

## **Evaluation of Bonfire Night/Operation Trojan**

1. This report provides a summary of the activity in Stockton in the run up to Mischief and Bonfire night. The summary is taken from Cleveland Fire Brigade's evaluation of Bonfire- Fireworks Strategy 2010 and supplements the report brought to SSP on December 21<sup>st</sup> which covered activity from the Police and Council (see appendix 2). The date range for this evaluation is from 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and for the same time period during 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005.

The report encompasses the work carried out by the Police and the Council and its findings are intended to be used to enable effective review and planning of the bonfire strategy for 2011.

### **2. Key Findings**

The Cleveland study includes the dates 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010 and identified a total of 225 refuse fires.

### **3. Background**

It has been widely recognised that activities occurring on bonfire night and during the weeks immediately proceeding 5<sup>th</sup> November are causing increased resource implications for crime and disorder agencies.

In the North East of England a regional multi-agency partnership was formed in 2003 to address the problems associated with the festivities of bonfire night. The partnership consisted of three regional police forces and four fire brigades (Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham and Cleveland areas), Government Office North East, Government News Network (GNN), Crime and Disorder partnerships and trading standards.

The aim of the partnership was to deliver an educational and awareness initiative aimed at reducing fire work and bonfire injuries as well as the demands placed upon emergency services during the Guy Fawkes period. The objectives of the campaign were to raise awareness of the two main messages:

- The removal or destruction of refuse piles with the potential to be used as bonfires that have been built prior to 5<sup>th</sup> November;
- The potential dangers of fireworks.

#### 4. Data Used in this study

The information in this report has been extracted from the Cleveland Fire Brigade incident recording system. Using a standard coding structure, records appropriate to the current study i.e. F3 fires were identified and extracted. (Appendix 1)

#### 5. Defining the problem in the area

Between 22<sup>nd</sup> October - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Cleveland Fire Brigade recorded a total 225 refuse fires. The table below shows this figure varies across each district, Middlesbrough seeing the most with 82. Overall as a brigade 87.1% of refuse fires were classified as deliberate.

	Number of Refuse Fires	Deliberate Refuse Fires	%
Middlesbrough	82	66	80.5
Stockton	46	41	89.1
Redcar & Cleveland	55	49	89.1
Hartlepool	42	40	95.2
<b>Brigade Total</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>87.1</b>

Table 1: % of deliberate refuse fires attributed to Districts.

#### 6. Standardised Deliberate Refuse Fire Rates

In order to draw direct comparison across each district within the Cleveland area, standardized rates per 10,000 resident population for refuse fires occurring during 2010 have been calculated. These figures are shown together with the Cleveland average in the chart below. Clearly the brigade average is being pulled up by a high rate of incidents within the Middlesbrough District.

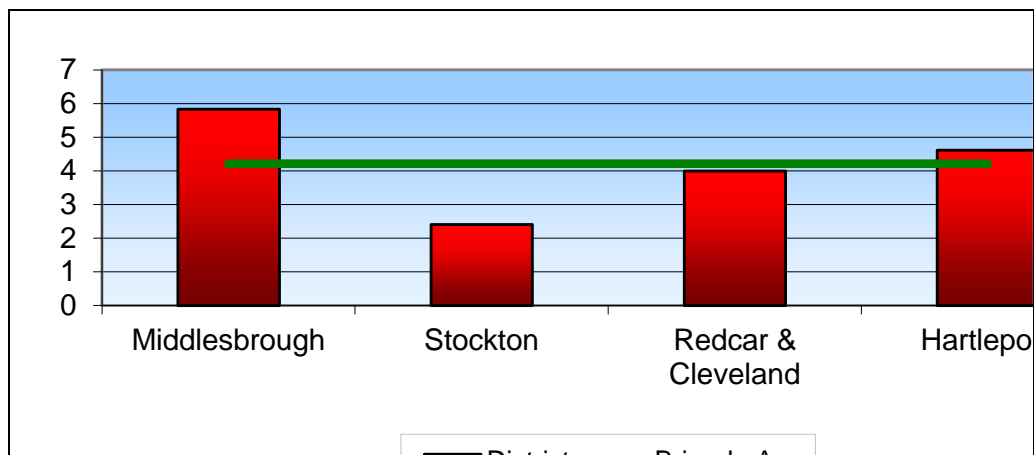


Chart 1: Standardised deliberate refuse fire rates for 2010; comparison by district and Cleveland average

Three of the four districts have seen a decrease when calculating per 10,000 resident population. Hartlepool have remained static, whilst Redcar and Cleveland have seen a slight increase. Incidents year on year.

	2008	2009	2010
Middlesbrough	3.9	6.1	5.8
Stockton	2.4	3.6	2.4
Redcar & Cleveland	2.6	3.1	4.0
Hartlepool	4.8	4.6	4.6
<b>Brigade Average</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Table 3: Standardised refuse fire rates 2008-2010; comparison by year

## 7. Geographical analysis

The following section provides an overview of refuse fires in terms of geographical location. Incidents are recorded on the Fire brigade system together with a grid reference. The following table shows the top wards in the Cleveland area in relation to refuse fires. The selection is based on the number of incidents occurring within each ward for 2010.

Ward	District	Refuse Fires	% of Total
Hemlington	Middlesbrough	12	5.3
Hardwick	Stockton	11	4.9
Grangetown	Redcar and Cleveland	11	4.9
Eston	Redcar and Cleveland	11	4.9
Ayresome	Middlesbrough	8	3.6
St. Hilda	Hartlepool	8	3.6
Hart	Hartlepool	8	3.6
Newcomen	Redcar and Cleveland	7	3.1
Clairville	Middlesbrough	7	3.1
Stainsby Hill	Stockton	6	2.7
University	Middlesbrough	6	2.7
North Ormesby and Brambles Farm	Middlesbrough	6	2.7
Beechwood	Middlesbrough	6	2.7
Stockton Town Centre	Stockton	5	2.2
Roseworth	Stockton	5	2.2
Normanby	Redcar and Cleveland	5	2.2
Linthorpe	Middlesbrough	5	2.2
Ladgate	Middlesbrough	5	2.2
Gresham	Middlesbrough	5	2.2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>225</b>	

Table 4: Top wards in the Cleveland Fire Brigade area for refuse fires in 2010

## 8. November 5<sup>th</sup> Stockton district

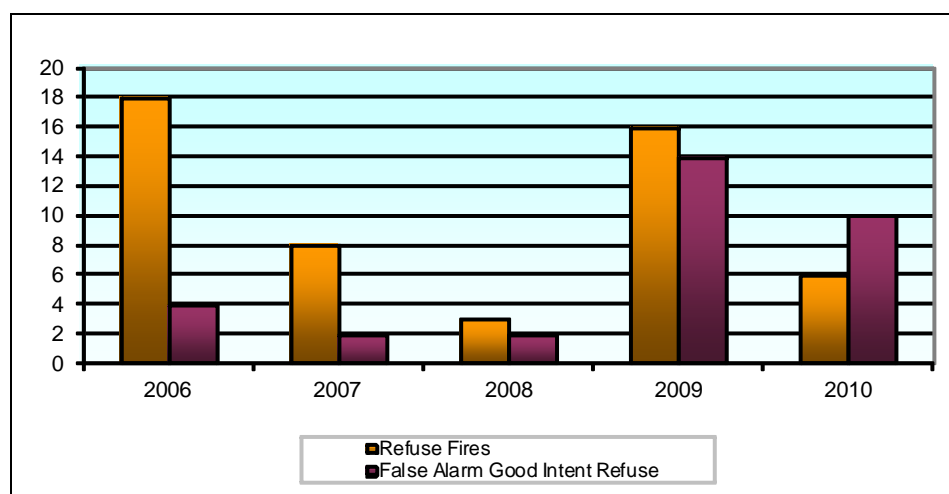


Chart 3: Refuse Fires against False Alarm Good Intent refuse calls on 5<sup>th</sup> November in Stockton District; comparison by years.

The above chart shows the number of refuse fires has decreased while false alarm good intent calls have also decreased in Stockton district when compared to the previous year 2009.

## 9. Violence to Staff

Between 22<sup>nd</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010 8 incidents of violence to staff have been recorded at incidents compared to 5 last year. Four incidents recorded in Redcar and Cleveland district whilst two in Stockton and two in Middlesbrough, Hartlepool recorded zero incidents of violence to staff. All incidents occurred at whilst attending refuse fires (x6 refuse, x2 wheelie bin).

Local authority partners worked towards one aim which was to highlight and remove any potential risks in the period leading to and directly after bonfire night. It should be noted that the local authorities in Cleveland had in fact been providing the removal scheme for up to four weeks in order to minimise the risk to the community.

The table below shows just how effective each district has been with this initiative:

No. Of Illegal Bonfires Removed	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Stockton	64 15 tonnes		22	75 52 tonnes	3.88 tonnes
Hartlepool	41 21 tonnes	18.7 tonnes	13 12.25 tonnes	30 18.7 tonnes	14.5 tonnes
Middlesbrough	178 66.54 tonnes		24	80 100 tonnes	39 60 tonnes
Redcar	63 10-12 tonnes	10 tonnes	43	9 4 tonnes	35 3.88 tonnes

Table 8: No: Bonfires removed and tonnage by district

## **10. Stockton District**

### ***Diversionsary Activities***

During the bonfire period seven play with a football not with fire sessions successfully took place throughout the Hardwick and Ragworth areas of the district. At least 15 young people attended each session.

Three sessions concentrating on multi sports/multi agency were carried out; these involve the Youth Service and Stockton Borough Council working together.

#### ***Billingham Station***

- X34 High visibility patrols
- X16 rubbish removal requests
- X4 requests for external agencies intervention
- X6 Community events attended
- X5 Community engagement
- X40 HFSVs
- X48 smoke alarms fitted

#### ***Thornaby Station***

- X111 visibility patrols
- X6 requests for external agencies intervention
- X4 worked with partner agencies
- X5 Community engagement
- X73 HFSVs
- X76 smoke alarms fitted

#### ***Stockton Station***

- X113 high visibility patrols
- X1 boarding up
- X17 rubbish removal request
- X5 request for external agencies intervention
- Working with partner agencies
- X19 community events attended
- X1 hot strikes
- X26 community engagement
- X2 school visits
- X173 HFSVs
- X179 smoke alarms fitted

## 11. Summary

### *Year on year comparison*

	22 <sup>nd</sup> October to 12 <sup>th</sup> November		% increase / decrease
	2009	2010	
<b>Refuse Fires (Eo1 subtype only)</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-6.3</b>
FG Refuse Fires	118	71	-39.8
Firework incidents	11	14	27.3

### *Refuse fires by district*

	22 <sup>nd</sup> October to 12 <sup>th</sup> November		% increase / decrease
	2009	2010	
Middlesbrough	86	82	-4.7
Redcar & Cleveland	43	55	27.9
Stockton	69	46	-33.3
Hartlepool	42	42	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-6.3</b>

**Appendix 1****STOCKTON DISTRICT**

Activity Log				Plan No.		
Activity	Location	Date / Time	Target audience & No's if relevant	Partners involved	Resources used	Other relevant info
Multi sport/Multi Agency sessions at Abbey Hill School.	Hardwick	27/10/10 1830 - 2030	12-16yrs 15+ each session	Fire/Youth Service/SBC	2 X Off duty Coach & B5 to attend.	These sessions have been running since Sep 09 and seen attendance figure averaging 15/session
Play with a Football @ St John's School	Ragworth	28/10/10 1500 - 1630	10 - 11 14+ each session	Fire/Education		Session organised and delivered by Stockton CLO
Football sessions at Goals Hype	Hardwick	30/10/10 1800 - 2000	12 - 18 15 + attend each session	Hype/Fire	2 X Off duty Coaches	These sessions have been running since Oct 09 firstly at Soccer sensations but more recently at Goals in Middlesbrough
Play with a Football not with Fire - Ragworth Neighbourhood Community Centre.	Ragworth	31/10/10 1400 - 1600		Fire Service	Bravo Crews + 1 x Off Duty Coach	This event has been organised by Bravo Green Watch.
Multi sport/Multi Agency sessions at Abbey Hill	Hardwick	03/11/10 1830 -	12-16yrs 15+	Fire/Youth Service/SBC	2 X Off duty Coach & B5 to attend.	These sessions have been running since Sep 09 and

School.		2030				seen attendance figure averaging 15/session
Play with a Football @ St John's School	Ragworth	04/11/10 1500 - 1630	10 - 11 14+ each session	Fire/Education		Session organised an delivered by Stockton CLO
Football sessions at Goals Hype	Hardwick	06/11/10 1800 - 2000	12 - 18 15 + attend each session	Hype/Fire	2 X Off duty Coaches	These sessions have been running since Oct 09 firstly at Soccer sensations but more recently at Goals in Middlesbrough
Multi sport/Multi Agency sessions at Abbey Hill School.	Hardwick	10/11/10 1830 - 2030	12-16yrs 15+	Fire/Youth Service/SBC	2 X Off duty Coach & B5 to attend.	These sessions have been running since Sep 09 and seen attendance figure averaging 15/session
Play with a Football @ St John's School	Ragworth	04/11/10 1500 - 1630	10 - 11 14+ each session	Fire/Education		Session organised an delivered by Stockton CLO
Football sessions at Goals Hype	Hardwick	13/11/10 1800 - 2000	12 - 18 15 + attend each session	Hype/Fire	2 X Off duty Coaches	These sessions have been running since Oct 09 firstly at Soccer sensations but more recently at Goals in Middlesbrough



## **Appendix 2**

Previous report to SSP 21<sup>st</sup> December 2010

### **Review of bonfire night/Operation Trojan and Operation Casper**

1. At our last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2010 members asked for a report on the strategic approach used in the run up to Halloween and Bonfire Night. This report provides details of the operational orders that were set up by the Fire Service, the Police and the Council.
2. A series of multi agency meetings were established in the spring of 2010 to ensure that all tactical plans were coordinated. Partners worked together on all of the operational orders to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach was used throughout.
3. Operation Trojan was led by the Council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Service and it commenced at 3pm on 25<sup>th</sup> October and ended at midnight on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. The aim was to reduce the number of deliberate fires by removing combustible materials and they also proactively removed rubbish that could be used as missiles. A secondary aim was to deter and capture illegal waste carriers. This operation achieved the following:
  - a) 40 tonnes of combustible material removed
  - b) 22 fly tipping investigations commenced
  - c) 30 fires attended
  - d) 721 incidents dealt with over the period of the operation
  - e) 274 items of combustible material were removed

NES were called to a bonfire on Rosslare Road in the late afternoon of 5<sup>th</sup> November. The bonfire was stacked and ready to be lit. After assessing the situation they removed all noxious and dangerous waste from the fire and called for back up vehicles to assist with the remainder. Before further assistance could arrive the fire was ignited so that when the fire service arrived on site they had to risk assess whether they should put the fire out or allow it to burn out, in this instance they opted for the latter as the fire was not out of control and there was no noxious waste. If NES had not removed a substantial amount of the rubbish further action by the fire service and possibly the police could have been required.

4. Operation Casper was Police led with the aim of reducing incidents of criminal activity, public disorder and anti social behaviour. The tactic used was to provide:
  - reassurance patrols
  - rapid and effective response to youths gathering
  - effective deployment of resources at peak times
  - Increased activities for young people.

The operational element of the plan for Halloween commenced at 5pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 and ended at midnight. The remaining element of the plan for dealing with the run up to bonfire night continued until 6<sup>th</sup> November. For this part of the operation police officers were reminded of the powers they have in relation to fireworks, high visibility patrols were set up with the ASB Team, communication path established with CCTV, mobile patrols set up with the Fire Service to assist with the removal of bonfires.

5. The Fire Service led on the coordination and developed a Bonfire Action Plan. The strategy was launched on 16<sup>th</sup> October and it offered the following:

- Every school given the “In safe hands” DVD
- Every school encouraged to enter a firework poster competition
- All schools given a programme of events and the offer of a fire officer attending the school.
- Training offered to police and other partners on arson awareness and rubbish removal

The Community Liaison Officer based within the ASB Team had the role of ensuring that all plans were coordinated.

Prior to the launch of the strategy in September a firework presentation was given at Crucial Crew, work commenced with trading standards to target premises selling fireworks and a briefing note was issued to councils. As part of the strategy the Fire Service also offered:

- Safety letterboxes to vulnerable residents
- Joint patrols with partners to identify bonfires being built or rubbish collected in hot spot areas identified using incident data
- Bonfire hotline cards produced advising residents who to contact if they spot a bonfire being built.