

Deliberate Fires

Online Public Meeting - 14/09/2026



Progress. People. Community.



**NORTH YORKSHIRE
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

Definition and Terminology

Primary Fire

A fire where **one or more** of the following applies:

- Any fire in a **non-derelect building**.
- Any fire in a **non-derelect vehicle**.
- Any fire in specified **outdoor structures**.
- Any fire involving a **casualty, fatality, rescue or escape**.
- Any fire attended by **five or more pumping appliances**.

- **Accidental ignition:** Fire initiation without intent to cause a fire.
- **Deliberate ignition:** Fire initiation resulting from an intentional act to cause a fire.
- **"Fire in the open/Outdoor"** is an incident type/location description, not a reportable classification.

Secondary Fire

A reportable fire that:

- Is **not a chimney fire**.
- Does **not meet the criteria for a primary fire**.
- Typically involves grass, rubbish, refuse, skips, heathland or similar materials.
- Has no casualties or rescues.
- Is attended by four or fewer pumping appliances

National & Local Trends

AREA	YEAR	TOTAL DELIBERATE FIRES	Primary Fires	Primary Fire Types				Secondary	Chimney
				Dwelling	Other building	Road vehicle	Other outdoor		
England	2022/23	80,040	16,789	2,744	3,499	7,883	2,663	63,229	22
	2023/24	59,308	15,840	2,590	4,106	7,389	1,755	43,445	23
	2024/25	61,824	15,493	2,469	4,237	6,938	1,849	46,309	22
	2025/26	71,520	15,858	2,385	3,726	7,183	2,564	55,647	15
Norh Yorkshire	2022/23	733	202	18	18	38	128	531	0
	2023/24	501	106	16	25	49	16	395	0
	2024/25	622	94	25	16	40	13	527	1
	2025/26	792	119	18	29	32	40	671	2

- In 2025/26, NYFRS attended 2,006 fires of which 792 (40%) were deliberate.
- In North Yorkshire, slight upward trend in the proportion of fires attended that are deliberate.
- In 2025/26, out of 792 deliberate fires, 119 (15%) were primary fires and 671 (85%) were secondary fires.
- Upward trend in proportion of deliberate fires that are secondary.

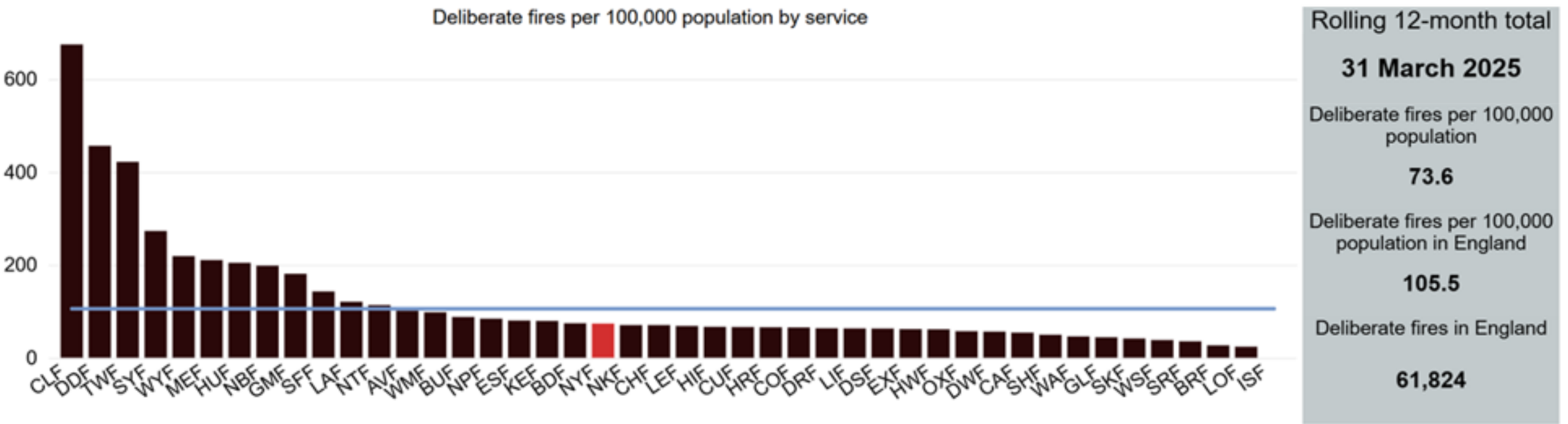
Source: Gov.uk fire statistics



National Statistics – Deliberate Fires Attended

Year to 31 March 2025

North Yorkshire attended 622 incidents classed as deliberate fires in the year to 31 March 2025.



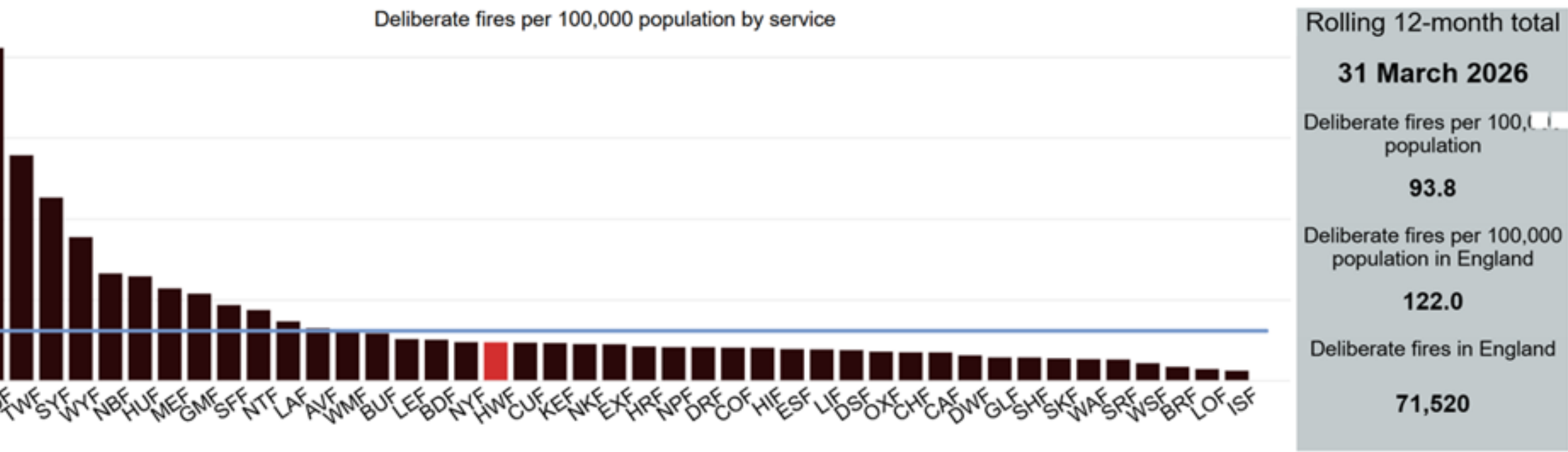
Source: MHCLG [FIRE0401](#).



National Statistics – Deliberate Fires Attended

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Secondary Fires



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Change from summer 2024 to summer 2026 across the UK- Secondary Fires

+2.1°C

**warmer
overall**

Mean summer temperature rose from 14.4°C to 16.5°C.

-19%

**less
rainfall**

Summer rainfall fell by 45.9 mm, from 241.3 mm to 195.4 mm.

-65%

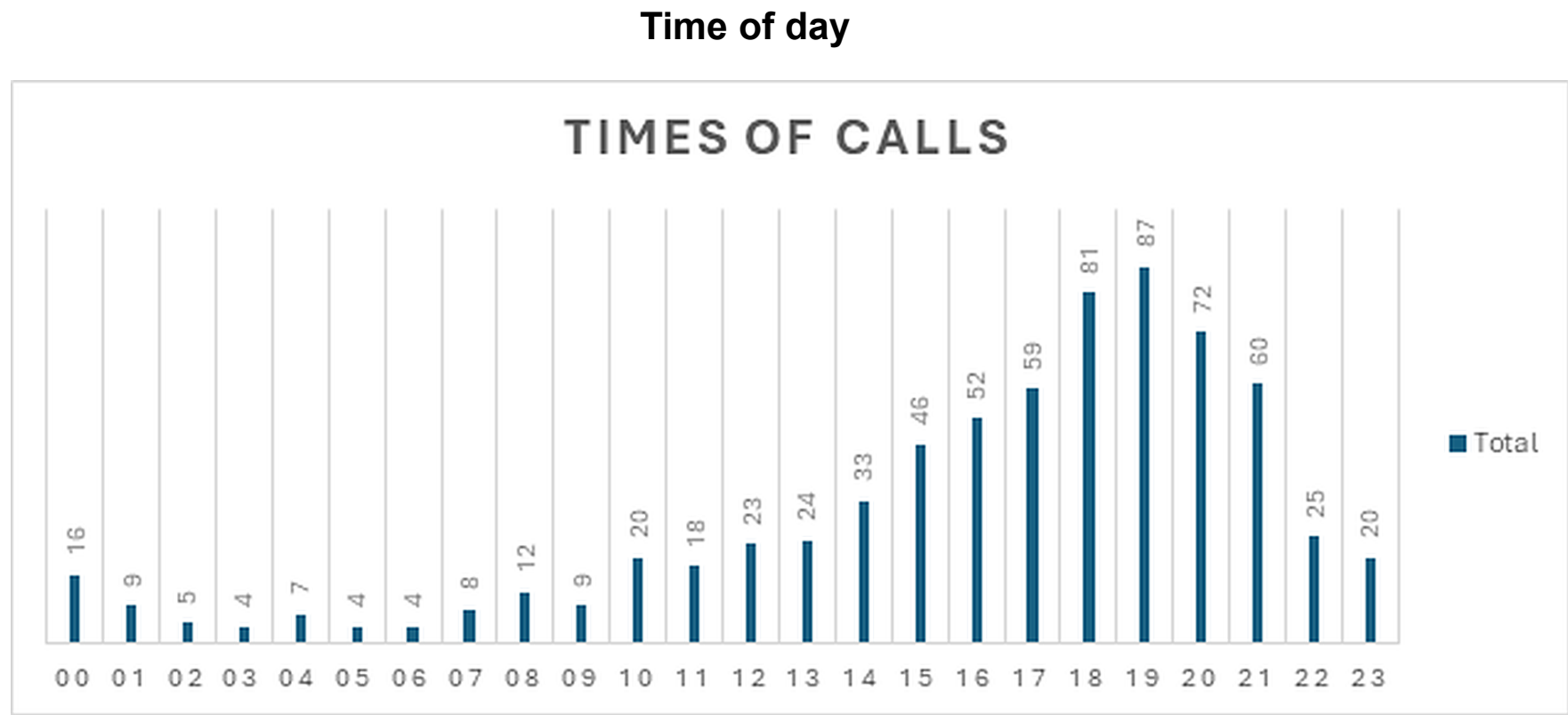
less rain in July

July rainfall fell from 82.4 mm in 2024 to 28.9 mm in 2026.

Deliberate Secondary Fires

Year Month ▼	Current Year	Previous Year	Difference	
August 2026	154	111	↑	39%
July 2026	140	77	↑	82%
June 2026	56	75	↓	-25%
May 2026	70	92	↓	-24%
April 2026	91	82	↑	11%
August 2025	111	98	↑	13%
July 2025	77	41	↑	88%
June 2025	75	42	↑	79%
May 2025	92	39	↑	136%
April 2025	82	43	↑	91%
August 2024	98	48	↑	104%
July 2024	41	46	↓	-11%
June 2024	42	66	↓	-36%
May 2024	39	34	↑	15%
April 2024	43	37	↑	16%

Incident Data and Trends



Incidents per day	
Monday	96
Tuesday	97
Wednesday	93
Thursday	85
Friday	93
Saturday	124
Sunday	110

Based upon Fires in the Open 2025/26

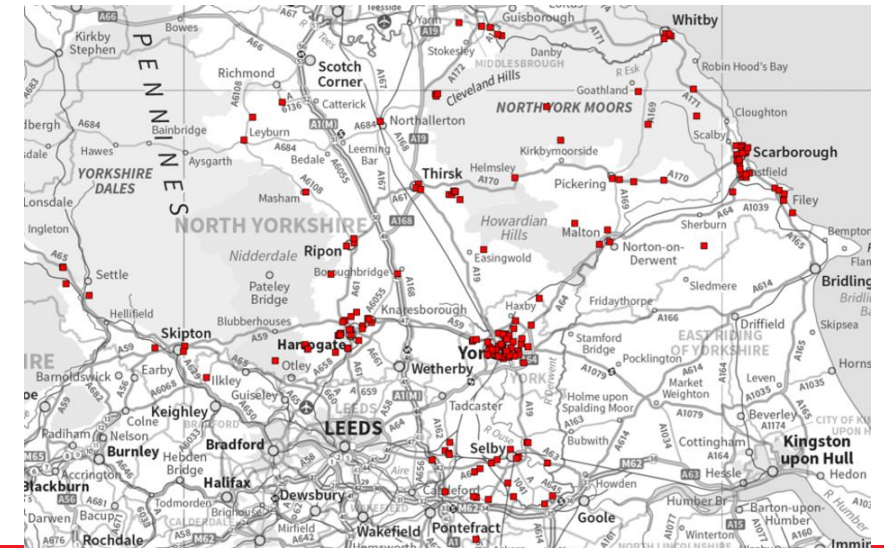
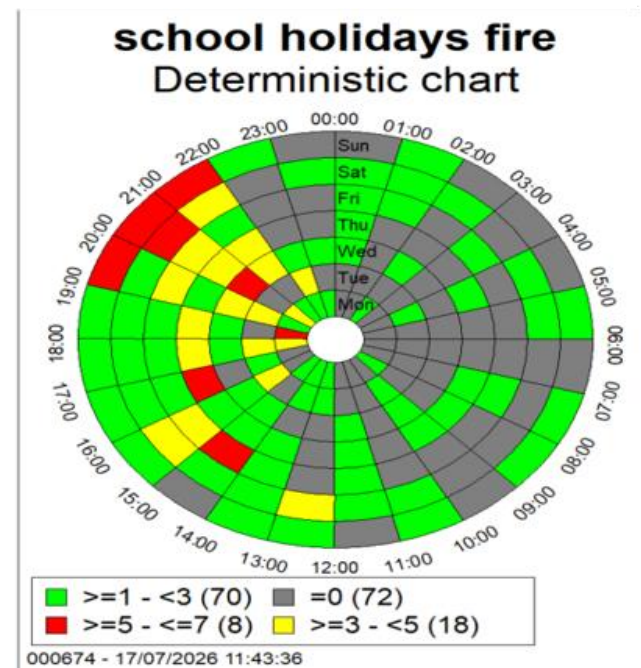


Incident Data and Trends

The Service routinely analyses:

- Location of incidents and geographic hotspots
- Repeat incidents at the same locations
- Incident type (e.g. grass, refuse, bin and other outdoor fires)
- Date and time of occurrence
- Seasonal and weather-related trends
- Operational demand and resource impacts

This information helps identify areas experiencing increased levels of activity and locations where repeat incidents are occurring.



Local Intelligence

Information is also gathered through:

- Local knowledge from stations and district teams
- Community reports and concerns
- Multi agency meetings
- Fire Stoppers
- Emerging issues identified whilst undertaking prevention activity in the community.

This provides context to incident data and helps the Service understand local factors that may be contributing to community safety risks.



Partnership Information

The Service works with partners to develop a broader understanding of risk, including information from:

- North Yorkshire Police
- Community Safety Partnerships
- Local Authorities
- Youth Justice Services
- Schools and education providers
- Youth and community services
- Housing providers

Information sharing arrangements help identify repeat locations, emerging issues and opportunities for joint intervention.



Partnership Working to Reduce Deliberate Fire Setting

- Share information relating to repeat locations and emerging issues.
- Identify links between deliberate fires and wider community safety concerns.
- Support joint problem-solving approaches within hotspot locations.
- Contribute to multi-agency responses where deliberate fire-setting forms part of broader Anti-Social Behaviour patterns.
- Work with Community Safety Hubs.
- Joint Anti-Social Behaviour Fire Meetings with North Yorkshire Police at Strategic and Tactical level.

How working with partners delivers better outcomes

Partnership working enables agencies to:

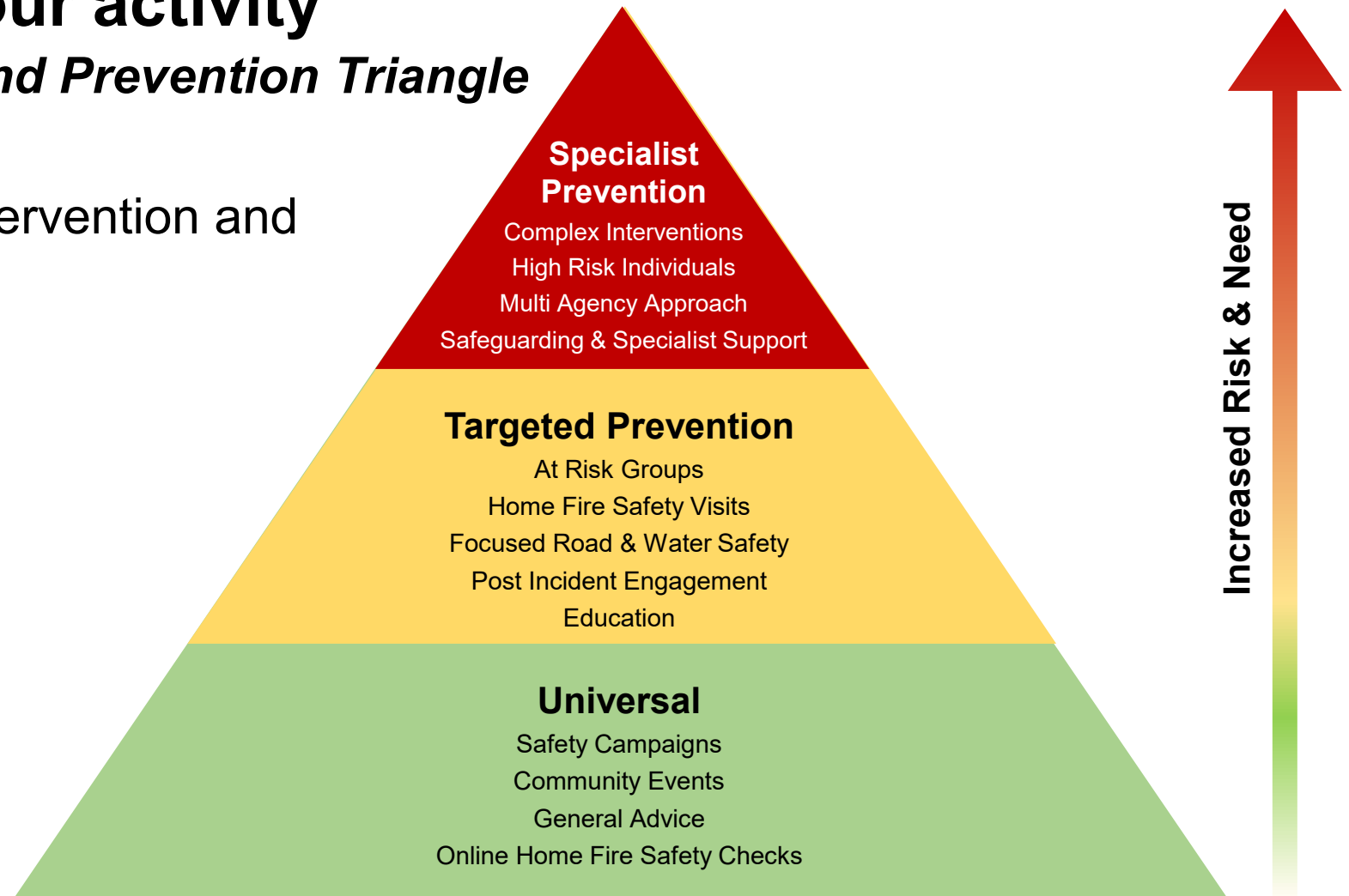
- Develop a shared understanding of local risks.
- Identify repeat demand and emerging trends.
- Coordinate interventions and avoid duplication.
- Focus resources on communities experiencing the greatest impact.
- Address underlying causes rather than responding solely to incidents.

How this informs our activity

The Early Intervention and Prevention Triangle

Three tiers to our Early Intervention and Prevention Activities:

- Universal
- Targeted
- Specialist



How this informs our activity

- Target community safety campaigns – social media
- Deliver seasonal prevention messaging – social media wildfire
- Focus activity on areas experiencing repeat incidents – Fire Stoppers, site visits, blue routes
- Support local problem-solving initiatives – Op Fire Safe
- Youth engagement activity – developing resilience programme
- School based education programmes – incorporated into our education syllabus
- Community reassurance activity – Fire Stoppers, blue routes, attendance at summer event
- Multi-agency problem-solving plans being utilised



Universal Education Advice

Since May 2026, we've published 194 social media posts across these campaign areas and wider fire safety and warn and inform messages. The Wildfire, Water and Deliberate Fire campaigns have a combined reach of 693,193 across Facebook and Instagram.

Campaign breakdown

- Deliberate Fires: 7 posts, reaching 42,920 people
- Wildfires: 40 posts, reaching 384,993 people



Case Study - Operation Firesafe

Purpose

- NYFRS and North Yorkshire Police (NYP) responded to an increase in deliberate small fires and youth-related Anti-Social Behaviour across York.
- Incidents were concentrated in parks, open spaces and areas near residential communities, creating risk, environmental damage and resident concern.

Partnership approach

- NYFRS, NYP Neighbourhood teams, local schools and the Community Safety Partnership worked together.
- Partners shared intelligence from control rooms, schools and community reports to identify hotspots and target activity.

Case Study - Operation Firesafe

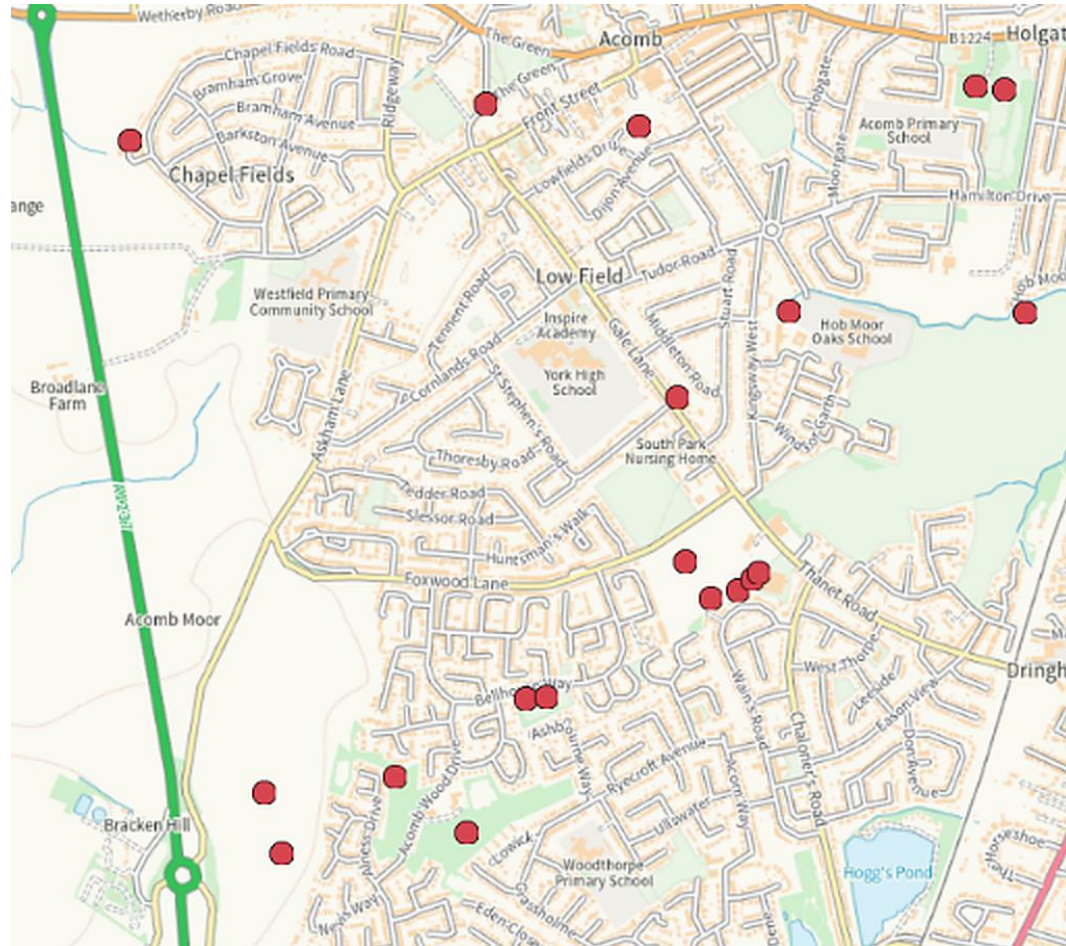
Key interventions

- School and youth workshops on fire safety, arson consequences and community impact.
- Joint “blue route” patrols in hotspot areas during evenings and weekends.
- Early intervention through Firesafe referrals, one-to-one sessions and family support.
- Community messaging through schools, social media and local media.

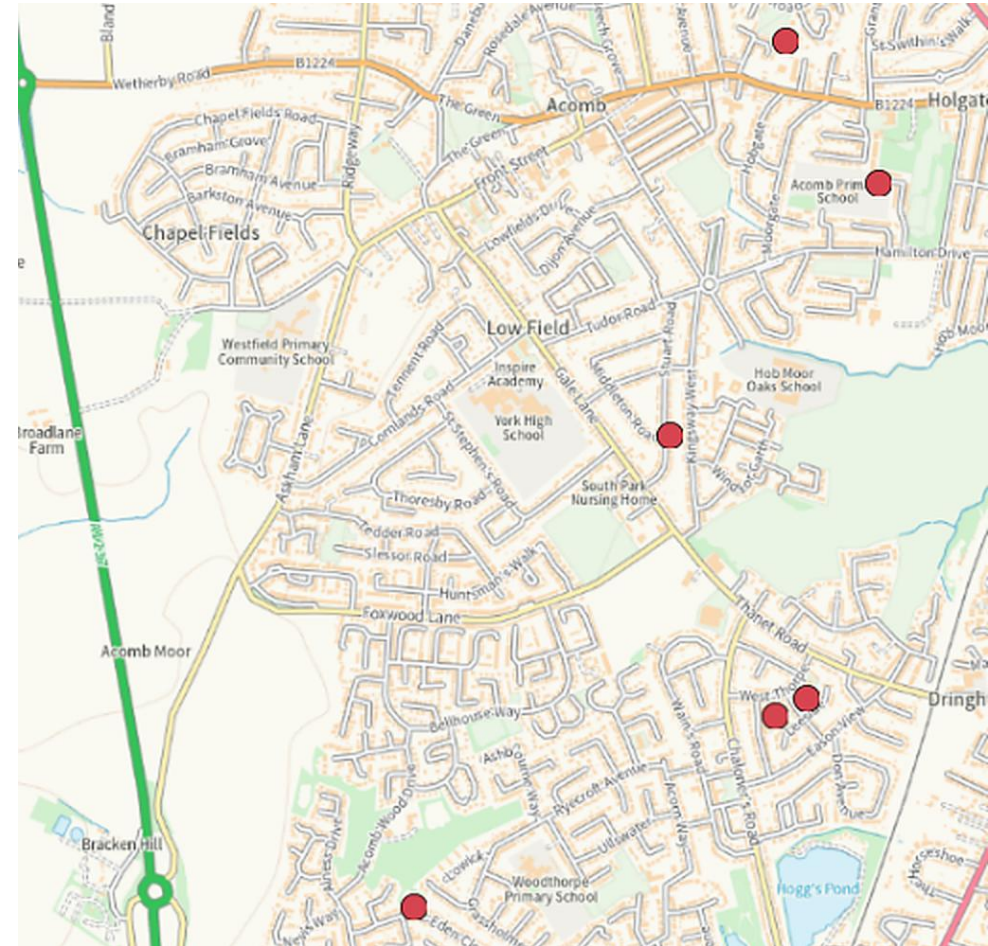
Collaboration

- Increased Firesafe referrals from NYP.
- Stronger joint working, communication and information sharing between NYFRS, NYP, schools and community hubs.
- Improved engagement with CYP partnership meetings, including MAPS and MACE.
- Local reduction in ASB Fires in the area.

Reduction in Incidents July vs Aug 2026



July 26



August 26

Outcomes

- Reduction in deliberate fires in hotspot areas.
- Fewer preventable incidents requiring emergency service attendance.
- From noticeable reduction, residents feeling safer and more reassured.
- Young people gaining a better understanding of fire risk, consequences and impact on others.

Key learning

- Combining education, prevention, visibility and early intervention is more effective than responding to incidents alone.
- Strong collaboration between NYFRS, NYP and schools helped address root causes while improving community safety

Monitoring & Measuring Performance

The Service monitors deliberate outdoor fires through a combination of operational performance data, intelligence and partnership information.

How?

- Prevention Team undertake a monthly and quarterly analysis of incident data to identify trends, hotspots and repeat locations.
- Ongoing sharing of intelligence with Community Safety Partnerships and North Yorkshire Police.
- Review of seasonal trends and periods of heightened risk to inform our delivery packages.
- Monitoring outcomes from targeted prevention campaigns and interventions.
- Joint NYFRS/NYP Strategic and Tactical Anti-Social Fires Meetings.
- Reporting patterns, trends and activities in the Community Risk and Resilience Meeting.
- Deputy Mayor/Combined Authority convening multi agency meeting to ensure effective collaboration was being undertaken.