

SafetyWATCH

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

WORKING FOR A SAFER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

WELCOME

We're pleased to present you with this edition of Safety Watch, featuring all the latest news and information from South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.

Since the last issue at the end of 2009, we've had a great deal of positive feedback about the articles featured. Your views are always very welcome, as they help us make this newsletter as useful and relevant as possible.

In this issue you'll find a range of advice – from road safety to home fire safety, as well as information on how you can have a say in the future of South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue.

Best Wishes,



J. Andrews

Cllr Jim Andrews
Chair,
South Yorkshire
Fire Authority



Mark Smitherman

Mark Smitherman
Chief Fire Officer,
South Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue

Electrical Safety Warning After House Fire



The damage was so severe the family have had to move out

Doncaster residents are being reminded about electrical safety after a Wheatley family almost lost their home to fire.

The blaze gutted an upstairs bedroom and caused fire and smoke damage to the entire upstairs of the semi-detached property on Canterbury Road.

It's thought the fire could have started in a coiled up extension cable or a four-way plug adaptor.

Fortunately the occupants Rebecca Johnson, her partner Wayne and their two young daughters, were next door when the fire broke out. Wayne spotted the thick black smoke when he returned to the property to run a bath for the children.

Rebecca said: "The damage is so bad we've not even been able to return to the house. The fire's destroyed the bedroom and the firefighters had to take some of the ceiling down to check the fire hadn't spread into the roof."

Fire Investigator Stewart Layhe said the house wasn't fitted with any smoke alarms: "Thankfully the family were out of the house when the fire started and no-one was injured but if this blaze had broken out in the middle of the night, it could have remained undetected and had much more serious consequences.

"We'd always remind people to regularly check their electrical appliances for signs of damage and to be careful not to overload plug sockets."

Electrical Items – Safety Tips:

Hot plugs, scorch marks and flickering lights are all signs of loose wiring or electrical problems.

Plugging too many electrical appliances into one socket can lead to overheating

Never leave electrical items on at night - unless they are designed to be left on, like freezers.

Extension leads and adaptors have a limit on how many amps they can take, so be careful not to overload them.

Never use water on an electrical fire, and don't take any risks with your safety. Get out, Stay out and call 999.



The house in Wheatley where fire broke out in an upstairs bedroom

Smoking Fire Safety Campaign Launched

Smokers across South Yorkshire are being given specialist information in a new drive to reduce accidental house fires, after new statistics reveal more people die in fires caused by smoking than in fires with any other single cause.

In South Yorkshire since 2005, smoking has been responsible for over 40% of all accidental house fires involving fatalities. It has led to the deaths of 6 people over the last three years.

But you can help keep the risk of fire low, by following some basic fire safety advice:

- **never smoke in bed** - it's very easy to fall asleep and allow your cigarette to set light to your bedclothes or furnishings.
- **don't smoke if you're drowsy** - especially if you're sitting in a comfortable chair or if you've been drinking or taking prescription drugs. Again, it's easy to fall asleep.
- **don't leave a lighted cigarette, pipe or cigar unattended** - they can easily overbalance and land on the carpet or other flammable material.
- **make totally sure that your butts aren't still smouldering** - wet them and empty your ashtray into a metal bin outside the house.
- **keep lighters, matches and smoking materials out of the reach of children** - you can also buy child-resistant lighters and containers for matches.



National No Smoking Day takes place on **Wednesday March 10**. For more information on ways to help you stop smoking visit www.nosmokingday.org.uk or contact your local fire station and ask to be referred for help through the Hot Spots Scheme.



Staying Safe On The Roads

Last year South Yorkshire firefighters attended over one thousand road traffic collisions, often involving drivers or passengers who needed to be cut from crashed vehicles.

Helping to reduce deaths and injuries on the roads is one of South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's key priorities. You can help to keep the roads safe by following these simple road safety tips:

Never Drink Drive

If you drive at twice the legal alcohol limit you are at least 30 times more likely to cause a road crash, than a driver who hasn't been drinking.

Remember - there is no foolproof way of staying under the limit. The only safe option is not to drink any alcohol if you plan to drive.

Take Breaks

Driver sleepiness is estimated to account for around one fifth of accidents on major roads.

Remember - take a 15 minute break every two hours of driving, get a good night's sleep before setting out and share driving where possible on longer journeys.

Driving For Work

It is estimated that around 200 road deaths and serious injuries each week involve someone using their car for business purposes.

Remember - drive to arrive. Don't take risks such as breaking the speed limit just because you may be a few minutes late for a meeting.

Be Aware Of Conditions

Changes in the weather conditions or in the road lay-out present unexpected hazards for drivers.

Remember - always clear snow and ice from all windows and mirrors before travelling to ensure you have good visibility.

Check Your Vehicle

Vehicle maintenance is very important. Tyres should have plenty of tread and be at the right pressure.

Check that your brakes are working well. Lights and windscreen wipers should work properly. Make sure you have plenty of screen wash and add anti-freeze to the radiator.

'Our Future – Your Service'

Did you have a view on the firefighters' strike? Is your local fire station important to you? Do you want to have your say on your fire and rescue service?

If so, make sure you take part in a major South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) consultation exercise this spring.

What is it?

SYFR, like most public sector organisations, is likely to experience significant funding cuts over the next few years. This will mean we have to try to keep on delivering our services to the same standards as we do now, but with less money. This consultation document will pose questions about what is important, and how we should prioritise the way we work.

Why consult?

These issues might be about the future of our organisation – but they are also about the future of the service we provide to you as a taxpayer. The recent strikes over firefighter shift times have shown how SYFR issues can be very emotive. If the future cuts in our funding are of the scale we expect, we will soon have to take tough decisions on issues that could be just as sensitive as firefighter shift times. Therefore it is important we allow our staff and the public we serve to have their say.

How do I get involved?

A consultation document will be available soon. To be involved in having your say, simply do one of the following:

Text **FIRE** to 87023

E-mail us: press@syfire.gov.uk

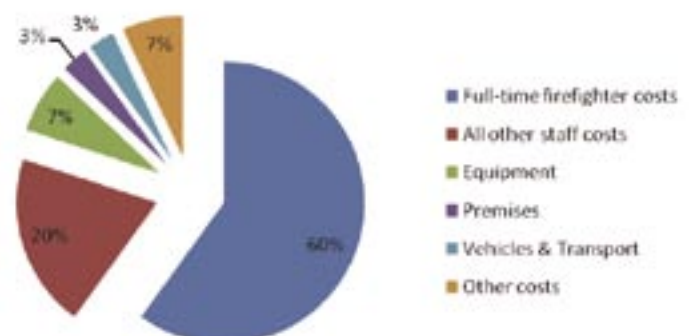
Write to: **Consultation, South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, 197 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3FG**



Where your money goes

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's projected estimate for 2009/10 is to spend £60.4 million. More than £36m of this sum comes from Government grants. Most of the rest comes from the fire-related element of Council Tax bills from around the county.

The table on the right shows that around 60% (£36m) of our expenditure is on salaries and related expenses of full-time firefighters. Around another £12m is spent on other staff, including part-time firefighters, 999 control room staff and support staff. We only spend around £12m on non salary-related items, such as vehicles, firefighting equipment and building maintenance.



Your Fire & Rescue Authority

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is governed by its ruling Authority. Twelve Councillors are nominated to serve on the Authority from the county's four districts.

Feel free to cut out and keep this list of Fire & Rescue Authority members:



Barnsley



Cllr Alice Cave
cllralicecave@barnsley.gov.uk



Cllr Jim Andrews
cllrjamesandrews@barnsley.gov.uk

Doncaster



Cllr Ken Knight
ken.knight@doncaster.gov.uk



Cllr Georgina Mullis
georgina.mullis@doncaster.gov.uk



Cllr Susan Phillips
sue.phillips@doncaster.gov.uk

Rotherham



Cllr Paul Lakin
paul.lakin@rotherham.gov.uk



Cllr Fred Wright
fred.wright@rotherham.gov.uk

Sheffield



Cllr Joan Barton
joan.barton@sheffield.gov.uk



Cllr Jane Bird
jane.bird@sheffield.gov.uk



Cllr Peter Rippon
peter.rippon@sheffield.gov.uk



Cllr Paul Scriven
paul.scriven@sheffield.gov.uk



Cllr Patricia White
patricia.white@sheffield.gov.uk

Contact Us

If you need to contact South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, here is a list of useful contact numbers to ensure you find the right person to assist you.

**Home Safety Checks/
Smoke Alarms**
T: 0114 253 2314
Or text FREE to 87023

Main Switchboard, Headquarters
T: 0114 272 7202
F: 0114 253 2266

Customer Care Line
T: 0114 253 2209

**Fire Safety & Legislation
Advice for Businesses
Sheffield:**
T: 0114 253 2499

Barnsley:
T: 01226 282222

Rotherham:
T: 0114 253 2822

Doncaster:
T: 0114 253 2803

Business Training Courses
T: 0114 253 2986

Recruitment Hotline
T: 0114 253 2226

Website
www.syfire.gov.uk

Our Partners

South Yorkshire Police
www.southyorks.police.uk

Every community has a safer neighbourhood team, where police officers work with other local organisations, such as the council and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, to deal with local concerns. To find yours visit www.southyorks.police.uk and type in your postcode or call our non-emergency phone number: 0114 220 2020

Local Authorities

Barnsley MBC
www.barnsley.gov.uk
T: 01226 775656 (24/7) or
T: 01226 770770
(8am to 6pm Mon to Fri)

- Social Services
Emergency Duty Team
T: 0844 984 1800

- Berneslai Homes Repairs Hotline
T: 01226 787878

Doncaster MBC
www.doncaster.gov.uk
T: 01302 736000

Rotherham MBC
www.rotherham.gov.uk
T: 01709 382121

- Council Tax and
Benefit Entitlement:
T: 01709 336006

Sheffield City Council
www.sheffield.gov.uk
T: 0114 272 6444

- Housing Benefits/Council Tax
T: 0114 273 6777

- Streetforce/Veolia
T: 0114 273 4567

Health

NHS Direct
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk offers
confidential health advice and
information - 0845 46 47

Primary care trusts decide how best to spend NHS money in your area with the aim of providing better health and healthcare. They buy all health services - from GP practices, dental practices, opticians, pharmacists, hospital trusts, mental health care providers, independent and voluntary sector providers - and while they don't directly run any of the services, they are responsible for how well they perform.

NHS Barnsley
www.barnsley.nhs.uk
T: 01226 730000

NHS Doncaster
www.doncasterpct.nhs.uk
T: 01302 565656

NHS Rotherham
www.rotherhampct.nhs.uk
T: 01709 302000

- Rotherham Health Advice Centre
T: 01709 423030

- Rotherham Community
Health Centre
T: 01709 423000

- Rotherham Stop Smoking Service
T: 01709 422444

NHS Sheffield
www.sheffield.nhs.uk

Sheffield's NHS Walk-in services for minor illnesses and injuries, 365 days a year, open 8am-8pm. For more details visit: www.sheffield.nhs.uk/walk-in

- NHS Sheffield Patient Advice
and Liaison Service (PALS):
T: 0800 085 7539

- Sheffield Dental helpline -
to help you find an NHS Dentist:
T: 0114 271 1050

- NHS Sheffield Stop
Smoking Service:
T: 0800 068 4490

