



JUNE 2021

INFORMATIVE

The quarterly bulletin of the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

#WithUsNotAgainstUs

The gratitude we owe to our emergency workers has never been greater.



MULTI-AGENCY APPEAL TO REDUCE ASSAULTS ON EMERGENCY WORKERS

RETIREMENT OF
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
SIMON SMITH

NEW CHIEF FIRE
OFFICER FOR
NORTH WALES

**I can't protect you if
you're hurting me.**

**Work with me,
not against me.**

Assaulting our emergency
workers is unacceptable.

#WithUsNotAgainstUs



WORK WITH US, NOT AGAINST US

The Service has added its voice to a multi-agency appeal to reduce the number of assaults on emergency workers in Wales.

The With Us Not Against Us campaign is spearheaded by the Joint Emergency Service Group in Wales, which comprises the blue light services, Armed Forces, NHS Wales and Welsh Government.

The campaign is in response to the fact that the incidence of such assaults in Wales is on the rise - with the highest volume increasing 20% above the monthly average when the first round of the Covid-19 restrictions eased last summer.

Over 4,240 assaults were committed against emergency workers between April 2019 and November 2020, representing a 10% monthly average increase. Assaults ranged from kicking, punching and head-butting, to spitting, slapping, biting and verbal abuse.

The campaign was launched during the week that pubs recently reopened fully in Wales - staff from all three Welsh fire and rescue services, all four police

services, the NHS, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and British Transport Police issued a plea to the public to treat them with respect and to work with us, not against us.

Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "The vast majority of people recognise the importance of supporting the fire and rescue service while we respond to a range of emergencies that put people, communities, livelihoods and the environment at risk.

"Sadly, however, there are a few people who think nothing of subjecting our staff to verbal abuse or of attacking crews while they work.

"Nobody should expect to come under any sort of attack whilst potentially saving the lives of others in an emergency.

"We urge everyone to commit to working with us, not against us."

People can pledge support and join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #WithUsNotAgainstUs

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER SIMON SMITH





Simon Smith, Chief Fire Officer will be retiring from the Service at the end of this month after a career of over 43 years in the fire and rescue service. He has been a Chief Fire Officer at North Wales Fire and Rescue Service for over 20 years – the longest serving Chief Fire Officer in the UK.

Mr Smith joined Greater Manchester County Fire Service as a firefighter in March 1978, embarking on a career which has seen him serve in all the key roles across six different fire and rescue services.

In 1985 he moved from Greater Manchester to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service. After service with the Royal Berkshire and Surrey Fire and Rescue Services, Mr Smith transferred to Hertfordshire in 1994 as Assistant Chief Fire Officer and went on to become the Deputy Chief Fire Officer of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service in 1997.

Having lived in North Wales during his childhood, he was delighted to return in 2000 to lead North Wales Fire and Rescue Service through a period of immense change.

Reflecting on his time as Chief Fire Officer, Mr Smith said: "When I was appointed I felt that there was

a need to redirect the Service into one which was more prevention focused. Fire deaths, particularly in the home, were unacceptably high and we have worked hard, with the help of our partners, to bring that number down - always remembering that just one death from fire is too many.

"I also felt that there was a need to improve the conditions in our fire stations and other buildings so that my staff would have the best possible places in which to work. The same goes for fire engines, equipment and protective clothing which are now the best available and bear comparison with any fire and rescue service in the UK.

"I am proud of these achievements but acutely conscious that they could not have been made without the support and efforts of some of the finest people it is possible to find in public service. I thank all those who have assisted and supported me over the last 20 years.

"I know that my successor, Dawn Docx, who takes command of the Service on 1 July can rely on the same levels of commitment and dedication."

NEW CHIEF FIRE OFFICER FOR NORTH WALES

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service will welcome a new Chief Fire Officer this July.

Dawn Docx, currently Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, will be taking over as Chief Fire Officer in North Wales when Simon Smith retires this month.

Mrs Docx joined North Wales Fire and Rescue Service in June 2006 as an Assistant Chief Officer for finance and procurement. She was promoted to the role of Deputy Chief Fire Officer in 2009 and left the Service in 2017 to take up her new post as Deputy in Greater Manchester.

Cllr Peter Lewis, Chair of North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "I am delighted to welcome Dawn back to North Wales. There will be many challenges post Covid and we are confident Dawn will address those challenges and maintain the high standards that North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is renowned for and we look forward to working with her in the near future."

Mrs Docx said: "I am immensely proud to be returning to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and look forward to continuing the excellent work in making North Wales a safer place to live, work and visit. Our role is to prevent, protect and respond and within my new role I will strive to make sure we do this as effectively as possible."



FIREFIGHTERS' MEMORIAL DAY

The on-going pandemic meant that Firefighters' Memorial Day took on a different focus in May.

However, members of staff across the Service observed a minute silence, with fire stations holding a socially distanced formal parade and staff working alone or from home encouraged to show their respects as appropriate.

The day honours the sacrifice of firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, acknowledging the courage and dedication of generations of firefighters, including those who serve our communities today.



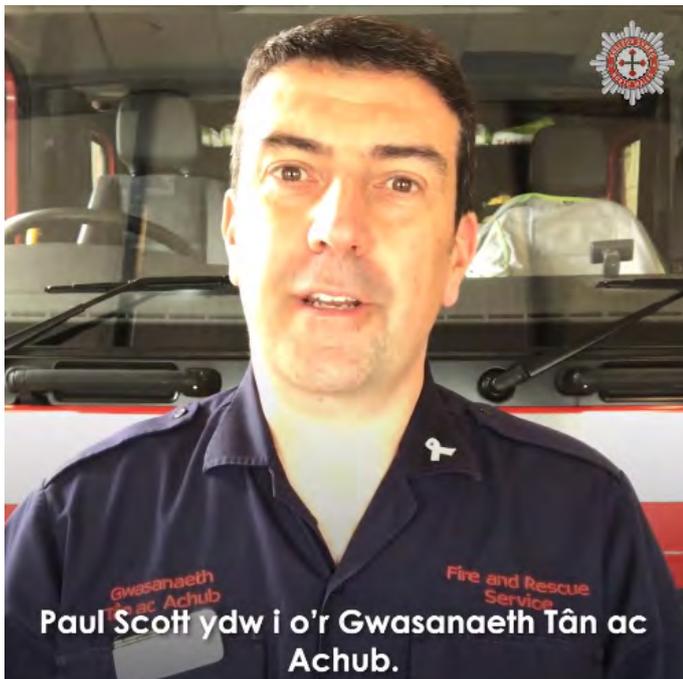


#AchubwchFywyd
#YouCanSaveALife

‘YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE’ CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

A fire in Wrexham has sparked the launch of a new North Wales campaign aimed at helping to protect the most vulnerable members of our community in order to save lives.

The #YouCanSaveALife campaign began with a personal appeal from Senior Fire Safety Manager Paul Scott to look out for family, friends and neighbours after witnessing the devastating damage caused by a fire in Marchwiel.



The fire, thought to have been started by a cigarette, caused 100% fire damage to the bedroom of a woman in her seventies who lived alone in the property.

Smoke alarms linked to an alarm system notified North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's control room of the fire at her home.

Paul said: "We've spoken to the family of Glenys, the lady involved in the fire, and we wish her all the best in her recovery.

"Far too often I see the devastation fire can cause – and that is why I want to do all that I can to get us all working together to protect our communities.

"Sadly, people are still losing their lives in Wales as a result of a fire in the home - but you can help us save a life.

"I wanted to take this opportunity as part of the #YouCanSaveALife campaign to make an appeal to everyone to take a few minutes to check on those people who could be more vulnerable from fire.

"They could be a neighbour, relative or someone you care for. These linked smoke alarm systems are monitored 24 hrs a day, 365 days per year and they can contact our control room if smoke alarms are activated – family and friends can be safe in the knowledge that there will be someone on hand in an emergency. They are easily and readily available.



“Most of us have elderly or vulnerable people in our lives who could do with a helping hand. One very simple way of helping is to make sure they have working smoke alarms on each floor of their homes.

“You could be a life saver by taking a few minutes to check on those people who could be more vulnerable from fire.

“We want to hear from you to identify those individuals who are most vulnerable in terms of having a fire in their homes

“You can get more advice by registering for a safe and well check on our website or call 0800 1691234, 9am-5pm on weekdays.

“We’re here to help, and together we can save a life.”

Information on staying safe from fire in the home can be viewed on [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service’s website](#).

People can support the campaign on social media using the hashtag #YouCanSaveALife.



Take simple steps that could save a life



#YouCanSaveALife



Take simple steps that could save a life



#YouCanSaveALife



HOLIDAY HOME OWNERS URGED TO TAKE ACTION BEFORE RISE IN STAYCATION

The three fire and rescue services in Wales are working in partnership with Visit Wales to ensure holiday home owners are familiar with the newly updated guidance aimed at keeping themselves and their customers safe this Summer.

This toolkit offers unique tailored advice and support on taking the necessary steps required to ensure their property is fire compliant. The guidance includes handy checklists, simplified fire risk assessment advice and tips on how to reduce the risk of fire.

Bob Mason, Head of Business Fire Safety, said: “Many of us will be taking a holiday nearer home this year with a rise in staycations expected.

“This invaluable toolkit provides those responsible for self-catering holiday lets with advice and guidance to help minimise the risk of fire.

“We encourage all those who are planning on letting out accommodation this year to be mindful of the risks and to ensure their accommodation complies with the Fire Safety Order.

“The regulations standardise the advice across the country, making it simpler for holiday owners to comply without confusion.”

This guidance booklet includes information on electrical safety, housekeeping fire risk reduction advice, automatic fire alarm recommendations, escape route guidance, suggested firefighting equipment and much more.

For further fire safety advice, visit the [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's website](https://www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk).



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru
South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service

CORPORATE HEALTH STANDARD AWARD – HIGHEST PLATINUM STATUS MAINTAINED

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has been re-awarded the Platinum Corporate Health Standard for its commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of its staff.

Funded by Welsh Government, delivered by Public Health Wales and supported by the Health and Safety Executive, the Corporate Health Standard is the quality mark for workplace health and wellbeing in Wales.

The Standard is a continuous journey of good practice and improvement, and in May the Service gained success in being re-awarded the Platinum Standard for a further 12 months following a rigorous on-line assessment.

The framework has four levels of award to recognise each stage of the developmental health and well-being work achieved by employers - Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. The Service previously achieved Platinum, the highest Standard, in 2017.

Llinos Gutierrez-Jones, Human Resources Manager, explains: “The Platinum level recognises responsible employers who demonstrate an organisational commitment to support not only their employees, but also other employers and the local community.



“The Platinum Standard is awarded to exemplar employers who demonstrate sustainable development as an integral part of their business practice and culture. Sustainable Development can be understood as improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of people and communities to achieve a better quality of life for our own and future generations.

“Looking after our staff as well as our communities is important to us so that ultimately we can provide better services to the public. We were therefore delighted that the Assessor from Public

Health Wales gave us extremely favourable feedback and complimented our work, saying that commitment to sustainability is comprehensively considered by the Service.”

ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS SOUGHT IN NATIONAL RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service supported a campaign led by the National Fire Chiefs Council encouraging people to explore the opportunities available to those who have a passion for working in and helping their local community by becoming On-Call Firefighters.

The 'Need More' On-Call Firefighter campaign is in its third year and was held for a week in March aiming to highlight opportunities open to people from all walks of life. The campaign is supported by a national website - www.oncallfire.uk - which allows people to find out more about on-call roles and get in touch with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service at any time of the year.

Working as an On-Call Firefighter means being involved in a wide range of activities in your local area, from responding to emergency calls to supporting local communities or providing prevention advice to help keep them safe.

In return, the fire and rescue service offers flexible work to fit around study, work and family commitments, first class training and development opportunities, and a chance to make a difference in your local community.

Paul Jenkinson, Senior Operations Manager, said: "On-Call Firefighters are a vital part of our Service. The role is demanding, unpredictable, exciting and rewarding, coupled with the satisfaction and respect that comes with providing a crucial service to your local community.

"We would be delighted to hear from applicants who can give their time to the Service to help protect their local community and who meet the eligibility criteria.

"Our On-Call recruitment process has now resumed with Covid-19 restrictions in place and we are progressing applicants based on the needs of the fire station they are applying for.



"We are particularly keen to hear from people who can offer cover at our more rural stations.

"We are currently recruiting for on-call firefighters at Aberdyfi, Abersoch, Amlwch, Bala, Beaumaris, Benllech, Betws y Coed, Cerrigydrudion, Corwen, Harlech, Llangefni, Llanrwst, Menai Bridge, Porthmadog, St Asaph, Tywyn."



Working in the fire and rescue service means you become part of a close-knit team, earn extra money and receive full and ongoing training so you develop a broad range of transferable work and life skills.

It is important the Service workforce reflects the local communities of North Wales so all enquiries are welcome, no previous experience is necessary, but you will need:

- A strong desire to support the local community
- Enthusiasm for working as part of a team
- A reasonable level of fitness
- Typically live and/or work within a set response time, usually five minutes, of a fire station.

Visit the [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service website](http://www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk) for further details.

COLLABORATION WITH NORTH WALES MOUNTAIN RESCUE ASSOCIATION PROVIDES CRITICAL RADIO COVERAGE

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association have been working together at Cerrigydrudion Fire Station as part of a project to provide critical radio communications coverage in Snowdon and the Llyn Brenig area.

North Wales Mountain Rescue Association is a representative body for the volunteer Mountain, Lowland, Cave and Search Dog teams in North Wales.

Steve Morris from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service said: “Early this year, the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association approached me to assist with the challenge of providing radio coverage for their volunteers in the area surrounding Llyn Brenig and south-eastern Snowdonia.

“They identified Cerrigydrudion Fire Station as an ideal location for a radio repeater. We already have high speed, secure public sector networks in all of our fire stations to enable split-second fire mobilisations and to allow our fire crew to use the computers. Connected to that network is a radio repeater pointed at a wind turbine that then floods the surrounding area with signal.

“It’s very satisfying to squeeze extra value out of it at no extra cost, it just required some mutual creative thinking”

Gerald Davison, Volunteer IT and Comms lead for the Association and also an On-Call Firefighter at Mold Fire Station, said: “It’s been great to work with Steve Morris and Matt Topp at the fire and rescue service to get this service up and running really quickly.



“The alternative would have been an expensive connection for a small repeater site and as a small charity we could not afford the ongoing costs.”

Tim Radford, Chair of the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association, went on to say: “We are very grateful to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service for assisting the volunteer Land Search and Rescue teams in North Wales. We look forward to working together on other sites where we need network access, so we can better serve those in need in rural and mountain areas.”

Steve concluded: “Cerrigydrudion Fire Station now forms part of four linked radio repeaters providing coverage to the Llanberis North Wales Mountain Rescue Association team.

“These four sites are part of a pilot that, if successful, will form part of a much larger network across North Wales. Thanks to our participation in their project, Cerrigydrudion plays an important role in providing essential radio coverage.

“I’m excited to continue helping with my newly found colleagues at North Wales Mountain Rescue Association with their rollout”