

QUARTER

4



Cleveland Fire Brigade

Performance

April - March

2024/25



Chief Fire Officer

Peter Rickard
01429 872311

Cleveland Fire Authority provides a fire and rescue service to an area covering approximately 597km² and consists of four unitary authorities (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton). The current population of this area is 579,287 living in 267,396 dwellings.

Cleveland is the 7th most densely populated fire authority area in England and suffers from typical inner city type problems.

Our 83 wards include the 2nd most deprived ward nationally (North Ormesby) with 28 falling within the 10% most deprived wards nationally.

Indicator	2024/25	Direction of Travel 2023/24 - 2024/25	% Change
Total Fires	4784	Increased	23%
Total Deliberate Fires	4051	Increased	25%
Deliberate Primary Fires	522	Increased	19%
Deliberate Secondary Fires	3529	Increased	26%
Accidental Dwelling Fires	168	Decreased	-11%
Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities	1	-	-
Accidental Dwelling Fire Injuries	8	Decreased	-20%

SAFER HOMES

- **64% coverage across the Brigade area**
- **6,988 smoke alarms fitted**
- **Over 21,797 visits completed between April and March 2025**
- **3,226 referrals to external agencies for assistance**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In February 2025, the Brigade published an article highlighting the top five causes of house fires across the Brigade area during the period from 1 April to 31 December 2024. A total of 130 incidents were recorded, with the leading causes identified as follows:

1. Combustible items too close to heat sources – 23 incidents
2. Faulty equipment or appliances – 16 incidents
3. Cooking-related incidents – 15 incidents
4. Careless handling – 14 incidents
5. Other causes (e.g. pets starting fires, knocking over candles, accidentally turning on cookers) – 13 incidents

By sharing this vital information, the Brigade aims to raise awareness within local communities and encourage the adoption of simple safety measures to help reduce the risk of fires in the home.

HMICFRS Inspection

The Service's performance was assessed across 11 key areas, receiving 'Requires Improvement' in three areas, 'Adequate' ratings in four and 'Good' ratings in four others. The outcome is positive for the Service and will be supported by a clear action plan to address the recommendations.

Chief Fire Officer Peter Rickard said:

"I welcome the findings of our latest HMICFRS inspection, and I want to take this opportunity to thank every single member of staff for their continued dedication, professionalism, and pride in the work we do. I accept the HMICFRS findings in full and am pleased that the positivity of our staff and our commitment to keeping our communities safe has been recognised."

"While we are proud of the areas where we are performing well, we fully acknowledge the areas identified for improvement. We will be producing an action plan to address these and many of the actions will form part of our new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which we are currently developing. We remain committed to learning, evolving, and supporting both our staff and communities even more effectively."

HOTSPOT DATA

- 5 wards were the highest for all fire incidents and cumulatively accounted for 19% of fires across the Brigade area
- 3 of the 5 wards are in Middlesbrough and 2 in Redcar & Cleveland district.

Ward	Number of Fires
Grangetown	222
South Bank	192
Longlands and Beechwood	173
Central	172
Berwick Hills & Pallister	168

SERVICE INFORMATION

Safer Homes

We offer Safer Homes Visits face to face, over the phone or virtual via TEAMS/ZOOM. For more details contact 01429 874063.

Advocates

We have a team of advocates and Home Safety Officers with special training to support vulnerable adults in our community. To find out more email advocates@clevelandfire.gov.uk

Fire Education

Our fire education team work with youngsters who are at risk of starting fires to educate them about the dangers and consequences of fires. To find out more email fsi@clevelandfire.gov.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RANGE OF SERVICES WE OFFER VISIT
www.clevelandfire.gov.uk or call 01429 872311