



Arson Control Forum

Topic	Arson
Title	Potential Arson Target
Organisation	London Fire Brigade
Date	2008 ongoing

Issue

Many properties pose a serious risk to firefighter safety, such as empty properties or those that may be demolished for redevelopment. This project will assist the London Fire Brigade to protect firefighters and ensure they are kept as safe as possible. The intelligence gathered and provided to operational personnel ensures crews are aware of possible risks prior to any incident at the identified addresses. The premises concerned include those where owners may benefit from financial gain.

Actions Taken

A model has been developed that collects data from local authorities' planning departments, which is processed and filtered in priority order to highlight Potential Arson Targets for profiling.

The process follows these steps:

Phase One:

Data, in the form of planning refusals, surrendered licenses, closed 'public house' premises and 'empty properties' is obtained by the PAT Manager from all local authority planning, licensing and business rate departments.

Phase Two:

The premises are filtered and prioritised by the PAT Manager.

Phase Three:

The properties to be profiled are entered onto the PAT Database (an excel spreadsheet) within the Fire Investigation shared drive by the PAT Manager.

Phase Four:

The property addresses are checked against IMS to see if any other incidents have occurred there and if so, consideration to re-prioritising them will be given.

Phase Five:

A template will be created (word document) by the PAT Manager for each of the properties to be profiled and a satellite photograph attached to the document. Each property will be saved into a designated borough folder within the PAT Database folder.

Phase Six:

The profile sheets will then be sent to the Arson Task Force to manage their completion, via the appropriate Arson Task Force Practitioner (ATFP) and borough teams. The best resource to complete these are the local fire crews themselves, as they will be completing a visit and gathering information for their own safety. Another reason that it would be preferable for fire crews to conduct the profiling is that not only would it allow them to familiarise themselves with the premises but also allow a visual presence of the London Fire Brigade. Whoever completes the profiling, the ATFP will then 'vet' the completed forms for their relative boroughs before returning them to the PAT Manager in Fire Investigation. With the ATFP managing the completion of the profiling, it also allows them to identify and address issues surrounding site security, fuel management and other 'immediate' arson prevention issues.

Phase Seven:

The PAT Manager checks and converts the returned forms into pdf files and stores them within the appropriate borough folder. A printed copy of each pdf files is issued to each Fire Station within the borough and also to the relevant Borough and Station Managers, Fire Investigation Teams and Arson Task Force Practitioners. Each borough is reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Phase Eight:

The PAT Manager will then complete the PAT Database by hyper-linking the pdf files to the relevant addresses on the database and identifying that the property has been profiled. This will enable any PAT Database user to identify profiled property addresses within their boroughs and by clicking the link, study the profile in full.

Summary of Benefits Realised

Increased communication between Brigade and various local authority departments has developed. Also, there is improved working partnerships with many other agencies who hope to help with reducing arson in their boroughs.

Contact

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