



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

CALON TÂN

SPRING
EDITION
2025

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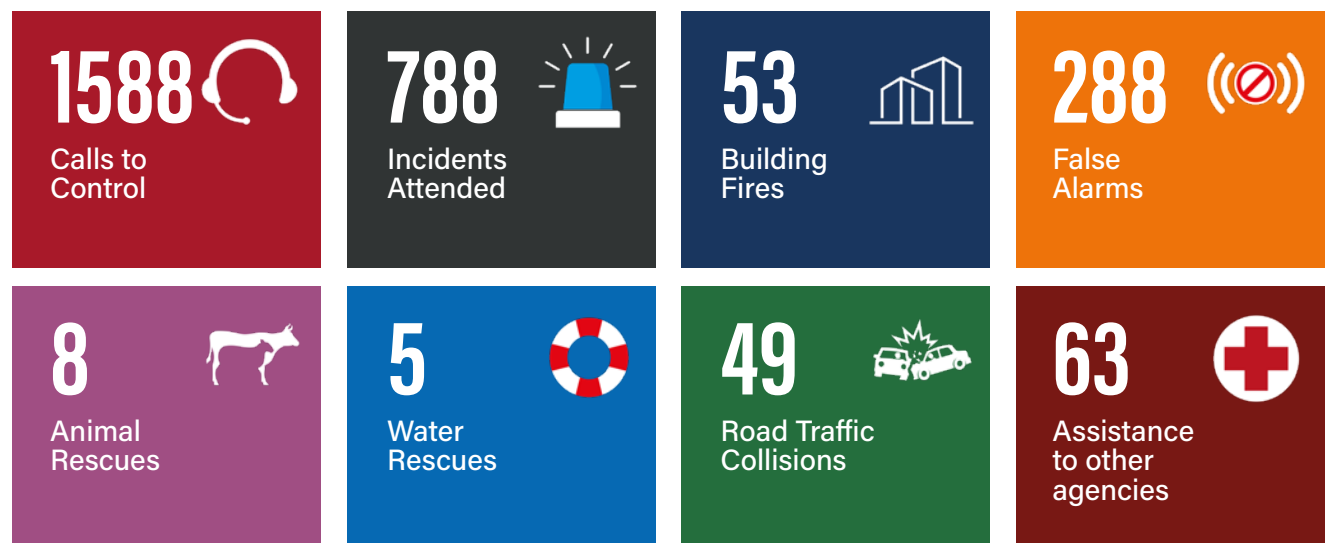
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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales. Here's what kept us busy last month:



ROADSHOW



NATIONAL RESILIENCE WALES ROADSHOW

On Monday, March 3rd, the National Resilience Wales Roadshow began at Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Earlswood Training Centre.

Travelling across all three Welsh Fire and Rescue Services - MAWWFRS, [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service \(NWFRS\)](#) and [South Wales Fire and Rescue Service \(SWFRS\)](#) - the aim of the roadshow was to increase the awareness among Service staff of the National Resilience capabilities available within Wales. Delivered through a mixture

of theory and practical sessions, the roadshow is delivering information on the resources and skills available across Wales to assist in emergency incidents.

The [Wales USAR Team](#) are called upon to a variety of incidents, which can include damaged or unsafe structures, missing persons, rescuing casualties from height and more.

Between Monday, March 3rd and Thursday, March 6th, the National Resilience Roadshow visited Earlswood Training Centre in Swansea, the USAR Centre at Whitchurch Fire Station, Newtown Fire Station and Rhyl Fire Station.

[National Resilience Wales Roadshow](#)

LLANDYSUL TRAINING EXERCISE A GREAT SUCCESS!

On Monday, 17th March, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) crew members from Llandysul and Newcastle Emlyn Fire Stations held a Search and Rescue training exercise named 'Graig', held at Graig Road Flats, Llandysul.

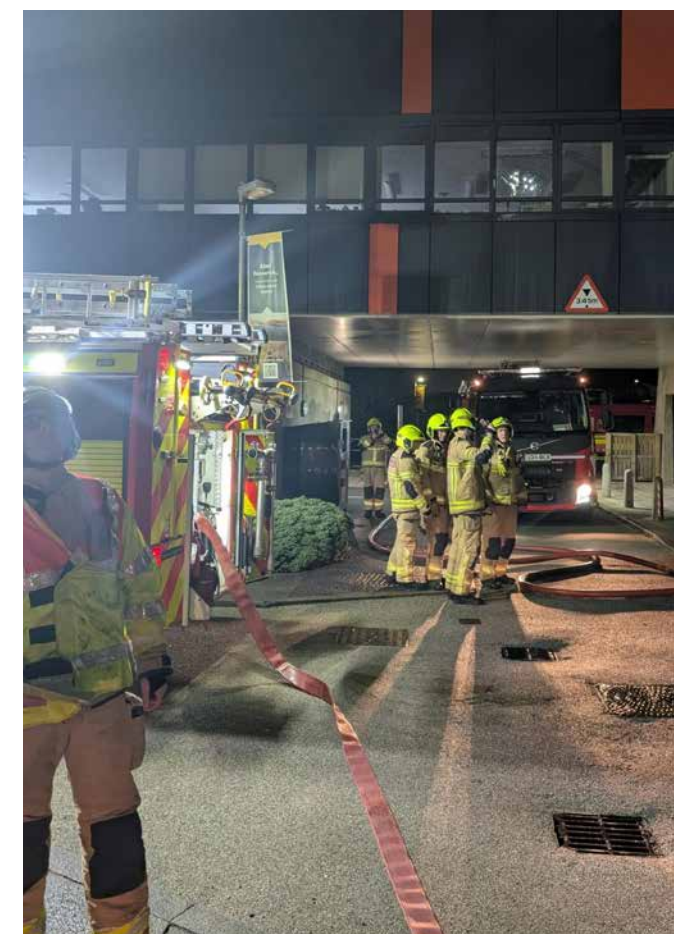
The exercise enabled the crew to practice Search and Rescue responses, providing the opportunity to develop and refine their preparedness for real-life incidents. Graig Road Flats were the prime location to provide a realistic environment for the crew. It allowed them to practice Incident Command Procedures, test their Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets, perform challenging rescues and work in risk areas searching for casualties.

Watch manager Iwan Jones said:

"Exercise 'Graig' was an excellent learning opportunity for the crew, providing them with training designed to enhance readiness for real-life incidents and strengthen teamwork. We would like to thank 'Tai Barcud' housing association for the use of Graig Road Flats for this exercise, these provided us with a realistic environment for the crew to practice."

Thank you to everyone that was involved and for the understanding of the public whilst the exercise took place.

If you have ever thought about becoming an On-Call firefighter, MAWWFRS is currently recruiting at all our On-Call Fire Stations. Visit our [website](#) for more information or to fill out an expression of interest form.



HIGH-RISE BUILDING TRAINING EXERCISE AT ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service recently held a high-rise building training exercise at Aberystwyth University's Llandinam Building.

The exercise was attended by crews from Aberystwyth, Aberaeron, Tregaron and Machynlleth

Fire Stations and simulated a fire within a high-rise building, with persons reported inside the building.

The session provided the opportunity for crews to familiarise themselves with the Service's high-rise building fire procedures, as well as implement an Incident Command System, run hoses up several flights of stairs, carry out manual handling techniques and utilise a variety of emergency response equipment.

Crew members were also able to practice using a Dry Riser Inlet system, which enables Firefighters to access water from each individual floor of a high-rise building.

[High-Rise Building Training Exercise at Aberystwyth University](#)

SPORTING SUCCESS IN SOUTHERN DIVISION

A big congratulations to Firefighter Luke Fisher of Swansea Central Station and Firefighter Scott Davies of Port Talbot Station who were both recently chosen to represent Mid and West Wales

Fire and Rescue Service to play for the [Great Britain Fire and Rescue Services Rugby Team](#).

Only 11 Welsh rugby players were selected, 2 being from MAWWFRS! And to top it off they won their game against The Royal Navy team in Portsmouth, 28-19.

Well done both!



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

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

CONTROLLED BURN EXERCISE IN PENLAN

On Thursday, 6th March, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) Arson Reduction Team and the On-Call crew from Fishguard Fire Station worked in collaboration with [Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#) to carry out a controlled burn exercise in Penlan, Cwm Gwaun, Pembrokeshire.

The exercise took place to demonstrate a partnership approach to wildfire mitigation and vegetation management. Whilst also enhancing firefighting capabilities and strengthening our community response to wildfires. The areas targeted for this burn were small, burning five small areas in total, covering approximately 1% of the Penlan site.

Arwel Evans - Farm Conservation Officer from Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Farm Conservation Officer said:

"Having worked with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service for several years on engagement and the promotion of controlled burning, as well as utilising the ICutter to expand and strengthen our Firebreak network, it was a milestone in our partnership to invite the Service to join us on site.

The day was a great success, not only in sustainably managing the land but also in fostering cooperative working between both authorities. Without the Fire Service's assistance and enthusiasm, conducting this prescribed burn would not have been possible."

By sharing resources, knowledge and expertise we learn more effective prevention measures, aim to reduce wildfire risks, and improve public awareness to protect both people and the natural environment.

For more information on Controlled Burning, please visit our website: [#BurntoProtect](#)

Remember, starting a deliberate fire is a criminal offence. You can report a deliberate fire anonymously by calling Cymru/Wales [CrimeStoppers](#) on 0800 555111. In an emergency, always call 999.



CONTROLLED BURN REMINDER

The [Wales Wildfire Board](#) are reminding farmers and landowners that the window to conduct controlled burning of grasslands, in upland areas, will close on Monday, 31st March 2025.

As of the 1st of April, regardless of the intention and the location, lighting a grass fire will be illegal and classed as arson. Should you come across any suspicious activity linked to a deliberate grassfire it can report it to [CrimeStoppers](#), anonymously, by calling 0800 555 111. You can also call the Police on 101.

In the case of an emergency, always call 999

#WILDFIREWISE

The Wales Wildfire Board will be launching #WildfireWise campaign from 1st April.

The Board is a multi-agency approach to better understand and manage the risk of wildfire on the environment and the communities of Wales.

It's aims and objectives, delivered through a Wales Wildfire Charter, build on the knowledge and experience gained over the last decade whilst paying cognisance to the ever-present danger of climate change and the value of encouraging communities and individuals to work together to protect the areas where we live, work and visit.

The #WildfireWise campaign aims to educate individuals on the best practices for avoiding and preventing wildfires in Wales.

For more information on the [#WildfireWise](#), please visit our [website](#).



CELEBRATING ST DAVID'S DAY

We celebrated St David's Day on March 1st with a special version of our national anthem, Hen Wlad fy Nhadau!

We're fortunate that our Welsh Language Officer, Llew Davies, is also a talented singer. Enjoy Llew's version of our anthem, performed at Brecon Fire Station, on our [YouTube channel](#).



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SIGNS CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED BY PUBLIC TRAGEDY

Organisations across Wales have signed a charter which commits them to responding to public tragedies with openness, transparency and accountability.

The Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy calls for a cultural shift in public bodies' engagement with bereaved families. This ensures the lessons of the 1989 Hillsborough disaster and its aftermath are learned to prevent those who are affected by public tragedy in the future from having the same experience.

Organisations across Wales, including Welsh Government, local authorities, police forces, Welsh Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Services,

have all signed up to support bereaved families and the community in the aftermath of a major incident. This is a clear commitment to people and to providing services that meet their needs before, during and after an event.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) Chief Fire Officer, Roger Thomas KFSM, said:

"MAWWFRS is proud to be supporting the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy."

MAWWFRS is committed to delivering the best possible service to the communities of Mid and West Wales, and it's important that this work continues beyond our roles at emergency incidents, by providing support to bereaved families."

Today, we join several other organisations across Wales with a renewed commitment to public service and a pledge to embed this charter into our organisational training and culture, so it becomes an element of our emergency response."

[Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Signs Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy](#)



FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

INTRODUCING CLAIRE
FROM THE FIRE FIGHTERS
CHARITY

Hi everyone! I'm Claire, your new Regional Fundraiser at Fire Fighters Charity, covering Mid & West Wales, South Wales, Gloucestershire, Hereford & Worcestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, and the West Midlands.

A little about me - I grew up in Mid Wales on the family farm, in between Builth Wells and Hay on Wye, and went to Aberystwyth University, so Mid & West Wales really is home.

Over the next few months, I'll be out and about at various events. So far, you'll find me at the On-Call Conference in April and the Welsh Firefighters Challenge - I'm really looking forward to meeting those of you attending.

If you're unsure about my role, I've taken over from Jeff, who retired in March 2024 (many of you may remember him!). I'm excited to get stuck in and make sure you have all the fundraising support you need. Whether you're planning an open day, car wash, Brew with a Crew event, Christmas fundraiser, or taking on a challenge like a marathon, I'm here to help.

Please don't hesitate to reach out - I'd love to hear from you and support your fundraising efforts however I can. Looking forward to working with you all!

Claire McMinn

Regional Fundraiser - South Wales & West England

E: cmcminn@firefighterscharity.org.uk

M: 0734 205 9975



With you all the way

Fire Fighters Charity supports members of the UK fire family to live healthier and happier.

Get in touch with your Regional Fundraiser below if you would like advice on fundraising activities for the charity.



Claire McMinn
e: cmcminn@firefighterscharity.org.uk
t: 07342 059975



Join MyFFC

Fire Fighters Charity in your pocket
firefighterscharity.org.uk/myffc-fundraiser-qr

Registered office: Fire Fighters Charity, Level 6, Belvedere, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 4HG. Charity registered in England and Wales (1093387), Scotland (SC040096) and Isle of Man (1363).



EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD!



From action-packed open days to car washes and experience days, there's something for everyone.

29th March - Pembroke Dock Car Wash

29th March - Borth Open Day

31st March - Hay-On-Wye Recruitment Evening

17th May - Swansea Pride 2025

26th - 31st May - Eisteddfod yr Urdd 2025

7th June - Welsh Firefighter Challenge 2025

21st June - Newcastle Emlyn Open Day

21st - 24th July - Royal Welsh Show

Our community-based events offer a warm welcome to all, a great opportunity to connect with your local firefighters and support their station led events.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned to our social media pages for event updates and details.

Don't miss out on the excitement - follow us on social media or visit our [Events Page](#), and invite your friends and family.

Follow us on



CELEBRATING NERYS THOMAS' INSPIRING STORY WITH THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

We are proud to share that Nerys Thomas, Central Response Officer for the Service, has courageously shared her personal journey with the [Fire Fighters Charity](#). Nerys' story highlights the incredible support and care provided by the charity.

Organised by Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Nerys' experience is a testament to the vital role the Fire Fighters Charity plays in the lives

of those who serve our communities. Her story not only showcases the charity's dedication but also serves as an inspiration to all of us.

Please take a moment to read the full story and learn more about the impactful work of the Fire Fighters Charity, which is available to **ALL** Service staff - Operational, Support Staff, and their families.

Read the full story on the [Fire Fighters Charity website](#)

Thank you Nerys for sharing your story!



FIREFIGHTER MEL HERBERT COMPLETES HALF MARATHON IN FULL FIREFIGHTING KIT

On Sunday, March 16th, Mel Herbert, an On-Call Firefighter based at Pont-iets Fire Station, completed the Great Welsh Half Marathon - in full firefighting kit.

Following several weeks of preparation, Mel completed the 13-mile-long race wearing a firefighting tunic, trousers and a breathing apparatus (BA) set - weighing around 13lbs alone - in just under three hours.

Mel decided to take on the challenge of completing the race, which began and ended in Pembrey Country Park and included Burry Port, to raise important funds and awareness of the [Fire Fighters Charity](#). The 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.

Speaking on completing the Great Welsh Half Marathon, Mel said:

"The support I received from the crowd and my fellow runners was incredible."

"I'm sure the crowd could have been heard from miles away and their cheering kept me going towards the finish line, I even took out my headphones towards the end of the race to take everything in!"

"I'm also very grateful to my fellow crew members from Pont-iets Fire Station who have encouraged me throughout my training and who came to show their support on the day. The event was very well organised and it was the most amazing experience that I'll never forget."

Mel has currently raised over £560 for the Fire Fighters Charity and is still fundraising through her [JustGiving page](#).

DRONE OPEN DAY SUCCESS

Recently, members of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) Drone Team organised a Drone Open Day for Service personnel at Service Headquarters.

The session allowed both Operational and Non-Operational staff members to come together and learn about the current technology that is available to support operational response, prevention and protection.



The day aligned and revolved around certain operational themes: incident command, wildfires, and reconnaissance.

There were lots of practical demonstrations throughout the day, offering plenty of opportunity for discussion. It was a great success and definitely beneficial to see the advancements in technology.

FULL ARTICLE



VALERO ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION

On Tuesday, 11th March, Michelle Williams and Lee Simmons from Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's Road Safety team attended [Valero Refinery](#) to give the 'Domino Workplace' Road Safety presentation to staff members.

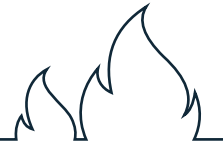
Stephen Parks Site Safety VPP Co-Ordinator of Valero Refinery said:

"We're currently running a campaign to promote a culture of vehicle safety within Valero Pembroke"

Refinery, ensuring that all employees, contractors, and visitors understand and adhere to safe driving practices to prevent accidents and maintain a secure working environment.

We care about our local communities, and we encourage all workers to demonstrate good driving behaviours whilst driving to and from work. Our audience thoroughly enjoyed the presentation MAWWFRS gave at our monthly Health & Safety Hub, and we want to say a big thank you from all the Valero Safety team."

For more information on Road Safety, please visit: [On the Road](#)





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN SESSIONS A GREAT SUCCESS

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) recently held a total of 34 community engagement drop-in sessions at a variety of locations and venues over the six counties of Mid and West Wales.

The purpose of the drop-in sessions was to gather valuable input from residents and stakeholders, to assist in identifying any issues or challenges the

Service may face in the delivery of the [Community Risk Management Plan 2040 \(CRMP 2040\)](#). Alongside the drop-in sessions, MAWWFRS held two online webinars hosted by Deputy Chief Fire Officer Iwan Cray, meetings with members of Parliament, members of the Senedd and Town and Community Councillors to gain as much feedback as possible.

The interactive sessions proved a resounding success with an impressive 721 'Re-Shaping Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service...together' surveys being completed. A further 130 'Have Your Say' surveys were received from a wide range of stakeholders, also providing their views and expectations of a modern Fire and Rescue Service. Swansea University provided a large footfall with a fantastic amount of engagement and the session at Crickhowell Fire Station welcomed over 100 attendees!

Amy Richmond-Jones, CRMP Planning and Performance Manager said:

"Our community drop-in sessions exceeded our expectations in terms of participation and the quality of feedback received. We understand that listening to the views of staff, communities, partner organisations, trade unions, elected members and people across Mid and West Wales is extremely important."

All the information gathered will be instrumental in guiding our next steps to ensure that our actions align with the community's expectations."

We would like to thank everyone that participated in the sessions and took time to provide their views, we look forward to the next steps in the process."

This journey, of course, is far from over and the next phase of the CRMP 2040 will involve evaluating the information gathered by a scoping exercise. Scoping involves engaging with interested parties to discuss how the Service's known challenges and issues as well as those highlighted as part of the community engagement drop-in-sessions should be addressed.

There is still time to complete the survey, head over to [Community Risk Management Plan 2040](#) to fill it in, your opinions really do matter!



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
- Sports and Social Club
- Firefighters Charity
- Free on-site parking
- Cycle to Work scheme
- Staff Discount scheme
- Health and Wellbeing

VIEW CURRENT VACANCIES >



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS – WE NEED YOU!



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

#MwyNaDimOndTanau #MoreThanJustFires



www.mawwfire.gov.uk

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