



DART Newsletter No 5

May 2019

Challenging times in more ways than one.



Change is always challenging.

Some of you may have noted that the number of call outs that have been responded to has dropped. This is due to two recent changes:

Southwestern Ambulance Service now only dispatch fire-fighter co-responders to Cat 1 calls. These are "An immediate response to a life threatening condition, such as cardiac or respiratory arrest" these represent approximately 8% of ambulance call outs.

Cat 2 calls which are "emergency" calls are no longer serviced by the Fire Service these represented approximately 60% of ambulance call outs. These changes reflect an Ambulance Service decision and have nothing to do with the Fire Service. This represents a significant reduction, of over 80%, in the number of activations.

The other factor is that we only have four co-responding fire-fighters now. This reduces their time available "on call" which further reduces the number of activations.

Given these changes DART are working actively with the FB and other bodies to explore the possibility of appointing Community First Responders and understand and resolve any issues that might hold up implementing such a scheme. We will report again as soon as possible.

There are also some technological advances in the pipeline which will be introduced in the near future that we are trying to help shape to better serve rural communities like ours. More news on this as it develops further.

Recruitment

There remains an on-going and urgent need for additional fire-fighters. Anyone who is interested in becoming a fire fighter please let Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue know!

If you are interested in becoming a Community First Responder please let us know, we will support you all the way.

Fundraising

DART continues to be well supported by the community with events and donations. I am forever grateful for the support that the local communities give DART. Fundraising carries on all the time to keep this service running. We are now moving to a time of change which will involve some additional and unexpected costs. We are in a position to manage these changes thanks to your continued support. Please don't stop.

Thank you to our fire-fighters & to you all again for your continued support.

Together we are all helping to save lives .

Phil French DART Chairman