



CFRS Weekly Update – 24/10/25

Weekly Update – At a Glance

- I Gel Supraglottic airways withdrawn from use
- 30-year career comes to a close for Group Manager
- New Operational Powered Respirator Protective Suits now fully operational
- Technical service notice – Reciprocating cutting blades
- Learning opportunities from across the sector
- Black History Month 2025
- Station Manager – Promotion Board
- Fitness Instructor vacancies (x2)
- More than £7,100 raised for Fire Fighters Charity
- Upgraded meeting room technology installed
- FireWatch: Video explainers, dev site and additional training
- Information Security Month – Records Management
- Free online sessions surrounding World Human Rights Day

**** 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

I Gel Supraglottic airways withdrawn from use

Due to the service adopting the IEC one-day course, we will be withdrawing the I Gel Supraglottic airways from use.

The Supraglottic airways are classed as an advanced airway so cannot be included in the one-day course.

We can however teach and use O/P and N/P airways (Oral and Nasal) which can be used in conjunction with bag valve and mask ventilation.

We will still follow the Algorithm V12.

Can all crews remove Supraglottic airways from IEC kits and send back to stores via internal mail please.

Darren Elliott

Watch Manager, Learning and Development

30-year career comes to a close for Group Manager

Three decades of committed service to Cumbria came to a close on Friday as Paul Milburn, Group Manager for Prevention and Protection, booked off duty for the final time after an amazing career.

Paul was presented with his commemorative axe by Assistant Chief Fire Officer Lauren Woodward in front of a packed Community Room at CFRS HQ.

Your total professionalism, dedication to our communities and infectious energy will be missed – good luck with your next chapter, Paul.



New Operational Powered Respirator Protective Suits now fully operational

Cumbria FRS has successfully met the target of having 80 per cent of Mass Decontamination (MD) Operators trained in the new Operational Powered Respirator Protective Suits (PRPS3) by Thursday, 23 October.

The suits are now fully operational and anyone across the MD-trained stations who has yet to attend the training session will be caught up in coming weeks.

Personnel can reference further information on PRPS3 via the links provided below:

- [!\[\]\(511a36c244659513b679df9c639945de_img.jpg\) **Mass Decontamination**](#)
- [**Technical Equipment Note 19 - PRPS3.**](#)
- [**Tech Note 19 Appendix - Eco Board Alarm Signals Table**](#)

Thanks to those stations and personnel who attended the MD development session on the evening of Thursday, 16 October at Barrow Fire Station.

Attendance at these training sessions and exercises is vitally important in maintaining practical skills and knowledge, as well as helping us to prepare for next month's assurance visit.

Thanks to MD Instructors CM Glenn Irvine and SM Mike Wilkinson for leading the training session.

Tom Wright

Station Manager, LCU 9 (National Resilience SPOC)

Technical service notice – Reciprocating cutting blades

Please note there are two types of reciprocating saw blades available for use:

1. Training and general use:

Milwaukee Sawzall – "The Wrecker"



- **Colour:** White
- **Sizes:** 150mm and 300mm
- **Use:** Training and operational tasks

2. RTC specialist cutting (operational use only):

Bosch Expert – Vehicle Rescue



- **Colour:** Blue
- **Sizes:** 150mm & 225mm
- **Use:** RTC (Road Traffic Collision) and specialist cutting only

Issuing procedure:

- To ensure service availability, **a maximum of two blades of each type per ticket** will be issued
- Blades are **only available from Stores via the ticket system**

Technical Services department

Learning opportunities from across the sector

Please remember when viewing briefs and case studies from other services to access our own operational information notes regarding our procedures:
[Operational Guidance](#)

Cheshire FRS

[Operational Monthly Learning - August 2025 | Rise 360](#) – including an incident case study



Cheshire FRS: [Operational Monthly Learning - September 2025 | Rise 360](#)

Greater Manchester FRS: [September OLB](#)

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager, Operational Assurance

Tribute to retired DO Gerald Chadwick

DO Gerald Chadwick (retired) has sadly passed away following a long illness, aged 87.

Gerald started his career at Burnley Borough Fire service in 1958, moving to Lancashire Fire Service in 1974, working in Morecambe and Lancaster stations.

In 1976 he transferred to Kendal, East Division for Cumbria Fire Service, where he worked until retirement in 1988 at the rank of Divisional Officer.

Gerald is survived by his wife Dorothy, who talked with great affection about Gerald's career in the fire service.

His funeral will be held at St Mark's Church, Natland, Nr Kendal on Wednesday, 5 November at 2pm.

Willy Watson

Station Manager, LCU 7



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Black History Month 2025

Black History Month is a time to recognise and celebrate the contributions, achievements, and history of Black people in the UK and around the world.

For our service, it is an opportunity to reflect on the diverse communities we serve, honour the legacy of Black firefighters past and present, and reaffirm our commitment to inclusion, equality, and respect.

By acknowledging Black history, we help build a more inclusive workplace culture, challenge discrimination, and ensure that everyone feels seen, valued, and empowered – both within our teams and across the communities we protect.

I would like to encourage everyone to take a look and listen to the following:

- [Fire Hub - Listen and Learn - All Documents](#)
- [Race Equality Toolkit - NFCC](#)
- [!\[\]\(694fcb4611893e9db5249daba48abfc1_img.jpg\) CFRS Black History Month 2025.docx](#)

Kelly Drury

Watch Manager, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



Vacancies

Station Manager – Promotion Board

Location: Our leaders work countywide and our headquarters are at Penrith, Cumbria

Salary: Development – 50,135 FTE (+ 20% Operational Allowance), Competent B – 55,301 FTE (+ 20% Operational Allowance)

Contract: Permanent and fixed-term opportunities

Closing date: 11.59pm on Sunday, 9 November 2025

Shortlisting: w/c Monday, 10 November 2025

Possible initial assessments: w/c Monday, 17 November 2025

Assessment Day: w/c Monday, 1 December 2025

Ollie Wright

Resourcing, Talent and Well-being Lead

Fitness Instructor x2

Location: The two fitness instructors will be covering the Eden and South Lakes areas

Salary: 13.47 per hour

Hours: Zero-hour contract

Contract: Fixed term 12 months (INTERNAL ONLY)

Closing date: 11.59pm on Sunday, 2 November 2025

Interviews: Interviews will be held virtually on Thursday, 6 November 2025

To find out more and apply, click here: [**CFRS0165 - Fitness Instructors | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service**](#)

Ollie Wright

Resourcing, Talent and Well-being Lead



More than £7,100 raised for Fire Fighters Charity



Thanks to the non-stop work of our dedicated teams and the huge turnout from our communities, Penrith Fire Station Open Day raised a fantastic £7,191.23 for the Fire Fighters Charity.

A huge turnout from the community at our service HQ in August saw members of the public enjoying the live demos of specialist skills, equipment and vehicles from our firefighters.

We were delighted to welcome Alex and Ellie from the charity to our service HQ to meet Gold and Black Watches and thank them for their efforts.

Upgraded meeting room technology installed

As part of our upgrade to meeting room technology, Yealink Meeting Board Pro devices have now been installed in the Community Room at Barrow Fire Station and in the Community Room and Kemplay Bank meeting room at Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service HQ.

To help you get started with the new devices, a Yealink Meeting Board Pro User Guide can be found [here](#). Printed copies will also be available in each of the meeting rooms above.

The new meeting boards are designed to feel familiar and intuitive. If you're used to using Microsoft Teams, you'll find the interface and features very similar – including touch-screen controls, whiteboards, and seamless Teams integration.

These upgrades are aimed at making collaboration smoother and more efficient.

Please note the Surface Hub names have not changed so all bookings will still be recognised.

Jane Walker

Team Leader, Business Support

FireWatch: Video explainers, dev site and additional training

As we approach the go live date of Monday 3 November for FireWatch, there are now even more ways you can prepare for the launch and brush up on how to use the system:

Video explainers

A suite of training explainer videos have now been added to the FireWatch section of SharePoint and can be found here, along with written guides: [FireWatch Training - Human Resources Module](#)

Additional training sessions

All of the originally scheduled training sessions have now been completed, so thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend, listen and ask questions. Your attention has been appreciated and your feedback has been valuable.

If you have been unable to attend a training session and would like to arrange another session, please contact joanne.cullen@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Joanne Cullen

Project Delivery Lead, Fire Transition Team

Information Security Month – Records Management

To mark Information Security Month, an international initiative aimed at raising awareness about cyber security threats and educating individuals and organisations on how to protect themselves, five newsletters which will be shared with you during October.

The theme of this week's newsletter is *Records Management*.

In this newsletter you'll learn:

- What a record is
- Why it's important to know what records you keep
- How to check how long you should keep records for
- How to keep records securely
- Where to send paper records that should be retained but that you no longer need in the office/station
- How you should delete and destroy records that are no longer needed

[Click here to read the fourth newsletter](#)

Fiona Little

Information Governance

Free online sessions surrounding World Human Rights Day

World Human Rights Day (10 November) reminds us all of the importance of upholding human rights and addressing issues relating to tolerance and respect.

Join a series of engaging online (via MS Teams) Lunch & Learn sessions that provide an opportunity to raise awareness and inform on a range of issues affecting the cohesiveness and resilience of our communities.

- ***Who and what are the extreme right wing (ERW)?***

Monday 10 November (12pm–1pm)

The ERW are gaining traction on a global, national, regional and local level. Claire Little, NW Prevent Lead for the Department of Education, will provide some detail on who the ERW are and how they operate.

[**Join Here**](#)

- ***Online gaming and extremism***

Tuesday 11 November (12pm–1pm)

Jennie Fisher, London Prevent lead for the Department of Education, will provide an insight into gaming adjacent platforms, gamification, game mods, and bespoke games and their impact on radicalisation among young people.

[**Join Here**](#)

- ***3D-printed weapons***

Wednesday 12 November (12pm–1pm)

Heather Dawes from the Home Office will provide a session on 3D printers and their use by extremists or violence-fixated individuals to make viable weapons.

[**Join Here**](#)

- ***The importance of trusting relationships***

Thursday 13 Nov 2025 (12pm–1pm)

Declan Sammin from Liverpool City Council recounts the Southport tragedy and the lessons he learned about fostering positive and trusting relationships with the local community.

[**Join Here**](#)

- ***Asylum seekers and refugees – myths vs. reality***

Friday 14 November (12pm–1pm)

Join Abdulsalam Dallal, Asylum Lead Officer for Westmorland & Furness Council, for a factual, discussion-based session about the asylum process in England.

[Join Here](#)

Mark Clement

Head of Planning and Improvement

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

