



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Dealing with abandoned vehicles
Organisation	Gloucestershire FRS in partnership with county and local councils.
Date	2004 - ongoing

Issue

During 2002-3 Gloucestershire FRS attended 700 vehicle fires that were established as arson, over 50% of these were abandoned vehicles or untraced owners. Dealing with each vehicle fire was costed at £4000

Actions Taken

A rigorous removal protocol was introduced with GFRS taking over responsibilities previously held by county council.

Summary of Benefits Realised

Decreased removal times for abandoned vehicles (usually within 1 hour), substantial savings in costs for the county council.

Contact

If you require any further details about the points raised in this case study, please contact:

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Change in protocol for removing abandoned vehicles

Gloucestershire FRS took over the county council responsibility for storage and disposal of abandoned vehicles from the Environmental Directorate. With the agreement of the local councils the Arson Task Force led a major tendering process for a countywide 'Abandoned vehicle collection, storage and disposal contract.' A countywide contract for storage and disposal, supported by six identical collection contracts all with the same contractor (The Sims Group) was established. Local councils still manage the collection to disposal process.

The ATF has funded, via a grant from the ODPM ACF, an amnesty scheme for members of the public to request the free removal and disposal of their 'end of life' vehicles. A free phone number was established into the fire control room for members of the public to report abandoned vehicles or to request an amnesty removal. An online reporting form is also made available. GRAVE (Gloucestershire Reporting of Abandoned Vehicles), a database system, shared by each district council was developed by ATF partners by a E-Government grant.

The aim of the scheme was to remove abandoned vehicles within 48hours once reported.

The scheme has seen a reduction of deliberate vehicle fires from a high of 60 per month(mid 2004) to an average of 20 per month since.