



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Area Forum 2nd June 2016
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 3rd March 2016.

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	4	Cooking related/minor Caravan alight	2
Fire- Open	8	Car alight x3 Chimney fire x3 Refuse x2	
Special Service	10	Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest x 3 RTC x 3 Fuel leak x2 Person trapped in machinery	1 1
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	18	Non Deliberate	

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 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.

Command Officers within the Scottish Borders continue to attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings to ensure SFRS assist in the production of appropriate operational plans for special events taking place in the Scottish Borders.

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 now within the Berwickshire Ward area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. These free 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.
- **Living Safely in the Home.**

As part of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Reducing Inequalities Strategy, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Scottish Borders Safer Communities Team will jointly lead on the “Keeping People Safe” theme. Within this theme, it has been identified that older people are more likely to suffer an accident in the home resulting in an A&E admission to Hospital.

To put this into context recent figures indicate that in the Scottish Borders 64% of emergency admissions for adults were because of falls in the home. Further analysis shows that over 75% of these falls involved persons over 75 years of age. With an ageing population, this trend will only continue without increased prevention activities.

The SFRS have a proven record of prevention and reducing the risk of fire within the communities of Scotland. Through the SFRS Service Transformation project it has been identified that there exists an opportunity to broaden the traditional preventative role of a firefighter and develop a holistic approach to safety in the home. By adopting a collaborative approach with Community Partners, SFRS staff can fulfil a generic role capable of assessing all aspects of risk within the home including fire, slips, trips and falls. Development of the holistic approach, which will

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initially be trialled in the Cheviot area, has the potential to include other risks such as fuel poverty.

- 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.
- 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.
- We are developing a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection are fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings.
- Road Safety Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) have been delivering road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local Whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick.
- Crews from Duns and Coldstream recently took part in a multi-agency Young Drivers Initiative which took place at Charterhall, Greenlaw. This event gave the opportunity for 14-17 year olds from across the Scottish Borders to experience the controls of a car in 'try-drive' sessions and to experience vehicle handling through braking exercises in order to educate the next generation of road users.
- 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.
- In a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF), all 356 of SFRS's fire stations are equipped with 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 community groups are able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the training DVD, and practice with the kit.

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- **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.

Thematic Action Plan

Crews are actively involved in the Spring Thematic Action Plan which is currently underway and focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Wildfire
- Deliberate fires

The Summer Thematic Action Plan will be introduced at the end of June and will focus on the following areas;

- Wildfire
- Rubbish and refuse fires
- Outdoor safety

We work closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team, as well as local partnerships, to promote preventative work.

The LALO is in post within Scottish Borders Council HQ in order to improve partnership working, with a particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable members of society. 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.

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Retained Duty system

A national recruitment campaign is currently under way for RDS Firefighters within the Scottish Borders. There are currently vacancies at Duns, Eyemouth and Coldstream.

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 for Berwickshire is now complete and available to elected members and is available within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Web page.

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