



CFRS Weekly Update – 22/5/26

Weekly Update – At a Glance

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**** 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

Reminder of security measures following UK fire station burglaries

Please can all crews take note of the following information that has been sent from the NILO Coordination Office:

Over the past seven days there have been four fire station burglaries in the UK, where technical rescue equipment has been stolen from fire appliances.

This reflects an ongoing pattern of fire stations being targeted by organised crime groups, who are stealing forced entry and hydraulic cutting/spreading equipment in order to steal from financial institutions, businesses, and other secure premises. The primary targets are ATM machines; however, safes and secure vehicles have also been targeted.

These thefts have steadily increased over the past 18 months. To date in 2026, there have been 25 successful burglaries of fire stations, resulting in an estimated loss of £500,000 of equipment. All regions in England have been affected, and there have previously been similar incidents reported in Scotland and Wales.

Please can all station personnel be made aware of this issue and where possible adopt the following protective security measures:

- ▶ Adhering to fire station security protocols; securing doors, appliance bays, storage rooms and external areas at all times
- ▶ Regular inspection and reporting of defects of lighting, CCTV and alarm systems
- ▶ Vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity/behaviour around premises or appliances

- ▶ Implementing additional measures to secure storage of high-value and high-risk equipment
- ▶ Maintaining accurate and up-to-date inventories of specialist equipment, where possible including serial numbers, enabling easy identification of missing items
- ▶ Reporting all incidents promptly using correct organisation policies and procedures, where possible including serial numbers and full descriptions of stolen equipment

Colin Wright

Group Manager – Learning and Development

Initial Fireground Setup

The Learning and Development team would like to extend its thanks to all ICL1 commanders who attended the BA Command Course during the 2025–26 training year for their valuable contribution to the development of this fireground setup:

[Click here to view](#)

The 'initial' fireground setup refers to the structured organisation and deployment of equipment in accordance with the tactical objectives set by the Incident Commander at fires within the built environment.

This setup is fundamental in supporting a safe, controlled, and coordinated firefighting response. It ensures that both internal and external firefighting activities can be carried out effectively, with the necessary resources in place to protect crews, maintain operational flow, and achieve the incident objectives.

It is important to note that the initial fireground setup can be developed and expanded by the Incident Commander as additional resources arrive on scene. However, the initial configuration is designed to be simple, structured, and achievable by a minimum crew of four prior to committing into the premises under rapid deployment conditions, or by a crew of three in advance of further resources arriving, enabling safe and effective initial interior commitment.

The initial fireground setups will be incorporated into the forthcoming Firefighting Tactics Foundation Document upon publication.

Any questions, please contact Tom Harding, Station Manager – Learning and Development: FireService.LD@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Unimog back on the run



We are pleased to report that the Unimog is officially back at Appleby Fire Station and fully operational.

Equipped to serve as a high-capacity water bowser (4000l), this versatile appliance (call sign C62P1) is ready to deploy to both wildfires and property fires across the area.

Its off-road capabilities will be crucial as we head into the warmer months, ensuring we can get water exactly where it's needed most. The vehicle will be with CFRS until September before returning to the council to be used for gritting roads.

Jason Dakin

Asset Management Technician, Technical Services

Cleveland Load Hose Packs

Following on from the recent evolution of CFRS firefighting tactics, please find below some information on the recommended stowage options for both 38mm and 45mm hose. Technical Services are in the process of allocating each station a minimum of one length of 38mm hose. Following on from this bulletin you will receive some hose straps which will enable you to stow your smaller diameter hose in either of the following configurations.

Configuration 1: Standard Cleveland Load



Figure 1: 38mm Cleveland load



Figure 2: 45mm Cleveland Load

Configuration 2: Cleveland Load 'S' Lay



Figure 3: 38mm Cleveland load 'S' Lay



Figure 4: 45mm Cleveland Load 'S' Lay

When making up a Cleveland load the first wrap around the female coupling should be approx. 140cm (approximately the same length as the appliance bay squeegee mop handle) – this facilitates the ideal length to allow for the ‘S’ bend to be made up and strapped easily and securely and then stowed in the locker as below.



Figure 5: 38mm ‘S’ lay in stowage



Figure 6: 45mm ‘S’ Lay in Stowage

Operating principles

- ▶ When deploying from locker move ‘S’ lay to edge of locker, unclip the strap securing the full load. This will leave the couplings strapped together and controllable while allowing the rest of the load to fold out into a longer length in order to carry over a single shoulder.
- ▶ Each firefighter should be able to carry two loads individually or three with the assistance of a partner to place a third load across the top of the BA set should it be required.

Any questions, please contact Tom Harding, Station Manager – Learning and Development: FireService.LD@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Drowning Prevention Week – 13–20 June 2026

Please find the brief for Drowning Prevention Week 2026 which points to a number of resources and ideas for crews to use over the week.

Drowning Prevention Week 2026 briefing

Cumbria Water Safety Partnership is getting involved with this and putting on events across the county, as well as the schools and safeguarding networks will be delivering water safety content through assemblies and school lessons.

Stations can use their social media pages to support the campaign – I am keen for crews to take responsibility for this campaign and do some bits that are outside the box.

I am supportive of on-call stations being involved so please reach out to myself or liam.waite@cumbriafire.gov.uk for support.

This has also been shared with partners who are doing a lot of work, in particular BETTER leisure who are doing a full week dedicated to Swim Safe.

Please use the 541 form to record any activity you have done to help us keep track of what is happening.

Scott Cameron

Group Manager – Prevention and Protection

CBRN JOP Knowledge Survey

As part of our ongoing work to strengthen operational preparedness, please complete the short survey linked below (or QR Code) relating to the *Responding to CBRN Events Joint Operating Principles (Version 2.0)*.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ut7zbaAu1P>



The survey will help us understand how effectively key learning has been embedded across the service and where further support may be required. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

I would also ask that you actively encourage your crews to complete the survey during shifts and drill nights. Your support is key in helping us build an accurate picture and ensure we continue to improve our operational readiness and confidence.

The closing date for responses is 1 June.

Andrew Lowes

Station Manager – Operational Assurance and Resilience

Volunteers sought for study into extreme heat impact on firefighters' mental skills

Hope University in Liverpool are looking for volunteers to take part in a study to understand how working in extreme heat affects firefighters' mental skills.

Scan the QR code below to see a video explaining what they are looking for:



If you are interested in participating in the study please sign up using this QR code:



Colin Wright

Group Manager, Learning and Development



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

UK FirePRIDE Conference 2026

Bookings to attend the third annual UK FirePRIDE Conference have now opened and we are welcoming expressions of interest from people who would like to attend on behalf of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.

The conference is proudly co-hosted by Cheshire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Lancashire fire and rescue services and will take place at the Holiday Inn in Manchester city centre on Friday 28 August 2026 (9.30am–4.30pm).

The theme for this year's conference is 'Stronger Together' and the event is about celebrating our LGBTQ+ colleagues and allies.

If you would be interested in attending the event, please send your expression of interest to lauren.woodward@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Lauren Woodward

Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery



Vacancies

Temporary Watch Manager vacancies – Learning and Development

The Learning and Development team is pleased to offer two temporary Watch Manager opportunities to support the development and delivery of operational training within the service.

The opportunities are:

- ▶ Temporary Watch Manager – three-month opportunity
- ▶ Temporary Watch Manager – six-month opportunity

These opportunities are open to substantive Crew and Watch Managers who are interested in gaining further leadership experience, supporting course development, and contributing to departmental objectives.

The temporary roles will provide successful applicants with the chance to:

- ▶ Develop and demonstrate Watch Manager level leadership skills
- ▶ Gain valuable experience in a supervisory manager functional role
- ▶ Support and develop operational training delivery and performance within L&D

Further details regarding role expectations, application process, and closing dates will be shared via the Recruitment page: [Internal Expressions of Interest | Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service](#)

Tom Harding

Station Manager – Learning and Development

Fire Inspection Officer secondment opportunity at HMICFRS

The following role is open to eligible fire and rescue service operational and support staff, subject to service approval.

Job title: Fire Inspection Officer

Eligible ranks / grades: Substantive Station Manager or substantive non-operational staff equivalent on level transfer. Substantive Watch Manager or substantive non-operational equivalent on temporary promotion to their next grade.

Closing date: Tuesday 26 May 2026

Civil Service Jobs link: [Fire Inspection Officer - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK](#)

All applicants must have the full support of their service to be eligible to apply and progress through the selection process.

If you have any questions, please contact recruitment@hmicfrs.gov.uk.

Gemma Robinson

HMICFRS Recruitment Team

Women in the Fire Service UK regional representative vacancy

Women in the Fire Service UK is recruiting for a regional representative of the WFS in the North West.

WFS is an organisation which provides its members with access to support, guidance, training and personal development, promoting equality and diversity helping women achieving their full potential within the Fire Service.

Purpose of job:

- ▶ To represent, support and promote the aims and objectives of the WFS vision and Memorandum of Association at regional level
- ▶ To organise events within the appointed region and support other regional colleagues with their events
- ▶ To attend and represent appointed region at national events and WFS promotional events

Main duties and responsibilities:

- ▶ Leading Regional Committee meetings and promoting the Network
- ▶ Managing and liaising with local/regional business partners in the promotion of the Network as directed by the National activities of the NEC
- ▶ Attending events
- ▶ Channelling information and building on relationships

If you are interested in applying for the role, please email Karen Smith
karen@wfs.org.uk



Other

Watch delivers water safety awareness in Barrow school

Barrow Fire Station's Red Watch recently attended Chetwynde School in the town to deliver an important water awareness initiative.

In total 260 school pupils engaged with the crew, discussing various water-related information and concentrating on our own risks here within Cumbria.



Average water temperatures throughout the winter and summer months within the Lakes were discussed, as well as symptoms of cold water shock and how this can still be a danger throughout the height of summer.

The students were shown the 'Float to Live' technique as well as looking at our life-saving equipment which we use within CFRS.

The students and teachers enjoyed the sessions and we have more in planning with the same and other schools within the Barrow area throughout the remaining spring and summer months.

Simon Rodger

Watch Manager – Red Watch, Barrow Fire Station

Proactive business engagement campaign continues in south of county

Our Fire Protection team have continued their proactive business engagement campaign by visiting Milnthorpe, Arnside and Grange this month, reaching 97 properties in one day to bring the total number of Cumbrian businesses engaged with over two days of activity so far to 243.

These visits are helping to improve understanding of fire safety and responsibilities in our business community.

Brian Ing

Station Manager – Fire Protection

Workington Fire Station Open Day

Workington Fire Station will be hosting its Open Day tomorrow between 10am and 3pm including:



- ▶ Live demos showcasing firefighting skills
- ▶ Vehicles and equipment
- ▶ Ice cream van and food
- ▶ Games and activities

The day will raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity – please feel free to attend on the day and support the local crew in delivering a fantastic event for the community!

Supporting Cheshire FRS colleagues with Firefighter Charity Challenge

A group from Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service are heading out to do the Bob Graham route for the Fire Fighters Charity in June. They will be completing one leg per day between Monday 8 June and Friday 12 June.

They are wondering whether anyone would be willing to support as follows:

- ▶ Helping with lifts to and from start/finish points
- ▶ Joining the walk for parts of the route

Please contact Heather Fox for more information on 07716668758.

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/cfrs-bqr>

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager – Operational Planning

National Walking Month: Pen-y-ghent Walk in June

We are putting on a series of UK-based social walks for veterans and members of our blue light and NHS services. The first is planned for Sunday 14 June, North Yorkshire, Pen-y-ghent.

This one is focused on women who worked for or served together / currently serving in these organisations. We want to create an event where they would be comfortable attending and as such arranged a female mountain leader for the event.

There is no cost to the event, just that we ask that you sign up so we can share meeting points and route beforehand.

RV and parking: <https://maps.apple/p/H9ZhPJ3gjzNHcl>

Meeting: 8am

Step off: 8.30am

Post-walk drink: 1pm at Crown Hotel, Horton in Ribblesdale

To register: <https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/PenYGhentWomensWalk>

Cockleshell 22 Veteran Expeditions

Opportunities to attend Safeguarding Adult Review lunch and learn sessions (booking required)

The purpose of a SAR is described in the statutory guidance as to 'promote effective learning and improvement action to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again'. The aim is that lessons can be learned from a case and for those lessons to be applied to future cases to prevent similar harm re-occurring.

Managers and practitioners are encouraged and invited to attend SAR lunch and learn sessions where learning from a case will be presented to support wide dissemination across the system. Please see below opportunities to hear direct from SAR and Domestic Homicide (DHR) reviewers leading the reviews:

'Samantha' SAR

Details: Thursday 4 June 2026, 1pm–2.30pm, via MS Teams

Register [here](#) to book your free place

'Matthew' SAR

Details: Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 12.30pm–2pm, via MS Teams

Register [here](#) to book your free place

'Rosa' SAR

Details: Tuesday 7 July 2026, 10am–12pm, via MS Teams

Register [here](#) to book your free place.

Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board

Cycle to Work Day – Thursday 2 July 2026

WHOA!
WE SAID
CYCLE
TO WORK DAY!

SET YOUR
A-LLAMA!

2 JULY '26

You *herd* us right – Cycle to Work Day is coming. Save your llama-drama for another time, swap your 'usual' commute for a bike and ride your way to the chance of winning some amazing prizes.

BHNextras | Cyclescheme | STRAVA | CYCLE TO WORK DAY

Get ready to ride at app.bhnextras.co.uk

Cycle to Work Day is fast approaching and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service is encouraging you to swap the usual commute for a bike and get involved for your chance to win some amazing prizes in partnership with our Cyclescheme provider BHN.

Mark your calendars for Thursday 2 July 2026 and encourage your teams to wheel their way into the action.

With just under six weeks to go until Cycle to Work Day, now would be the perfect time to use the unique [CFRS URL](#) and apply for a new bike and/or cycling equipment through the salary sacrifice scheme.

▶ [Your Guide to Cycle to Work Day](#)

▶ [Prize Draw](#)

▶ [Follow along on Strava](#)

Emily Grey

HR Advisor

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

