

# Risk Based Evidence Profile key messages for 2020/21

Nationally there has been a 2% rise in the number of incidents attended by fire and rescue services, mainly driven by a rise in the number of secondary fires<sup>1</sup>. The most recent figures from the Home Office show a 6% increase nationally in fire fatalities over the last year and a 19% increase in dwelling fire fatalities<sup>2</sup>. Fire-related fatalities have been on a downward trend since the 1980s but have plateaued in recent years.

**There has been an increase in incidents attended nationally as well as a rise in fire fatalities**

Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service responds to more special service calls than any other incident type. They make up 36% of all incidents attended which is higher than the national average of 28%. Fires make up 29% of the incidents we attend in comparison with 32% nationally. The service attends far fewer false alarms than the national call profile, 35% in Cornwall in comparison with 40% nationally.

Last year the service responded to 5,504 incidents which is 11% lower than the previous year. There has been a rise in the number of fires over the last year and an increase in false alarms. In 2018/19 the number of special service calls reduced in comparison with the previous year. During 2018/19 the service saw an increase in road traffic collisions, human rescues, deliberate secondary fires, accidental vehicles fires and wildfires. While the number of co-responder incidents, medical incidents, accidental dwelling fires, flooding and non-domestic fires went down. The number of collaboration incidents attended stayed broadly the same as in 2017/18.

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<sup>1</sup> Fire and Rescue Incidents England, June 2019, Home Office, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/845846/fire-and-rescue-incident-jun19-hosb2819.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/845846/fire-and-rescue-incident-jun19-hosb2819.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Fire and rescue incident statistics: England, year ending June 2019, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/fire-and-rescue-incident-statistics-england-year-ending-june-2019>

Overall, the total number of incidents attended and the total volume of operational staff time spent dealing with incidents decreased between 2017/18 and 2018/19. Despite this reduction we mobilised more people and spent longer on average dealing with each incident. The reasons for this are not clear but a number of issues could be impacting on our time spent dealing with incidents such as implementing the National Operational Guidance and delays in handover to other blue light services.

**Despite a reduction in incidents numbers in Cornwall we have mobilised more people and are spending longer dealing with incidents**

The service attends around 3-4 resource intensive incidents (8 or more appliances mobilised in total) each month. Two thirds of these calls are to fires and one third are special service calls. Non-domestic premises account for the highest proportion of resource intensive fires in Cornwall.

Cornwall is undergoing many changes which are impacting on the way people live, work and travel. Public services are under increasing pressure and there is a growing demand on health, social care and blue light services<sup>3</sup>. There is an increasing and growing older population as well as growing numbers of people living with complex health needs.

Brexit will impact locally on many of the sectors we need to work with to improve fire safety. Agriculture, tourism and hospitality sectors have been highlighted as some of the industries likely to undergo many challenges and changes in the next few years which could make engagement with these businesses more difficult.

Climate change is having an impact on the number of wildfires which are increasing in number and severity in the UK. As temperatures are getting warmer the traditional wildfire season has extended and there has been an increase in the number of wildfires nationally and internationally. Last year the number of wildfires in Cornwall increased by 80% compared with the previous year and there were on average almost two wildfires per week.

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<sup>3</sup> Unprecedented demand on Police over Summer, BBC news, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2019, [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-49494879?ns\\_mchannel=social&ns\\_source=twitter&ns\\_campaign=bbc\\_live&ns\\_linkname=5d70c968db67fe0662ec6c7a%26%27Unprecedented%27%20demand%20on%20police%20over%20summer%262019-09-05T09%3A23%3A36.183Z&ns\\_fee=0&pinned\\_post\\_locator=urn:asset:1c7b1973-4b96-4fe4-b3e2-2d523410016c&pinned\\_post\\_asset\\_id=5d70c968db67fe0662ec6c7a&pinned\\_post\\_type=share](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-england-devon-49494879?ns_mchannel=social&ns_source=twitter&ns_campaign=bbc_live&ns_linkname=5d70c968db67fe0662ec6c7a%26%27Unprecedented%27%20demand%20on%20police%20over%20summer%262019-09-05T09%3A23%3A36.183Z&ns_fee=0&pinned_post_locator=urn:asset:1c7b1973-4b96-4fe4-b3e2-2d523410016c&pinned_post_asset_id=5d70c968db67fe0662ec6c7a&pinned_post_type=share)