



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru

Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

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SPRING
EDITION
2026



OUR FIRST CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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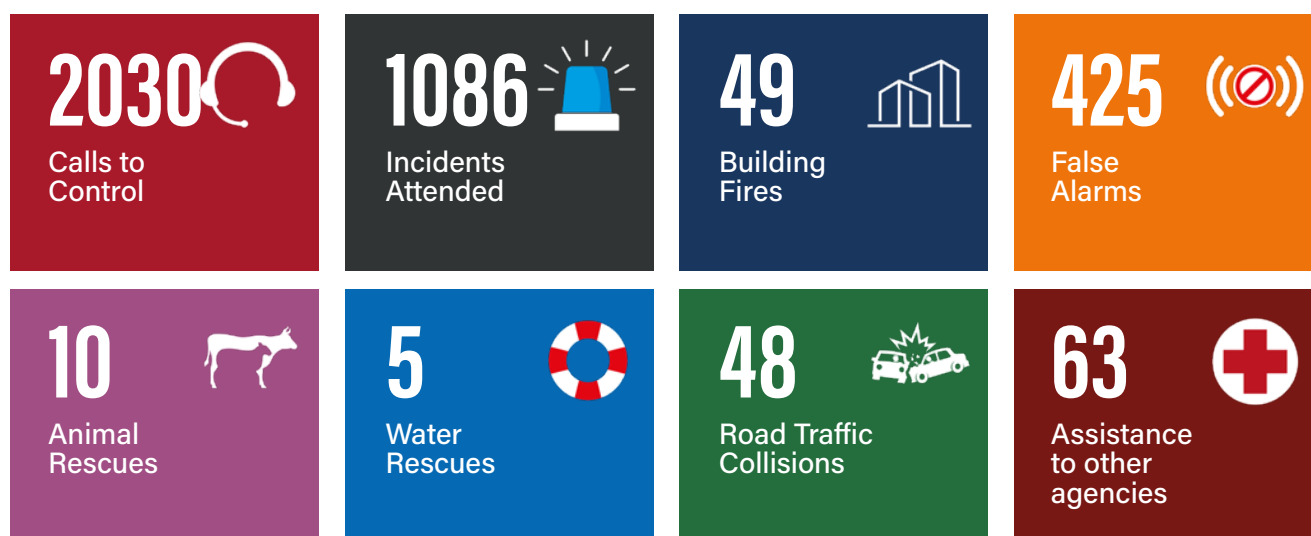
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Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service is responsible for providing emergency response cover to nearly 12,000 square kilometers - almost two-thirds of Wales.

Here's what kept us busy last month:





HAVERFORDWEST ON-CALL PASS OUT PARADE

On Monday, 23rd March a Pass Out Parade was held at Haverfordwest Fire Station to celebrate the achievements of the latest group of On-Call Firefighters.

The ceremony, held at Haverfordwest Fire Station, brought together family, friends, and Fire Service personnel to celebrate the amazing achievements of 9 individuals who have completed weeks of rigorous training and are now beginning their careers serving the communities of Mid and West Wales as On-Call Firefighters.

The new recruits performed a series of Drill Yard Displays highlighting the emergency response skills each new crew member has developed, followed by a Presentation of Certificates.

They are now fully prepared and equipped to start their On-Call careers at their local Fire Stations, where they will each play an essential role in emergency response and prevention work to keep their communities safe.

Congratulations and welcome to the team!





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE.

Since its formation in 1996, the Service has grown into one of the UK's largest Fire and Rescue organisations, serving a wide and varied landscape, from rural villages and coastal towns to busy urban towns.

Throughout this time, our teams have responded to thousands of emergencies, championed fire safety and prevention, and continually adapted to new challenges with professionalism and resilience.

From 1st April 2026, and throughout the rest of the year, we will be celebrating this significant anniversary. It offers an opportunity not only to reflect on the Service's achievements, but also to recognise the people who have shaped its journey. Firefighters, control staff, support teams, and volunteers have all played a vital role in protecting our communities, often in demanding and unpredictable circumstances.

As we mark three decades of service, this anniversary stands as a testament to our commitment - and a moment to look ahead: strengthening community partnerships, embracing innovation, and continuing our mission to keep Mid and West Wales safe for generations to come.

READ MORE

If you have any stories, memories, or photographs from the past 30 years, we'd love to see them and share them as part of our celebrations.

Please send them to:
pressofficer@mawwfire.gov.uk

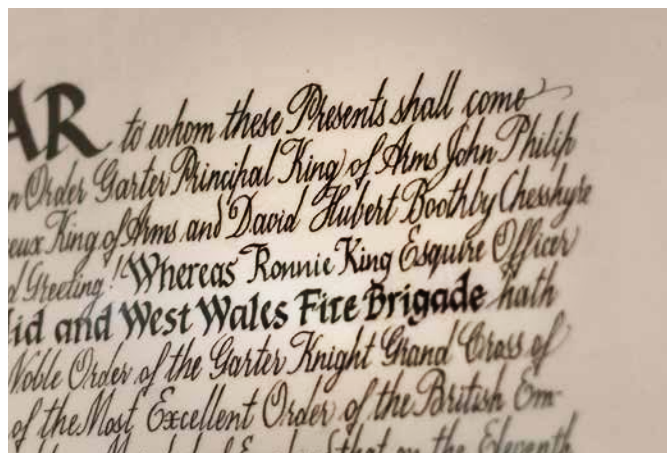


OUR FIRST CHIEF FIRE OFFICER RETURNS TO SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

On Thursday, April 2nd, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) was delighted to welcome its first Chief Fire Officer, Ronnie King OBE QFSM, to its Service Headquarters in Carmarthen.

During his visit, Mr King met with the Service's current Chief Fire Officer, Craig Flannery, both of whom are originally from Yorkshire, to discuss advancements in the Fire and Rescue Service, career highlights and leadership.

Mr King has had a distinguished career, which began in the Yorkshire Fire Brigade in 1961, he then moved on to serve in London, Fife and with the Home Office, before becoming the first Chief Fire Officer of the newly-formed MAWWFRS in April 1996. MAWWFRS was formed following the merger of the three former Fire Brigades of Dyfed, Powys and West Glamorgan



FULL ARTICLE



ON-CALL CONFERENCE



MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HOSTS THIRD ANNUAL ON- CALL FIREFIGHTER CONFERENCE

On Sunday, April 26th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) held its third On-Call Firefighter Conference, at the Members Pavilion on the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society's Showground in Builth Wells.

The conference highlighted the work being done within MAWWFRS and further afield to improve the On-Call Duty System, as well as to provide updates on Service initiatives, such as the [Community Risk Management Plan](#), and to discuss recommendations and concerns on improving the recruitment and retention of On-Call Firefighters within MAWWFRS.

The conference welcomed external speakers, including Deputy Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and the National Fire Chiefs Council's Lead Officer for On-Call, Steve Healey KFSM and Claire McMinn from the Fire Fighters Charity.

Recent successes in transforming MAWWFRS's On-Call Duty System and Firefighter recruitment and retention include the Service's On-Call Improvement Programme being [awarded the Project of the Year Award at the Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards](#) and a 3% increase in On-Call availability.





LONG SERVICE AND GOOD CONDUCT AWARDS

On the evening of Thursday, April 16th, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) held a Long Service and Good Conduct Awards Ceremony at The Barn at Brynich in Brecon.

The evening was a special opportunity to celebrate and recognise 30 and 20 years of service completed by operational and support personnel. Hosted by MAWWFRS's Chief Fire Officer, Craig Flannery, the ceremony included a performance by the Brecon Male Voice Choir, the presentation of medals and awards to MAWWFRS personnel, and a buffet.

Announcing each recipient during the evening were the Head of MAWWFRS's Northern Division, Group Manager Phil Morris, Deputy Head of Southern Division, Station Manager Richie Vaughan-Williams and Deputy Head of Western Division, Station Manager Emyr Jones. Presenting the medals, commemorative badges and awards to each recipient was His Majesty's Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Powys, Mr David Meyer.

Also attending the ceremony were His Majesty's Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Dyfed, Mr Rowland Rees-Evans DL, the High Sheriff of Powys, Mr William Watkins, the High Sheriff of Dyfed, Mr Andrew Phillips and Chair of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority, Mr John Davies.

30 Years of Service

Recognised for their 30 years of dedicated service to the communities of Mid and West Wales were: Group Manager and Head of Operational Response Ashley Hopkins, Station Manager and USAR Technician Aled Lewis, Watch Manager Dylan Evans, Watch Manager David Evans, Crew Manager James Jones and Crew Manager Lee Williams.

20 Years of Service

Recognised for their 20 years of dedicated service to the communities of Mid and West Wales were: Central Response Officer Nerys Thomas, Crew Manager Christopher Eldred, Watch Manager Craig Jenkins, Community Safety Officer Gary Davies, Crew Manager Ceri Roberts, Crew Manager Nigel Worvell, Watch Manager Brian Woodbridge, Watch Manager Stuart Ingram, Crew Manager Simon Bray, Crew Manager Richard Wildee, Crew Manager Robert Beech, Firefighter David Roberts and Firefighter Douglas Preece.

Congratulations to all recipients for their outstanding dedication and service, including those marking 20 and 30 years of service who were unable to attend the ceremony.





FIRE CREWS PUT SKILLS TO THE TEST IN REALISTIC TRAINING EXERCISE

Firefighters from Newcastle Emlyn and Llandysul Fire Stations recently took part in a joint off-site training exercise designed to sharpen their skills and strengthen teamwork.

On Monday evening, 13th April, crews from both stations attended a breathing apparatus (BA) search and rescue exercise at SERB Pharmaceuticals in Ffostrasol, Llandysul. The scenario simulated a fire within the building, with multiple people reported to be inside, creating a challenging and realistic training environment.

The exercise gave both crews the opportunity to practise vital operational procedures while wearing BA kit and working in a smoke-filled building. By training in a real industrial setting, crews were able to gain valuable hands-on experience, helping them to operate safely and effectively in situations similar to real incidents.

A special thank you goes to SERB Pharmaceuticals for their excellent co-operation, both in preparing for the exercise and for their support on the night. Their willingness to allow crews to use their premises played a key role in making the training both realistic and successful.

Both Newcastle Emlyn and Llandysul Fire Stations are currently actively recruiting On-Call Firefighters. If you are interested in serving your community and joining a dedicated local team, [please get in touch to find out more.](#)

Watch Manager, Iwan Jones, said:

"The exercise provided a valuable opportunity for crews to train together, strengthen operational co-ordination and identify key learning points for future incidents."





COMMUNITY GARDEN OFFICIALLY OPENED AT WELSHPOOL FIRE STATION

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) was delighted to officially open the new community garden at Welshpool Fire Station in February.

The garden was formally unveiled on Thursday, February 12th, during a well attended community coffee morning hosted at the station. Local

residents were invited to join Welshpool Firefighters for hot drinks and homemade cakes, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere to celebrate the occasion.

The garden will serve as a peaceful retreat for both MAWWFRS personnel and local residents, offering a quiet environment to relax, reflect and enjoy the outdoors. It is hoped that the space will continue to evolve through ongoing community involvement and seasonal planting activities.

The Welshpool Fire Station Community Garden has been kindly supported by Welsh Government's [Local Places for Nature Programme](#) and [Keep Wales Tidy](#).





INCIDENT COMMAND COURSE IN PORT TALBOT

On Monday, 27th March, seven candidates successfully completed their Incident Command Level 1 Course, delivered at Port Talbot Fire Station by the Incident Command Team.

The 5-day intensive programme, designed to prepare firefighters for the responsibilities of taking charge of operational appliances, featured two days of immersive incident scenarios. Each candidate was required to take command of a range of realistic operational incidents, demonstrating their decision-making, leadership, and command skills in line with the standards required to achieve the Skills for Justice (SFJ) qualification. The candidates met the required criteria, validating their competence to serve as officers in charge at operational incidents.

As part of the course delivery, colleagues from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service attended to observe the assessments and support the running of scenarios. Their involvement strengthened inter-service collaboration and fostered positive working relationships between the Services. The shared learning environment also allowed for constructive feedback and professional development opportunities for all involved.

The Incident Command Team would like to congratulate all the candidates on their achievement and extends a big thanks to [North Wales Fire and Rescue Service](#) for their involvement.

FULL ARTICLE



BECOME A MEMBER OF MAWFRS SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TODAY!

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWFRS) 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

THE WALES WILDFIRE BOARD ARE ENCOURAGING YOU TO BE #WILDFIREWISE THIS SPRING AND SUMMER.

As the seasons shift and warmer weather begins to arrive, it's the perfect opportunity to make the most of the outdoors. Whether that means planning a staycation, heading off on a family camping trip, or simply exploring the beauty of Mid and West Wales countryside.

Spring and Summer come with an increased risk of wildfires. The Wales Wildfire Board are urging everyone to be #WildfireWise by following our simple, practical safety advice. A small amount of extra care can make a huge difference, helping to protect our stunning countryside and keeping communities safe from the devastating impact of wildfire.

In 2025, Fire Services across Wales attended 3,474 grass fire incidents - a 275% increase on the previous year.

Most concerning of all: Deliberate grass fires rose to 2,357 incidents, an increase of 1,694 fires (up 256%).

This represents the highest number of grass fires since 2018, highlighting a deeply worrying trend that puts people, property, wildlife, and vital community resources at risk.



The Wales Wildfire Board want to work with communities to build a healthier and more resilient countryside and to develop a more biodiverse countryside for the future.

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

By working together with our communities to share our knowledge, the Wales Wildfire Board hope to provide a better understanding of what we can all do to limit accidental fires from happening and in turn the damage they can cause to our environment.

Find out more by visiting [#WildfireWise](#)

TOGETHER WE CAN HELP STOP GRASS FIRES AND PROTECT OUR COUNTRYSIDE.



SAFE HAVENS RELAUNCHED ACROSS MID AND WEST WALES

All Stations across Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MAWWFRS) are designated Safe Havens, providing a place of safety for members of the public who feel unsafe, threatened or afraid.

Anyone who feels they are in imminent danger or vulnerable can attend their nearest station, where our staff are trained and ready to provide support.

Safeguarding Lead, Jay Crouch, said:

"Any member of the public can utilise the Safe Havens at one of our 58 Fire Stations if they feel unsafe in any situation."

MAWWFRS staff are here to support individuals and communities in a range of situations and work closely with partner agencies, including Live Fear Free, Dyfed Powys Police and South Wales Police, to ensure quick and appropriate response when required.



MORE INFORMATION



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



YOUTH RELATED CRIME TRENDS CONFERENCE 2026

On Tuesday, 10th February, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service hosted the Youth Related Crime Trends Conference on behalf of the Swansea Public Services Board at Swansea.com Stadium alongside partner agencies from across the region.

The event focused on youth-related crime trends and collaborative approaches to prevention and safeguarding.

Chief Superintendent Steve Jones of South Wales Police opened the conference, sharing data and insights on prevention strategies. Contributions throughout the day came from South Wales Police

and Crime Commissioner's Office, Swansea Bay University Health Board, the Ethnic Youth Support Team, Hillside Secure Unit, Cardiff Council and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Topics covered included school-based guidance, violence prevention and real insights into the experiences of young people.

Our Community Safety Team highlighted initiatives including the Cadets Programme and The Phoenix Project, which positively engage young people across our communities.

Closing the conference, Chief Fire Officer Craig Flannery reinforced the importance of partnership working in supporting safer, stronger communities for young people across Wales.

We'd like to thank everyone who attended and for contributing to the day's success.





CAR WASH SUCCESS

FOUR FIRE STATIONS RAISE £7,279 FOR CHARITY

Four Fire Stations came together on Saturday, 28th March, for simultaneous charity car washes—raising an impressive £7,279.65 for two causes that provide vital support to fire and rescue families and to those facing sudden bereavement.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service's (MAWWFRS) Presteigne and Knighton Fire Stations, together with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's (HWFRS) Kington and Kingsland Fire Stations, each hosted a community car wash in support of two important charities.

The events aimed to raise vital funds for the Fire Fighters Charity and 2wish, helping ensure practical, emotional and wellbeing support is available when it is needed most.

[The Fire Fighters Charity](#) offers lifelong support to the mental, physical and social wellbeing 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.

[2wish](#) works to ensure that all those affected by the sudden and unexpected death of a child or young adult receives the bereavement support they need. The support they provide is free, confidential and tailored to each individual's needs.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported the four car washes. Between them, the four Stations raised **£7,279.65** - a fantastic result that reflects the generosity of everyone who attended, donated, or helped spread the word.

All funds were split 50/50 between the Fire Fighters Charity and 2wish, in loving memory of Elsa Layton-Jones and Ivy Oldershaw.

Thanks to your support, this total will translate directly into ongoing care, counselling and practical help for people who need it—thank you to everyone for helping turn a community event into meaningful charitable impact.



EXCITING EVENTS AHEAD!



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

[9th May - Llanfyllin Car Wash](#)

[16th May - Aberystwyth Car Wash](#)

[16th May - Fatal 5 Road Safety Event](#)

[16th May - Swansea Pride](#)

[23rd May - Newcastle Emlyn Car Wash](#)

[31st May - Haverfordwest Car Wash](#)

[6th June - Welsh Firefighter Challenge](#)

[19th July - Milford Haven Car Wash](#)

[20th - 23rd July - Royal Welsh Show](#)

[29th July - Pembroke Dock Open Day](#)

[1st - 8th August - National Eisteddfod of Wales](#)

[19th - 20th August - Pembrokeshire County 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



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 >](#)

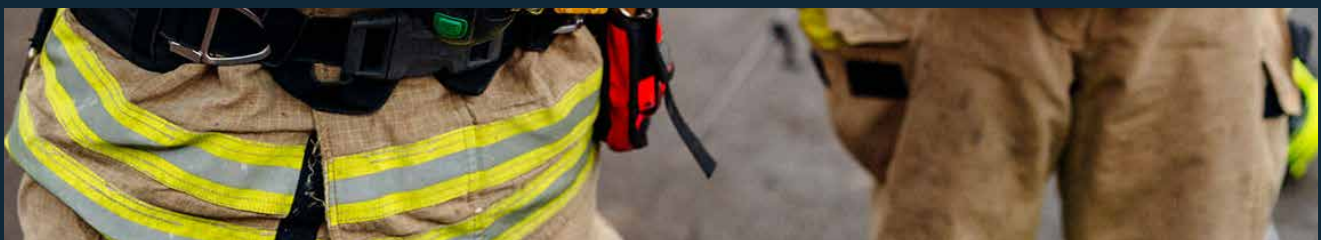


ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS – WE NEED YOU!



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!





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Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

#MwyNaDimOndTanau
#MoreThanJustFires



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