



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

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AUTUMN
2024

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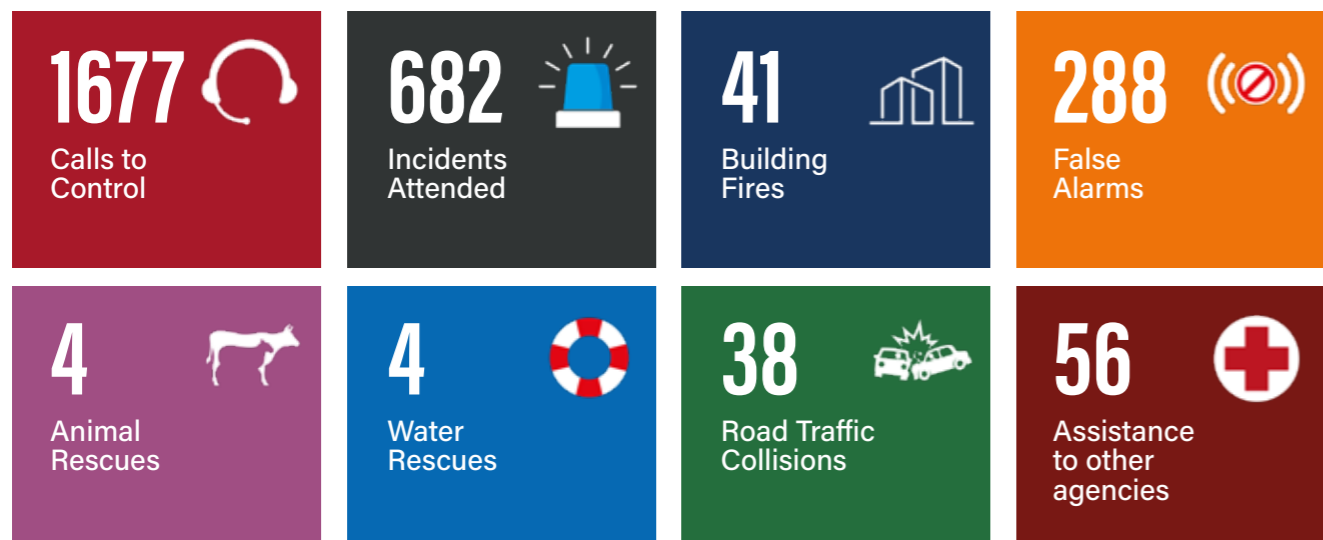
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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales. Here's what kept us busy last month:



FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

OVER THE LAST YEAR, MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HAS RAISED A STAGGERING £166,297 FOR THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY!

This money has been raised due to the incredible efforts of the Service's operational and support staff, who have taken part in various fundraising events and challenges, Fire Station Car Washes and Open Days.

The [Fire Fighters Charity](#) offers lifelong support to the mental, physical and social well-being of serving and retired Firefighters, their families, and other Fire and Rescue Service personnel. Founded in 1943, the Charity is funded through donations and fundraising events by Fire and Rescue Services and it is an essential resource for those who dedicate their lives to protecting others.

Pictured is our Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas KFSM, with our Fire Fighters Charity certificate that recognises the Service's support.

Thank you!





MWY NA DIM OND TANAU
MORE THAN JUST FIRES

MORE THAN JUST FIRES AWARDS 2024

On Thursday, September 26th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) hosted its annual More Than Just Fires Awards Ceremony at The Village Hotel in Swansea.

The evening was hosted by beloved broadcaster Eleri Siôn best known for her warmth and energy on BBC Radio Wales, BBC Radio Cymru and S4C. The night was a special opportunity to give thanks and recognition to the remarkable efforts, hard work and dedication by Service staff over the last 12 months.

The ceremony included a total of 10 award categories made up of nominees who had been chosen by their colleagues. It included an award for

Outstanding Contribution, Fundraiser of the Year and the Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Award, to name but a few.

Speaking during the ceremony, CFO Thomas said:

"Tonight is about celebration and recognition — a chance to acknowledge the incredible dedication, bravery, and service of our teams and individuals who go above and beyond to protect our communities."

"From wildfires to rescue operations, to community safety initiatives, the work of our Service extends far beyond fighting fires and we are here to honour that broader mission tonight."

THE WINNERS WERE AS FOLLOWS;

Outstanding Contribution Award

The first award for Outstanding Contribution was presented to Group Manager Steven Davies for his extraordinary work with the [UK International Search and Rescue team](#) and for consistently going above and beyond expectations to ensure the Service's vision and behaviours are always met.

Also shortlisted were Retired Watch Manager Steve Amor of Llanwrtyd Wells Fire Station and Watch Manager John Herman of the Services Stores Department.



Team of the Year Award

The Team of the Year Award recognised a group or team that has demonstrated remarkable collaboration, professionalism and unwavering dedication to achieving shared goals. This award was presented to The Fleet, Engineering and Logistics Department (FELD). FELD were awarded for their overall contributions to the Service as well as their on-call team who are always on hand to ensure that the Service runs smoothly 24/7.

Also shortlisted were the Service Finance Team.



Unsung Hero Award

The Unsung Hero Award was presented to Retired Watch Manager David Price of Newtown Fire Station for his long and distinguished career in the Service, and in recognition of his dedication and ongoing work within his community.

Also shortlisted were Dawn Newall of Llanelli Fire Station and Crew Manager Iwan Ward of Crymych Fire Station.





Community and Partnership Award

The evening's fourth award was the Community and Partnership Award which was presented to School Education Officer Elinor Goldsmith for her continued contributions to the Service for over 26 years, from school visits to home safety checks and everything else in between.

Also shortlisted were the Service Youth Team and Community Public Access Defibrillators (CPAD) Team.



Sports Personality of the Year Award

The Sports Personality of the Year was the fifth category of the evening and was awarded to Firefighter (Control) Chance Morgan of Joint Fire Control for his achievement in Jiu Jitsu, winning gold in the British Open Championships this year and for his continued dedication to his role.

Also shortlisted were the Service Fitness Team and Firefighter Tanja Fulcher of Llandeilo Fire Station.



Fundraiser of the Year Award

The Fundraiser of the Year Award was presented to Brecon Fire Station for their continued fundraising efforts for various charities and their involvement in their local community.

Also nominated were both Watch Manager Nathan Bringloe and Station Manager Richard Davies along with Firefighter David Farrow of Milford Haven Fire Station.



Western Division Station of the Year Award

The Western Division Station of the Year Award was presented to Llandovery Fire Station. Llandovery is a very proactive station that are always at the heart of any community events and maintain strong local business ties, along with a commitment to promoting diversity and equality.

The other shortlisted stations were Narberth Fire Station and Ammanford Fire Station.



Northern Division Station of the Year Award

The Northern Division Station of the Year Award was presented to Welshpool Fire Station in recognition of their deep-rooted community commitment, in particular their commitment and dedication to their annual Christmas Carol Service, which encourages local spirit and involvement while showcasing the crews enthusiasm and approachability.

Also shortlisted were Llanidloes Fire Station and Llanfyllin Fire Station.



Southern Division Station of the Year Award

The winner for Station of the Year in Southern Division was Glynneath Fire Station for their high response standards and community engagement, overcoming challenges through innovative recruitment and a strong social media presence, alongside contributing to a garden project with Keep Wales Tidy.

Also shortlisted were Seven Sisters Fire Station and Port Talbot Fire Station.

Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Awards

The final award category of the evening was the Chief Fire Officer's Special Recognition Award.

Following deliberation by the Shortlisting Panel, it became clear that it was impossible to select just one winner for the CFO's Special Recognition Award, and after hearing the exceptional bravery, dedication, and commitment by each nominee, it was decided that they were all worthy winners:



The Antarctic Fire Angels, Rebecca Openshaw-Rowe and Georgina Gilbert

Known as the Antarctic Fire Angels, Rebecca and Georgina completed a world-first journey from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole, covering over 1,200 km in just 52 days. Facing temperatures as low as -30°C and winds up to 60 mph, they undertook this challenge unguided and unassisted, pulling 100kg sleds. Their journey not only defied gender stereotypes but also raised crucial funds for the [Fire Fighters Charity](#).



The Colour Party

The Colour Party is made up of both current and retired personnel, they have proudly represented our Service at numerous significant events over the years. Since its founding in 1984, the Colour Party has demonstrated unwavering dedication, attending key occasions from funerals to international parades.



Swansea Central and Swansea West, White Watches

White Watches from Swansea Central and Swansea West are recognised within this category for their exceptional response to a critical incident earlier this year. Faced with a well-developed property fire and a sudden cardiac arrest in a neighbouring garden, these crews skilfully managed both emergencies simultaneously.

Their swift, decisive actions were commended by the Welsh Ambulance Service, and the patient has since fully recovered, thanks to their actions.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to nominate those shortlisted for each award, also a big thanks to [Total Sound Solutions](#) for their assistance with the Audio-Visual on the night, [Martin Ellard](#) for his help with photography and the [Village Hotel](#) for their vital support in hosting a most enjoyable evening.



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S NEWEST WHOLETIME FIREFIGHTERS

On Thursday, July 25th, a Graduation Ceremony and Passing Out Parade was held by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) for the latest cohort of Wholetime Firefighters.

Held at the Service's Earlswood Training Centre, the event was an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the amazing achievements of the 12 individuals in the company of their friends and families. Known collectively as Squad 02/24 - they have each recently completed their 14-week Wholetime training course.

Following an extensive recruitment process where a variety of challenges were met as part of a rigorous selection process, Squad 02/24 began their 14-week residential course on April 17th. Since then, they have each developed the initial skills and attributes needed to undertake their new roles as Wholetime Firefighters.

The Ceremony included the Parade of Recruits, where they were joined by the Service's [Ceremonial Colour Party](#), and an Inspection of the Recruits by Chief Fire Officer Roger Thomas KFSM, Chair of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority Councillor Gwynfor Thomas and Watch Manager and Instructor, Phil O'Shea. Several Drill Yard Displays were then held to fully illustrate the emergency response skills each member of the Squad has developed during their training, which were followed by a Presentation of Certificates and Awards.



FIRE AUTHORITY

SUMMER MONTHS WITH OUR FIRE AUTHORITY

Our Fire Authority comprises of 25 members appointed by the Constituent Authorities of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Neath & Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Swansea.

Our current Chair of the Fire Authority, Councillor Gwynfor Thomas, along with all current serving members, make all major Service decisions in regular Authority committee meetings.

Over the summer months several of our Fire Authority members were able to visit events our Service staff were supporting.



Awdurdod Tan ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Authority

Here is a snippet of what some of them got up to:



Chair of the Fire Authority, Councillor Gwynfor Thomas, came along to the Eisteddfod yr Urdd in Meithod.



Councillor Lyndon Jones MBE from Swansea City Council was fortunate to attend multiple events such as the Welsh Firefighters Fitness Challenge, the Gower County Show and The Same Residents Public Services Event that took place at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea.



Councillor Andrew Williams and Councillor Lyndon Jones attended the Wales Air Show in Swansea.

MAWWFRS STAFF COMPLETE WELSH THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE!

On Saturday, 7th September, 14 MAWWFRS staff took on the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge, climbing Pen Y Fan, Snowdon and Cader Idris within 24 hours!

With a mix of operational and non-operational staff the challenge included a total walking distance of

17 miles and an ascent of 2,334 metres, all in aid of raising vital funds and awareness for the [Fire Fighters Charity](#) and [Swyn Y Gwynt - Hywel Dda Health Charities](#).

Firefighter Josh Herman, one of the participants, pushed the challenge one step further by wearing full firefighting kit and breathing apparatus on his back for the duration!

FULL ARTICLE



MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING EXERCISE AT MID-WALES AIRPORT IN WELSHPOOL

On Tuesday, July 30th, a large-scale training exercise was held at the Mid-Wales Airport in Welshpool, organised by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS).

The training exercise, named 'Look to the Sky', involved a multi-agency response including Dyfed-Powys Police, the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust, airport staff and several MAWWFRS crews.

The exercise allowed the opportunity to simulate a realistic emergency scenario which involved two planes colliding at an airshow and crash landing in the parking and spectator areas. The simulated emergency included mobilising several emergency response vehicles and personnel, establishing command centres and conducting search and rescue operations.

FULL ARTICLE





EXERCISE NEMO

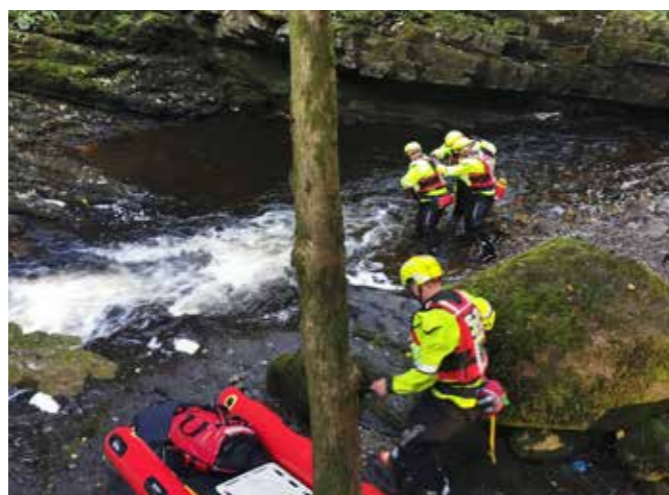
On Tuesday, September 17th, Exercise Nemo took place at Pontneddfechan water falls in Glynneath.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service crews from Glynneath, Gorseinon, Pontardulais and Swansea Central Fire Stations were involved in the exercise which was a simulated missing person's exercise.

The task was to rescue five missing people who were last seen entering the water. Each of the crews worked well together with excellent communications throughout to complete the exercise successfully.

Exercises like this one ensure that our firefighters are equipped with the knowledge and experience to deal with such incidents.

Well done to all involved!



Codi Arian i Elusen Charity Fundraiser

GOLCHI CEIR CAR WASH



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



GORSAF DÂN CRYMYCH FIRE STATION

i gefnogi | in support of



DYDD SADWRN | SATURDAY
HYDREF | 12 | OCTOBER
10:00 - 15:00

tancgc.gov.uk
mawwfire.gov.uk

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A FREE HOME SAFETY CHECK?

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) introduced a new campaign, called #IKnowSomeone at the Royal Welsh Show earlier this year.

The campaign urges family and friends to check in on their neighbours and relatives, especially those that may be vulnerable, elderly or live alone.

The campaign will focus on reaching out to rural communities and highlight the importance of having a Home Safety visit. These visits allow Community Safety staff to check important factors within the home, such as having working smoke alarms, electrical safety, clear escape routes and more.

MAWWFRS Home Safety visits are carried out by trained officers, the visits are completely free and could potentially save lives.

Statistics show that over the last two years

58%

of people living in Mid and West Wales who tragically lost their lives in house fires lived alone.

Station Manager Rob Tovey said:

"Unfortunately, we regularly attend property fires that could have been avoided or the impact reduced by having basic knowledge and equipment such as working smoke alarms, we can offer a home safety check providing this safety advice and equipment totally free of charge."

So, if you think you know someone, please have a chat with them and get in touch with us."

The easiest way to book a Home Safety visit for you or someone you know, is to complete our online booking form: [Safe and Well Visit \(mawwfire.gov.uk\)](https://mawwfire.gov.uk) or call us on 0800 169 1234.

#IKNOWSOMEONE - DO YOU?



Do you know someone that would benefit from a **FREE** Home Safety Check?

We check smoke alarms, escape routes, electrical safety and more, all **FREE** of charge.

#IKnowSomeone

0800 169 1234
Or scan the QR code:



AUTUMN SAFETY

MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WANT TO HELP KEEP YOU SAFE THIS AUTUMN.

This month sees the launch of our Autumn Safety campaign. As the leaves start changing colour and falling from trees, we are reminded that the nights will soon start drawing in faster and temperatures will start getting cooler. We want you and your family to enjoy the fresh Autumn weather while avoiding some of the potential risks that come with the season.

At this time of the year most people start spending more time inside their homes, keeping warm by using fireplaces, wood burners and heaters but each come with hazards.

Remember to arrange your annual service on your central heating system and if you have an open fire or a woodburning stove in your home, it is important to properly maintain flues and chimneys. Keeping your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in good working order can help protect you and your family against fire, remember to regularly check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by pressing the test button until the alarm sounds.

If you are using portable heaters, it is essential that you read the instructions beforehand and keep them away from your curtains and furniture. If you are going to use a candle or oil burner, make sure you never leave it burning if you go out or go to sleep and keep your candles away from pets and kids.

Peter Greenslade, Corporate Head of Community Risk Management said:

"We want our community to consider our safety tips for the coming months. A change in season means we may do things differently at home which changes the level of risk to people and properties. We want to ensure that we do all that we can to help highlight dangers you may face and how you can reduce those risks through some simple actions."



We encourage you to request a free **Safe and Well visit** for yourself or your loved ones this Autumn.

You can call us now to book a free Safe and Well visit on 0800 169 1234 or fill in our online form [here](#).

For more information, advice or guidance please visit our [website](#).

You can also follow us on our Social Media channels for more safety messages:

X - @mawwfire

Facebook - @mawwfire

Instagram - mawwfire_rescue



SPORTS AND SOCIAL

BECOME A MEMBER OF MAWWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TODAY!

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) has its own Sports and Social Club. If you are a current or retired member of the Service, you are welcome to join.

The Sports and Social Club is a platform for keeping active, socialising, and having fun. Currently it consists of a variety of sections that you can join, including:



These are the official Sports and Social club section logos – for any logo enquires please contact our graphics team

We are fully supportive of starting new sections, so if you don't see a sport or social activity that you enjoy, why not get in touch, and start your own section.

Be a part of the Sports and Social Club for just £2 a month, assist with the running of all our sections. For more information on how to join, please email Steven Philpot - s.philpott@mawwfire.gov.uk



SPORTS AND SOCIAL FEATURE FOCUS ON CYCLING!

As part of our insight into each of the MAWWFRS Sports and Social clubs, in this edition of Calon Tân we are highlighting the Cycling Section!

The MAWWFRS Cycling Section is continuously looking for new members. The club is open to all employees of the Service including volunteers, Wholetime, On-Call, support staff and retired members. All are welcome to join or help in anyway, whether new to cycling or those who are regularly on the bike.

If you would like more information or interesting in joining the Cycling Section, please contact Sean Lloyd - s.lloyd@mawwfire.gov.uk



WORK WITH US!

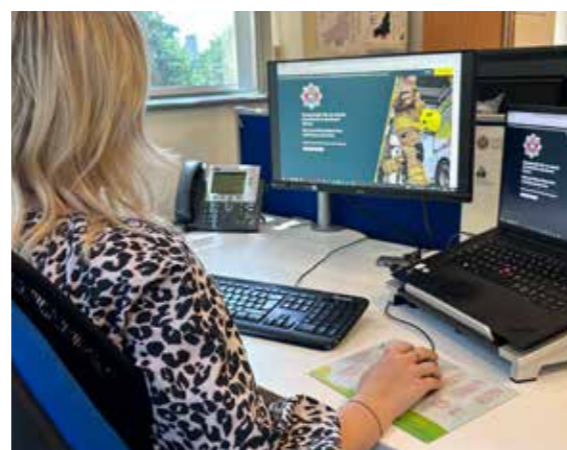
When people think of a career in the Fire and Rescue Service, they tend to think of Firefighters responding to emergency incidents, but it's not just Firefighters who make mid and west Wales a safer place.

Behind the operational scene, the Service has a large range of other posts within different departments which are either office based or in our workshops, and we employ people in professional, technical, and administrative roles.

Benefits

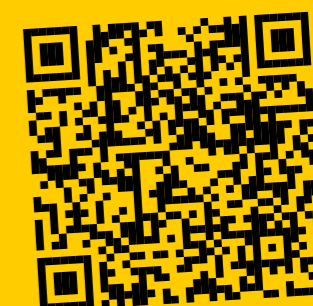
- Competitive rates of pay - recently reviewed to ensure fairness across all roles; with annual increments to the top of your salary band, as you build knowledge and experience.
- Local Government Pension scheme - A generous pension scheme, with the Service making a substantial contribution (currently 15.2%) to funding your retirement, as well as the option to increase your benefits by purchasing additional pension or investing in Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVC).
- Generous Annual leave – 26 Days plus bank holidays, going up to 33 days after 5 years employment.
- Flexi Scheme – Opportunity to flex your working hours to help accommodate life outside of work.
- Access to Blue Light Card discount scheme
- Car Leasing Salary Sacrifice scheme
- Let's Connect IT equipment loan scheme
- Subsidised canteen facilities
- Sports and Social Club
- Firefighters Charity
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Staff Discount scheme
- Health and Wellbeing

VIEW CURRENT VACANCIES >



MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Recruiting On-Call Firefighters!



Do you live within 5-10 minutes of your local Fire Station?

We currently have on-call firefighter vacancies – head over to our website to find out more!





Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
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Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

EIN GWELEDIGAETH

I ddarparu'r gwasanaeth gorau posibl i
gymunedau Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru.

OUR VISION

To deliver the best possible service for
the communities of Mid and West Wales.



#EichGTACGC

#YourMAWWFRS

#MwyNaDimOndTanau #MoreThanJustFires

www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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