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INFORMATIVE

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'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU!'

'Think safe, Cook Safe!' campaign launched in South Gwynedd

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Service recognised for going the extra mile

'WE DON'T WANT TO COME DINE WITH YOU! CAMPAIGN VISITS SOUTH GWYNEDD

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service launched the 'We don't want to come dine with you – Think Safe, Cook Safe!' campaign in South Gwynedd in April to help drive down the number of cooking related fires in the area and educate local residents about the importance of cooking safely.

Cooking is a major cause of accidental fires in the home in North Wales – this campaign highlights the dangers of leaving your cooking unattended and follows on from the successful campaign held across North Wales last year.

Forgetting to turn off the hob, leaving food in the microwave for too long, overheating a chip pan, burning the toast, leaving the oven on - all of these can spell disaster in the kitchen and can lead to serious injury or, even more worryingly, the loss of life.

In Gwynedd, between 1 January and 31 December 2014 nearly a third of all dwelling fires were caused by cooking.

That is why firefighters were out and about in April and May, talking to shoppers in South Gwynedd about how to stay safe in the kitchen, providing free washing up brushes to encourage people to think safe when cooking and to remember to keep ovens and grills clean at all times.

People were able to put their safety knowledge to the test by taking part in a cooking safely quiz with a chance to win £100 worth of supermarket vouchers.

An online cooking quiz is also available to help those who could not make it to the supermarket visits to learn about safety in the kitchen and have a chance of entering the competition.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "It is our responsibility to do everything we can to highlight that cooking causes a high number of house fires and to change behaviour to prevent these fires from occurring. However, whilst we can advise and educate, the individual must want to change the things that they do in order to make themselves safer.

"Time and time again we attend house fires which have started in the kitchen - it is so easy to forget your cooking, especially if you are tired, distracted or have been drinking or on medication, and the consequences can be devastating. We don't want to come dine with you and tackle your kitchen fire!"

"So come along and see us to learn more on how you can keep safe in the kitchen - we are visiting every county in North Wales over the next 12 months and will be at a supermarket near you! We'll provide you with a washing up brush to help keep your cooking equipment clean and the chance to win £100 in supermarket vouchers. If you can't make it, take part in our fire safety competition on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northwalesfire."

The campaign will move to the Wrexham area during the next two months – further information on www.nwales.fireservice.org.uk

- **If you leave the room take the cooking off the heat**
- **Don't use matches or lighters to light gas cookers. Spark devices are safer**
- **Always make sure that any handles are turned away from the edge of the cooker**
- **Keep the oven, hob and grill clean – a build up fat and grease can easily catch fire**
- **Never hang anything to dry above the cooker**
- **Take care if you are wearing loose clothing as it can easily catch fire**
- **When you've finished cooking make sure everything is turned off**
- **Turn off electrical appliances when they are not being used**
- **Never use a chip pan – use a thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer or oven chips.**
- **Make sure that you have smoke alarms – they are free of charge and could save your life.**



COMBINED FOCUS ON

ROAD SAFETY IN FLINTSHIRE

Staff from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service joined with Flintshire County Council, Clwyd Alyn Housing and Keep Wales Tidy to promote road safety as part of Seatbelt Awareness Week in February. A special safety themed fun day was held at Lôn Celyn in Connah's Quay following concerns that local children were at risk of being involved in a road traffic incidents.



Children and their parents were able to learn about road safety in an interactive way with an educational DVD from the 'Revolution' road safety team. The emphasis was on the importance of driving within the speed limit and showing the reality of the damage a road traffic collision can cause. Members of the team also recruited potential students for future courses.

Dave Roberts, Partnership Manager for Wrexham and Flintshire, said: "It was identified that there was a need for this event as several of the residents had raised concerns about local children playing on the road at the estate which could have resulted in a road traffic collision.

"We were glad to be part of the fun day as it enabled us to cover important topics such as the green cross code, safe places to play, and keeping safe near roads. Not only that, it provided an opportunity to remind parents of some key safety tips and advice about fire safety in the home."

"Seatbelt Awareness Week is a great opportunity for everyone be reminded about these key safety points. It's important for drivers to think about their own safety, but also the safety of other road users and pedestrians.

"It proved a fantastic day for everyone and I was pleased to see the children engaging and learning new skills to stay safe on the streets."

THE BIG LITTER PICK PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON DELIBERATE FIRES

Promoting Arson Awareness Week in May took place in the form of a BIG Litter Pick across the region to highlight the dangers of deliberate refuse fires.

The Arson Reduction Team worked in partnership with local Young Firefighters Association (YFA) branches, North Wales Police and Keep Wales Tidy to help clean up the streets of North Wales to reduce the risk of refuse fires.

Kevin Jones, Arson Reduction Manager, said: "This was an all Wales project that saw staff from each fire and rescue service promoting the dangers of deliberate fire setting.

"Throughout the week members of the YFA, a youth organisation run by Fire and Rescue Services in partnership with the Fire Services Youth Training Association, were at various locations across North Wales picking litter in collaboration with partner organisations.

"The emphasis was on promoting and focusing public attention on deliberate fire setting and providing communities with the tools to reduce the incidence of this crime.

"Wales is renowned for its beautiful scenery, but time and time again firefighters are called to deliberate fires that have been set by youths.

"Starting a deliberate refuse fire is an act of anti-social behaviour and a criminal offence. These fires affect the quality of life within communities - deliberate fires set in wheelie bins have the potential to affect the quality of health for individuals engaged in such behaviour, as well as those people in close vicinity to the fires.

"The majority of wheelie bins are made from high density polyethylene which when burns and can release potentially deadly toxic fumes. Inhaling these fumes can starve the brain of oxygen and there are also a number

of carcinogenic substances that can be inhaled, and can cause cancer.

"The fires can also spread out of control extremely quickly and result in devastating effects for those affected - youths engaged in this activity are putting the lives of so many in danger and I hope that BIG Litter Pick will encourage youths to think twice before they act."

Over the years, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service has seen excellent progress in tackling deliberate refuse fires, with a decrease in the last three years from 277 in April 2012 to March 2013, to 228 in the same period in 2013/2014 - and just recently down to 216 for 2014/15. This is due to collaborative work which has allowed numerous agencies to innovatively support the reduction in deliberate fires.

YFA members from Amlwch, Beaumaris, Chirk, Conwy, Holyhead, Llanfairfechan, Prestatyn, and Pwllheli took part in the campaign.

More advice on how to protect yourself and local businesses from arson can be found on the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service's bilingual website www.nwales-fireservice.org.uk or you can follow the campaign to reduce deliberate fires on social media by following #helpstopdeliberatefires

Gruff Jones, North Wales Regional Manager for Keep Wales Tidy, said: "This is a great opportunity for different agencies to come together with one common aim, which is to make our communities a cleaner, safer place to live.



"Unfortunately, there are individuals who don't have pride in or take care of their local environment, spoiling it for the rest of the community. What is great about events like this is that anyone and everyone can get involved and it's encouraging to see the younger generation in the YFA aiming to tackle and take hold of these issues alongside Keep Wales Tidy, the Arson Reduction Team and North Wales Police."

An all-Wales short film has also been produced to support Arson Awareness Week which shows the effects of a deliberate fire on a young person. This film can be viewed on YouTube on the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service website www.southwales-fire.gov.uk



SHORTLIST HONOUR FOR BEING DEAF FRIENDLY

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service was nominated alongside six other organisations for a new award as one of Wales' most deaf-friendly organisations. The charity Action on Hearing Loss Cymru (formerly the RNID) launched the Excellence Wales Award to recognise the businesses and organisations in Wales who go the extra mile to ensure they are accessible to the one-in-six people who are deaf or have hearing loss.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "We were very proud to be shortlisted, and honoured to be recognised for our efforts.

"The Service is keen to provide the best service possible to everyone, which is why we have specific services in place for individuals who may have hearing problems, making us accessible to all.

"Not only do we provide this service to members of the public, but we also offer assistance to our staff, ensuring that they can complete their work to the highest possible standard with the support that we have in place if they are having any physical or mental difficulties.

"We will continue to improve our services to all, and ensure that we go the extra mile for people who need our assistance.

"We provide the option for people who are deaf or have hearing loss to phone North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Text Relay; a telephone relay service which enables deaf, deafblind, deafened, hard of hearing and speech impaired people to communicate with hearing people by telephone. There is also our text service which is available for all to book a free home fire safety check.

"The advice that would be given verbally usually is also provided in written literature, and all of our community facilities are installed with hearing loops so that those who attend advice or awareness sessions at our community fire stations are equally able to benefit and contribute.

"All of our operational staff members as well as our community safety staff have received a hard of hearing awareness session aimed at raising their understanding of the needs of deaf or hard of hearing people in relation to fire safety and prevention - this has included using visual prompts or literature to convey a message, as well as an understanding of how and where to install prevention equipment.



"In addition, in the past we have trained advocates and continue to provide opportunities for those who wish to develop their skills in signing; we have two members of staff who are trained to communicate through sign language.

"Many people with hearing loss could be at serious risk from a fire in the home if they don't have the right detection in place. Specialist smoke alarm systems provide valuable time to escape from a house fire, and it is vital that people who are deaf or hard of hearing have the right smoke alarm technology in their home to protect them."

An independent judging panel decided on the Gold, Silver and Bronze category winners, which were announced at the Action on Hearing Loss Cymru Gala dinner in May. The Gold Award went to Bridgend County Borough Council, the Silver Award to the National Assembly for Wales and the Bronze Award to Western Power Distribution.



Anyone unsure about the alarm they need should contact North Wales Fire and Rescue Service for a free home fire safety check. We are here to help make sure your home is as fire safe as possible. To request a check, phone our 24 hour hotline on 0800 169 1234, text 88365, prefixing the message with the word HFSC or contact us at www.freesmokealarm.co.uk

WELSH GIVEN CENTRE STAGE AT HOLYHEAD FIRE STATION

Young children from Holyhead and the surrounding area were welcomed to Holyhead Fire Station in February for a fun filled day of activities all aimed at encouraging the benefits of learning Welsh from an early age.

Staff from the Service got together with Mudiad Meithrin, Meter Iaith Môn and Twf to promote bilingualism, welcoming over two hundred children with their families to the fire station.

The event was organised to coincide with St David's Day on the 1st of March and promoted fire safety to young families whilst entertaining the young audience with crafts, story time, a visit from their favourite Welsh character 'Selog', as well as a tour of Holyhead Fire Station - all through the medium of Welsh.

Nici Sion, Translator and Welsh Language Officer for North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, said: "As a Service we continuously promote the Welsh Language and by hosting this event at Holyhead Fire Station we were able to demonstrate to the visitors that our staff are bilingual and the benefits of learning Welsh when you are looking for work.

Annest Rowlands, Twf's Field Officer for Anglesey and Ogwen, said: "We are delighted to be able to take part in an event like this with the support of the fire and rescue service.

"The best advice is to start as soon as possible and to take advantage of the support that is available locally. There are so many advantages to being able to speak more than one language – Welsh opens doors and provides more opportunities in the workplace."

Sara Davies, Family Language Officer for Menter Iaith Môn, said: "The fun day was a big success and it was great to see so many parents turn up with their young children and babies and enjoy taking part in the activities on offer in Welsh."

"If you are a parent or parent-to-be it is important to consider what languages you want to introduce to your child. Choosing and making an early decision to introduce Welsh is an important one – for parents, for the child and for the whole family.



"This is the third event of its kind for us – we held the first over a year ago at Rhyl and it was a real success. This year again has proven to be a big hit with hundreds of residents from Holyhead and the surrounding area attending."

'THINK SAFE DRINK SAFE' CAMPAIGN

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service is working in collaboration with North Wales Police, local councils and other agencies to launch an alcohol enforcement campaign across North Wales highlighting the realities of dealing with drunkenness and alcohol-related incidents.

The week long campaign held in May dealt with preventing crime and disorder, enforcing alcohol related legislation, reassuring the public about the work all agencies are carrying out and encouraging sellers and consumers to take appropriate responsibility.

Neighbourhood policing teams, including special constables and Police Community Support Officers were deployed in drinking hotspots to carry out age ID checks, drug swabbing and drink-drive operations.

Licensing teams worked with partners to conduct test purchasing operations in shops and pubs and visited problem venues.

Staff from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service carried out fire safety checks at pubs and clubs. In Gwynedd and Anglesey staff visited campsites in Benllech and Holyhead to discuss fire safety issues such as drinking and cooking. Staff from Wrexham and Flintshire carried out joint visits with the other agencies in licensed premises in the counties. Staff from Conwy and Denbighshire took part in visits to Holiday Parks across the two counties.

Misuse of alcohol can cause great harm to communities and is a drain on the emergency services and health and council resources.



Nationally, nearly 50% of all violent crime is alcohol related, nearly half of all domestic abuse incidents are linked to alcohol and excessive drinking severely increases your likelihood of committing a crime or becoming a victim of crime.

Stuart Millington, Senior Fire Safety Manager, said: "This initiative is another great way of working in partnership with our colleagues at North Wales Police and local authorities. All organisations will be able to give their advice together at a number of different campsites and licensed premises.

"Our main advice was not to cook under the influence of alcohol when you are camping in a tent or a caravan and to ensure that all barbeques are disposed of correctly."

Chief Supt Jeremy Vaughan said; "We do a huge amount of work to prevent alcohol related anti-social behaviour and crime. We advise people about keeping themselves safe and ensuring licensed businesses behave responsibly.

"We make a significant contribution to keeping our town centres safe so people can enjoy a good night out, but we must get the message across that people need to take greater responsibility for themselves and their friends to reduce the likelihood of them being injured, becoming a victim, or being involved in violence through excessive drinking."

"People come to harm for many reasons due to alcohol excess and the emergency services and local authorities are left picking up the pieces. The aim of the campaign is to ensure that those who have a role in both consuming and selling alcohol need to take responsibility for their actions."

FIRE SAFETY PLATFORM AT THE BIG HEALTH DAY

North Wales Fire and Rescue Service took part in The Big Health Day in Wrexham in March. Staff attended the event at Wrexham Memorial Hall, Bodhyfryd alongside a further 40 other organisations.

The theme of the event this year was 'Recovery and Living Independently', and staff promoted free home fire safety checks and provided helpful tips and advice to ensure that the residents of Wrexham stay safe.



Statistics show that the risk of dying in a fire for those aged 65 and over is more than twice as high as the average risk for all ages. This statistic is made even more significant with predictions of an ageing population and 23% of the UK expected to be aged 65 and over by 2035.

Dave Roberts, Partnership Manager for Flintshire and Wrexham, said: "Older residents and vulnerable people are two of the groups that we as a Service are keen to target, therefore The Big Health Day provided a great platform for us to get across our messages."

"Visitors were able to get a range of advice from a number of different agencies all in one convenient location. We promoted our free home fire safety checks where a member of the fire and rescue service will visit your home to discuss fire safety and install smoke alarms where necessary."

"We have a great range of products available to assist older people such as smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing. To request a free home fire safety check call our freephone 0800 169 1234 or email cfs@nwales-fireservice.org.uk".

CELEBRATING REACHING 10,000 PEOPLE ON TWITTER

Social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter are regularly used effectively to promote the activities of the fire and rescue service and to raise awareness of fire safety to the public. Reaching as many people as possible through these channels helps the Service to engage directly with our communities as the number of fans and followers continues to grow.



In May the Service celebrated achieving its 10,000th follower on Twitter and offered a prize to encourage more followers to read the official page on Twitter and gain access to important fire safety advice.

The 10,000th follower was Tina Sawyer from Gwynedd who was presented with an Amazon voucher by Kevin Tiernan, Home Safety Support Officer.

Why not become a fan of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, or subscribe to our YouTube Channel for an opportunity to keep up to date with our latest news and information.