



CFRS Weekly Update – 05/09/25

Weekly Update – At a Glance

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- How to access Emerging Technology updates
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- Cumbria Pride Family and Community Day
- Enhancing culture and leadership in fire and rescue services – webinar
- Baton of Hope tour 2025
- Second annual Scottish Women in the Fire Service event
- Pension seminars for those within LGPS – corporate staff only
- Fire Fighters Charity: Try a self-assessment tool and explore online support

**** 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

Cumbria answers the call to support North Yorkshire with major wildfire response

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service crews have worked tirelessly to support North Yorkshire with their major wildfire incident – and in the process showed the country our ability to respond to these incident types.

Last Thursday (28 August) crews from Cumbria were deployed to support the wildfire response at Langdale. Further crew members were deployed on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 August and the crews worked tirelessly until returning home on Tuesday 2 September.



Our crews played a pivotal part of the response and carried out arduous work along the eastern side of the incident in areas which were inaccessible for large plant and machinery, using hand tools, hand bag pumps and lengths of hose to create a wet line to contain the fire within its footprint.

They worked with crews from all over the country, guided them with their knowledge and capabilities of our equipment, and showcased our expertise in responding to wildfires. Our Unimog came into its own, getting equipment and water to areas other vehicles couldn't, and is definitely a sought-after asset.

The scale and impact of this incident is unprecedented and something I personally haven't seen before, other than our past flooding events.

It was humbling seeing farm owners assisting us tirelessly, knowing that they had lost most – or in some cases all – of their usable land, creating control lines, wet lines and extinguish flareups around the fire perimeter with their own equipment.

The incident will no doubt go on for several weeks or even months depending on weather conditions and other external elements.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attend for all their work, coming together from all over Cumbria and working as one team to provide invaluable support and show the importance of supporting others:

WM Neil Aitken (Appleby)

CM Steve Wharton (Appleby)

FF Jason Dakin (Appleby)

CM Howard Winter (Keswick)

WM Phil Gardner (Sedbergh)

FF Ean Moorhouse (Sedbergh)

WM John French (Millom)

FF Lee Denton (Ulverston)

FF Joanna Popiela (Ulverston)

FF Annika Stumpf (Ulverston)

FF Louise Greenwood (Ambleside)

FF Darren Heaton (Windermere)



One piece of initial learning is ensuring we mobilise our Argo Cats to support the movement of crews and equipment across the incident ground – this will be written into the Wildfire Mobilising Policy for out-of-county deployments. These vehicles are located at Sedbergh and Silloth, along with Mules with fogging units at Windermere and Millom.

Martin Slack

Group Manager, Service Delivery for Cumberland & Wildfire Lead

How to access Emerging Technology updates

For information, there is a section within *Operational Planning* on SharePoint called *Emerging Technology* (which looks like the below picture).



Emerging Technology

Within this section, I have included a folder called *Emerging Tech Videos, News, Information Repository* which contains videos, news items, reports, etc., of incidents involving electric vehicles (EVs), e-scooters, BESS sites, etc.

Please feel free to have a look to help build awareness of some of the hazards and warning signs which may assist at incidents you may encounter involving such technologies.

Link to the folder is here: [!\[\]\(74d4806277d7e73349d8e8c0897931e9_img.jpg\) **Emerging Tech Videos, News, Information Repository**](#)

Paul Dean

Station Manager, Operational Planning department

Reminder: 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 began 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



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Open Day success at Barrow, Penrith and Wigton

The community turned out in huge numbers at three of our stations across the county last weekend as we held three Open Days in one day and raised more than £8,000 for an amazing cause.

On Saturday 30 August, Barrow, Penrith and Wigton held Open Days to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity, showcase our skills, equipment and vehicles, and meet members of our communities.

Barrow held a fancy dress competition, live demos, craft and face painting, and offered food and ice cream.



Penrith displayed a variety of demos, fun activities and games, and their raffle with some amazing prizes proved a huge hit.



And Wigton's amazing day included ladder drills, an RTC demo, CPR sessions, and a cake sale and competition to guess the number of sweets in a jar.



Well done to everyone who played a part in the organisation of these brilliant events, and to all teams who organised their own Open Days throughout the summer.

World Suicide Prevention Day 2025



On **Wednesday 10 September 2025**, people and organisations across the world will unite to mark World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) under the triennial theme ***Changing the narrative on suicide***.

This theme calls on us all to challenge harmful myths, reduce stigma, and foster open, compassionate conversations about suicide.

In preparation for the day, I will be hosting a drop-in Teams session on **Tuesday 9 September** at **11am** to deliver a myth-busting activity and to look at how you can access help for yourself and others.

Here is the Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#)

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Cumbria Pride Family and Community Day

Cumbria Pride will be hosting a **Family and Community Day** on **Saturday 13 September 2025**, at the **Richard Rose Central Academy in Carlisle**.

The event will feature a fun-filled afternoon with stalls, activities, information, and entertainment for all ages.

The Carlisle crew will be attending with the appliance and we will have a stall inside hosting recruitment and prevention activities.

If you would like to help out at this event, please get in touch with

kelly.drury@cumbriafire.gov.uk

It would also be lovely to see people on the day, so please spread the word and pop along and enjoy the activities.

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Enhancing culture and leadership in fire and rescue services – webinar

Women in the Fire Service UK members have been invited to attend an online webinar about enhancing culture and leadership in fire and rescue services on Monday 22 September between 12.30pm–1.30pm.

If you would like to attend, [click here to register](#).

The banner is a horizontal rectangle with a magenta background. At the top left, it says 'ONLINE WEBINAR' in white. To the right is the website 'www.realworld-group.com'. The main title 'EXCLUSIVE WEBINAR' is centered in large white letters, followed by 'ENHANCING CULTURE & LEADERSHIP IN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES' in slightly smaller white letters. Below the title, on the left, is a calendar icon and the text 'DATE 22nd September 2025'. On the right is a clock icon and the text 'TIME 12.30-1.30PM GMT'. In the center is a circular portrait of Juliette Alban Metcalfe, a woman with short grey hair and glasses. Below the portrait, her name 'JULIETTE ALBAN METCALFE' is written in white, followed by her title 'Chief Executive Real World Group' in smaller white text. At the bottom left is the 'WFS Women in the Fire Service UK' logo in white. At the bottom right is the 'REAL WORLD GROUP' logo, which consists of a stylized circular graphic above the company name in white.

Real-world strategies to build inclusive, supportive teams and foster a positive organisational culture.

A closer look at FRS360, a purpose-built 360-degree feedback tool designed specifically for FRS leaders.

Guidance on how this tool supports leadership development in line with NFCC frameworks and Fire Standards Board expectations.

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager, Operational Assurance

Baton of Hope tour 2025

The Baton of Hope 2025 tour began in Blackpool on Monday 1 September and will be passing through Cumbria on **Sunday 7 September 2025**.

The aim of the tour is to ***Stand up to suicide*** as we spread the message of prevention far and wide.

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

If you would like to be part of the day, please see further details by following the link: **[Baton Of Hope Cumbria](#)**

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Second annual Scottish Women in the Fire Service event

The second annual Scottish Women in the Fire Service event will take place 20–21 September 2025 at Scottish Fire & Rescue Service HQ at Cambuslang.

For more information about the event and how you can attend, see the links below:

- **[Joining Instructions](#)**
- **[Event Timetable](#)**

Kerry-Jane Cassidy



Other

Pension seminars for those within LGPS – corporate staff only

Due to popular demand, Financial Education Coaches with My Money Matters (our partner for AVCs) are hosting more **free webinars** during September, giving you the opportunity to learn about the importance of retirement planning.

Start building your ideal retirement with support from a Financial Education Coach and book your preferred webinar slot below.

Your retirement options explained

Outlines how your LGPS works, and more importantly, how you can take advantage of your retirement saving options to maximise your pension.

Dates: [Wednesday 10 September](#), [Thursday 18 September](#) or [Monday 29 September](#)

The five-year dilemma: ISAs vs Shared Cost AVCs

We'll compare ISAs and Shared Cost AVCs, and outline which one could be the most effective to help you reach your retirement goals.

Dates: [Wednesday 10 September](#), [Friday 19 September](#) or [Tuesday 30 September](#)

If you're interested in another topic or want to look at other dates – we've got you covered. [Click here to see what's available.](#)

Jemma Taylor

HR Manager

Volunteers urgently needed for Workington careers event next week

We have an urgent request for support at our upcoming Workington Career Cluster Event, facilitated by Centre for Leadership Performance. Due to a couple of volunteers dropping out, we now urgently need additional support.

The event will be taking place at **Workington Academy** on **Wednesday 10 September** from **9am to 3.30pm** and is aimed at **Year 6 pupils**.

We require a volunteer to run a career activity for 10 minutes to groups of students on a carousel basis. For instance, if there are eight stations, you would have to do the activity eight times during the AM session and eight times during the PM session, ensuring everyone has a chance to engage.

We urgently need support for the following sessions:

- Morning session (9am–12pm) – one volunteer needed
- Afternoon session (12pm–3.30pm) – two volunteers needed

If you are able to help with either session, we would be extremely grateful. Please email rachel.pettit@cforlp.org.uk if you would like to support.

Rachel Pettit

Office Administrator, Centre for Leadership Performance

Try a self-assessment tool and explore online support



Have you tried Fire Fighters Charity's mental health self-assessment tool yet?

Available in its Online Wellbeing Hub, it can:

- Help you better understand your feelings of anxiety or low mood
- Help you decide whether to look for more support and information

You can also access a range of online health and wellbeing courses through the Hub, from bitesize to full length, covering everything from sleep issues to overcoming anxiety, the benefits of physical activity and much more.

[Access the Online Wellbeing Hub here](#)

Meanwhile, the charity has spaces available on its **[online wellbeing programmes](#)** in the coming months, with some tailored to all service users, and others for those approaching or recently retired – both self-directed and facilitated.

On top of that, it also has three **[pre-retirement wellbeing workshops](#)** available to sign up to, if you're approaching retirement from the service in the next few years.

Fire Fighters Charity

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

