

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Activity Report – Vale of Glamorgan

2025 Quarter 2 (calendar year) Overview

1. Incident Activity and Trends

Following an extremely busy start to the year which saw a 3000% increase in wildfires activity across the service area over the same period last year, which also contributed to the busiest period ever recorded for UK Fire and Rescue Services since the second world war incident numbers have notably decreased throughout Q2.

Fire-Related Incidents

During Q2, a total of 114 fire-related incidents were attended within the Vale of Glamorgan:

- 15 incidents involved domestic dwellings or other residential properties
- 6 incidents involved non-residential buildings such as commercial or public-use properties
- 19 outdoor fires, including incidents involving grassland, trees, or outdoor structures
- 64 refuse and bin fires, indicating a notable concentration of fire activity in public or open spaces
- 10 vehicle or machinery fires, reflecting risks on roads, industrial sites or car parks

Fire Cause Analysis in the Vale of Glamorgan

- 39 fires were found to be accidental in nature
- 8 fires were deliberate, involving the individual's own property
- 66 fires were deliberately ignited, affecting the property of others or unknown ownership

This figure marks an increase from 53 incidents of this kind recorded during the same quarter in the previous year.

Preventative Response and Strategy

In response to this rise, the Service has:

Increased school and youth engagement focusing on the dangers of wildfires and open fires and undertaken proactive multi-agency operations in areas such as Barry, targeting at-risk locations and demographics through education, patrols, and early interventions

2. False Alarm Incidents

A total of 62 automatic false alarm calls were attended during Q2 in the Vale of Glamorgan. This represents a notable reduction from the 100 false alarm attendances recorded during the same period in the previous year.

This decrease follows the successful implementation of a revised policy in Q1, which limits the Service's attendance to automatic alarms in non-residential buildings and

The policy change has freed up resources for frontline emergency responses and prevention work aimed at improving overall service efficiency.

3. Special Service Incidents

The Service attended 95 special service calls in the Vale during Q2. These involved a broad range of emergency support functions, broken down as follows:

- 3 animal rescues
- 2 flooding incidents
- 33 incidents involved supporting other agencies where activities were undertaken in support of our partners including: Forcible entry into properties, Bariatric casualty extrication and supporting with emergency medical assistance
- 1 water rescue was attended within the Vale of Glamorgan, however specialist water rescue crews from Barry and Penarth assisted crews from across the service on numerous occasions with the wider service attending 12 incidents across the service area during the period.
- The service attended 23 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) in the Vale of Glamorgan over the period with a wider total of 184 RTCs attended across the entire Service area

4. Operational Preparedness

Crews from across the Vale of Glamorgan have undertaken ongoing operational training during Q2 to maintain high standards of emergency response capability. Notable activities include:

- Joint exercises at Cardiff Airport, enhancing multi-agency coordination for high-risk aviation-related incidents
- High-rise fire exercises and assurance work, maintaining readiness for rescue and fire suppression scenarios
- Water rescue exercises maintaining preparedness for operational response to water rescue or wide area flooding

5. Community Safety and Prevention

Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs)

4,312 HFSCs were conducted across the Service area this quarter. These visits targeted the most vulnerable residents, aiming to reduce domestic fire risk through tailored advice and safety equipment installation

Local Community Engagement

Fire Safety

Crews from across the Vale of Glamorgan stations have delivered fire safety advice during various community events across the area and beyond during the period which have included The Vale Aging Well Group, Llandow Community Group, Porthcawl Rescue Fest in Porthcawl, Barry Island White Ribbon Event, Age Connects Safety Group, Barry Veterans Group Coffee Morning as well as the delivery of Specific safety campaigns at the Vale Caravan Park, targeting holiday accommodation risks and High-rise safety events which were carried out by Penarth crews in the Anchorage area of Cardiff Bay

In addition, the service has launched a social media campaign highlighting the dangers of disposable BBQs and raised BBQ-related risks with partner agencies for support in tackling the issue of inappropriate use and disposal in Operation Elstree multi-agency meetings

Water safety

In partnership with Theatre an Anog, Penarth crews delivered a significant water safety campaign over a two week period delivering targeted safety messaging and demonstrations to over 1,500 children in Cardiff Bay.

Road safety

The service Road Safety Team have led 27 public engagements across the service area related to road safety which have included:

- 23 Domino presentations
- 22 seatbelt intervention events working with the Police to deliver targeted advice to those caught not wearing seatbelts
- 49 Operation Atal events, delivered with police partners, targeting Speeding offences, Non-compliance with 20mph zones and Failure to wear seatbelts

Crews from Llantwit major also supported motorcycle safety education at Llandow Circuit, alongside South Wales Police, providing tailored road risk advice for riders in the Vale.

Youth Education Programmes

During Q2 of the calendar year the service delivered school fire safety sessions to 2,239 Key Stage 1 and 2,593 Key Stage 2 pupils across the service area.

In addition, 282 young people received targeted education on grass and wildfire safety and 319 young people engaged in the Service's Reflex and Phoenix outreach programmes, designed to:

- Build citizenship

- Reduce risk-taking behaviours
- Foster community responsibility
- Promote safety, teamwork and self-confidence

6. Post-Incident and Anti-Social Behaviour Work

Following a tragic fire in the Vale of Glamorgan crews conducted a Hot Strike campaign, visiting surrounding properties to provide fire safety advice and reassurance to residents

Ongoing multi-agency partnership work in Holton Road, Barry, includes Joint patrols to address anti-social behaviour, and targeted youth interventions to reduce fire and nuisance calls

Additional prevention activity has been carried out at Pencoedtre School to help reduce false alarm activations (FAMs)

The Service remains committed to improving safety and resilience across the Vale through a coordinated and prevention-led approach, while maintaining the highest standards of emergency response.