

# Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

## Weekly Update

### North West Regional Tactical Firefighting Challenge 2025

I am pleased to share that a team from Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service proudly competed in the North West Regional Tactical Firefighting Challenge, held on Saturday 26 July 2025 at Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ. This dynamic and demanding event brought together fire services from across the region to test and showcase operational excellence in a high-pressure, realistic firefighting scenario.

Designed to reflect modern tactical firefighting principles, the challenge included live fire conditions, incident command, dynamic risk assessment, and casualty rescue, all under strict time and safety constraints. Representing Cumbria with professionalism, determination, and teamwork were:

**Incident Commander – Karl Read** (Watch Manager – Kendal Blue & White Watch)

**BAECO – Christian Neen** (Crew Manager – Whitehaven On Call)

**Fire Ground Operative – Ryan Collins** (Crew Manager – Whitehaven On Call)

**BA Wearer – Sean Fitzsimons** (Firefighter – Whitehaven On Call)

**BA Wearer – Pat Campbell-Jenner** (Firefighter – Ulverston Amber Watch)

Our crew demonstrated exceptional tactical awareness, safe systems of work, and resilience under pressure. Competing against strong teams from across the North West, Cumbria performed excellently, displaying the new procedures being adopted across the service, receiving positive feedback from assessors and organisers alike.

Highlights included:

- Strong performance in the overall event
- Christian Neen receiving an award for the 'Best BAECO' performance
- First place in the VR Casualty Care Triage event

Beyond the competition itself, the event served as a valuable opportunity for skills development, knowledge sharing, and strengthening relationships with regional colleagues. Our participation aligns with our ongoing commitment to operational excellence, firefighter safety, and continuous improvement across the discipline of tactical firefighting.

I'd like to offer a huge congratulations to our team, including the instructional staff assessing the other teams in the region, for their outstanding effort and for representing Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service to such a high standard. Plans are already under way to build on this experience and continue developing our tactical capability across the service.

Thank you to all those who supported the team and made this participation possible.

**Tom Harding**

Station Manager, Learning and Development

Making Cumbria a safer place for all









