

# Public Document Pack



## BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2015

A MEETING of the BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM will be held in the COUNCIL OFFICES,  
NEWTOWN STREET, DUNS on THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2015 at 6.30 pm

J. J. WILKINSON,  
Clerk to the Council,  
2 December 2015

<b>BUSINESS</b>		
10.	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.</b> (Pages 1 - 4)  Quarterly update report by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.	10 mins

### NOTES

1. Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.
2. Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.

---

**Membership of Committee:-** Councillors M. J. Cook (Chairman), D. Moffat (Vice-Chairman), J. Campbell, J. A. Fullarton, J. Greenwell and F. Renton

Community Councils:-

Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston

Ayton

Burnmouth

Chirnside

Cocksburnpath

Coldingham

Coldstream and District

Duns

Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome

Eyemouth

Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton

Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth

Gordon and Westruther

Grantshouse

Greenlaw and Hume

Hutton and Paxton

Lammermuir

Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham

Reston and Auchencrow

St Abbs

Swinton and Ladykirk

---

Please direct any enquiries to Pauline Bolson Tel (01835) 826503.

E-mail: [pbolson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:pbolson@scotborders.gov.uk)

---



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Area Forum 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

**(Station Manager Matt Acton)**

**Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015.

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

**Response & Resilience activity in the Berwickshire Area**

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House/Building	5	Cooker/pan of food alight x2, Outbuilding alight, Caravan alight, Inspection after fire.	
Fire- Open	8	Field Alight, Hedge Alight, Car Alight, Cables alight on open ground. Chimney fire x2	
Special Service	8	Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest x 2 * Road Traffic Collision, Clear fuel spillage.	3
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	21	Non Deliberate	

**\*Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial.**

A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest went live on 29th October 2015.

The trial will run at seven fire stations across Scotland, with three of these being in the Scottish Borders: Hawick, Lauder and Coldstream.

Firefighters at these stations have received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures that it has in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers.

If a fire service resource with a crew who are trained to provide high quality CPR and have a defibrillator is nearer to a potential cardiac arrest than a local Community First Responder team, then Ambulance Control will dispatch them at the same time as the ambulance crew, so that they can provide these life saving interventions while the ambulance is on it's way.

The trials are part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aims to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020.

**Partnership Working**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with key the Key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at High Risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to 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.

**Prevention and Protection**

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

Activity which is ongoing at the moment within the Berwickshire Ward area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staffs 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.
- 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.

## NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- 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 Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing 'false alarms', provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number. Legislation and enforcement Policy and Procedure for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals goes live on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014.
- From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 the SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of this policy has created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensures those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk are brought to the attention of Social Services. This has resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers. This period has resulted in eight adults being referred.
- Migrant Group proactive work with the group continues and has involved the Fire and Rescue Service, along with other partner agencies, attending Farne Salmon for a lunchtime workshop and promotion of Fire Safety.
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Working in collaboration with Borders College, Duns Fire Station is now used as a venue for English classes for the ESOL group of students. Eyemouth Fire Station is due to become a venue for the ESOL group early in 2016.
- European Restart a Heart Day This is a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF) set to give communities across Scotland the opportunity to learn life-saving skills. All 356 of SFRS's fire stations recently took delivery of a BHF-donated Call Push Rescue training kit and each station will now act as a base for local people to learn vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and potentially save someone's life if they go into cardiac arrest.

It takes just 30 minutes to learn CPR using the Call Push Rescue kit and it's taught by DVD so there's no need to organise a trainer. Community groups will be able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the DVD and practice with the kit.

Duns and Coldstream Fire Stations opened their doors to the public as part of European Restart a Heart Day on 16<sup>th</sup> October to offer lessons on life saving CPR skills.

- Thematic Action Plan  
We are currently focussing on the following areas of fire prevention activity through the Autumn Thematic Action plan through until the end of November;
- Student Safety (September)

## **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

- Electrical safety
- Chimney Safety
- Bonfire Safety (October, November)
- Older Vulnerable Persons (November)

We have worked closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as the four registered social landlords to promote these issues. Detailed festive fire safety information was provided for the council website and home fire safety public information articles were published in both Elder Voice and Scottish Borders Connect. The LALO is delivering a second series of fire safety awareness presentations to housing officers of the aforementioned landlords to reinvigorate the home fire safety visit referral process in order to continue improving partnership working, with particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable tenants.

The primary aims of this partnership activity are to help ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable persons throughout the community, and to seek to reduce the overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fire fatalities in homes.

### **Retained Duty system**

National recruitment campaign round three, which was launched in August 2015 for RDS Firefighters within the Scottish Borders East, is nearing completion. One candidate is currently being progressed for Coldstream Fire Station.

### **Local Fire and Rescue Plan**

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 have been approved following its consultation period. The local plan sets out the priorities for the Fire and Rescue Service, and we will continue to work with our community planning partners and local communities to make the most efficient use of resources and contribute towards the shared priorities and actions within the community planning partnership and community safety arrangements. The subsequent Ward plan 2015/16 for Berwickshire is now complete and available to elected members.

Station Manager Matt Acton  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Duns Fire Station  
Tel 01361 884504  
Email: [matt.acton@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:matt.acton@firescotland.gov.uk)