



**TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE  
AREA FORUM  
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 21ST  
FEBRUARY, 2017**

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**Please find attached Item No. 11 in respect of the  
agenda for the above meeting**

11.	<b>Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue Service</b> (Pages 1 - 4)  Update report by Russell Bell, Station Commander, detailing ongoing work and initiatives in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area. (Copy attached).	10 mins
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## **Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum February 2017. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

**Station Manager Russell Bell.**

### **Purpose of the Report;**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for the month of January 2017.

### **Service Delivery activity in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area.**

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	3	1 x chimney 2 x dwelling (accidental)	0
Fire, non-domestic	2	2 x car (accidental)	0
Fire- Open	3	1 x refuse 2 x woodland	0
Special Service	3	1 x Co responder 1 x effect entry 1 x hazmat (gas leak)	0
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	15	Non Deliberate, mixture of domestic and commercial properties.	0

### Water Rescue training

Hawick Wholtime crews have completed their water based, swift water rescue training and now have all staff trained to enter the water, and a proportional number also trained as boat operators. The station has also now received a dedicated, fully kitted, Mercedes Sprinter van with towing trailer & boat to allow a full deployment to a water rescue incident.

A live status has now been achieved at Hawick as a Water Rescue Station. This is a national asset, available to mobilise to any part of the country, or over the Border if it is requested.

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The current specialist equipment –the high volume pump is destined to leave and will be repositioned in Dundee as part of the specialist resource review. Training has not been completed at the destination, so Hawick will service both these specialist resources until that time.

### Flood response training

Hawick Retained crew have received flood first responder training. This skill set equips the staff to be effective during flooding incidents such as assessing pumping out flooded premises, and assisting with rescues during low level flooding.

### 5 Watch Duty System

In April 2017, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will introduce a common duty system throughout all Wholetime stations in Scotland. The 5 watch duty system is currently in use within the majority of the West Service Delivery Area and will now be rolled out nationally. Staff figures at Hawick Station will reduce from a total of 28 to 25 with 5 Watches of 5\*\*, replacing 4 Watches of 7. The new system provides a more flexible and effective use of staff and will not affect the number of staff who day to day attend operational incidents on the fire engine or as part of a water rescue team.

\*\*A 'buffer' number of staff (totalling 3) will also be retained at Hawick Station as the new system is introduced, recognising future planning to counteract upcoming retirements.

### **Service Transformation**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service realise as a public Service that we need to diversify and innovate as the needs of our communities become sharper into focus.

One of these focus areas is out of hospital cardiac arrest, where the survival rate is very low if no immediate assistance is available.

Following guidance from the Scottish Ambulance Service, Hawick was deemed a suitable location to trial\*\* the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services out of hospital cardiac arrest response.

Crews (both Whole time and Retained Duty System) have received enhanced joint training, (focussing on cardio pulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator use) from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service training staff and Scottish Ambulance Service partners which allows a response to local cardiac arrest emergencies, where appropriate. Hawick is now a 'live asset' and is on standby to meet the needs of our local communities.

\*\*The extended trial period has now finished. A report has been passed to SFRS Strategic Leadership Team with recommendations that trial stations continue to offer the 'out of hospital cardiac arrest' service and that it is rolled out to all stations in Scotland via a 3 year delivery plan.

### **Prevention and Protection activity.**

Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years has been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar

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provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity, which is ongoing at the moment within the Teviot & Liddesdale area;

- Following 3 road traffic collision fatalities on the A698 in under 3 years, Green Watch (Hawick) have been working with Borders College- Hawick Campus, to provide road safety awareness training. The sessions were both technical (classroom based consequences lecture), and practical, with a demonstration of a road traffic collision scene detailing our responsibilities, actions and techniques.
- Driving Into the Future- is an initiative aimed at educating new/ potential drivers. PowerPoint presentation in the classroom is followed by practical education with a crashed car in conjunction with local Scottish Fire and Rescue Service crews. This initiative has been running at Hawick High School and has received encouraging feedback from both students and staff.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The visits provide the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life are provided as part of this free service. Freephone number for this service is 0800 0731 999.
- Firesharp is an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within our local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention.
- Crucial Crew is the practical follow up to the P6 educational input. All P7 pupils in the area attend a multi-agency event at Tweedbank where they are placed in real life scenarios and guided on the appropriate safe actions.
- Fire Safety Audits provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engages with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness.
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing 'false alarms'. It provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number- operationally, this can result in a reduction in the number of fire engines which will attend a 'repeat offender'.
- Fire Case Study and Adult & Child Protection Policies ensure multi agency involvement is provided for the support and protection for our higher risk members of the community.

### Thematic Action Planning

The Prevention & Protection (P&P) departments of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service initiate thematic plans throughout the year aimed at making our communities safer.

The Winter season thematic period is current and during this thematic period, P&P management will be required to report our level of success against the following indicators:

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(Reduce the number of deliberate primary\* and secondary\*\* fires)

- Reduce the overall number and severity of accidental fires in the home.
- Reduce the overall number and severity of accidental fire casualties and fatalities.
- Minimise the number of accidental fires and fire casualties in the home involving persons over 60 years of age.
- Target home fire visits (HFSV) at high risk households.
- Facilitate multi-agency partnership working to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable persons.
- Provide relevant public information and advice relating to winter safety.
- Highlight the increase risk from fire and accidents over the festive period due to alcohol consumption.

*\*Primary fires include buildings (including mobile homes) which are fit for occupation and those under construction. Caravans & vehicles (not derelict). Outdoor storage, plant and machinery. Agricultural and forestry premises & property.*

*\*\*Secondary fires include single derelict buildings. Grassland including heath, hedges, railway embankments and single trees. Intentional straw or stubble burning. Outdoor structures including lamp-posts, traffic signs, playground furniture, hoardings etc. Refuse and refuse containers. Derelict vehicles*

### Multi Ward Operating Plan

The Multi Ward Operating Plan for Teviot & Liddesdale, covering the Hawick & Hermitage/ Hawick & Denholm Wards is available. The plan sets out the priorities and objectives for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within the area. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Teviot & Liddesdale to ensure we are all 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland'. The plan can be accessed electronically via the following link;

[Http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx)

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