



## CFRS Weekly Update – 29/08/25

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### Weekly Update – At a Glance

- Support for North Yorkshire FRS with major wildfire incident
- Asbestos awareness for firefighters
- M6 overnight closures September 2025
- Learning and Development update August 2025
- Successful tall / high-rise building multi-station training exercise at Kendal
- Open Days across Cumbria this weekend
- Pride by the Harbourside
- Baton of Hope tour 2025
- Area Manager promotion board
- Trainee Accounting Technician vacancy
- Fire Protection advisors and inspectors sought – engagement sessions in October and September
- Annual Awards – Last chance to submit nominations
- Teams hubs end of life at HQ
- Understanding your Annual Benefit Statement – Remediable Service Statement
- Nominate now for the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2025
- Declaration of 'Gifts & Hospitality' AND 'Contacts with Suppliers' \*\*Please note – this applies to ALL employees\*\*

**\*\* Please note that the above information should be shared with all staff on parade.**

**Detailed information for each of these headlines can be found below.**



## **Risk Critical / Operational**

### **Support for North Yorkshire FRS with major wildfire incident**

Following a request made via National Resilience for support for North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service with an ongoing major wildfire incident at Langdale, we have deployed a number of specialist wildfire firefighters to North Yorkshire yesterday (Thursday), today and over the weekend to support their wildfire response.

Cumbria offered the availability of the Unimog and crew for 72 hours and one ICL3 Manager.

Thank you to those who have travelled for their ongoing efforts to support another service with our specialist equipment and wildfire expertise, and stay safe.



**Ian Seel**  
Area Manager

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## **Asbestos awareness for firefighters**

Firefighters are categorised as Asbestos Workers under the *Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012*, requiring risk assessment, PPE, awareness training, decontamination and health monitoring.

Please read the linked information on the risks of asbestos exposure, which includes links to further HSE information on the risks, where it is likely to be found, and what it looks like.

Recent Adverse Safety Events have occurred where the operational procedures for managing asbestos have not been fully followed. **In particular, potentially-contaminated equipment returned for decontamination has not been fully sealed in plastic bags and labelled.**

Personnel should re-familiarise themselves with the correct procedures for managing the risks of asbestos contamination.

### **Asbestos awareness**

**Duncan Taylor**

Health and Safety Manager

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## **M6 overnight closures September 2025**

Personnel please be aware that the service has been informed by Kier Transportation Highways that the M6 J36 to J39 north and southbound carriageways will be closed overnight from **Monday 1 September** to **Wednesday 10 September 2025** between **8pm to 5am** as follows:

- Northbound closures will begin on **Monday 1 September** for approximately **six nights**
- Southbound closures will begin on **Monday 8 September** for approximately **two nights**

However, please note, we have been informed by Kier that there will still be access for blue light services during these closures. Access onto the motorway at junctions 36, 37 and 38 will be possible to travel with caution through Kier's work area.

For full details of diversions and ongoing traffic management in place, please click here: [M6 overnight closures September 2025](#)

**Melissa Goldrick**

Risk Management Technician, Ops Intel Team, Operational Planning Department

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### **Learning and Development update August 2025**

Please find a link below to an August update from the Learning and Development update, including:

- PDR Pro course reminder
- Breathing apparatus courses
- Developing firefighters
- Incident command development
- BA Command Training

### **Learning and Development update August 2025**

**Scott Cameron**

Station Manager, Learning and Development

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## **Successful tall / high-rise building multi-station training exercise at Kendal**

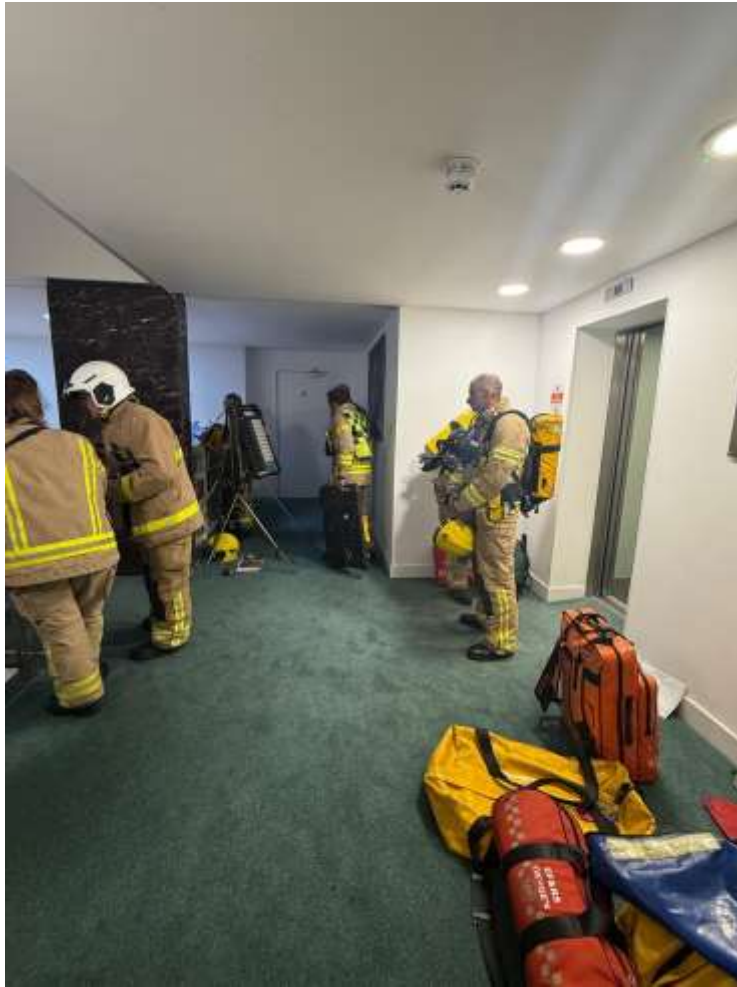
Firefighters from across Cumbria took part in a multi-station training exercise recently to test our procedures for dealing with fires in tall/high-rise buildings.

The exercise was a real success and provided lots to think about for multiple crews within the local area, with Kendal P1, Kendal P2, Shap, Sedbergh, Milnthorpe, Penrith and Ulverston all attending and taking valuable learning.

We really appreciate the Sand Aire House providing this invaluable venue to train in.











**Luke Fraser**



## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

### **Open Days across Cumbria this weekend**

This weekend we have a number of our stations opening their doors to the public for Open Days, with Penrith HQ, Barrow, and Wigton all holding events tomorrow, **Saturday 30 August**.

With this being the final weekend of the school summer holidays it is expected that these events will be very busy so if you are able to pop along to support the crews, please take the time to do so to make this a proper celebration of our service and showcase the best of what we do to our communities.

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### **Pride by the Harbourside**

On Saturday 16 August Whitehaven crew attended the Pride by the Harbourside event on the harbour in the town.

This was a well-attended event with lots of engagement with the public and Blue watch crew gave a great account for Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.



## Ashley Conway

Crew Manager, Whitehaven Blue Watch

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## Baton of Hope tour 2025

💛 **373 metres. Thousands of voices. One message: HOPE.**

Between 2020 and 2024, 373 people in Cumbria lost their lives to suicide. To honour every single life, a paper chain where each metre represents one life lost is being created.

This chain – 373 metres long – will stretch across Whitehaven Harbour, filled with messages of positivity, strength, and encouragement.

It will be a powerful symbol of hope and a reminder that together, we can make a difference.

If you would like to add a message, please follow the link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/mmSWiTzLE0>

Learn more about the project: [batonofhopecumbria.co.uk](https://batonofhopecumbria.co.uk)

The event is taking place on **Sunday 7 September 2025**.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service will have crews along the route showing their support.

Please discuss this event on your stations, in your offices and with your teams to see if you can get involved and support this event along its route.

If you would like to get involved, please get in touch!

**Kelly Drury**

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

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**Vacancies**

### **Area Manager promotion board**

Applications are still open for the post of **Area Manager**. We are looking for individuals who are focused on demonstrating outstanding leadership, and who value compassion, honesty, and integrity.

**Applications close:** Wednesday 3 September 2025

**Possible initial assessments:** w/c Monday 8 September 2025

**Assessment Day:** Wednesday 17 September 2025

You can find out more about the role, eligibility and how to apply here: [Leadership Vacancies | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service](#)

**Ollie Wright**

Resourcing, Talent and Wellbeing Lead

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### **Trainee Accounting Technician vacancy**

**Salaries:**

Entry Level – Finance Administrator – £26,403–£26,842

Final Level – Accounting Technician – £34,434–£35,412

**Hours:** For the career grade opportunity, this role is 37 hours and undertaking the qualification levels will be included in your working time. We offer flexible work options that can be discussed at interview.

**Working expectations:** As this is a trainee role, the successful candidate will predominately be office-based to ensure thorough training and support can be implemented.

**Contract:** Permanent

**Location:** The Finance department is based at Carlisle East Fire Station and Penrith HQ.

**Closing date:** Wednesday 3 September 2025, 11.59pm

**Interviews:** Interviews will be held in person at Carlisle East Fire Station during the week commencing Monday 8 September 2025.



You can find out more about the role, eligibility and how to apply here: [\*\*CGS0001 - Trainee Accounting Technician | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service\*\*](#)

**Ollie Wright**

Resourcing, Talent and Wellbeing Lead

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### **Fire Protection advisors and inspectors sought – engagement sessions in October and September**

The Fire Protection team is looking to identify individuals who are interested in becoming the next Fire Protection advisors and inspectors in the service.

The department has both corporate and operational staff within the team, so I encourage all who are interested to attend.

We are putting on two engagement sessions in September and October on Microsoft Teams.

These sessions aim to help people understand what the Fire Protection department does and the roles within the team.

If you would like to know more about Fire Protection, or have questions about the roles and the department, this is your opportunity.

Sessions will be held on **Wednesday 24 September, 3pm**, and **Tuesday 7 October, 10am**.

[\*\*Join the meeting now\*\*](#)

Meeting ID: 320 418 310 146 9

Passcode: JS9S9Fd2

**Brian Ing**

Station Manager, Fire Protection

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## Other

### **Annual Awards – Last chance to submit nominations!**

Time is running out for you to submit your nominations for our Annual Awards celebrating the skill and dedication of our workforce – with the deadline this weekend on **Sunday 31 August!**

You can nominate a colleague or team by email to [media@cumbriafire.gov.uk](mailto:media@cumbriafire.gov.uk) – please include your name, the name of the person/team you are nominating, the award you are nominating them for, and the reasons for the nomination (giving as much detail as possible).

We would love to encourage video nominations which can then be played at the awards ceremony for those who are shortlisted to be recognised – you can submit those by email to the same address.

This year's categories are:

- Community Contribution Award
- EDI Champion
- Unsung Hero Award
- Outstanding Achievement
- Inspirational Leader Award
- Team of the Year
- Community Ambassador of the Year
- Service Leadership Team's 'THACK' Values Award
- On-Call Champion
- Outstanding Contribution

**We are particularly keen for more nominations in the EDI Champion, Outstanding Achievement, Community Ambassador of the Year, and Outstanding Contribution categories.**

You can find more information about the categories and criteria here: <https://tinyurl.com/2h5kumen>



The winners will be revealed at a ceremony on Friday, 24 October 2025.

If you have any questions please contact Lauren Woodward, Orlanda Wright or Liam Waite.

**Lauren Woodward**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

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### **Teams hubs end of life at HQ**

Please be aware that from Tuesday 14 October until Wednesday 22 October, the Teams hub in the Community Room and Kemplay Bank at Fire HQ will no longer work.

If you have any meetings scheduled during these dates for a Teams meeting, these will need to be done via laptop.

New Surface hubs are due to be installed on Tuesday 21 October 2025, more information will follow.

**Joanne Cullen**

Project Delivery Lead, Fire Transition Team

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### **Understanding your Annual Benefit Statement – Remediable Service Statement**

A reminder that the Annual Benefit Statement – Remediable Service Statement (ABS-RSS) for the 2024/25 year will be released by **Sunday 31 August 2025**.

To support members in understanding their ABS-RSS, **two presentation sessions** will be held on:

- Thursday 11 September 2025, 9.30am

- Monday 29 September 2025, 10.00am

If you wish to attend, please click the link or email

[\*\*FirePensions@cumbriafire.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:FirePensions@cumbriafire.gov.uk)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 359 160 712 932 1

Passcode: 8Kv7Y5gr

Note: The presentation content will be the same as last year. If you attended previously, you can view the presentation again on the **CFRS intranet**.

**Simon Long**

Senior Pensions Advisor

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**Nominate now for the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2025**

We're delighted to invite your organisation to take part in this year's Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards, a celebration of the remarkable individuals, teams and organisations who go above and beyond to protect, serve, and inspire.

Whether it's frontline bravery, behind-the-scenes innovation, or outstanding community engagement – these awards are your opportunity to spotlight the stories that deserve recognition.

Nominations close on **Monday 15 September**, so now's the time to share the achievements that make your service proud.

[\*\*EFE 2025 Nomination Form\*\*](#)

Submitting a nomination is quick and impactful – it's a chance to showcase your team's achievements, boost morale, and raise your organisation's profile within the sector. Every entry helps us celebrate the diversity, dedication and innovation that define fire and emergency services today.

Let's celebrate the best of fire and emergency services together.

**Nikki Holmes**

Events and Operations Coordinator, *Fire Knowledge*

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### **Declaration of 'Gifts & Hospitality' AND 'Contacts with Suppliers'**

**\*\*Please note – this applies to ALL employees\*\***

This information is being circulated on a quarterly basis. Please note that this is a friendly reminder for all employees to complete if applicable.

As part of the Joint Corporate Governance Framework, the financial regulations set out that the Chief Fire Officer has a responsibility “to foster a culture that will not tolerate fraud and corruption” and “to adopt and maintain effective anti-fraud, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering arrangements.”

This includes having policies to capture the receipt of gifts and hospitality over the value of £25 by any senior officers and all employees including where gifts and hospitality have been declined.

In addition, for similar reasons we are seeking to capture contacts by senior officers and all employees who have had communication with current or potential suppliers or contractors.

For example, it might be that an officer/employee has met informally/attended a visit or seminar hosted by a potential supplier.

We would use the information to consider the appropriateness of that officer/employee being involved in a procurement process where the supplier may be a potential bidder.

This is to help us demonstrate that we have a process to ensure independence around procurement.

This is **not** meant to capture ‘normal day business’ of contacting suppliers to raise orders and query supplies, etc.

The registers are held on CFRS SharePoint and can be accessed via the below link:

**[Fire Hub - Service Forms - Series 1000 Forms](#)**

Or via these specific links:

 [Gifts & Hospitality register](#)

 [Supplier Contacts register](#)

Please complete these registers following **any** occurrence of a reportable gift, hospitality or supplier contact as the year progresses to avoid having to recall them in a block at year end.

Please think back to **January 2025** and record any instances back to then, which was when this was first raised as an audit requirement.

Can managers who have team members who are unable to access the SharePoint links above please highlight this audit requirement to them and facilitate the completion of the form on their behalf when needed.

As part of the CFRS statutory accounts, details of our anti-fraud and corruption procedures are published and to maximise completeness we will circulate a reminder to complete these registers on a quarterly basis.

**Emma Brough**

Finance Officer

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To have your news included in this section please email:

[\*\*CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk)

