Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

COMMUNITY RISK PROFILE

2025-2030

Contents

Version: 1.0 **Date published:** November 2025 **Produced by:** Ian Robinson **Reviewed by:** D&I Department

Joint Statement from the Chair of the Fire Authority and Chief Fire Officer

We are pleased to present this Community Risk Profile (CRP) produced by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

This document is the foundation of how we keep people across Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland safe. It sets out the risks we face — from everyday incidents like house fires and road traffic collisions to wider challenges such as flooding, high-rise safety, climate change, cyber threats, and health inequalities.

The CRP is the evidence base on which our plans are built. It shows clearly how risks are changing and how they affect our communities differently. It also explains how factors such as poverty, poor health, and vulnerability increase the likelihood and impact of emergencies.

Together, the Fire Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service are committed to:

- **Transparency** — sharing the evidence that informs our decisions.
- **Fairness** — focusing resources where they are needed most.
- **Resilience** — preparing for both current and emerging risks; and
- **Partnership** — working with councils, health, police, voluntary organisations and communities themselves.

We are proud of the professionalism, dedication and compassion shown by our firefighters and staff. They put our communities first every single day. With our commitment and your trust, we will continue to ensure Tyne and Wear remains a safe, strong and resilient place to live, work, study and visit.

Councillor Phil Tye
Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Peter Heath KFSM
Chief Fire Officer
and Chief Executive

Vision
Creating the Safest Community

Mission
To save life, reduce risk, provide humanitarian services and protect the environment.

Our commitment to you

At the heart of this Community Risk Profile is our promise to you, the people we serve, to uphold our core values and ethical principles as part of everything we do. We are here to protect you, to reduce risk to you, and to be a trusted and visible presence within our towns, villages, and rural areas. This profile reflects not only the data and evidence we have gathered, but also the voices of our communities and partners.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is committed to:

Inclusivity and Culture

Our commitment to prioritising a culture of excellence, equality and inclusivity for our people.

Community and Firefighter Safety

Ensuring we achieve the optimum standards possible in protecting our communities and our workplace.

Making best use of Our Resources

Continuing our robust financial planning approach to ensure best use of resources, aligned to our risk and achievement of our goals.

Innovation and Environmental Sustainability

Continually explore options in technological innovation, and in our environmental sustainability planning, to further improve and future proof delivery of our services.

What is a Community Risk Profile?

This CRP is designed to be clear, evidence-based and accessible. It explains the risks facing Tyne and Wear and how these risks shape the work of your Fire and Rescue Service.

The CRP gathers and analyses evidence from a range of sources and identifies and evaluates risks to the community to create a risk profile.

The CRP brings together information about:

- Who we serve – our population, housing, economy, health and levels of vulnerability.
- What risks exist – from fires and road traffic collisions to wider threats such as flooding, severe weather, terrorism, and emerging technologies.
- How those risks affect different communities – recognising that risk is not shared equally, and that factors such as deprivation, health, age and housing can increase vulnerability.

Why do we need a CRP?

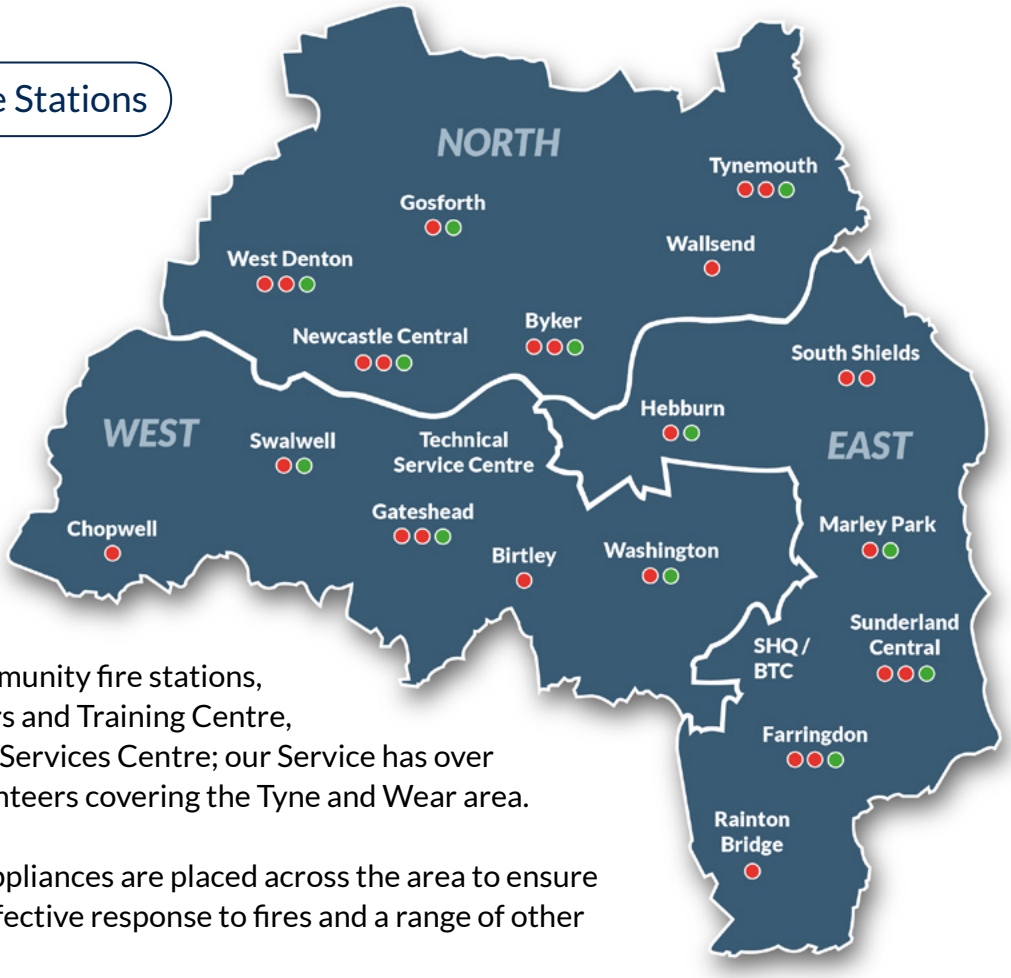
- The Fire and rescue Service's National Framework for England, places a statutory duty on all Fire and Rescue Authorities to assess foreseeable risk and provide intervention to mitigate those risks.
- It ensures we are consistent with national and regional frameworks, including the National Risk Register, the National Security Risk Assessment, and the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum's Community Risk Register.
- It is the foundation for our next stage of planning and directly informs our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). Our CRMP uses the risk identification and evaluations from the CRP to inform decisions about the resources and action necessary to enable risk management and reduction.
- The CRP helps us target our resources where they are needed most.
- It builds transparency and trust, showing our communities how and why we make decisions.

We know that behind every statistic in this profile are real people, families, and communities. That is why our approach will always be people-centred and rooted in trust, fairness and compassion.

About Us

17 Community Fire Stations

- Fire engine
- Special appliance



Operating out of 17 community fire stations, our Service Headquarters and Training Centre, along with our Technical Services Centre; our Service has over 800 employees and volunteers covering the Tyne and Wear area.

Our stations, staff and appliances are placed across the area to ensure the most efficient and effective response to fires and a range of other emergencies.

On average, annually our Service:

Attend over 16,000 incidents

Attend more than 6,000 fires a year

Attend over 300 road traffic collisions

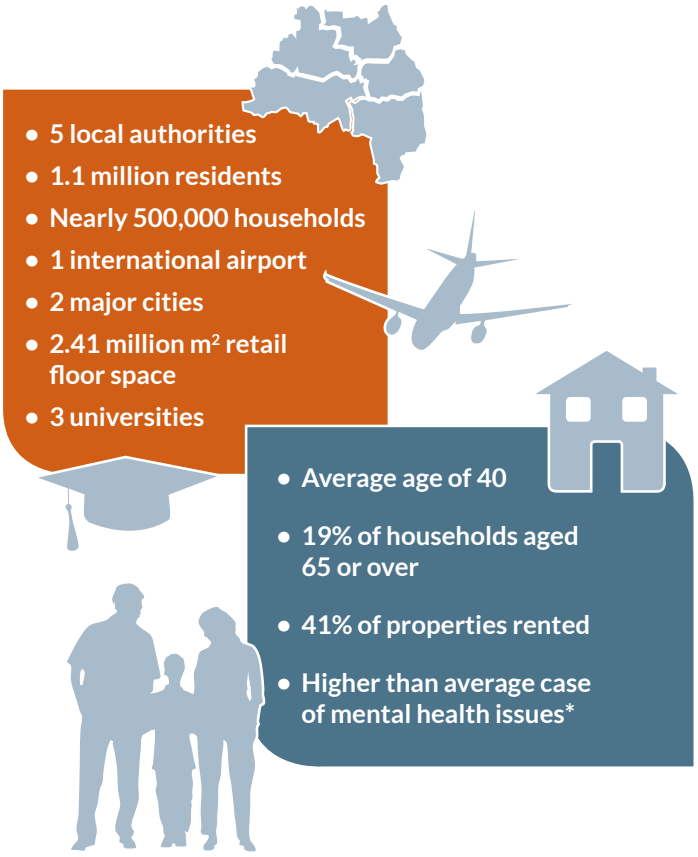
Our Control team answer more than 30,000 calls annually

Provide the fastest response time in country – Average less than 6 minutes

Better than average casualty rates for road traffic accidents*

Nearly 67,000 Safe and Well checks completed over the 3 year period.

About You



- 5 local authorities
- 1.1 million residents
- Nearly 500,000 households
- 1 international airport
- 2 major cities
- 2.41 million m² retail floor space
- 3 universities

- Average age of 40
- 19% of households aged 65 or over
- 41% of properties rented
- Higher than average case of mental health issues*

North East

- Highest rate of unemployment *
- Highest rate of hospital admissions due to alcohol*
- Higher than average mortality rates from alcohol*
- 17% of adults smoke*
- Highest rate of mortality attributable to smoking*
- Highest number of hospital admissions due to drug use (per 100,000 population)*
- Highest levels of obesity*
- Higher than average levels of antisocial behaviour*

* England **Great Britain

Lowest individual household total wealth**

3 Universities

2 Major Cities

1 International Airport

Tyne and Wear is a densely populated metropolitan area, consisting of five local authority areas:

About Our Community

Understanding the characteristics, needs and vulnerabilities of our communities is essential to how we assess risk and deliverour prevention, protection and response activity. Tyne and Wear contains a diverse mix of rural, coastal and urban environments. Naturally, this variation creates different risk profiles linked to geography, socio-economic factors, population trends and levels of deprivation.

To help us understand these factors in a consistent, evidence-based way, we draw on the Indices of Deprivation (IoD).

The IoD 2025 provides a set of relative measures of deprivation for small areas (Lower-layer Super Output Areas) across England, based on seven domains of deprivation. The domains are combined using the following weights to produce the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).

The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2025 (IMD25) contains the ranks and deciles for all Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in England. LSOAs are small areas designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households.

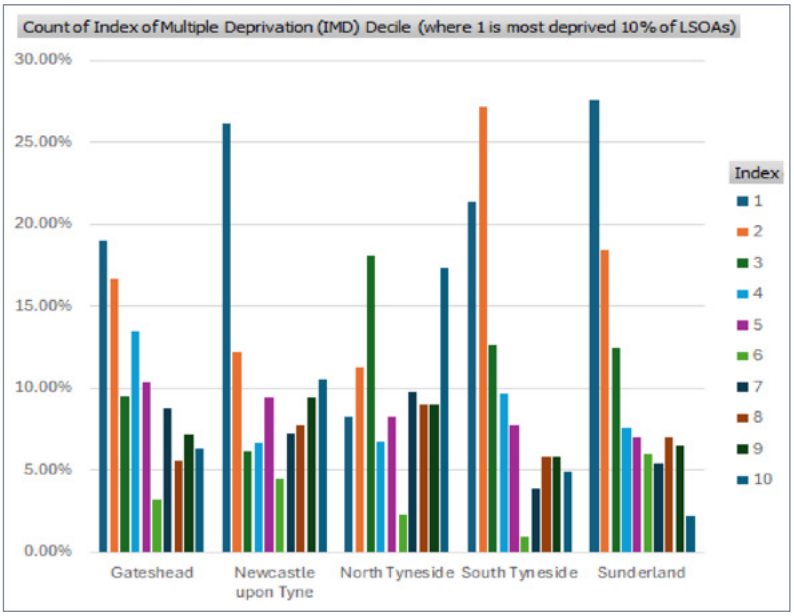
They were produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for the reporting of small area statistics. The LSOA with a rank of 1 is the most deprived and the LSOA with a rank of 33,755 is the least deprived. The deciles are calculated by ranking the 33,755 LSOAs in England from most deprived to least deprived and dividing them into 10 equal groups.

LSOAs in decile 1 fall within the most deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally and LSOAs in decile 10 fall within the least deprived 10% of LSOAs nationally.

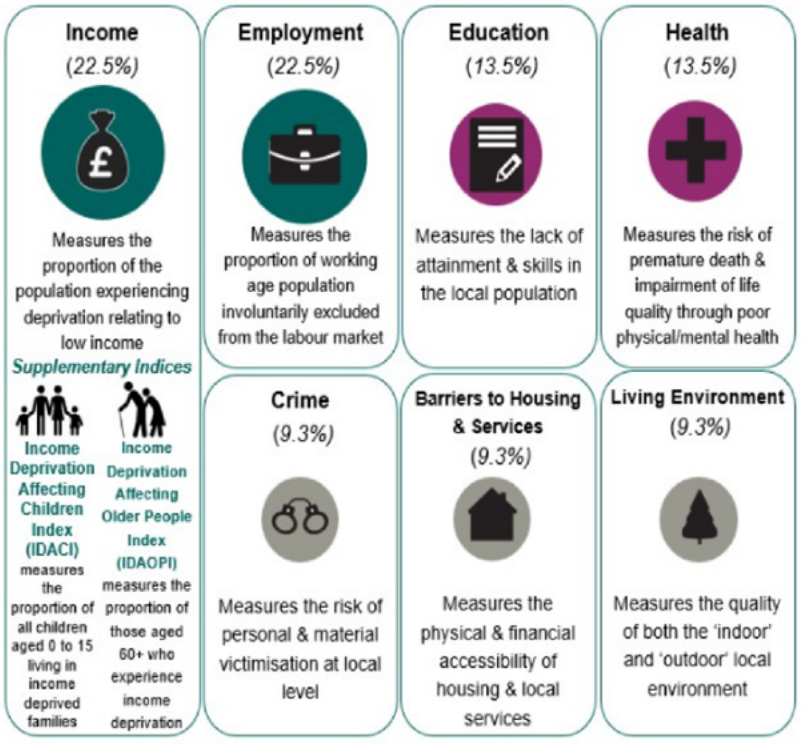
Count of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Column Labels										
Row Labels	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Gateshead	19.05%	16.67%	9.52%	13.49%	10.32%	3.17%	8.73%	5.56%	7.14%	6.35%
Newcastle upon Tyne	26.11%	12.22%	6.11%	6.67%	9.44%	4.44%	7.22%	7.78%	9.44%	10.56%
North Tyneside	8.27%	11.28%	18.05%	6.77%	8.27%	2.26%	9.77%	9.02%	9.02%	17.29%
South Tyneside	21.36%	27.18%	12.62%	9.71%	7.77%	0.97%	3.88%	5.83%	5.83%	4.85%
Sunderland	27.57%	18.38%	12.43%	7.57%	7.03%	5.95%	5.41%	7.03%	6.49%	2.16%
Grand Total	21.32%	16.51%	11.42%	8.53%	8.53%	3.71%	7.02%	7.15%	7.70%	8.12%

Tyne and Wear contains some of the most socio-economically diverse communities in the country, with significant contrasts between areas of long-standing deprivation and areas experiencing regeneration and growth. Patterns of deprivation are not evenly distributed; instead, they are concentrated in specific neighbourhoods where historical industrial decline, low income, unemployment, health inequalities and housing challenges intersect.

Using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) as the primary analytical tool, Tyne and Wear contains a high proportion of neighbourhoods ranked within the most deprived deciles nationally. These areas typically exhibit higher levels of income and employment deprivation, poorer health outcomes, lower educational attainment, and greater barriers to housing and services. Some communities also experience higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, and a more challenging living environment.



There are 7 domains of deprivation, which combine to create the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD25):



Understanding the geography of deprivation across Tyne and Wear ensures our resources are aligned to vulnerability, that interventions are proportionate to risk, and that we continue to address long-term inequalities that influence fire and community safety.

Enquiries: indices.deprivation@communities.gov.uk

All of the data files and supporting documents for the English Indices of Deprivation 2025 are available from: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2025

How have things changed?

Since the publication of our last Community Risk Profile in 2021, the lives of people across Tyne and Wear have continued to change. These changes directly affect community safety, vulnerability, and the risks that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service must plan for.

Population and Communities

Tyne and Wear is more diverse than a decade ago, with a growing proportion of residents from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Housing growth, particularly in city centres and riverside developments, means the number of people living in tall and complex residential buildings, has risen.

Technology and Society

Rapid growth in the use of electric vehicles, lithium-ion batteries and hydrogen energy brings new fire and rescue challenges.

Communities continue to feel the impact of anti-social behaviour, violent crime, and organised criminality, concentrated in some of our most deprived areas.

Economy and Unemployment

While unemployment overall has fallen, more households rely on benefits to meet essential costs.

Rising energy prices and inflation since 2022 have hit lower income households hardest, increasing the risk of fuel poverty and unsafe practices in the home.

Health and Wellbeing

Health inequalities remain prevalent. Three of our five local authority areas continue to rank among the top 10% of most deprived areas in England.

Rates of smoking, alcohol-related deaths and drug misuse in Tyne and Wear remain well above the national average.

Education

There are over 72,000 children and young people aged 0-19 in Newcastle's school system.

In Newcastle, 21.6% of school-age children in need are recorded as having a disability (compared to 13.3% in neighbouring authorities).

Recent data for Sunderland shows the percentage of children achieving grades 5-9 in GCSE English was 59.9% (national figure 65.2%)

Homelessness and Vulnerability

Homelessness and rough sleeping have risen, especially in Newcastle and Sunderland.

Since 2021 the risks facing Tyne and Wear have evolved significantly. Our communities are older, more diverse, and facing deeper inequalities in health and wealth. Climate change and new technologies are creating new challenges, while social and economic pressures increase vulnerability. This CRP reflects these changes and ensures that our understanding of risk remains up to date.

Future housing growth and regeneration

Across Tyne and Wear, local authority local plans and strategic housing delivery programmes indicate substantial residential growth over the next planning period.

This level of growth will increase population density, introduce new mixed-use communities, and expand residential footprints into areas with varied access and infrastructure profiles. TWFRS will need to continue working closely with planning authorities and developers to promote the importance of building standards, access arrangements, water supplies and fire protection measures are considered in the early stages of planning and development.

Housing growth and large-scale regeneration present a significant operational risk to TWFRS because they increase population density, change risk profiles, and place new pressures on prevention, protection and response arrangements. Accelerated development across the region means high-rise schemes, mixed-use buildings, modern construction methods and expanding suburban estates; this creates more complex built environments and increases the demand for our services.

Newcastle is planning for approximately 14,000–19,000 new homes (around 900–1,100 per year) supported by major regeneration sites including Newcastle Helix and the East Pilgrim Street and Forth Yards redevelopment zones.

North Tyneside is planning for 9,500–10,500 new homes (500–600 per year) through strategic sites including Murton Gap, Killingworth Moor and the North Bank of Tyne corridor.

South Tyneside is planning for 7,000– 8,000 new homes (350–450 per year) through ongoing waterfront regeneration and strategic infill development.

Gateshead is planning for around 11,000–13,000 new homes (600–700 per year), with significant growth focused around Gateshead Quays, the Town Centre and key transport corridors.

Sunderland is planning for 13,000 – 14,000 new homes (650–800 per year) linked to city centre regeneration, Riverside Sunderland and the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP).

District	New Homes	Data Range
Gateshead	1,700	2025-2030
Newcastle	5,650	2025-2030
Sunderland	6,247	2023-2033
South Tyneside	5,253	2025-2030
North Tyneside	4,540	2026/27 to 2030/31
Total	**23,390**	

The Service will also monitor how this growth influences operational demand, risk profiles, station responsibilities and longer-term workforce planning to ensure that response and prevention activity remains effective, proportionate and sustainable.

The demand on Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service operates within one of the most densely populated and diverse metropolitan areas in England. The Service's demand profile is shaped by a complex blend of social, economic, and environmental factors, each influencing the type, frequency, and location of incidents we attend. Understanding this demand is central to the Service's risk-based planning, resource allocation, and prevention priorities.

Overall Incident Demand

Over the past five years, TWFRS has responded to an average of 17,500 incidents per year, comprising of fires, special service calls, and false alarms. While total incident numbers have shown a gradual increase, the complexity of calls – particularly those involving multi-agency responses or vulnerable individuals – has continued to rise.

- **Fires:** Primary fires account for approximately 10% of total incidents, with dwelling fires representing the greatest life risk. The prevalence of accidental dwelling fires remains closely linked to areas of deprivation, fuel poverty, and higher proportions of single-occupancy or rented households.

- **Special Service Calls:** These incidents reflect greater community reliance on the Service for a broadening range of emergencies, including road traffic collisions, flooding, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues.

- **Non-Domestic Fires:** These have increased by 19% and continue to represent a significant proportion of operational activity, placing sustained pressure on availability and mobilising capacity.

Incident Patterns

Incident demand shows clear variation at different times of the day, with peaks during late afternoons and evenings, particularly at weekends and in warmer months.

Geographically, demand is concentrated within urban centres such as Newcastle, Sunderland, and Gateshead, although rural and coastal communities experience seasonal increases linked to tourism, wildfires, and road traffic.

Changing Nature of Risk and Demand

The nature of demand upon TWFRS continues to evolve and requires dynamic resource management and flexible deployment models to maintain effective cover across the county.

Socio-economic change has meant that persistent deprivation in parts of the Service area contributes to increased vulnerability to fire, deliberate fire-setting, and health-related emergencies.

Risks

What are risks and why are they important?

For community risk management in the fire and rescue service, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) have proposed to define risk as:

'A combination of the likelihood and consequences of hazardous events'.

This definition was endorsed following a consultation process that took place in 2020.

A risk is the chance of something happening that could have a negative impact on people, property, the environment, or the economy. In fire and rescue terms, risk is not just about emergencies that have already occurred, but is also about the likelihood of them happening, and the potential harm if they do.

Understanding risk is essential because:

- It allows us to target our resources where they are most needed
- It helps us to prevent harm, rather than only respond after it happens
- It ensures fairness, by protecting the most vulnerable communities
- It builds resilience, so that when risks become reality, we can respond quickly and effectively.

Without a clear picture of risk, our decisions would be based on assumptions rather than evidence. By identifying and analysing risk, we can make the best use of our people, skills, and resources to keep the communities of Tyne and Wear safe.

What are the current national risks?

The UK Government's National Risk Register (NRR) and the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) identify the most serious threats facing the country. These risks fall into categories that all fire and rescue services must consider when planning.

Theme	Drivers of chronic risk
Security	Changes in the nature of terrorism
	Changes in the nature of serious and organised crime
	Fraud and illicit finance
Technology and Cybersecurity	Changes in the nature of cybersecurity threats
	Impacts from the use of end-to-end encryption
	Impacts from reliance on digital platforms and digital services for services and interactions
	Concentration of risk through dominance of global tech
	Impacts from use and capability of artificial intelligence (AI)
Geopolitical	Challenges to international institutions
	State threats
Environmental	Climate change
	Biodiversity loss
	Increasing competition for critical materials
	Pollution and environmental degradation
Societal	Impacts from demographic change
	Disproportionate impact on vulnerable persons
	Disinformation and misinformation
Biosecurity	Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)
	Animal disease
	Foodborne disease
	Plant pests
	Impacts from expansion of engineering biology
	Impacts from collection and use of biological data
Economic	Impacts from reliance of global supply chains
	Impacts from emerging financial systems
	Skills shortages and mis-matches

Right: example impact scale indicators for fatalities, casualties and economic cost, National Risk Register 2025, page 14.

The NRR considers both acute risks such as terrorism, flooding or industrial accidents, and chronic risks which develop over long periods and have sustained impact.

Chronic risks are driven by long-term trends such as climate change, aging infrastructure, population health inequalities, demographic change, and economic pressure. These drivers influence the likelihood and severity of emergencies, placing strain on local services and compounding vulnerability in already disadvantaged communities.

By aligning our CRP with the NRR, TWFRS ensures it understands how national-scale trends may affect Tyne and Wear, enabling strategic planning across prevention, protection and response and supporting multi-agency preparedness through the Local Resilience Forum. These national risk categories provide the baseline classification for all local risks and risk assessments.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service aligns its CRP with the NRR and the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum's Community Risk Register, ensuring consistency with regional and national resilience planning.

	Impact				
	1	2	3	4	5
Fatalities	1-8	9-40	41-200	201-1,000	>1,000
Casualties	1-18	17-80	81-400	400-2,000	>2,000
Economic cost	Millions of £	Tens of millions £	Hundreds of millions £	Billions of £	Tens of Billions £

How do we identify our own risks?

The UK Government's National Risk Register (NRR) and the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) identify the most serious threats facing the country. These risks fall into categories that all fire and rescue services must consider when planning.

We analyse a wide range of national, regional and local datasets to understand the likelihood and impact of risks. We use census and public health data to give an insight into population changes and health inequalities, and we use incident and operational data to learn from the incidents we attend. Partner data also helps us identify risks we may not see directly.

Data Analysis

We use quantative data such as incident statistics, demographic trends, built-environment information and deprivation indices combined with qualitative data such as professional judgement and local insight to ensure the CRP is not based on assumptions but grounded in real patterns of risk, enabling more accurate prevention, protection and response planning.

Professional Judgement

Data tells us a lot, but not everything. Our firefighters, fire safety inspectors, community safety teams and specialist officers provide professional insight into the risks they encounter every day. This knowledge is essential to ensure the CRP reflects lived experience as well as statistics.

Community and Partner Engagement

We listen to the people we serve. Feedback from community consultations, surveys, local authority forums, and voluntary sector partners helps us understand how risks are perceived and how they affect different groups. This ensures our risk profile is rooted in the reality of our communities.

Assessing Likelihood and Consequence

Once identified, two key measures are used, likelihood and consequence, to evaluate the risk. This allows us to rate risks on a risk matrix, classifying them into tiers (trivial, tolerable, moderate, substantial, intolerable). This ensures we focus our prevention, protection, and response work where it will make the greatest difference to reduce the risk.

Continuous Review

Risk is not static. New challenges such as climate change, emerging technologies, or changes in community health can quickly alter our risk environment. We therefore review and refresh our Community Risk Profile regularly, ensuring it includes and evaluates current and foreseeable future risks.

Organisational Learning

Provides valuable intelligence by capturing insights from our own activities, evaluations, and debriefs. Reviewing outcomes from exercises, audits, and internal assurance processes helps us identify patterns and trends that highlight emerging risks within both operational delivery and community contexts. Embedding this learning ensures that our understanding of risk continually evolves, supporting evidence-based decision-making and targeted prevention, protection, and response strategies.

Real Events and Public Inquiries

Analysis of real operational incidents and findings from public inquiries provides critical external learning that informs our assessment of community risk. Incidents such as major fires, flooding, or multi-agency emergencies reveal vulnerabilities within the built environment, infrastructure, or social systems that contribute to risk at a local level. Learning from public inquiries, including the Grenfell Tower fire and the Manchester Arena terror attack, ensure we identify systemic issues and apply national recommendations to strengthen our local understanding of risk and improve resilience across our communities.

Legislation

Legislative change is a key driver in identifying and redefining community risk. Developments in building safety, fire safety, and civil contingencies legislation, highlight areas where societal or environmental risk is changing and where new duties are placed upon the service. By monitoring and evaluating these changes, we ensure our Community Risk Profile remains compliant, forward-looking, and reflective of the wider regulatory environment that shapes how risk is created, managed, and mitigated.

Operational Guidance

National and local operational guidance provides an essential framework for identifying and managing risk through consistent, evidence-based practice. Reviewing and responding to updates to Operational Guidance (OG) and sector-specific standards helps the service recognise new or emerging risks associated with incident types, environments, or operational techniques. Incorporating this guidance into our CRP ensures our assessment of risk remains aligned with national understanding and promotes the continual improvement of safe systems of work.

Health and Safety Reporting

Near misses offer valuable early insight into potential community and operational risks that have not yet resulted in harm or loss. Analysing near miss data enables the Service to identify recurring themes, unsafe conditions, or emerging behaviours that could indicate underlying vulnerabilities within our communities or service delivery. Encouraging a strong reporting culture ensures these insights feed directly into the CRP, allowing proactive intervention and prevention before risks materialise into incidents.

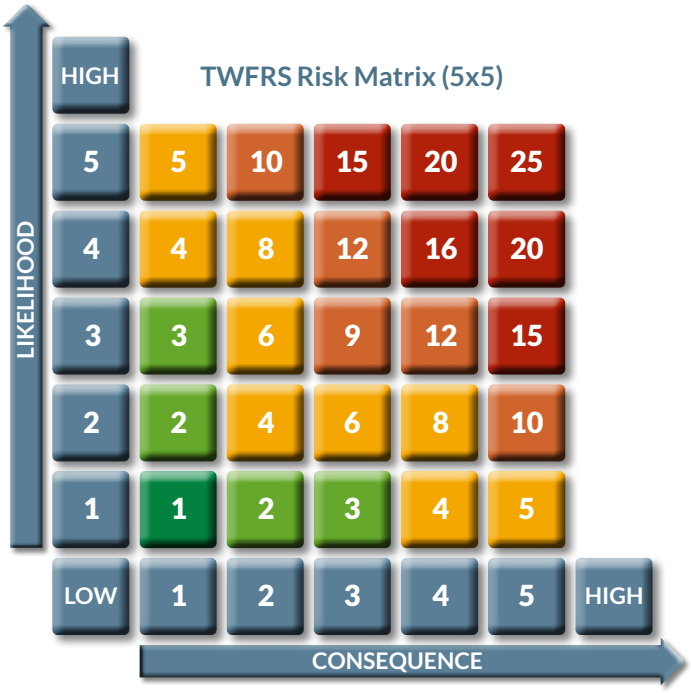
We identify risk by combining robust evidence, professional expertise, and community insight. This balanced approach ensures our decisions are fair, transparent, and based on the best available understanding of the risks within Tyne and Wear.

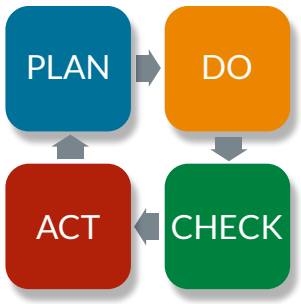
How do we measure and assess risk?

Risks are prioritised using a rating system which uses various data sets and information sources to score risks out of 5 for each of their individual likelihood (the probability of an incident or event occurring) and their potential consequence (the potential severity of its impact).

These individual ratings are then multiplied together to provide an overall risk rating, which is then used to determine which risks feature in our future prevention and protection strategies. These ratings inform how and where we allocate resources to ensure they are aligned to the greatest risks facing the community.

Risk scores and risk ratings are calculated by cross referencing quantitative data from incident statistics, historical trends, and predictive modelling, along with qualitative data from debriefs, organisational learning and public inquiries, and utilising professional judgement from operational personnel and specialist officers. This approach ensures consistency and transparency across all risk assessments, allowing the Service to balance evidence, experience, and foresight when evaluating both current and emerging risks within Tyne and Wear.





Risk identification and evaluation is a critical part of the Service's **Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA)** approach.

We Plan by developing ways of gathering and analysing risk information, we Do by evaluating risk and implementing risk control measures. Next, we Check by evaluating the effectiveness of those controls, and finally, we Act by learning lessons and refining our approach to risk management.

This cycle ensures that risks and risk control measures are identified, evaluated, monitored and reviewed to promote continual improvement.

	LIKELIHOOD*	CONSEQUENCE**	SEVERITY RATING	RISK
1	1 - 19	MINOR	TRIVIAL	1
2	20 - 49	MODERATE	TOLERABLE	2-3
3	50 - 199	SERIOUS	MODERATE	4-8
4	200 - 299	MAJOR	SUBSTANTIAL	9-12
5	300 - 999	FATAL	INTOLERABLE	15-25

* Average number of TWFRS incidents per year (last three years)

** Overall consequence calculated using multiple data sources (see p.17/18)

How do we classify risk?

To understand the risks faced across Tyne and Wear and ensure that our resources are matched to community needs, we classify all incident types using a consistent analytical framework.

Each risk is assessed based on its likelihood and its potential impact on people and property, and the complexity of the response required. We also consider wider factors such as vulnerability, emerging trends, seasonal influences, and the importance of key sites and infrastructure.

All incident types are then classified into one of five risk groups:
Fires, Transport, Specialist Response, Rescues and Support Activities.

Risk Classifications

Fire remains a core risk across our communities, occurring in homes, businesses, industrial settings, and outdoor environments. These incidents can escalate quickly, causing harm to people, damaging property, and disrupting essential services.

Rescue incidents include water-related emergencies, height and confined space rescues, machinery entrapments, bariatric and animal rescues. These incidents often occur in challenging environments and carry inherent risks to both the public and responders.

Transport-related risks include road traffic collisions, rail incidents, aviation hazards, and maritime or inland waterway events. Extensive road networks and critical commercial routes mean that incidents can have serious consequences for individuals, infrastructure, and regional mobility.

Specialist incidents encompass hazardous materials, chemical releases, environmental contamination, structural collapse, and complex or emerging technological risks. These events demand specialist skills, equipment, and close collaboration with partner agencies to manage safely.

Support activities underpin the breadth of our emergency response and community safety work. These include safeguarding, assisting other emergency services, responding to severe weather, and supporting major incidents or wide-area emergencies. While not always life-risk in themselves, they play a vital role in community resilience and contribute significantly to the demand placed on our service.

Risk Summary

Risk Summary

	LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE	RISK RATING
FIRES ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES	5	5	25
TRANSPORT ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS (RTC)	4	5	20
FIRES DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES	4	5	20
RESCUES RESCUES FROM HEIGHT	3	5	15
RESCUES PERSONS IN CRISIS	3	5	15
RESCUES RESCUES FROM WATER	3	5	15
FIRES COMMERCIAL & NON DOMESTIC	3	5	15
FIRES FIRES IN TALL BUILDINGS	2	5	10
SPECIALIST RESPONSE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	2	5	10
RESCUES MECHANICAL RESCUES (Inc.Lifts)	3	2	6

Risk Summary

	LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE	RISK RATING
TRANSPORT RAIL NETWORK	1	5	5
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT & AIRPORT	1	5	5
TRANSPORT MARINE VESSEL & HARBOUR	1	5	5
SPECIALIST RESPONSE COMAH SITES	1	5	5
SPECIALIST RESPONSE TERRORISM & HOSTILE ACTS	1	5	5
FIRES DELIBERATE SECONDARY FIRES	5	1	5
FIRES NON DOMESTIC FALSE ALARMS	5	1	5
FIRES DOMESTIC FALSE ALARMS	5	1	5
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES EFFECTING ENTRY	5	1	5
FIRES WILDFIRES	1	4	4

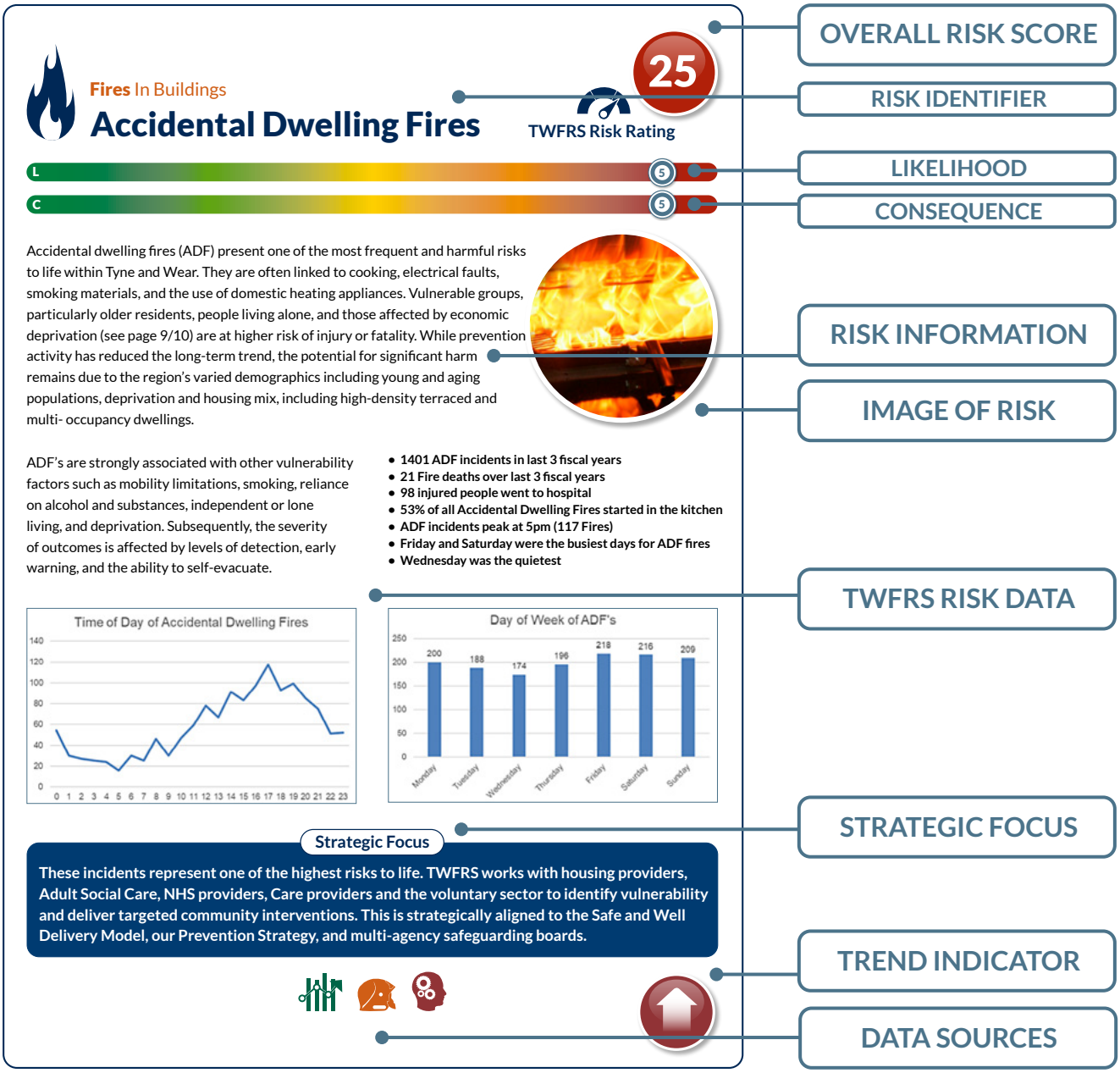
Risk Summary

		LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE	RISK RATING
	SPECIALIST RESPONSE FLOODING	2	2	4
	FIRES DERELICT AND UNSECURED BUILDINGS	2	2	4
	SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES	2	2	4
	FIRES LITHIUM ION BATTERIES	1	3	3
	SUPPORT ACTIVITIES ASSISTING OTHER FRS	1	3	3
	SUPPORT ACTIVITIES PANDEMICS & VIRAL OUTBREAKS	1	3	3
	RESCUES BARIATRIC RESCUES	1	2	2
	RESCUES ANIMAL RESCUES	2	1	2
	SPECIALIST RESPONSE EXTREME WEATHER	1	1	1

Risk Profiles

How do I read the risk profile pages?

Each page is dedicated to a specific risk, and they are listed by classification and in descending order of consequence level, where the highest number is perceived to be our most consequential risk in that category. At the bottom of each risk profile page, the various data sources used by TWFRS to determine our final risk rating, are represented using their corresponding icons (see page 17/18).



DATA SOURCES

DATA ANALYSIS | PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT | PARTNER ENGAGEMENT | ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING | REAL EVENTS & PUBLIC ENQUIRIES | LEGISLATION | OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE | HEALTH & SAFETY REPORTING

Fires

Fires in buildings

Fires

False Alarms

Wildfires

The service attended 17,401 incidents between April 2024 and March 2025, with a significant portion relating to fires, including accidental and deliberate blazes in dwellings (54 % of house fires start in the kitchen), commercial properties, vehicles and external waste.

The local implication for TWFRS is that fire-prevention efforts (smoke alarms, safe cooking messages, targeted intervention in high-risk properties) remain a core element of the Service's work to reduce both frequency and harm associated with fire incidents.

Fires In Buildings

Accidental Dwelling Fires

25

TWFRS Risk Rating

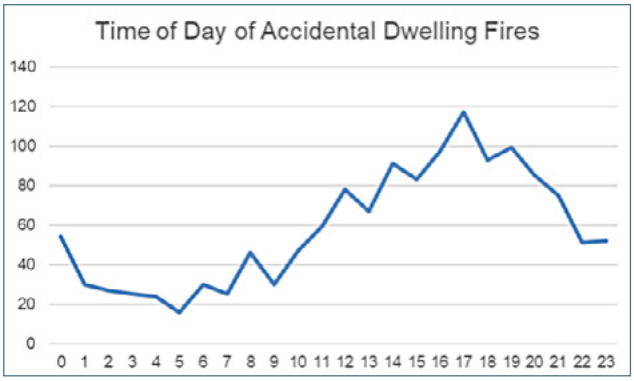
L 5

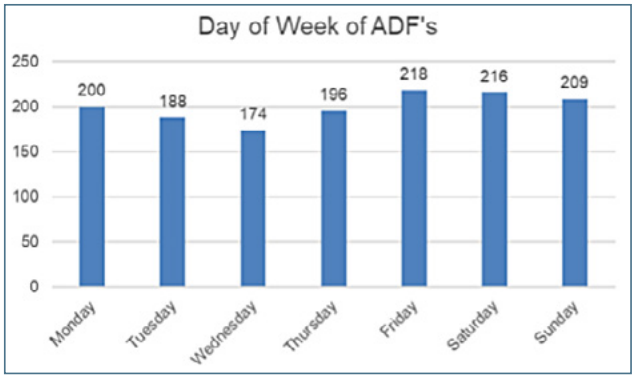
C 5

Accidental dwelling fires (ADF) present one of the most frequent and harmful risks to life within Tyne and Wear. They are often linked to cooking, electrical faults, smoking materials, and the use of domestic heating appliances. Vulnerable groups, particularly older residents and those affected by economic deprivation (see page 9/10) are at higher risk of injury or fatality. While prevention activity has reduced the long-term trend, the potential for significant harm remains due to the region's varied demographics including aging populations, deprivation levels and mixed housing stock, including high-density terraced and multi- occupancy dwellings.

ADF's are strongly associated with other vulnerability factors such as mobility limitations, smoking, reliance on alcohol and substances, independent living, and deprivation. Subsequently, the severity of outcomes is affected by levels of detection, early warning, and the ability to self-evacuate.

- **1401 ADF incidents in last 3 fiscal years**
- **21 Fire deaths over last 3 fiscal years**
- **98 injured people went to hospital**
- **53% of all ADFs started in the kitchen**
- **ADF incidents peak at 5pm (117 Fires)**
- **Friday and Saturday were the busiest days for ADFs**
- **Wednesday was the quietest**





Strategic Focus

These incidents represent one of the highest risks to life. TWFRS works with housing providers, Adult Social Care, NHS providers, Domiciliary Care providers and the voluntary sector to identify vulnerability and deliver targeted community interventions. This is strategically aligned to the Safe and Well Delivery Model, our Prevention Strategy, and multi-agency safeguarding boards.

Fires In Buildings

Deliberate Primary Fires

20

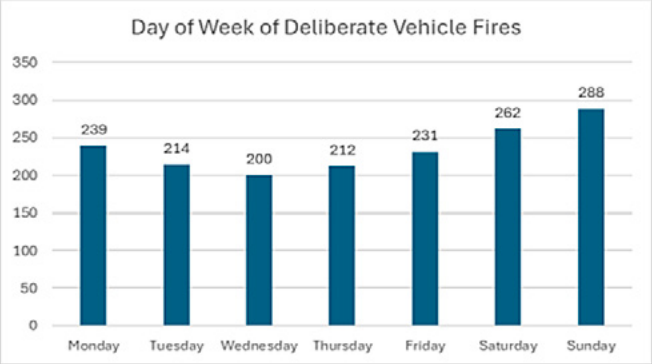
TWFRS Risk Rating

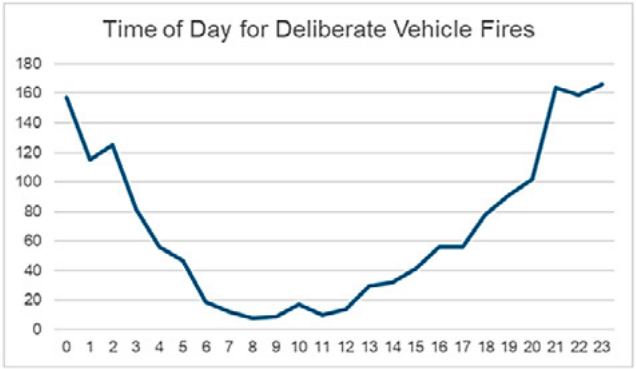
L 5

C 4

Deliberate fires, including vehicle and property fires, remain a significant challenge across certain urban areas of Tyne and Wear. They can place life at risk, impact community confidence, and divert resources from life-threatening incidents. This risk is closely linked to social deprivation, anti-social behaviour, and criminal activity. Targeted prevention, early intervention with young people, and partnership working with Northumbria Police and local authorities are key to mitigation.

- **1646 vehicle fires (no injuries) - 1 fatality (suicide)**
- **679 building fires (35 injuries - 10 serious, 25 slight) - 1 fatality (suicide)**
- **The majority of deliberate vehicle fires occur between 8pm and 2am (60% of fires over the three year period).**





Strategic Focus

Deliberate fires in vehicles, refuse, grassland and structures are often linked to anti-social behaviour and deprivation hotspots. They can escalate quickly, affecting community confidence and environmental quality.

TWFRS works with Northumbria Police, community safety partnerships and local authorities to identify hotspots, share intelligence and intervene early with 'at-risk' groups. This risk is managed through multi-agency problem-solving, targeted patrols and youth diversion. Partnership activity is strategically aligned to Community Safety Partnership Plans and Local Criminal Justice Board priorities.

Fires In Buildings

Non-Domestic Fires

15

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 3

C 5

Fires in commercial, industrial, and public buildings can cause significant economic disruption, environmental damage, and risk to life. Tyne and Wear's industrial base, retail centres, and public infrastructure present varied building types with differing risk profiles. Key causes include poor maintenance, electrical faults, and deliberate ignition.

TWFRS have 26,451 active commercial premises within our Service area. Since 2022, we have attended 4,676 alarm calls in non domestic premises, with 578 of those resulting in a confirmed fire.

From those 578, 311 were identified as being accidental and 236 were classed as deliberate with 6 injuries reported (all resulting from only 4 incidents). 60 of those fires were at industrial or manufacturing premises.

Motive	Total
Accidental	311
Deliberate - others property	181
Deliberate - own property	10
Deliberate - unknown owner	45
Not known	31
Grand Total	**578**

Industrial Fires	Total
Factory	34
Engineering	16
Food and drink processing	5
Mill	2
Other	2
Assembly	1
Grand Total	**60**

Top 10 Commercial Property Type	Total
Retail	592
Education	590
Hospitals and medical care	522
Residential Home	441
Student Hall of Residence	431
Industrial Manufacturing	346
Food and Drink	291
Offices and call centres	290
Entertainment and culture	276
Hotel / motel	236

Strategic Focus

Commercial, industrial, and public buildings pose varying risks depending on fire safety management, occupancy patterns, and building complexity. TWFRS works with business owners, responsible persons, local authority Building Control, licensing teams and trading standards to manage fire safety risks.

Fire protection activity is delivered through the Risk-Based Inspection Programme, regulatory enforcement and business fire safety education. This is strategically aligned with Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) 2005, NFCC Fire Protection Strategy and the Building Safety Regulator (BSR).

Fires In Buildings

Fires in Tall Buildings

10

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 2

C 5

High-rise residential and commercial buildings pose a specific life safety risk due to evacuation complexity, potential for rapid fire spread, and occupant vulnerability. Tyne and Wear includes a significant number of high-rise premises, some of which require ongoing remediation following national building safety reviews.

TWFRS continues to monitor this risk through proactive inspection, building safety liaison, and readiness testing in line with the Building Safety Regulator's framework.

Severity of Injuries	Total
First aid given at scene	10
Precautionary check recommended	4
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be serious	2
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be slight	4
Total recorded injuries	**20**

Top three high rise premises in TWFRS area for fires from 2022 - 2025:

Building Name	Total
Walkerdene House	14
Molineux Court	13
Vale House	5

TWFRS have attended 118 fires in tall buildings in the three years since 2022, with 20 occupants (approximately 1 in every 6 incidents) suffering injuries, with 6 of those injuries deemed serious enough to require hospital treatment.

Fiscal Year	Total
2022/2023	36
2023/2024	41
2024/2025	41
Grand Total	**118**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

High-rise buildings present additional complexity relating to evacuation strategies, building design, compartmentation, and smoke movement. While incident frequency is low, as we have seen from fires such as Grenfell Tower, the potential consequences are extremely high. TWFRS places a huge emphasis on operational learning at these incidents and implement a robust testing and exercising programme to ensure our staff remain highly trained for these incidents.

TWFRS works with registered housing providers, private building owners, local authority housing teams and the Building Safety Regulator to manage high-rise risk. Operational intelligence visits, evacuation planning and building safety case reviews are undertaken jointly. Alignment is established through Building Safety Regulator processes, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO).

Fires

Deliberate Secondary Fires

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 5

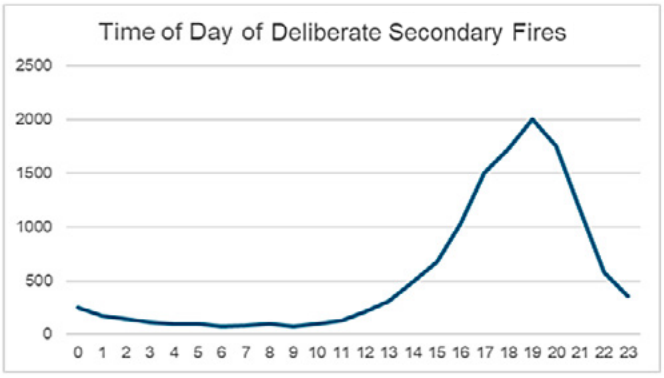
C 1

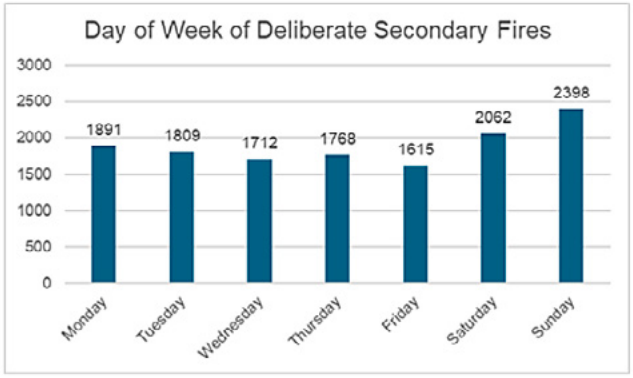
Deliberate fires in open areas, rubbish, woodland, parks, and derelict land remain a persistent risk that affects community safety and local environmental quality. They often correlate with anti-social behaviour and can escalate to threaten homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. When these incidents arise out of anti-social behaviour, these incidents can present significant risk of attack to responders.

TWFRS attended 13,255 deliberate secondary fires in the last three years which includes:

- **4433 grass/vegetation**
- **3950 loose refuse**
- **1851 wheelie bin fires.**

District	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total
Gateshead	742	530	557	1829
Newcastle	1376	857	1122	3355
North Tyneside	569	416	476	1461
South Tyneside	683	561	801	2045
Sunderland	2096	1290	1179	4565
Total	**5466**	**3654**	**4135**	**13255**





Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

These incidents are closely linked with anti-social behaviour. TWFRS works with local authorities, community wardens, youth services and environmental teams to remove combustibles, improve local environments and deliver youth engagement. Established targeting and reduction groups work to minimise and reduce the impact these incidents have on all emergency services.

Strategic alignment sits under Community Safety Partnerships, Seasonal Demand Plans and the Youth Engagement Strategy.

Fires

Domestic False Alarms

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 5

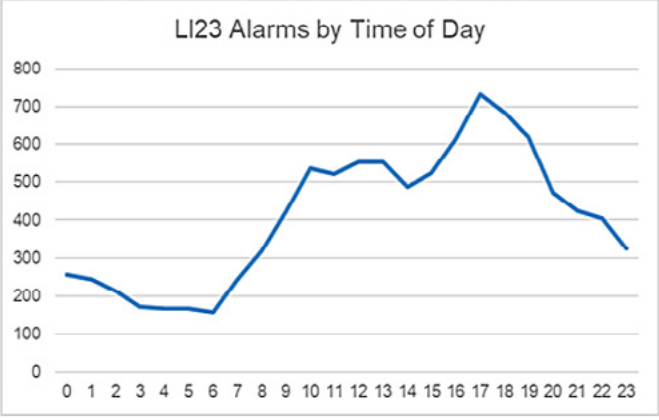
C 1

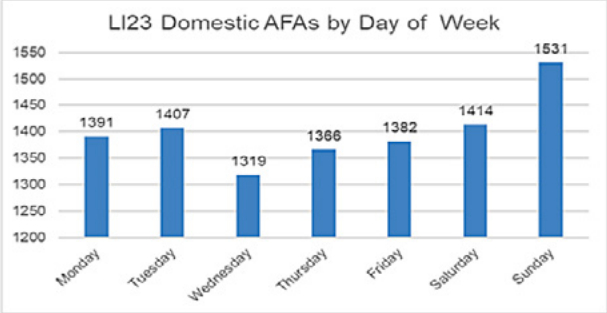
False alarms from domestic homes continue to make up a notable proportion of incident activity. These are often linked to cooking, unattended appliances, and the increased prevalence of domestic smoke detection systems.

While the risk to life may be low in many cases, repeated false alarms can contribute to reduced operational availability, unnecessary disruption for households, and 'alarm fatigue' where residents become less likely to respond promptly in a genuine emergency.

TWFRS will continue to target prevention messaging, ensure appropriate installation and maintenance advice is provided, and promote responsible alarm management.

District	Total
Gateshead	1605
Newcastle	4041
North Tyneside	978
South Tyneside	1079
Sunderland	2107
Grand Total	**9810**





Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

Domestic false alarms create steady demand on operational availability. TWFRS works with residents, housing associations and social care partners to provide home fire safety advice, safe and well visits and alarm management support.

This prevention activity is targeted using vulnerability data and referral pathways. It is strategically aligned to the Home Safety Strategy, Person-Centred Fire Risk Guidance and joint safeguarding arrangements.

Fires

Non-Domestic False Alarms

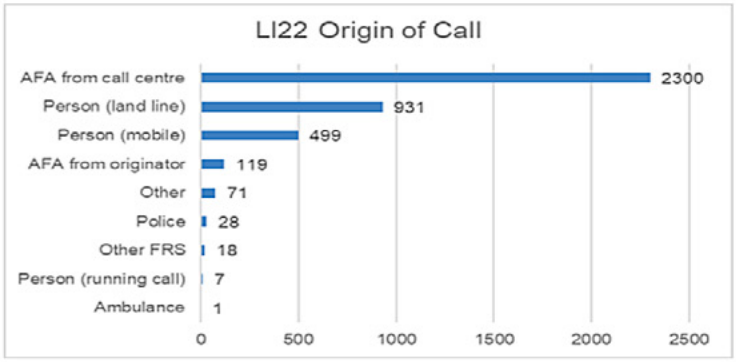
TWFRS Risk Rating

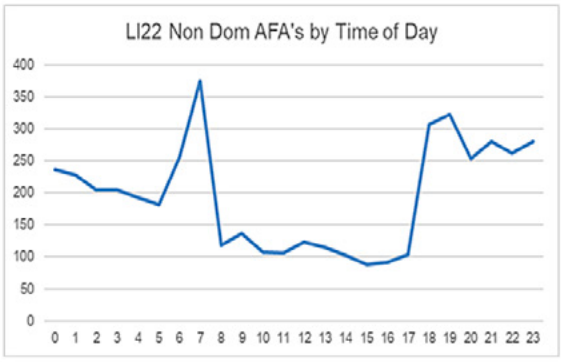
Non-domestic false alarms, both automatic fire alarm activations and mistaken 999 calls from commercial, public, and industrial premises, represent a significant demand on our operational resources.
These incidents can arise from system faults, poor maintenance, aerosols or steam activating detectors, inappropriate system design, or human error. Although they do not typically present an immediate life risk, they carry consequential risk factors: diverting appliances from genuine emergencies, increasing road risk during emergency response, disrupting business continuity for affected organisations, and reducing availability for prevention and protection activity.

These incidents often account for a significant proportion of total incidents attended by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), with automatic fire alarm actuations (AFAs) being the primary cause in many areas. The frequency is often consistent, with higher levels typically occurring during daytime and early evening business hours.

Top 3 property types:

- **Retail**
- **Education**
- **Hospitals**





Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

Non-domestic false alarms impact business continuity and Service efficiency. TWFRS engages with responsible persons, facilities managers and building owners through fire safety audits and support visits to improve alarm management.

Attendance and call-challenging policies are aligned to NFCC guidance, the Risk-Based Inspection Programme and local enforcement frameworks.

Fires In Buildings

Derelict Buildings/Under Construction

TWFRS Risk Rating

Fires in derelict or construction-phase buildings present increased hazards due to incomplete fire safety systems, unsecure access, and potential for structural instability. These incidents are often deliberate or involve unsafe working practices. Structural integrity can be compromised, increasing the risk of collapse during firefighting operations. Buildings under construction or refurbishment create similar challenges: incomplete fire protection systems, open escape routes, and altered internal layouts.

These environments require enhanced situational awareness, adherence to safety controls, and specialist rescue capability. The changing urban landscape across Tyne and Wear, with ongoing redevelopment, heightens exposure to this risk. Liaison with developers, local authorities, and enforcement partners supports early identification and mitigation.

- **158 fires in derelict buildings**
- **The majority were deliberate**
- **44 of the 158 were in Farringdon Police Station**
- **228 Pending demolition (Non-residential premises in CFRMIS)**
- **4,282 CUP (Ceased Unoccupied) Non residential premises in CFRMIS**

Top 10 Prop Level 4	Total
Public admin, security and safety	592
House - single occupancy	590
Private garage	522
Food and drink	441
Other buildings/use not known	431
Other private non-residential	346
Warehouses and bulk storage	291
Entertainment and culture	290
Industrial manufacturing	276
Retail	236

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

These sites present increased risk of rapid fire spread, structural instability, and access hazards. They are also common targets for deliberate fire-setting.

TWFRS collaborates with local authority Planning, Enforcement and Estates Services, as well as Police, to identify and secure vulnerable properties. Risk reduction is achieved through joint inspections and agreed actions with landowners. This work aligns to Empty Property Strategies and local problem-solving frameworks.

Fires

Wildfire

TWFRS Risk Rating

4

L 1

C 4

Wildfire represents a serious and growing risk to the communities of Tyne and Wear, threatening not only rural landscapes but also urban fringe areas, critical infrastructure, and public safety. The risk of wildfire has become more acute in recent years due to climatic changes leading to hotter, drier summers and prolonged dry spells.

In Tyne and Wear, this risk is compounded by the area's mix of urban, suburban, and rural interface lands, along with significant public parklands and nature reserves that can act as fuel for fire.

Risk Factors

- **Hot, dry weather and wind conditions**
- **Discarded smoking materials or deliberate ignition**
- **Dry grassland, moorland and forestry areas**

For a fire to be classified as a wildfire, it has to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- **Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres)**
- **Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres**
- **Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources**
- **Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours**
- **Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure**

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with landowners, the Fire Operations Group, local authorities, the National Trust, and environmental agencies to plan mitigation and response. Seasonal risk assessment, public messaging and tactical wildfire training are coordinated regionally. Alignment is maintained with National Wildfire Doctrine and the Local Resilience Forum Severe Weather Plan.

TWFRS is adapting its strategy to effectively mitigate and respond to the growing risk of wildfire, collaborating with landowners on vegetation management and access routes. We run public awareness campaigns and train crews in specialist wildfire tactics and equipment use.

Fires

Lithium Ion Battery Fires

3

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 3

The growing use of lithium-ion batteries in mobility devices and domestic settings has introduced an emerging fire risk. Thermal runaway can lead to rapid escalation, toxic smoke, and explosion risk, particularly in enclosed residential environments. E-bike and e-scooter charging in unsuitable areas, or using non-approved chargers, increases likelihood. TWFRS monitors this emerging risk through incident trend analysis, community education, and collaboration with trading standards and housing partners to promote safe use and storage.

E-Bike/Lithiuim Battery Fires

- **19 Electric bike/scooter fires**
- **9 Whilst on charge**
- **8 Other lithium ion battery fires**
- **11 people were injured at 7 e-bike/lithium battery fires**

E-bike / E-scooter only

Property Type	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total	On Charge
Electric Bike	4 *(1)*	3 *(2)*	6 *(2)*	13	5
Electric Scooter	2 *(2)*	1 *(1)*	3 *(1)*	6	4
Total	**6** *(3)*	**4** *(3)*	**9** *(3)*	**19**	**9**

District	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total Li Ion Fires Per District	Trend 2022-2025
Gateshead	51	53	51	5	
Newcastle	97	79	61	7	
North Tyneside	55	55	50	4	
South Tyneside	40	29	26	1	
Sunderland	116	119	94	10	
Total Li Ion Fires Per Year	7	7	13	27	

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

Growth in e-bikes, e-scooters, domestic energy storage, and electric vehicles has led to an increase in thermal runaway fires. These fires are fast-developing and difficult to extinguish.

TWFRS collaborates with housing providers, EV infrastructure planners, waste services, charging hub operators and national research networks to improve awareness, storage safety and operational guidance. This is strategically aligned with NFCC Emerging Risks guidance and national fire investigation learning routes.

Rescue from Height

Persons in Crisis

Water Rescue Incidents

Mechanical Rescues

Animal Rescue

Bariatric Rescue

Rescue incidents cover calls such as extrication, water or height rescue, or incident stabilisation. Of the 17,401 incidents attended in 2024 - 2025, 3,334 were 'special service' incidents (including rescues and flooding) reflecting the shift in demand away from purely fire suppression, and towards broader community rescue roles.

For TWFRS this means maintaining and enhancing technical rescue capability, multi-agency collaboration and flexible deployment aligned to geography and time of day.

Rescues

Rescue from Height

15

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 3

C 5

Rescues from height encompass incidents involving individuals trapped on structures, buildings, or natural features. The region's urban environment, construction activity, and tall buildings contribute, to this risk.

These incidents may involve members of the public or construction workers, and will often involve assistance from emergency service partners.

Safe and effective response relies on specialist rope rescue capability, joint training, and technical competence assurance.

- **232 persons rescued at 203 incidents**
- **559 attendances at bridge suicide attempts**
- **2 fatalities, 10 serious and 10 slight injuries at suicide attempts**
- **1 fatality, 3 serious and 8 slight injuries at rescues from height**

Rescue from height incidents require enhanced technical skills, robust safe systems of work, and high levels of team coordination. They often involve joint working with police and ambulance services, especially where mental health or vulnerability is a contributing factor.

District	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total
Gateshead	42	38	34	114
Newcastle	70	97	53	220
North Tyneside	2	7	4	13
South Tyneside	2	1	1	4
Sunderland	67	80	61	208
Total	**183**	**223**	**153**	**559**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS maintains specialist capability and interoperates with other emergency services and mountain rescue organisations. Joint exercising and standardised technical procedures support safe resolution. Alignment is maintained with Operational Guidance and regional specialist rescue collaboration frameworks.

Rescues

Persons in Crisis

15

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 3

C 5

This risk concerns individuals experiencing crisis requiring emergency intervention. These situations have profound emotional impacts on families, communities, and responders, and require compassionate, supportive response.

This risk involves individuals in acute emotional distress in a range of dangerous circumstances. These incidents present significant risk of fatality and require sensitive multi-agency response to preserve life.

Persons in crisis incidents represent one of the most sensitive and complex areas of operational demand. These incidents often involve individuals at immediate risk of harm due to mental health crisis, suicidal intent, acute distress or vulnerability linked to substance misuse, deprivation or safeguarding concerns. They commonly occur at bridges, tall structures, waterways, rail lines, or domestic settings where access is required.

Severity of Injuries	Total
First aid given at scene	1
Fatal	2
Precautionary check recommended	5
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be serious	10
Victim went to hospital, injuries appear to be slight	10
Total recorded injuries (non-fatal)	**26**

The rise in persons in crisis incidents reflects broader societal pressures, including mental health service demand, cost-of-living challenges and localised deprivation. Firefighters may be required to gain access, provide physical rescue, support police-led interventions, or manage scene safety. These incidents carry heightened emotional impact for crews and require trauma-informed leadership, tactical discretion and multi-agency coordination.

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works closely with police, mental health crisis teams, NHS trusts and safeguarding boards to manage incidents involving individuals in crisis. This work is trauma-informed and centred on life preservation. Alignment is maintained through suicide prevention partnerships and multi-agency mental health protocols.

Rescues

Water Rescue Incidents

15

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 3

C 5

The River Tyne, River Wear, inland waterways and extensive coastline contribute to a notable risk of accidental drowning and water-related incidents. These can arise from recreational activity, self-harm, or accidental entry.

Water rescues demand specialist response capabilities, often under challenging environmental conditions and in partnership with the Coastguard, RNLI, and police. Public safety around water (PLS) initiatives and targeted education are central to risk reduction.

Combined Totals for River Tyne and River Wear	Total
Persons in water or at immediate risk of entering water	72
Persons not in water or at immediate risk of entering water	4
Rescue from water/mud etc.	5
Suicide	12
Threat of/attempted suicide	331
Total	**424**

- **280 River Tyne water rescue and suicide attempts**
- **144 River Wear water rescue and suicide attempts**
- **10 water rescue fatalities (8 male, 2 female)***
- **9 serious and 15 slight injuries**

Victim Severity Class	Count
Fatal*	10
First Aid	4
Not injured	36
Precautionary	1
Serious	9
Slight	15

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

Water rescues arise from rivers, open water sites, canals, and flood conditions. Incidents often involve recreational use, accidental immersion, and mental health- related emergencies. TWFRS works with the Environment Agency, harbour authorities, Coastguard, local authorities and the Local Resilience Forum Flood Working Group.

Joint planning, exercising and public awareness campaigns support prevention and readiness. Strategic alignment is maintained through the Multi-Agency Flood Plan and national water rescue standards.

Rescues

Mechanical Rescue (Inc. Lifts)

6

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 3

C 2

Incidents involving entrapment in machinery, industrial equipment, or confined spaces require specialist knowledge, rescue techniques, and inter-agency coordination. These incidents often take place in high-risk environments with limited access. TWFRS maintains specialist rescue capability and works closely with industry partners to promote risk reduction and safe operating procedures. Mechanical rescue incidents involving machinery, industrial equipment, agricultural plant, and passenger or goods lifts present a complex, low-frequency but high-risk operational challenge for the Service.

These incidents often involve entrapment, significant traumatic injury, and environments where responders must work around moving, unstable, or energised systems.

As machinery becomes more automated, more powerful, and more integrated with digital control systems, the complexity and technical understanding required of crews increases. This is particularly relevant for lift systems in modern, high- rise or mixed-use buildings, and for automated industrial workplaces. Mechanical rescue incidents also require crews to be proficient with a range of specialist tools and equipment, including hydraulic rescue systems, stabilisation equipment, and cutting tools, each requiring regular training, testing and assurance.

Top 10 lift releases by Property Type	Total
Self contained Sheltered Housing	87
10 or more storeys	80
4 to 9 storeys	57
Multi-Storey	55
Nursing / Care	21
Shopping Centre	18
Retirement / Elderly	13
Single shop	13
Hotel / motel	13
Student Hall of Residence	13

Reason for Lift Release	Total
For able bodied person not in distress	182
For child	59
For medical case	19
For person in distress	187
No persons involved	34
Other	5

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works closely with industry safety teams, Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) operators and site emergency planners. Preparedness includes site-specific plans, training and exercising. This is strategically aligned with COMAH emergency planning duties and Local Resilience Forum industrial risk groups.

Rescues

Animal Rescue

2

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 2

C 1

Animal rescues occur across urban and rural environments, from livestock trapped in watercourses to domestic pets in confined spaces. While the primary risk is often to the animal, rescues can present significant risks to responders and members of the public attempting to intervene.

Animal rescue incidents, while often low severity, maintain a consistent demand profile across Tyne and Wear. They can range from companion animals trapped in domestic settings to livestock incidents and large animal rescues on farmland or rural roads. These incidents require careful risk assessment, control of hazards and coordination with animal owners or veterinary services. While sometimes perceived as non-critical, animal rescues carry reputational significance and contribute to public confidence in emergency services.

TWFRS provides safe systems of work and works alongside veterinary and rescue partners to resolve incidents effectively and humanely.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with vets, RSPCA and animal welfare groups to ensure rescues are humane and safe. Shared training and advice improve initial response before FRS attendance. This aligns to animal welfare legislation and national rescue guidance.

Rescues

Bariatric Rescue

2

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 2

The increasing prevalence of bariatric rescues reflects changing health and demographic trends. These incidents frequently coincide with complex health needs, domestic hazards or restricted properties and often require additional lifting equipment, specialist techniques, multi-agency coordination, and consideration of patient dignity.

They require careful manual handling risk management, multi-agency planning with ambulance services, and specialist lifting equipment. Bariatric rescues are increasing nationally, reflecting wider health and demographic trends. TWFRS maintains specialist capability and works with health and care partners to ensure safe, respectful, and well-coordinated interventions.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works alongside NHS services, ambulance crews and community care providers to support dignified and safe rescue. Specialist equipment and multi-agency coordination ensure appropriate handling. Alignment is established through local multi-agency bariatric response protocols.

Transport

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Rail Network

Aircraft and Airport

Marine and Dock / Harbour

Given the transport infrastructure of Tyne and Wear with major road arteries, river / port facilities and rail corridors serving a 1.147 million-strong population, this category is significant.

Although TWFRS does not provide a dedicated annual figure for transport incidents in our summary statistics, national trends indicate that road traffic collisions remain among the most frequently attended rescue incidents in the UK.

Transport

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

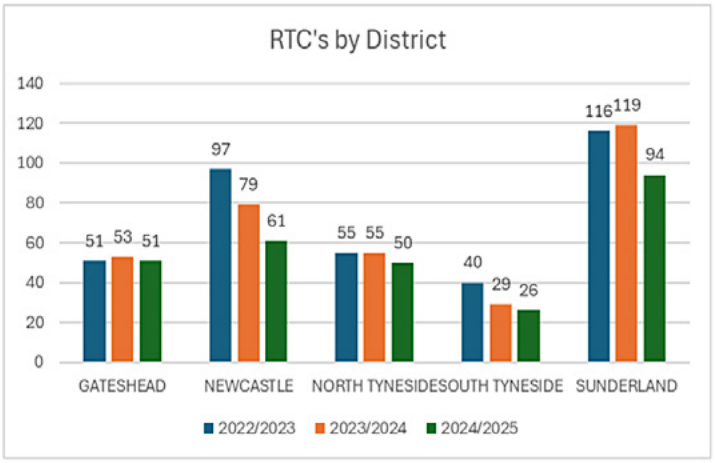
20

TWFRS Risk Rating

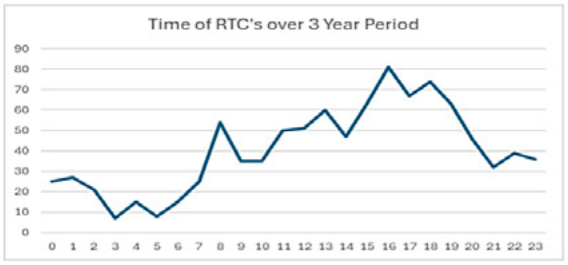
L 4

C 5

Road traffic collisions pose a persistent risk of fatality and serious injury across Tyne and Wear's strategic road network, including major routes such as the A1(M), A19, and urban arterial roads. Contributing factors include high traffic density, driver behaviour, adverse weather, and vehicle technology complexity. RTCs often require complex extrications and multi-agency coordination with police and ambulance services. Continued risk reduction depends on joint prevention campaigns, safe systems of work, and effective road design collaboration.



- **976 RTC Incidents**
- **13 fatalities and 130 seriously injured**
- **162 extrications**
- **34% of RTC's occurred in Sunderland**
- **10% of RTC's occurred in South Tyneside**



District	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total	% of Total	Trend 2022-2025
Gateshead	51	53	51	155	15.88%	
Newcastle	97	79	61	237	24.25%	
North Tyneside	55	55	50	160	16.39%	
South Tyneside	40	29	26	95	9.73%	
Sunderland	116	119	94	329	33.71%	
Total	**359**	**335**	**282**	**976**	**100.00**	

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with Northumbria Police, North East Ambulance Service, local highways authorities and road safety partnerships to reduce collisions and improve post-crash response. Prevention focuses on behavioural change campaigns and data-led hotspot targeting. Strategic alignment is maintained through Local Road Safety Strategies and Joint Operational Procedures.

Transport

Rail Network

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 5

Rail infrastructure and passenger services present risks related to collisions, derailments, suicides, and incidents along tracks and stations. These environments require coordinated response with the rail industry, British Transport Police, and infrastructure operators, particularly where access is restricted and electrical hazards are present. TWFRS maintains specialist protocols and joint training for safe and timely rescue and intervention.

Property Type	Total
Passenger Train (above ground)	12
Railway	6
Underground train - other system	3
Grand Total	**21**

- **21 special service rail related incidents**
- **7 primary fires at train stations**

SS Type	Total
Assist other agencies	**2**
Assistance to other agencies	1
Other assistance to police/ambulance	1
Evacuation (no fire)	**1**
Other reasons	1
No action (not false alarm)	**5**
Service not required	5
Other rescue/release of persons	**2**
From height e.g. pylon crane, roof	2
Other transport incident	**10**
Extrication of person/s	3
Make scene safe	2
Other	1
Release of person/s	4
Suicide/attempts	**1**
Suicide	1
Grand Total	**21**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS collaborates with Network Rail, train operating companies and British Transport Police. Joint access planning, site familiarisation and exercising maintain readiness. Strategic alignment sits under Railway Emergency Plans and LRF transport risk frameworks.

Transport

Aircraft and Airport

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 5

Airports and flight paths present low-frequency but high consequence risk scenarios, including aircraft emergencies, fuel fires, and mass casualty potential. TWFRS works closely with airport fire services, air traffic authorities, and Local Resilience Forums to maintain preparedness, joint response plans, and regular multi-agency exercises to ensure coordinated and effective incident response.

Newcastle International Airport and surrounding airspace pose specific aviation-related risks, including aircraft emergencies, fuel spills, medical incidents on board, ground fires and evacuation scenarios. Although airport-based fire services provide primary response within the perimeter, Tyne and Wear FRS are required for mutual aid, major incident response, off-site emergencies, and specialist support. Aviation incidents require high readiness, interoperability and adherence to stringent command structures.

- **21 Special Services**
  (9 Standby)
  (7 No Action)
  (3 Assist Other Agencies)
  (2 Other Transport Inc)
- **1 Secondary Fires (Our Service not required)**
  (Grass near runway)
- **9 False Alarms**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with airport fire services, air traffic control and operators to plan for major aviation emergencies. Regular multi-agency exercises maintain interoperability. This is aligned with Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) emergency planning requirements, Civil Contingencies Act (CCA).

Transport

Marine and Dock/Harbours

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 5

Coastal, harbour, and inland waterway environments present risks involving vessel fires, rescues from water, hazardous cargo, and industrial operations. These incidents require joint working with the Coastguard, Harbour Authorities, and maritime operators, with specific risks around access, stability, and environmental contamination. TWFRS maintains water rescue and marine firefighting capability appropriate to local risk.

- **3 Primary Fires on boats (all on Tyneside)**
- **15 Special Services (14 on Tyne and 1 on Wear)**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, harbour authorities, port operators and environment agencies. Risk management includes shared site intelligence and joint rescue capability. Strategic alignment is maintained through Port Emergency Plans and LRF Maritime Risk Groups. A number of TWFRS' COMAH sites are found in these locations.

Hazardous Materials

COMAH Sites

Flooding

Terrorism and Hostile Acts

Extreme Weather

Specialist incidents comprise the higher-risk events requiring enhanced equipment, extended incident times, and multi-agency/partner coordination such as hazardous materials releases, structural collapse or large-scale flooding. TWFRS is rated as "good at responding to major and multi-agency incidents" by HMICFRS.

The comparatively low frequency of these events masks their high potential consequence, meaning that resilience, training, specialist appliances and multi-agency collaboration remain critical to TWFRS's community risk management footprint.

Specialist Response

Hazardous Materials

10

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 2

C 5

Hazardous material incidents (Hazmats) include chemical spills, industrial leaks, unknown substances, drug labs and environmental contamination events. The region's industrial areas and transport networks increase exposure to hazmat risk. These incidents require specialist capability, detection equipment, scientific advice and multi-agency coordination. Ensuring COMAH integration, regular exercising and strong assurance arrangements is essential.

The presence of industrial sites, chemical storage facilities, and transport routes in Tyne and Wear creates an ongoing risk of hazardous material release, contamination, or exposure. Such incidents pose potential harm to people, property, and the environment, and require coordinated multi-agency response under the Civil Contingencies Act framework.

- **252 Hazmat special service incidents**
- **199 were Class 2: Gases**
- **2 Fatalities, 1 Serious injury and 10 Slight injuries**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS maintains specialist Hazardous Material Officers and Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) capabilities to manage this risk effectively. TWFRS will strengthen joint planning with industry, and ensure regular multi-agency exercising.

TWFRS coordinates with police, ambulance services, COMAH operators, Public Health and national resilience teams. Specialist hazardous materials officers lead risk assessment and decontamination planning. This aligns with LRF CBRN-E Response Plans and National Resilience governance.

Specialist Response

COMAH Sites

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 5

Tyne and Wear contains several Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) sites, reflecting the area's industrial heritage and active fuel storage and distribution operations. These sites pose a low-likelihood but high-consequence risk involving large-scale release of hazardous substances, fire, or explosion. TWFRS works closely with site operators, local authorities, and partner agencies to maintain effective on and off site emergency plans, exercising regularly to test resilience and response.

A new lithium-ion battery gigafactory, represents a significant emerging risk within the region due to the inherent risks associated with the scale of production, and the characteristics of lithium-ion technologies.

This site is currently under construction with planning approved for an overall footprint of five separate sites, each the size of a large shopping centre.

The project owned by AESC is expected to cost in excess of two billion pounds when the site is finally completed in 2030.

We work closely with the site, regulators, and regional partners to ensure robust prevention, preparedness, and response arrangements are in place as this strategic industrial asset continues to expand.

- **12 COMAH Sites**
- **6 Upper Tier**
- **6 Lower Tier**
- **3 fires and 3 special services**
- **21 False Alarms**

Incident Distribution	
District	Total
Gateshead	4
Sunderland	3
North Tyneside	1
South Tyneside	1
Newcastle	0

Incident Category	Total
False Alarm	21
Fire	3
Special Service	3
Total	**27**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

While major-site incidents are rare, consequences can be catastrophic. Risks relate to large- scale hazardous substances, process safety failures, and domino effects.

TWFRS works with site operators, regulators and the LRF Industrial Sub-Group to plan prevention and emergency response under the COMAH Regulations. This includes exercising, intelligence sharing and regulatory oversight.

Specialist Response

Terrorism and Hostile Acts

5

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 5

The threat from terrorism remains dynamic, influenced by both national and international security trends. While the North East is assessed as having a lower likelihood of large-scale attacks than some other metropolitan areas, the region is not immune to the risks posed by extremist ideology, organised violent groups, or lone actors. In addition, politically motivated protest activity and emerging threats such as the use of fire as a weapon, improvised devices, and hostile vehicle attacks continue to require preparedness.

TWFRS plays an integral role within the Local Resilience Forum in planning, exercising, and sharing intelligence to ensure readiness to respond to a major incident. Our prevention, protection, and operational response arrangements remain continually reviewed, aligned to national counter-terrorism strategies, and designed to safeguard the public while supporting the resilience of critical community infrastructure.

Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTA) present a high-impact, rapid-onset challenge to emergency services. The Manchester Arena Inquiry highlighted the need for improved interoperability, joint decision-making and clarity of command roles under extreme pressure.

Tyne and Wear's crowded places, transport hubs and event venues require strong MTA preparedness, specialist training and multi-agency exercising. Maintaining readiness is essential to protect life in fast-moving, high-threat environments.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works within Central Government's Counter Terrorism framework (CONTEST), alongside Counter Terrorism Policing, local authorities and the LRF. Preparedness includes training, JESIP interoperability and major incident planning. Strategic alignment is maintained with national counter-terrorism strategy.

Specialist Response

Flooding

4

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 2

C 2

Flooding remains a significant and increasing risk across the region, driven by climate change, extreme rainfall events, and the proximity of many communities to rivers, waterways, and coastal areas. Surface water flooding following intense storms is becoming more frequent, impacting residential areas, transport networks and critical infrastructure.

Flood events can lead to rapid displacement of vulnerable people, disruption of essential services, and compromised access routes that affect TWFRS response times. The Service will continue to work closely with local resilience partners, the Environment Agency, and Local Authorities to enhance preparedness, support community flood resilience measures, and ensure that operational capability is maintained to respond effectively to both localised and large-scale flooding incidents.

40 flooding incidents that were weather related or involved burst water mains with no injuries.

SS Action	Total
Make safe	17
Pumping out	8
Advice only	5
Stand by - no action	5
Other	4
Evacuation	1
Grand Total	**40**

District	Total
Gateshead	9
Newcastle	15
North Tyneside	2
South Tyneside	6
Sunderland	8
Grand Total	**40**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

This risk involves the accumulation of water that threatens homes, transport, health and essential services. Flooding can cause displacement, disruption, public health impacts and requires sustained response and recovery efforts.

Flooding is becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, surface water drainage limitations, and river catchment conditions.

TWFRS works with the Environment Agency, Met Office, local authorities and utilities infrastructure providers to forecast, prepare and respond. This is aligned to the Multi-Agency Flood Plan and Climate Adaptation Strategy.

Specialist Response

Extreme Weather

2

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 2

Extreme temperature events are increasing in frequency and severity due to climate change. Prolonged heat may contribute to wildfire risk, health impacts, and strain on infrastructure. Severe cold can increase vulnerability among at-risk groups and cause network disruptions.

TWFRS works with partners to promote community resilience and plan for seasonal risk fluctuations.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with NHS Trust public health teams, Local Authorities, resilience planners and community groups to support vulnerable people and maintain response capability. This aligns with Heatwave Plan, Cold Weather Plan and LRF severe weather frameworks.

Support Activities

Effecting an Entry

Assisting Other Agencies

Pandemics and Viral Pathways

Assisting Other FRS

This final category captures the growing volume of non-fire, non-rescue demands where TWFRS provides community support including false alarms, flooding without rescue, gaining access for medical emergencies, or supporting partner agencies. TWFRS's published dashboard shows 4,965 false alarms between April 2024 and March 2025.

At a national level, data for non-fire incidents also shows large increases with effecting entry/exit incidents for example, increasing by nearly 10% year-on-year in England in the year ending March 2024.

Support Activities

Effecting An Entry

5

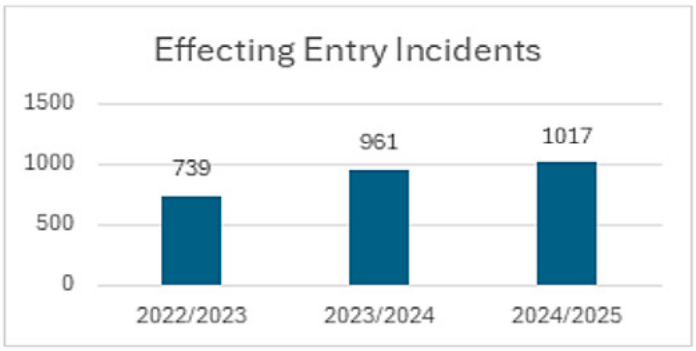
TWFRS Risk Rating

L 5

C 1

Gaining entry incidents involve accessing properties for life-risk situations, such as medical emergencies, welfare concerns or fires. They often occur in partnership with police or ambulance services. These incidents require correct application of legal powers, safe entry techniques, and sensitivity due to the potential vulnerability of occupants. The rising number of persons in crisis and health-related incidents has increased demand for gaining entry.

TWFRS is regularly requested to provide entry assistance to enable police, ambulance, or care agencies to reach individuals in need. These incidents require controlled techniques to minimise harm and property damage while prioritising life safety. The Service works with partners to ensure clear decision- making thresholds and proportionate attendance.



Property Level	Total
Dwelling	2481
Car	96
Non-residential	68
Other residential	49
Other outdoors (including land)	11
Outdoor structures	6
Grassland, woodland and crops	2
Bus / coach	1
Lorry / HGV	1
Other	1
Van	1
Grand Total	**2717**

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS works with ambulance services, police and social care to ensure safe forced entry where there is a risk to life, following shared decision-making protocols. This is aligned with JESIP Interoperability Principles.

Support Activities

Assisting Other Agencies

TWFRS Risk Rating

4

L 2

C 2

Assisting other agencies covers a wide range of incidents, including police-led operations, ambulance assistance, safeguarding checks, environmental hazards and community welfare interventions. Rising system pressures in health and policing often increase reliance on the fire service for access, rescue and scene support.

Assist Other Agencies	**273**	**Total**
Assistance to Other Agencies	**171**	
Other Assistance to Police/Ambulance*	**102**	

*of which 43 were bariatric incidents and 59 were others

Multi-agency assistance strengthens community safety but must be risk-assessed to ensure the extent and limitations of TWFRS role and responsibilities are clearly defined and understood by all partner agencies. Clear protocols, interoperable training and strong safeguarding pathways ensure that support is effective, proportionate and aligned to the Service's risk profile.

Verified statistics referenced April 2022 - March 2025.

Strategic Focus

TWFRS contributes capability to multi-agency incidents where additional resource or technical expertise is needed. This is coordinated through the Local Resilience Forum and aligned with Civil Contingencies Act duties.

Support Activities

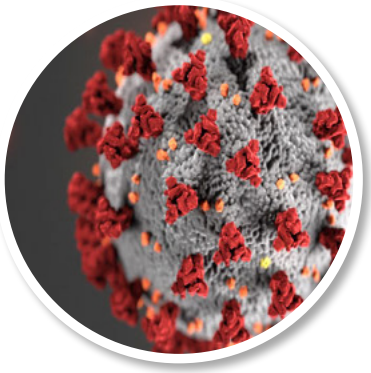
Pandemics and Viral Pathways

TWFRS Risk Rating

3

L 1

C 3



Pandemics and emerging infectious diseases remain a significant risk within the National Risk Register and have tested the resilience of all emergency services. Viral pathways (how diseases spread through populations, workplaces and communities) shape how TWFRS must plan for staff availability, protection of vulnerable people, and continuity of critical services. Pandemics create sustained pressure on health systems, disrupt supply chains, and can alter community risk behaviours, increasing vulnerability in isolated or disadvantaged households.

TWFRS works with the Local Resilience Forum and health partners to understand epidemiological data, ensure resilient staffing models, maintain safe working practices, and deliver essential prevention and response activity throughout public health crises. Understanding viral pathways enables TWFRS to protect its workforce, sustain operational delivery and continue supporting communities when they are most in need.

COVID-19 demonstrated the potential for widespread disruption, sustained demand on emergency services, and long-term societal impacts. For FRS, pandemic risk includes reduced staffing availability, increased sickness absence, altered response protocols, and dependency on cross-sector support.

Strategic Focus

Pandemics require strong business continuity planning, flexible operational procedures, remote working capability, and resilient supply chains. Collaborative response through the LRF is essential, as well as maintaining essential services while protecting the workforce.

Support Activities

Assisting Other FRS

3

TWFRS Risk Rating

L 1

C 3

TWFRS is part of long-standing mutual aid agreements that ensure fire and rescue services can provide or receive support during periods of exceptional demand, large-scale incidents or concurrent emergencies.

Arrangements made as part of Sections 13 and 16 of the Fire Services Act (FSA) 2004, enable services within defined geographic groupings to request additional resources, such as specialist teams, appliances or officers, when local capability is stretched. These arrangements enhance national resilience and ensure communities can receive an effective response even when incidents exceed local capacity.

For TWFRS, participation in mutual aid reflects our commitment to wider public safety, supports interoperability, and ensures that Tyne and Wear has access to additional capability when required. It also enables coordinated planning and shared learning across services facing similar risk profiles.

TWFRS is regularly requested to provide entry assistance to enable police, ambulance, or care agencies to reach individuals in need. These incidents require controlled techniques to minimise harm and property damage while prioritising life safety.

The Service works with partners to ensure clear decision- making thresholds and proportionate attendance.

Strategic Focus

Mutual aid enhances national resilience but requires careful planning to avoid degrading local capability. Strong mobilisation triggers, clear command arrangements and continuous assurance of readiness are essential to maintain operational effectiveness.

What are risk factors?

Risk factors are underlying conditions, trends, or characteristics which have the ability to influence the consequence of a risk impacting on a community, business or environment.

In developing this CRP, risk factors have been categorised into seven categories using a PESTELO* analysis model and have been 'RAG rated' (see page 60) to provide an indication of how severely a risk will impact certain areas of society.

For example, the risk of a chemical spillage may have a greater impact on air quality or an ecosystem (environment) than it would perhaps on cyber security or a WiFi network (technology). In this case, the environmental factor would be 'red' and the technological factor would be 'green'.

The resulting risk factors reflect what is happening now, and what is expected to change over the lifetime of the CRP, allowing the Service to prioritise resources, target prevention activity, and plan future capability in a proportionate and evidence-based way.

POLITICAL
Public trust, media attention, political scrutiny, and community confidence.

ECONOMICAL
Operational cost to resolve incidents, damage to property and infrastructure, impact on service budgets and resource planning.

OUR PUBLIC, OUR PEOPLE (SOCIAL)
Death or serious injury to the public or staff, worsening community vulnerability, mental health impact on responders (where relevant).

TECHNOLOGICAL
IT, data integrity, digital systems and communications risks.

ENVIRONMENTAL
Smoke, chemicals, watercourse contamination, long-term environmental damage (land, air, wildlife, ecosystems).

LEGAL
Compliance with fire safety legislation, building safety, operational guidance, statutory duties of care.

ORGANISATIONAL
Operational resilience, workforce competence requirements, demand on leadership and organisational learning, impact on availability and long-term capability.

Risk Factors - RAG Rating

A RAG rating is a colour coding system using the initials of Red, Amber and Green, (where red is high impact, amber is medium and green is low impact) to determine which societal areas may be adversely affected to varying degrees by a particular risk. The RAG descriptors for each risk factor are listed below.

Political / Reputational Impact

Low	Public visibility or minimal controversy.
Medium	May attract local media or stakeholder concern.
High	Profile scrutiny, national attention, or reputational harm.

Economic Impact

Low	Minimal cost; easily absorbed.
Medium	Noticeable operational costs; may require budget adjustment.
High	Major financial impact or long term cost pressure.

Our Public, Our People (Social)

Low	Little to no harm, minor injury only.
Medium	Injury requiring medical treatment or temporary impact on wellbeing.
High	Serious injury, life risk, or multiple casualties likely.

Technological Impact

Low	No dependency or negligible cyber relevance.
Medium	Cyber implications possible in some scenarios.
High	Incident could directly compromise systems/data or critical services.

Environmental Impact

Low	Little or no environmental harm.
Medium	Local or short-term contamination or damage.
High	Significant or lasting environmental damage.

Legal Impact

Low	Limited legal exposure or regulatory expectation.
Medium	Potential for legal challenge or enforcement intervention.
High	Clear statutory responsibility with failure consequences (coroner, inquiry, prosecution).

Organisational Impact

Low	No material strain on capability or workforce.
Medium	Requires increased workload or resource management.
High	Strategic resourcing impact, sustainability risk, or major operationanal strain.

Risk Category

Risk Category	Political	Economic	People	Technological	Environmental	Legal	Organisational
Domestic False Alarms	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
Non-Domestic False Alarms (AFA systems)	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Green	Amber	Red
Accidental Dwelling Fires	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red
Deliberate Primary Fires	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Amber	Amber	Amber
Deliberate Secondary Fires	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Amber
Commercial & Non-Domestic Fires	Amber	Red	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Fires in Tall Buildings / High-Rise Residential	Red	Red	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Derelict & Unsecured Buildings	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Amber
Wildfires / Moorland / Grassland Fires	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Amber
Lithium-Ion Battery Fires (Domestic & Commercial)	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Amber	Amber	Red
Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Amber	Amber	Red
Rescue from Height / Specialist Rope Rescue	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
Other Technical Rescues (Machinery / Industrial / Confined Space)	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red
Bariatric Rescue	Green	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
Animal Rescue	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Green	Green

Risk Category

	Political	Economic	People	Technological	Environmental	Legal	Organisational
Water Rescue (Rivers, Coastal, Urban Floodwater)	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Red
Attempted Suicide / Person at Height / Water Threatened	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Amber	Red
Rail Incidents	Amber	Red	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Amber
Aircraft & Airport Incidents	Red	Red	Red	Green	Amber	Red	Amber
Marine / Dock / Harbour Incidents	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Red	Red	Amber
Hazardous Materials (HazMats) / CBRN-E	Red	Red	Red	Amber	Red	Red	Red
COMAH / Major Industrial Sites	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red
Terrorism & Hostile Intent	Red	Red	Red	Amber	Amber	Red	Red
Flooding	Amber	Red	Amber	Green	Red	Red	Red
Extreme Weather - Heat / Wildfire Risk	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Red	Amber	Amber
Extreme Weather - Cold / Winter Vulnerability	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
Pandemics / Long-Term Health Emergencies	Amber	Amber	Red	Green	Green	Red	Red
Forced Entry (Supporting Police / Ambulance)	Amber	Green	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
General Support to Other Agencies	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Amber
Housing Growth / Regeneration (Future Demand Pressure)	Amber	Amber	Amber	Green	Green	Amber	Amber

What is the difference between a CRP and a CRMP?

CRP is the evidence
(our understanding of the risks)

CRMP is the plan
(our prevention of, and response to the risks)

Describes risks across Tyne and Wear	Determines how TWFRS manage those risks
Risk based evidence	Risk based action
Focuses on likelihood and consequences	Focuses on prevention, protection and response
Informs where we should prioritise resources	Informs which resources will be used
Updated regularly as risks and risk data evolve	Published as a longer term strategic plan
Provides understanding, transparency and trust	Provides accountability and delivery

What questions do we ask when planning for risk?

- What is the current level of demand and performance?
- Where would facilities be located on a blank canvas basis?
- Which vehicle types should the Service deploy and, when and where?
- Where are the optimal locations for new stations?
- Are specialist appliances effective and well aligned to demand and risk?
- How does the level of risk vary across the Service area?
- How does availability impact response performance?
- Which are the most appropriate crewing models?
- What is the most efficient way to save money from the current operating model?
- What targets should the Service set for response?

From CRP to CRMP

Here's what happens next:

We will take the evidence in this CRP and determine which risks are the most significant and how we can use our resources efficiently and effectively to reduce these risks.

We will create a range of proposals for how best to use our people, resources, and partnerships to reduce those risks.

These proposals will be shared with you, our communities, as well as with staff and partners. Your feedback will be central to shaping the CRMP so that it reflects local needs and priorities.

The draft CRMP will then be reviewed and formally approved by the Fire Authority, ensuring accountability and democratic oversight.

Once approved, we will act on the commitments we have made, track progress, and remain accountable by regularly reviewing and reporting on our performance.

In Summary

This CRP has set out the risks that shape the safety and resilience of Tyne and Wear. It has shown how our communities are changing, how new challenges are emerging, and how long-standing inequalities continue to drive vulnerability.

By bringing together national frameworks, local data, professional judgement and community insight, this CRP provides a clear, evidence-based evaluation of risk across Newcastle, Gateshead, North and South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Our Service does not work in isolation to protect you. Meeting these risks requires strong partnerships with local authorities, health services, the police, voluntary and community organisations, and most importantly, the people we serve.

We are proud of the professionalism, compassion and dedication of our staff, who stand ready to meet these challenges every day. With their commitment, and with the trust of our communities, we will continue to keep Tyne and Wear safe, strong and resilient.

A final message to our communities

This Community Risk Profile is about you – the people of Tyne and Wear. It explains the risks we face together, from house fires and flooding to wider challenges like health, poverty and climate change.

By understanding these risks clearly, we can make sure our work focuses where it matters most: protecting the most vulnerable, preventing harm, and responding when you need us.

With your support, and the dedication of our staff, we will continue to keep Tyne and Wear a safe, strong and resilient place for everyone to live.

Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Service

COMMUNITY RISK PROFILE 2025-2030