



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

The cover features a large graphic consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle shows a blurred image of a fire truck with its lights on. The right circle shows a night view of a city skyline with illuminated buildings. A horizontal bar with a red, green, blue, and yellow gradient passes through the center of the circles. The title 'Quarterly Performance Report' is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the graphic.

Quarterly Performance Report

Scottish Borders

Quarter 2 2014/15 (1st July – 30th September)

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INTRODUCTION

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within the Scottish Borders between 1st July 2014 – 30th September 2014. The aims of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Scottish Borders are to reduce fire deaths throughout the area and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for Scottish Borders, five priorities, actions and outcomes are identified

- 1. Reduction of dwelling fires**
- 2. Reduction of fire casualties and fatalities**
- 3. Reduction of deliberate fire setting (not including dwellings)**
- 4. Reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals**
- 5. Reduction in road traffic collisions**

QUARTER TWO OUTCOMES

1. Dwelling Fires

Accidental

There were 17 Accidental Dwelling Fires during this reporting period, this is a decrease of 5 incidents when compared to the same period during 2013.

Deliberate

There were no Deliberate Dwelling Fires during this reporting period, this is a decrease when compared to the same period during 2013.

2. Fire Casualties/Fatalities

There were no fire fatalities and 4 fire casualties from accidental dwelling fires during this reporting period.

3. Deliberate Fires (not including dwellings)

There were 33 deliberate fires that did not involve a dwelling during this reporting period, this is a decrease of 5 incidents when compared with the same period during 2013. This category includes all deliberate secondary fires.

4. Road Traffic Collisions

There were 21 Road Traffic Collisions during this reporting period, a decrease of 4 compared to this quarter in 2013.

5. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

There were 227 Unwanted Fire Signals during this reporting period, a decrease of 27 incidents when compared to the same period during 2013.

Response & Resilience

OBJECTIVE 1: REDUCTION IN DWELLING FIRES

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Definition: Building occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. In 2000, the definition of a dwelling was widened to include any non-permanent structure used solely as a dwelling, such as caravans, houseboats etc. Caravans, boats etc. not used as a permanent dwelling are shown according to the type of property. Accidental includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.

Accidental Dwelling Fires	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	26	48	17	39	-9
East Berwickshire Ward	3	4	2	4	-1
Galashiels and District Ward	3	8	4	7	+1
Hawick and Denholm Ward	3	4	1	5	-2
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	1	2	4	4	+3
Jedburgh and District Ward	1	2	2	2	+1
Kelso and District Ward	3	7	1	1	-2
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	3	3	3	6	
Mid Berwickshire Ward	3	7	0	4	-3
Selkirkshire Ward	0	1	0	3	
Tweeddale East Ward	3	5	0	1	-3
Tweeddale West Ward	3	5	0	2	-3

The above table shows the number of accidental dwelling fires in this reporting period compared to the same period last year. Overall there was a decrease of nine in relation to the same period last year. It is pleasing to note the reductions in Tweeddale East, West and Kelso wards. The increase of three in the Hawick and Hermitage was a result of cooking related fires with minimal damage to the affected properties. Four of the above fires occurred in Self-contained sheltered housing accommodation. The most serious fire occurred in the Kelso and District Ward resulting in substantial damage to a bungalow in Sprouston.

ACTION:

Community safety engagement activity is carried directly after or within twenty four hours of a dwelling fire occurring. This work is carried out by operational crews supported by the Community Action Team. High risk premises including sheltered housing accommodation will continue to be targeted by local staff as part of education and engagement activities.

Deliberate Dwelling Fires

Deliberate Dwelling Fires	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	2	3	0	2	-2
East Berwickshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Galashiels and District Ward	1	1	0	1	-1
Hawick and Denholm Ward	0	0	0	0	
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	0	0	0	1	
Jedburgh and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Kelso and District Ward	0	1	0	0	
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	0	0	0	0	
Mid Berwickshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Selkirkshire Ward	1	1	0	0	-1
Tweeddale East Ward	0	0	0	0	
Tweeddale West Ward	0	0	0	0	

There have been no Deliberate Dwelling Fires in this quarter and overall this means a reduction of two from the corresponding period last year.

ACTION:

The reduction of Deliberate Dwelling Fires continues to be a priority within the Scottish Borders. Partnership work is key to this with operational crews, Community Action Teams and the Local Authority Liaison Officer working closely alongside partner agencies to tackle issues like anti-social behaviour and disposal of inappropriately stored waste materials that are common contributory factors to this type of incident.

OBJECTIVE 2: REDUCTION IN FIRE CASUALTIES AND FATALITIES

Fire Fatalities

Definition: A person whose death is attributed to a fire is counted as a fatality even if the death occurred weeks or months later.

Fire Fatalities From Accidental Dwelling Fires	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	1	1	0	0	-1
East Berwickshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Galashiels and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Hawick and Denholm Ward	0	0	0	0	
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	0	0	0	0	
Jedburgh and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Kelso and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	1	1	0	0	-1
Mid Berwickshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Selkirkshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Tweeddale East Ward	0	0	0	0	
Tweeddale West Ward	0	0	0	0	

The above table shows there were no fire fatalities in dwelling houses in this reporting period resulting in a decrease of one from the corresponding period last year.

ACTION:

The reduction of fire fatalities will continue to be a priority in the Scottish Borders. This will be achieved through a proactive partnership approach in order to target those in local communities most at risk from fire.

Non-Fatal Fire Casualties as a Result of Accidental Dwelling Fires

Definition: Total number of non-fatal casualties, injured as a direct result of a fire attended by the service. Includes those who received first aid at the scene and those who were recommended to go for a precautionary check. Does not include injuries to fire service personnel.

Non-Fatal Fire Casualties From Accidental Dwelling Fires	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	16	18	4	14	-12
East Berwickshire Ward	0	0	0	2	
Galashiels and District Ward	2	0	0	0	-2
Hawick and Denholm Ward	0	0	0	2	
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	0	0	0	0	
Jedburgh and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Kelso and District Ward	0	0	0	0	
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	2	0	4	4	+2
Mid Berwickshire Ward	8	2	0	6	-8
Selkirkshire Ward	0	0	0	0	
Tweeddale East Ward	2	0	0	0	-2
Tweeddale West Ward	2	0	0	0	-2

The table above relates to the number of injuries members of the public have sustained in accidental dwelling fires. In this reporting period, there has been a reduction overall of 12 non-fatal fire casualties in accidental dwelling fires when compared to the same period last year. All four casualties occurred in the Leaderdale and Melrose ward although it should be noted that only two were slightly injured with both requiring medical attention. All casualties were a result of small cooking related fires.

ACTION:

The reduction of non-fatal fire casualties will continue to be a priority in the Scottish Borders. This will be achieved through a proactive partnership approach in order to target those in local communities most at risk from fire.

OBJECTIVE 3: REDUCTION OF DELIBERATE FIRE SETTING (NOT INCLUDING DWELLINGS)

Definition: Where a fire is started deliberately (but not necessarily with malicious intent)

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	38	50	33	64	-5
East Berwickshire Ward	2	3	0	1	-2
Galashiels and District Ward	5	9	7	12	+2
Hawick and Denholm Ward	3	6	4	8	+1
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	5	5	2	5	-3
Jedburgh and District Ward	4	6	2	4	-2
Kelso and District Ward	4	10	2	3	-2
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	4	7	2	5	-2
Mid Berwickshire Ward	4	5	5	6	+1
Selkirkshire Ward	4	5	3	9	-1
Tweeddale East Ward	3	4	3	5	
Tweeddale West Ward	0	0	3	6	+3

The table above relates to deliberate fire incidents including secondary fires. Overall there has been a reduction of five from the corresponding period last year with many wards showing a decrease in incidents of this type. Galashiels and Tweeddale West Wards have the most noticeable increases and as with other areas the main types of incidents being heath, scrubland and litter fires.

ACTIONS:

Incidences of deliberate secondary fires are closely monitored by Community Action Teams and where required appropriate prevention tactics applied.

The Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work with the police, safer communities, other partners and community groups to reduce fire vandalism and other deliberate fire setting across the Scottish Borders

OBJECTIVE 4: REDUCTION IN ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Definition: When a road vehicle collides with another vehicle, pedestrian, animal, road debris, or other stationary obstruction, such as a tree or utility pole.

Road Traffic Collisions	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	25	39	21	45	-4
East Berwickshire Ward	2	2	2	3	
Galashiels and District Ward	4	5	2	5	-2
Hawick and Denholm Ward	1	2	1	1	
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	0	1	1	1	+1
Jedburgh and District Ward	5	7	1	4	-4
Kelso and District Ward	1	1	3	3	+2
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	4	6	3	5	-1
Mid Berwickshire Ward	2	4	0	2	-2
Selkirkshire Ward	1	2	1	2	
Tweeddale East Ward	3	5	3	8	
Tweeddale West Ward	2	4	4	11	+2

The table above relates to the number of Road Traffic Collisions in the Scottish Borders. The Service attended twenty-one incidents which means a reduction of four from the corresponding period last year. Five incidents required the Service to extricate casualties from the vehicles using hydraulic rescue equipment.

Deaths and Injuries from Road Traffic Collisions

Deaths & Injuries from Road Traffic Collisions	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	30	43	10	24	-20
Fatality	2	2	0	0	-2
Injured (incl rescue with injury)	28	41	10	24	-18

The table above relates to the number of injuries and fatalities because of a Road Traffic Collision, it is encouraging to note there has been a significant decrease of 20 individuals for this reporting period, when compared to last year. Two casualties were of a serious nature with one RTC on the A1107 responsible for three casualties alone. There were no fatalities for this period.

ACTION:

The Fire and Rescue Service form part of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collisions and associate fatalities and casualties. This involves targeting high-risk groups such as young drivers, this is achieved in various ways including inputs to educational establishments such as Borders College, Secondary Schools and youth groups.

OBJECTIVE 5: REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

Definition: Where the FRS attends a location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discovers that no such incident exists, or existed.

Unwanted Fire Signals	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	254	469	227	437	-27
East Berwickshire Ward	13	25	17	39	+4
Galashiels and District Ward	41	79	27	53	-14
Hawick and Denholm Ward	16	37	14	25	-2
Hawick and Hermitage Ward	24	43	24	43	
Jedburgh and District Ward	11	28	9	16	-2
Kelso and District Ward	19	28	18	30	-1
Leaderdale and Melrose Ward	30	59	32	64	+2
Mid Berwickshire Ward	14	23	12	32	-2
Selkirkshire Ward	24	45	32	50	+8
Tweeddale East Ward	13	28	12	20	-1
Tweeddale West Ward	49	74	30	65	-19

The table above indicates there has been a decrease in the number of unwanted fire signals in this reporting period, when compared to the corresponding period last year. The increases in both East Berwickshire and Selkirkshire Wards are mainly attributable to actuation of automatic fire alarm systems in residential properties.

ACTION:

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are often avoidable and can cause an unnecessary burden, financially and logistically, on FRS resources.

The Fire and Rescue Service will continue to engage with duty holders of premises who regularly suffer from Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The Scottish Fire and Rescue new UFAS policy is scheduled to go live in December 2014, this policy will be applied and enforced, where required, by Fire Safety Enforcement Teams in order to assist repeat offenders reduce the amount of UFAS's occurring in their premises. Through the new policy, Fire Safety staff will work closely with duty holders offering advice and support whilst highlighting best practice regarding UFAS reduction.

VIOLENCE TO STAFF/CREWS

Definition: Incidents where it has been recorded that there was an attack on FRS personnel travelling to/from or at the incident.

Violence To Crews	2013		2014		
	Q2	Total	Q2	Total	
	0	0	0	0	
Objects thrown at firefighters/appliances	0	0	0	0	
Physical abuse	0	0	0	0	
Verbal abuse	0	0	0	0	

The above table shows there has been no instances of violence to crews in this reporting period.

ACTION:

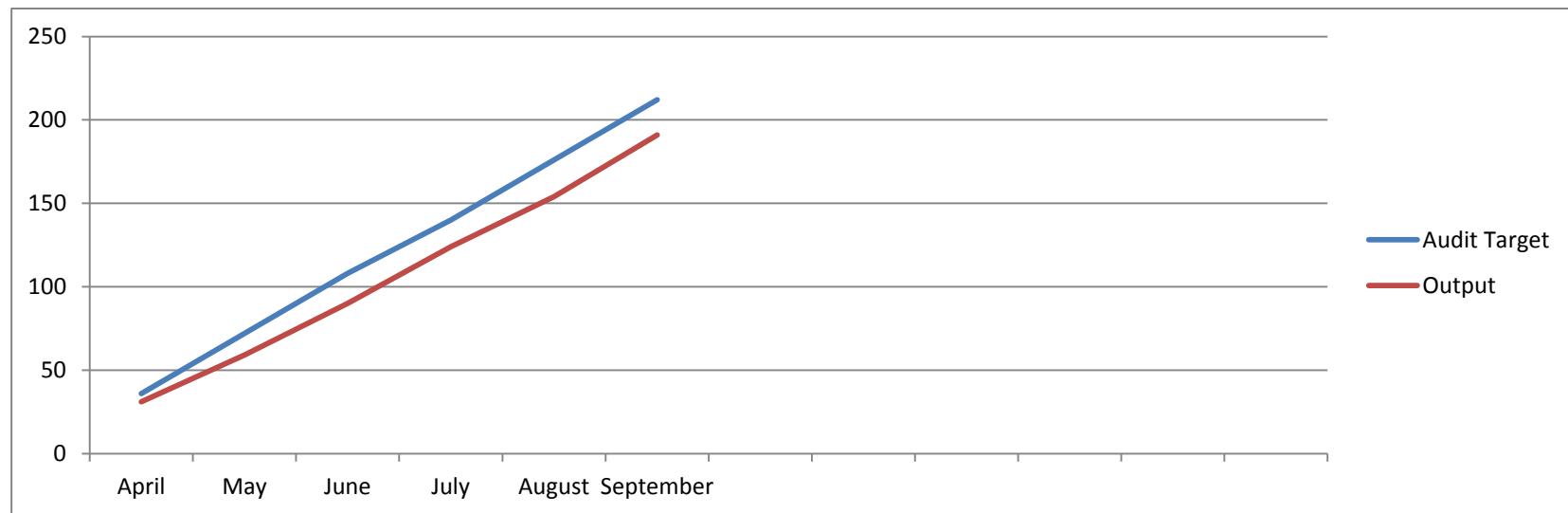
Violence to crews is a priority for all station commanders within Scottish Borders. Officers and crews work closely with police colleagues to react to incidents when they occur, but also carry out preventative work within schools in areas where this type of incident may have historically been an issue.

Prevention & Protection Activities

Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The figures represent the audit workloads delivered by the Scottish Borders Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEOs). Following the SFRS Enforcement Framework, local deployment ensures compliance for relevant premises in terms of the Fire Scotland Act (2005) and associated Fire Safety Regulations. Although slightly off target, performance is steadily improving and SFRS within Scottish Borders are confident that the annual target will be achieved. One of the primary reasons for being off target at this present time, has been the introduction of a new national database and recording and administrative system.

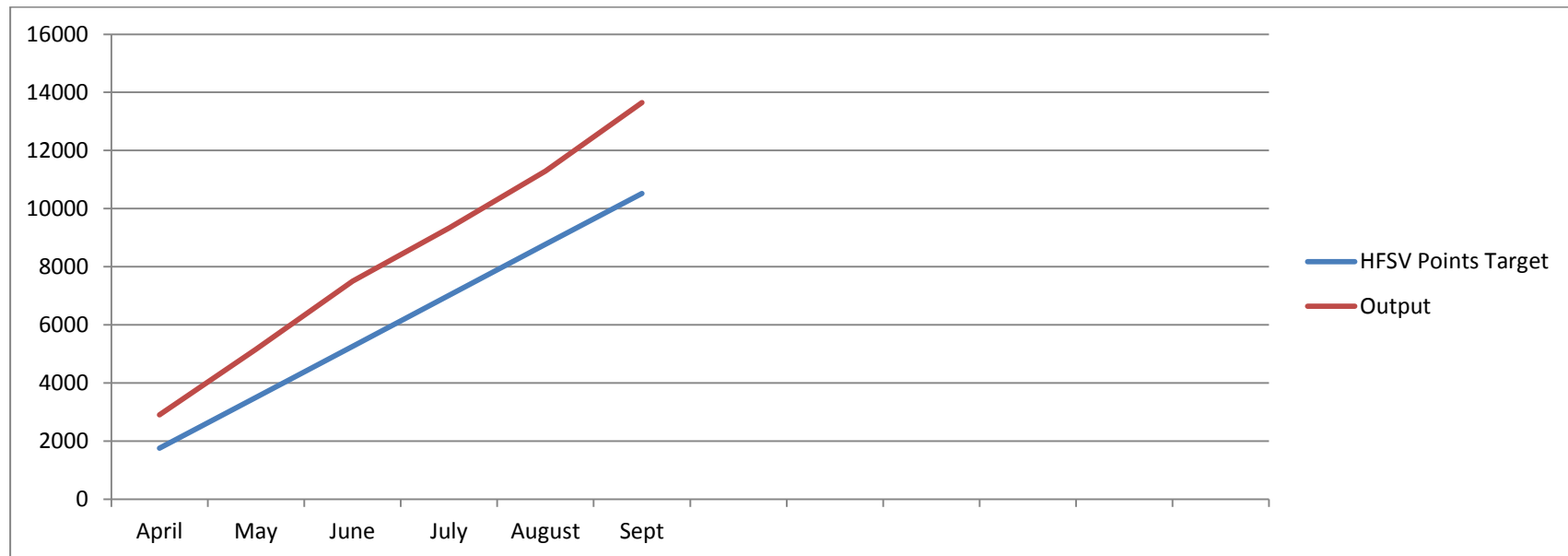
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target:	36	72	108	140	176	212							
Completed:	31	59	90	124	154	191							



Home Fire Safety Visits

The delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) is the corner stone of the SFRS Community Safety Engagement framework. By visiting households and providing fire safety advice and smoke alarms the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. To target the highest risk households across the Scottish Borders a points allocation and associated targets have been set (24 points per high, 8 per medium, 4 per low risk visit). This will ensure valuable resources are put to use with greatest effect. This quarter has seen us maintain our points total ahead of target.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Target	1754	3508	5262	7016	8770	10524							
Completed	2900	5156	7508	9328	11288	13648							



Community Safety Engagement

ACTIVITY	SCOTTISH BORDERS
Enhanced Home Safety Visits (No. of households/occupiers visited)	16
Visits to Schools	5
Nursery Visits	1
Road Safety Education (No. of Talks)	1
Firesetters Intervention Programme (No. of sessions with youths)*	1
Community Safety Talks / Attendance at Community Events**	85
Crucial Crew***	1180
Fire Safety Inspections (CGA) in Tenement Stairs	0

Definitions

*A one to one counselling session with a young person to discuss the consequences of being involved in wilful fire raising.

**Comprises non-school events including: appliance visits to community groups (fetes, galas etc); group visits to fire stations; specific campaigns (Stair Aware, Cooking Safety, etc); and Community Fire-fighter talks/stall events.

***Crucial Crew programme runs only in school Autumn term.

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT) in the Scottish Borders core work centres around the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with the key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of the local communities at high risk from fire and to achieve effective outcomes in helping reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires. Fire raising awareness sessions presented by the team to partner agency practitioners have been and continue to be successful in promoting HFSVs and encouraging agencies to make referrals using the SFRS CSET online booking system.

The Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) has been involved in a joint initiative with the Scottish Borders Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) which aims to increase knowledge amongst SFRS operational personnel on alcohol awareness and improve the process for reciprocal referrals between alcohol services and SFRS. All Whole-time operational personnel have now received training sessions from the ADP. The ADP website has been updated with an SFRS web link and HFSV referrals from alcohol services workers are increasing. This initiative is designed to help reduce the fire risk to clients who use the alcohol support services as well as equipping SFRS with information and knowledge they can pass on at incidents or during HFSVs.

Youth engagement and CAT work with local primary and high schools in the Scottish Borders has been intensive during this quarter with on-going support of the annual events including the Crucial Crew which 1180 primary pupils attend Eildon Mill, Tweedbank over a three week period for interactive learning scenarios on fire safety and personal safety. The CAT provides Firesharp inputs in addition to promoting the Go Safe Scotland website as an important fire safety educational resource. Further engagement work involves the "Safe T" roadshows delivered to a number of high schools throughout the local communities with a fire safety workshop which links into the seasonal Thematic Action Plans.

The LALO has been closely involved in a process involving multi agency response and safety planning around high risk domestic abuse cases which is based on the model designed by the national charity Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse(CAADA). Regular multi agency meetings are held to identify the risks to the subjects of these cases and decide upon actions to be taken to mitigate the risks and the SFRS is a core agency in this process, able to provide HFSVs as part of the overall safety plan. This involvement has contributed towards both raising the profile of the SFRS and highlighting the work the local CAT can facilitate to help improve the safety of people living in difficult circumstances amongst the local community.