

# Dudley Command

Dudley Command: Operations Commander Philip Towers



To contact the Dudley Command team please ring **01384 253 611**.

There are 4 stations within the Dudley area

**Dudley Fire Station (01384 253 611)**

Station Commander Mark Lawton  
Burton Road,  
Dudley,  
West Midlands,  
DY1 3BZ

**Brierley Hill Fire Station (0121 380 7542)**

Station Commander Colin Newton  
Dudley Road,  
Brierley Hill,  
West Midlands  
DY5 1HG

**Halesowen Fire Station (0121 550 1127)**

Station Commander Phil Towers  
Hagley Road,  
Halesowen,  
West Midlands  
B63 4JS

**Stourbridge Fire Station (01384 395 223)**

Station Commander Phil Towers  
Parkfield Road,  
Stourbridge,  
West Midlands,  
DY8 1HA

# Profile

The Borough of Dudley has a population in excess of 305,000 people, with a diverse demographic background covering an area of 98sq km. 22.2% of this population are over 60 years of age and 24.3% of employment is in manufacturing which is almost 10% higher than the national figure for England (14.8%). The area has a number of tourist attractions such as The Black Country Museum and Dudley Zoo.

Within the Operations Command of Dudley we have 4 full time fire stations, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Halesowen and Stourbridge. We are actively engaged with our partners/stakeholders in our attempt to manage down risk within the local community. We have entered into agreements to effectively reduce anticipation response and consequential costs by focusing on:

- Vehicle arson.
- Accidental dwelling fires
- Arson in buildings other than dwellings.

The three year Local Area Agreement (LAA) needs to deliver the long term outcomes of developing the sustainable communities' strategy

## **Primary Targeted Performance Indicators**

- Reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Reduce the number of road vehicles maliciously ignited.
- Reduce the number incidents where arson is a contributory factor.
- Increase the number of Home Fire Safety Checks completed within the borough.
- Manage attendance to maintain operational effectiveness.

## **Prevention Based Activity Initiatives**

Our current initiatives are;

- Partnership road safety events.
- Schools quiz programme.
- Arson reduction.
- Child car seat fitting
- Safety Town and Survive alive.

As part of our Prevention Based Activities Dudley Borough have fitted in excess of 4032 smoke alarms in the last financial year.

We have over 40 schools who take part in the schools quiz every year. The Schools take part at a the local Stations with the winners representing the Borough at the final. All of our station help in the organisation and facilitating of the quiz.

We attend numerous groups around the borough including the Area and PACT (Partners and Communities Together) Committees and groups within the safety partnership of Dudley Borough council.

# Fire Stations

## Dudley Station



Dudley Fire Station has 6 Watches: Red, Green, Blue, White, Purple and Orange Watches.

They have one fire engine available 24 hours a day, one fire engine available 12 hours per day (1000 hrs to 2200 hours) and a Targeted Response Vehicle (TRV) available 12 hours per day.

The TRV is a new vehicle, introduced in January 2009 that in the main responds to minor fires involving rubbish, grass etc and is an additional recourse that can provide additional cover to certain incidents. Although the vehicle is based at Dudley it covers the Black Country Area.

The Station works closely with partners through initiatives providing and taking the lead in the Dudley Borough for Child Car Seat checking service. Trained personnel undertake the service for members of the public free of charge to ensure correct fitting and advice on the correct seat/legislation now in operation.

Dudley Borough crews attend, in partnership with the Police, road stops. This is aimed at road users who commit offences whilst driving including driving with no seat belt, children not secured in car seats and using mobile phones whilst driving. The fire crews offer Road Safety advice to the people who are stopped.

Dudley Station is engaged in a local partnership with Tesco's Community champion. Crews attend Tesco's store bi-monthly and set up a market place that provides

information and safety literature to the shoppers i.e. HFSC's- information on what they are about and how to request one, general home safety and information on Child Car seats and safety initiative.

# Brierley Hill Station



Brierley Hill Station consists of 6 Watches, Red, Green, Blue, White, Purple and Orange Watches.

They have one fire engine available 24 hours a day and one fire engine available 12 hours per day (1000 hrs to 2200 hours).

The Station is linked with Hawbush School for Smoke Alarm ownership within the different Mosaic groups of the Borough.

Being the closest Station to Merry Hill they are the natural Station to be part of the Merry Hill form. Here they help drive down RTC's around the shopping centre.

The delivery of HFSC's in the Borough are, at times, delivered by trained partners such as CHN and this partnership work is coordinated by Green Watch.

Links have been forged with the Aquarius Project in the Town Centre. This project helps people who have a dependency on alcohol and working together we help vulnerable people within the community.

The Station is actively involved in Beat Sweep initiatives. This is where multi agencies target an area together, working to make the community safer and increasing the communities feel good factor of the area.

As part of the Brigades commitment to reducing carbon emissions Brierley Hill are conducting an environmental survey of the Station, looking at ways to reduce energy levels and increasing recycling.

Recently Red Watch has become RTC Brigade Champions for 2009 and will represent the Brigade at the National Finals at Glasgow in September 2009.

## Halesowen Station



Halesowen Station consists of 4 Watches, Red, Green, Blue and White Watches.

They have one fire engine available 24 hours a day.

Each watch is linked to local schools where they attend and deliver SPARK education pack to key stage 2 pupils and assist Reception classes with their Health & Safety week for people who help.

They have developed links with elderly groups and the Asian community within the local area, whilst serving the local community in delivering HFSC's and Fire Safety advice.

The Station works closely with partners through initiatives providing information and practical advice on Child Car Seats. This is a free checking service that is offered to the public to ensure correct fitting and advice on the correct seat/legislation now in operation.

## Stourbridge Station



Stourbridge Station consists of 4 Watches, Red, Green, Blue and White Watches.

They have one fire engine available 24 hours a day and an Incident Response Unit (IRU)

At Stourbridge there is a Community safety coordinator and Calamity cottage which provides excellent facilities for children and young people to be educated in safety around the home and also road safety. The community room can be used by groups from around the borough to meet, and receive input on all issues including training and prevention based activities.

Wednesday evenings has seen the formation of a group to deliver team building exercises to children and young people from around the borough, this will continue throughout 2009.

Stourbridge is also the Station that holds a special needs Young Firefighters group.

# Initiatives

## **Home Fire Safety Check**

This is a free and important part of a range of services open to anyone within the West Midlands particularly aiming at hard to reach groups to give advice on fire safety within their home and fit free smoke alarms where necessary. If someone is deemed to be hard of hearing a specially designed smoke detector is installed free of charge.

This is to increase awareness of safety in the home and protection against fire and injury. Creating a Safer and Stronger Community and help with individuals health and wellbeing.

## **Community Advocates**

The Community Advocates are employed by West Midlands Fire Service and are assigned to each Borough to promote and build links in the community on prevention based activities, such as Home Fire Safety Checks by targeting people, communities or areas that have been identified as vulnerable and/or at high risk to fire. Raising awareness of initiatives particularly against fire and injury providing community reassurance and the signposting of services and agencies.

In Dudley the Advocate is Parmjeet Pandey. Parm is very pro active within the different communities of the Borough; she profiles vulnerable groups, BME groups, works with Children and Adults across the Borough as well as providing support and guidance to the crews when completing HFSC's within the hard to reach communities.

## **Children and Young People**

Key Stage 1

The Big Red Fire Engine Activity Box

This box is available to all nurseries in the Dudley Borough. It is designed for Nursery age children to teach them fire safety. It contains four small uniforms and helmets, two jigsaws, three fire safety posters and a photocopyable workbook/colouring book. This increases awareness of fire safety amongst key stage 1 children and contributes to the Every Child Matters actions within the Borough

Key Stage 2, 3 & 4

Education in Schools and Education Centres

Key Stage 2: Local Firefighters deliver an education programme within the school on fire, home and personal safety.

Key Stage 3 & 4: Education provision (safety theme) delivered by specially trained Firefighters. This can be delivered to support various areas of the curriculum according to need.

#### Special Needs Education Provision (Adults and Children)

Specialist trained Firefighter delivering prevention education tailored to individual needs in liaison with education/day centre providers. Topics covered include fire/kitchen safety and making escape plans. Dudley also provide a Special Education Needs Young Firefighter Association programme at Stourbridge Station.

By increasing awareness of home, personal and fire safety, including those with special needs, there will be less injuries or fatalities caused by fire. These programmes also increase educational attainment for local students and also give provision of positive role models via Firefighter facilitating learning.

Working with schools and partners we help deliver positive messages to local school children relating everyday activities to fire safety and road safety initiatives.

## **Obesity**

In our quest to help tackle obesity we are launching a pilot programme of activity with partners where Key Stage 2 children become Firefighters for the day. This combines games and activities that have been adapted from a Firefighters basic training combining physical activity with information and encouragement to eat healthily.

## **FIRE Project**

This Project takes a group of young people at KS4 level. They are primarily learners that have a history of disrupted education, truancy or have been previously excluded, have a pattern of disruptive or anti-social behaviour, offending or have low levels of self-esteem and confidence is exhibited through an unwillingness to commit to mainstream education.

The trained fire service personnel try to re-engage young people into learning recover and develop self esteem and confidence, increase motivation and encourage young people to progress successfully onto further training, education or employment

## **Your Choice on the Road**

## **Site Risk Surveys**

This is where Firefighters inspect local businesses and places of particular risk to educate themselves and inform their fellow firefighters across the West Midlands of any significant risk that may help reduce risk or harm to themselves if they are called to an incident at that premises.

## **Training**

Firefighters have a set period each day in which to maintain and develop their competences and skills required for their role and to deal with emergency situations to a high standard.

## **Community Safe and Sound**

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Fire Service has a duty to involve and work in partnership with Police Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCT) to reduce crime and anti social behaviour within the local community.

This is achieved by working in partnership with other agencies and organisations eg Police including PSOs, Dudley Youth Services, Drug and Alcohol Teams, Social Services, Children's Trust, Local Authority, CDRP, DCP, SHEP.

## **Links to websites**

[www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk](http://www.dudleysafeandsound.org.uk)

[www.dudleylsp.org](http://www.dudleylsp.org)

[www.safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.dudley.gov.uk)

[www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/services-for-adults-and-older-people/adult-protection-committee](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/health-social-care/services-for-adults-and-older-people/adult-protection-committee)