



CFRS Weekly Update – 07/08/26

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

Firefighter from Carlisle East shadows Las Vegas Fire and Rescue after being awarded the Fleur Lombard Bursary



In September 2025, I applied for the Fleur Lombard bursary, which is funding for all firefighters, crew managers and watch managers to go to an overseas fire service and research a topic of their choosing in memory of Fleur. I was very fortunate to be one of only 2 firefighters to be selected nationally for this bursary, and I chose to go

to Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Service to shadow their behavioural health administrator, Jeff Dill, and see how Las Vegas support their firefighters' mental health, as well as observe the work Jeff does for his non-profit organisation Firefighter Behavioural Health Alliance which tracks and validates suicides within EMS, Firefighters and Dispatchers and also offers support and education to those affected. My reason for applying for the bursary and choosing the topic I did is that I want to look into other ways CFRS can support firefighters post incident and try to improve on the current Critical Incident Debrief structure.

During my trip in April this year, I was able to observe many different aspects of LVFRS. I went to an annual open day held by station 52 and watched an RTC extraction demonstration, I went to their 911 dispatch centre and observed calls coming in and had a chance to meet 7 new dispatch recruits and sit in on their training, I visited the training centre and saw the 60 new recruits during some of their initial training. I had ride time with Station 4 and Station 8 and attended calls with them, including several EMS calls as their firefighters are also medics. As Jeff's guest, I was also invited to travel with him to Memphis, Tennessee to a conference where he and other speakers discussed ways to support and improve mental health among emergency services.

I would greatly encourage anyone and everyone eligible to apply for the Fleur Lombard bursary, applications for 2027 open on August 1st this year and all the information about what the bursary is, the criteria and how to apply can be found in this link. This has been a once in a lifetime experience for me and I have built meaningful connections with the people I have met there. I would be more than happy to give advice and support to anyone wanting to submit an application. I would also like to thank ACFO Woodward and White Watch Carlisle for their continued support throughout my project.

Fleur Lombard Bursary - Avon Fire and Rescue Service

Lauren Holleis

Firefighter – White Watch, Carlisle East

Thank you to crew members who provided support in Derbyshire



Over the last few weeks, we have all seen the devastating impact of wildfires across the country. Through National Resilience requests, we are proud to have been able to support these incidents, particularly the large-scale wildfire in Derbyshire.

The Service would like to thank all the crew members who came together from across the Service and took time away from their families and primary employment to support this response. Your commitment, professionalism and dedication have been outstanding and should never go without recognition.

You have represented the Service to the highest standard. I have received numerous messages from colleagues within the wildfire community from across the country, all praising your hard work and specifically requesting your support due to the excellent reputation you have built.

Thank you for your continued commitment and for making us all proud.

As we recognise these achievements, we must also remain vigilant here in Cumbria. With the wildfire risk still elevated, please continue the excellent prevention work taking place across the county. The advice and guidance you provide to our communities, as well as the many visitors who enjoy our countryside each year, plays a vital role in reducing the risk of wildfire and protecting our environment.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication, both at home and further afield, in keeping our communities safe.





Martin Slack

Cleaning of equipment

As part of the management of fire contaminants project, over the coming weeks, the Service is going to be issuing DeWipe Equipment Cleaning Solution and associated cleaning equipment for the removal of fire contaminants from operational equipment.

There will also be a guidance document published on cleaning procedures for all types of equipment, PPE etc. bringing together the guidance there is within individual Equipment Notes.

In the interim, please ensure that **only** mild detergents are used on equipment to ensure no damage occurs or residual contamination by harsh cleaning products such as floor cleaner. The most appropriate cleaning product to use is washing-up liquid in water with wiping/brushing followed by thorough rinsing with clean water. This will be effective in the removal of most contamination, including bacterial and soot etc.

Chlorine tablet solution is still the appropriate disinfectant for equipment contaminated with biohazards. If there is any doubt about cleaning methods following HazMat contamination, then equipment should be bagged and guidance sought from the HazMat advisor.

Duncan A Taylor

Health and Safety Manager

Station Barcoding Programme

Over the coming weeks, members of the Technical Services Department will be visiting all CFRS stations as part of the Station Barcoding Programme.

During these visits, we will be recording key details of Fire PPE and helmets, including:

► Barcode information

- ▶ Date of manufacture
- ▶ Garment sizes

Garment timelines:

- ▶ FIRE PPE (Gold garments) 2026 -2019 will stay in service.
- ▶ FIRE PPE (Gold garments) 2018 -2014 will be removed into resilience kit
- ▶ FIRE PPE (Gold garments) 2013 -1997 will be removed for disposal.
- ▶ Fire Boots will be checked (a red tag will be added for you to order a new pair).

Preparation requirements

To ensure the process runs efficiently, **all PPE must be made available for scanning on the day of the visit.**

Please ensure the following:

- ▶ All resilience, spare, or off-service Fire Fighter PPE is placed in a designated location for recording
- ▶ All personal items are removed from pockets, any items found in the pocket will be placed in a helmet bag in a plastic bag.
- ▶ Personal effects are stored in helmet bags.
- ▶ Be aware that garments will be removed from service and replaced.

Garment preparation

Fire Hoods

- ▶ Place inside the outer pockets of the fire tunic
- ▶ Ensure the barcode is clearly visible and facing outward



Fire Helmets

- ▶ All helmets will be scanned
- ▶ Date of manufacture and size will be recorded
- ▶ Helmets manufactured in 2017 are due for replacement next year

Notification of visit

Stations will be contacted two days prior to the visit to confirm details.

Post Visit:

All staff must check fitting and prep kit for deployment, Sizing issue must be reported ASAP via the ticket system.

PPE Logbooks MUST BE UPDATED.

Important Information – PPE Replacement & Changes

- ▶ Replacement garments will carry an Elis barcode linked to Penrith HQ Stores
- ▶ This will be updated during the next wash cycle

► If replacement garments do not fit, please raise a ticket including the required information

Business Resource Request System

Request Type	Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service ▼
	Stores Ordering - Fire Technical Service ▼
	PPE ▼
	PPE - Structural Firefighting ▼ Fire Tunic ▼
	Medium / X-Tall ▼
Instructions	Eproc Code: FR513-0013 Cost Centre: 6031001 Nominal: 32212
Additional Info	PPE Replacement Change of Size Elis Garment code/s are: 325810223 325810275

Please note:

- Tickets relating to replaced garments will be processed
- Any size changes or lost garments outside of the programme will only be supplied using resilience replacement stock, until your station is completed.

Staff availability

If you wish to be present during your station's scanning and replacement visit, please inform Technical Services in advance.

If you have any questions, please contact Technical Services.

Adam Tracey

Asset Management Assistant – Technical Services

Service Recall – Water Rescue Knives

Attention: All MOD 2, MOD 3 and MOD 4 Water-Qualified Fire Service Staff

Please check your water rescue kit for any of the older-style water rescue knives shown in the attached photographs.



Old style



New Style

These older knife models have been recalled and **must be returned to Stores as soon as possible** for replacement with the current approved water rescue knife.

Actions Required

1. Inspect your water rescue kit and identify whether you have one of the older-style knives.
2. Raise a ticket through the ticketing system requesting a replacement knife.
3. Return the old knife to Stores @ Penrith HQ, ensuring the ticket number is included on the Stores Return Note. This will allow us to record the return correctly.
4. **Do not** retain old knives. All recalled knives must be returned and will be disposed of through the Cumbria Police Knife Reduction Programme.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring all water rescue equipment remains compliant and fit for operational use.

Adam Tracey

NWFC Service Update

As you are aware, NWFC operators have been under heightened pressure during July 2026 and this continues to be the case, although operational demand appears to be decreasing. Your continued support and understanding is appreciated during these changed ways of working.

NWFC will formally exit Business Continuity arrangements and enter into a strict recovery phase with effect from Monday 10th August 2026, with a suggested return to Business as Usual on Tuesday 1st September 2026.

What this means for Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

NWFC have not seen a decrease in the administration calls received despite numerous communications going out requesting that calls are stopped unless essential. Please adhere to the requests below.

FRS are requested to:

- ▶ Stop non-critical test turnouts until 1st September whilst in recovery phase.
- ▶ Reinforce strict adherence to standard radio procedures, particularly the use of short stop codes, to minimise radio traffic and support efficient incident management.

 [Ops use of Radios and MDT's including NWFC Booklet.docx](#)

Standard Radio Messages.doc

- ▶ Only raise mobilisation queries with NWFC where they are immediate risk-critical or safety-critical matters. Any other queries must be directed to Operational Planning for triage.
- ▶ Stop any non-essential calls to NWFC and only contact NWFC regarding active incidents, or issues that are risk-critical or safety-critical. Anything which is not risk-critical to be directed to Operational Planning.

Cumbria's SPoCs SM Kasey Grainger and GM Owen McCarney, NWFC Liaison Officer Caroline Hodgson, if they are unavailable and your query is urgent, please contact the duty GM.

Please contact Operational Planning with any queries:

OpsPlanning@cumbriafire.gov.uk

Kasey Grainger

Station Manager Operational Planning | Airwave Custodian | NWFC Liaison Officer

Grange & Longtown Fire Station Paxton System Update

Longtown Fire Station

Longtown Fire Station was scheduled to go live with the Paxton access system on Tuesday 4 August. Unfortunately, due to technical issues, the system could not be activated as planned. We are currently aiming for the station to go live on Tuesday 11 August, subject to final checks and testing.

Grange Fire Station

As part of the refurbishment work at Grange Fire Station, a new Paxton door access system has been installed.

The system is scheduled to go live on Thursday 13 August. Once activated, access to the station will only be available using your Cumbria Fire & Rescue ID badge.

If you have lost your ID badge or the expiry date has passed, please inform BusinessSupport@cumbriafire.gov.uk as soon as possible so that a replacement card can be issued.



Other

Carlisle East Station Open Day

It's just over a week to go until the Annual Carlisle East Station Open Day!

It promises to be an exciting, fun-filled day with over 18 partner agencies attending, including;

- ▶ Specialist Search Dogs
- ▶ North Cumbria Search and Rescue
- ▶ Cumbria Police
- ▶ Northwest Ambulance Service
- ▶ St John Ambulance
- ▶ HM Coastguard

We will also have ice cream, fish and chips, coffee, a tuck shop and face painting.

We are still seeking anybody who would like to volunteer to assist at the event. Any time would be greatly appreciated!

We are also asking for donations towards our raffle, in aid of the Fire Fighters Charity.

Please contact FF Nick Stather nicholas.stather@cumbriafire.gov.uk if able to assist.



Nick Stather

Firefighter – Red Watch

Corporate Staff – Annual Leave

Following the change to the corporate staff annual leave year in January, all individual calculations and adjustments have now been completed and entered onto FireWatch. Everybody (corporate staff) should now be able to book their leave using this system.

Thank you for everyone's patience with this change. And thank you to Julie and Michelle in Service Delivery Support for their continued work year on year to make sure all staff annual leave is calculated and available to book on the respective systems.

If you have any questions about your leave allocation, please do not hesitate to contact either HR or SDS.

Takara Hanks

Senior HR Advisor

Occupational Health at Jubilee House

I was lucky enough to visit Jubilee House this week to see and what facilities they have to offer as quite often occupational health direct employees here and I thought it would be a good idea to see it for myself.

The location is stunning and is literally a 5-minute drive from headquarters. They have recently celebrated their 30-year anniversary, and the purpose-built building is still as impressive as it was when first built, I imagine.

I received a warm welcome from the Nursing Services Lead, Kath Savage, who showed me around and explained what the service has to offer. It is obvious that the staff there are keen to support the users and they demonstrate a real passion for caring, I got the impression that they provide a really high standard of care.

These are just some of the services they offer which are open to ex-fire service members as well as members of immediate family:

- ▶ Physiotherapy
- ▶ Exercise therapy
- ▶ Residential rehabilitation
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Wellbeing resources and advice

All referrals are triaged and, if they meet the criteria, they are then assessed by an appropriate professional from Jubilee House.

I was particularly impressed with the personal stories from service users that are on the Fire Fighters Charity website, some of them are really quite inspiring. I would recommend having a look just to see if there is something you or a family member may benefit from. The fact that Jubilee House is all charity led makes it even more inspiring.

More information on Jubilee House can be found on the [Fire Fighters Charity Website](#).

Self-referrals can be made online. How to self-refer: [Need help? - Fire Fighters Charity](#)

Wendy Charlton

Occupational Health Nurse

Wildfire FDO Courses

Northumberland Fire and Rescue are hosting an initial 2-day FDO Wildfire Operation Course. This course is aimed at FDOs, Supervisory Managers (WM or CM in their absence) working at Wildfire Stations to develop their knowledge and skill to help support other wildfire activities.

The course will be held at NFRS HQ in Cramlington, Northumberland. The course dates are Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th November 2026. Delegates must attend both days of the course.

Any SM who has not yet attended one of these courses and would like to expand their knowledge please contact GM Martin Slack no later than Friday 21st August. Those who have attended a 5-day advanced course do not need to register their interest, places will be limited and selection will be based on rota group skills.

Martin Slack

Group Manager – Service Deliver - Cumberland

To have your news included in this section please email:

CFRS.update@cumbriafire.gov.uk

