

S41 MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE



SEPT 2010

Please find below information for your Section 41 Member representative on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority:-

Services Team Up To Reduce Arson



South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue has joined forces with Yorkshire's three other fire and rescue services on a summer-long campaign to highlight the huge cost of arson. The campaign aims to keep deliberate fires low over the summer period by revealing that arson in July and August last year cost an estimated £5.5 million to deal with. It also aims to continue engagement with young people on a one-to-one level, as well as educating parents and carers to notice the signs of fire setting.

Arson reduction initiatives have had a massive impact on reducing the number of deliberate secondary fires, with almost 1,000 fewer incidents last summer, compared to the same period in 2007.

To view the campaign video visit www.syfire.gov.uk and go to the media section of the website.

Key Contact – Steve Makepeace, Head of Community Safety – 0114 253 2924

Public Consultation

SYFR's public consultation seeking local people's views on the future of the service has now closed. Responses are being

analysed and will be integrated into the service plan which is set to be discussed by the Fire & Rescue Authority this autumn. Hundreds of people responded, whilst a simultaneous staff consultation was also undertaken.

Key Contact – Steve Chu, Head of Corporate Communications – 0114 253 2410

Emergency Services Join Forces For Decontamination Exercise

SYFR has played a leading role in a huge training exercise where South Yorkshire's emergency services tested procedures for dealing with a mass decontamination. 'Exercise Sheffield Steel' in the city centre simulated the decontamination of people who had been covered in poisonous chemicals as part of a terrorist attack.

The 'incident' included the deployment of SYFR's purpose-designed 'Incident Response Unit' which carries portable shower-tents and emergency clothing. The exercise formed part of an ongoing programme to continually improve major emergency response procedures.

Firefighters Show Youngsters The Way Forward

South Yorkshire firefighters have been working with a group of Barnsley youngsters as part of a multi-agency scheme to boost their community spirit and promote good citizenship. Ten youngsters aged 10 and 11 spent one day a week for nine weeks working with SYFR, South Yorkshire Police, Barnsley Council and other local agencies to see how their area is being developed and improved. At SYFR, the group looked into fire safety in the home and the impact of deliberate fires on the community.

Barnsley Station Manager Andy Strelczenie said: "The scheme has given these young people an insight into several organisations within their area and has educated them about all the work that is going on in their community. The programme has taught the youngsters about the importance of teamwork and has hopefully given them a real sense of achievement."

Weather Fails To Dampen Firefighters' Spirits On Cycle Challenge



Four Doncaster firefighters are hoping to have raised around £4,000 after successfully completing a cycle ride from London to Edinburgh in a remarkable 30 hours. Tony Crossfield, Rob Halliwell and Dan Nortcliffe from Doncaster Green watch, along with Alex Marland from Adwick Green watch, faced heavy rain and driving wind throughout much of their gruelling journey. But the group defied the dreadful conditions to complete the trip from Buckingham Palace to Edinburgh Castle.

All the cash raised will go to the Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity in Sheffield. To donate money, visit their website:
www.justgiving.com/saddlesore2010