



# Arson Control Forum

<b>Topic</b>	Arson
<b>Title</b>	IT Solutions
<b>Service</b>	Cleveland Fire Brigade
<b>Region</b>	North East
<b>Date</b>	2009 - present

## Issue

To combat the deliberate incidents that occur in Cleveland a number of initiatives and toolkits are utilised across the brigade. The issue was to create a system of clear communication with a data sharing capability for all concerned and employ a recording mechanism to prevent duplication of work.

IT solutions were created to encompass all the above functions.

## Actions Taken

### **Utilising the IRS system to communicate and record.**

Following all incidents operational crews will carry out an arson audit of the immediate area and take any necessary remedial actions. A recording process was created on the IRS system to encompass this information i.e. Was an Arson Audit carried out, is any further action required, what further action is required? It also collates any local intelligence as to possible culprits.

This information is auto emailed each day by the IRS system to the Arson Task Force for implementation of any required actions. This created a system whereby the ATF officers could initiate remedial action following all incidents without physically investigating the scene. This saved time as well as emphasising the need for thorough scene investigation at the time if the incident. This system allows us to mobilise partner agencies to the appropriate areas quickly.

### **Arson 'One Stop Shop'**

A conduit and resource for operational station personnel was created in the form of the 'One Stop Shop'. This is a programme located on each station's PC desktop where all current and up to date arson related information for that District is located. It also contains partner agency details and procedures. Since its inception this has developed into a location for sharing of information, report storage, current issue updates, risk properties register, along with other relevant arson reduction information.

### **CCTV Project**

A system is being trialled whereby all District CCTV centres supplied the locations of all cameras in a format recognised by both 'Google Earth' and our incident browser, thus allowing the uploading of the files to this software, pinpointing the locations of operational cameras. This will allow all ATF staff to identify camera locations following incidents. Communication to the CCTV centres will allow for level 1 fire investigators to obtain information captured by the identified camera and increase the chances of identifying potential arsonists.

### **Fire Investigation Software**

The next IT solution we are currently investigating attempts to bring it all together. There is software available commercially that will encompass all of our IT records and identify patterns, trends and repeat information that would otherwise go unnoticed. It will assimilate IRS records, fire investigation reports, community callback database and arson audits. We are currently in the process of securing funding to realise this vision.

## Summary of Benefits Realised

These new communication systems have allowed for better practice in relation to duplication of work, information sharing and the sharing of intelligence and allowed the ATF to highlight arson related issues across the brigade.

This approach has seen significant falls in our deliberate fire statistics as well as raising the profile of arson within the brigade. It has also helped in the detection and prosecution of offenders.

## Contact

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

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