to B&Bs and Chinese businesses
- Farm safety at Cheshire & Nantwich Show
- Presentations to local business groups
- Participation in business safety at work schemes

Protecting in Partnership

We pride ourselves on our successful partnerships and recently delivered a national conference addressing the threat of fire to our built heritage in conjunction with the Institution of Fire Engineers and English Heritage.



We will build on our acclaim and deliver further seminars addressing Arson reduction in Schools and Fire safety issues around the safe evacuation of people with sight, hearing or mobility difficulties from commercial premises.

We are always looking at innovative ways of working with our partners such as:

Climate Change Adaptation Project



HSE Estates Excellence Pilot



For **FREE** fire safety advice, visit our website or contact your local **Community Fire Protection Office**:

Cheshire East - 01270 213246

Cheshire West & Chester - 01244 322222

Warrington & Halton - 01925 634593

T:Posters/Keep Your Business Safe From Fire



Cheshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters
Winsford Cheshire CW7 2FQ
t: 01606 868700 f: 01606 868712
www.cheshirefire.gov.uk



Keep your business safe from fire

with our **Community Fire Protection Team**



www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

What do we do?

Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service does much more than just fighting fires. The Community Fire Protection team's objective is to reduce the impact of fire in commercial premises and target those that pose the greatest risk to life, property, the environment and to the nation's heritage. In short we aim to make sure that Cheshire East, Cheshire West & Chester, Halton and Warrington are safer places to work and visit. Our Service area includes 32,000 non-domestic premises which fall within the scope of the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005** (the Fire Safety Order).

Our Community Fire Protection team provides broadly four functions:

- **enforcement** of fire safety legislation
- **arson reduction** - reducing the impact of arson on the business community
- **fire investigation** – investigating the cause of fires
- **Business Liaison** – providing fire safety information to businesses

We also research latest developments in fire safety and respond to national incidents to see how we can learn from them, e.g. fire in high-rise at Lakanal House, Camberwell, and Modern Methods of Construction in timber framed buildings.

Enforcement

We have the power to enforce the Fire Safety Order and do so through our intelligence led Risk Based Inspection program. The 'Responsible Person' at the premises must complete a fire risk assessment and implement fire safety and control measures as required. Our fire safety officer will then audit how effective the assessment and measures are. Our role is to determine whether an occupier has achieved the required safety levels, not how.

Deficiencies will be rectified by enforcement action at a level appropriate to the offence and will be aligned to the national Enforcement Management Model (EMM). Options vary between agreement of an action plan to rectify the problem or issuing a Prohibition Notice restricting use of the building.

Following the Better Regulation Principles we work with other regulators – Building Control, Planning, Licensing, HSE, Environmental Health, Housing, and Local Authority. We are exploring other ways of cross-agency working with the Insurance Industry and UK Border Agency.



Successful Prosecutions

Since October 2006 Cheshire Fire Authority has already successfully prosecuted a number of 'Responsible Persons' for serious breaches against the Fire Safety Order. We currently have several more cases being investigated and prepared for court.



The number of prosecution we undertake is likely to increase as we continue with our inspection programme.

Arson Reduction

The reality of arson is that it is closely linked to Anti social behaviour and the cost to society as a whole is huge. For this reason it is key that we work closely with Local Authorities and other agencies to reduce this problem. In order to share and gather intelligence and best practice we are actively involved as a member in a number of regional, national and international arson prevention groups. These include the Arson Control Forum and the European Network of Arson Practitioners.



Over 70% of businesses DO NOT RECOVER after a fire

Effective arson reduction initiatives include:

- Wheelie Bin Scheme
- Car Clear Scheme
- Waste Removal
- Bonfire Reduction

Working with Cheshire Police

To further combat the problem of arson we have a Police Liaison Officer who is a seconded detective constable from Cheshire Constabulary as part of a jointly funded agreement. This specific point of contact has vastly improved the joint working between both organisations and has also resulted in a higher than average detection rate for arson.

Advantages of this partnership include evidence gathering training conducted with fire crews. Consequently, fire investigation procedures have been improved to enable better and more reliable evidence to be gathered and passed to the police.