



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Eildon Area Forum 8th December 2016
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Eildon Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 20th August 2016.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders five priorities 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 Eildon Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	3(-1) 6	3 occurred in single occupancy premises. 1 chimney fire	0
Fire- Open	6 11		0
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	19(-41) 29	Intervention continues with BGH	0
Special Service	13(-10) 16	RTC - 6 Effecting entry - 2 Flooding - 3 Animal rescue – 0 1 False alarm 1 Assist other agencies 5 Other e.g. remove item, etc	5 0 0 0 0 0 0

November figures are incomplete due the closeness of reporting period.

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) community action team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centres on creating referral pathways with partner agencies, the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy and Enhanced HFSV for

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those deemed most at risk. 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 local communities at high risk from fire and achieve positive outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

SFRS Command Officers continue to attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings to ensure SFRS assist in the production of appropriate Operational Plans for events within the Scottish Borders.

Prevention and Protection

Fire prevention and protection activity is 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 that is ongoing now within the Eildon area;

- SFRS staffs in all our local stations provide home fire safety visits all year round. These 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.
- Galashiels staff are delivering road safety awareness training to students from Borders College. This year on year initiative, during the first term of the new academic year targets young drivers and prospective drivers from across the entire Scottish Borders
- All SFRS stations are participating in the British Heart Foundation initiative- Call Push Rescue. Stations are providing free CPR training to the public on a monthly basis to build resilience in the community and to drive down the numbers of people who die from cardiac arrest.
- All stations will soon be involved in the SFRS Out Of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) project. Four pilots are running in the Scottish Borders at this time. Lauder Community Fire Station is part of the pilot programme along with Hawick, Coldstream and Jedburgh stations. This will see SFRS resources being deployed along with ambulance crews to assist with cardiac arrests. The project targets reducing the number of people who die from OHCA in Scotland by 1000 a year by 2020. The figure is currently at 3400 per year.
- SFRS working in partnership with TD1 and Community Learning Development successfully delivered the pilot diversionary project in Galashiels for youths through the summer holidays. This ran one day a week, and included inputs from partner agencies, and resulted in a recognised award for the participants. SFRS are exploring the potential benefits to individuals involved with the pilot through longer term mentoring
- 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.
- 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.

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- 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 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 Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). 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.

As we move into the winter the seasonal community safety calendar and thematic action plan will focus our activities on the following areas;

- Winter and Festive Safety
- Chimney Safety, Stoves and Carbon Monoxide
- Use of Candles and Tea Lights
- Alcohol, Cooking and Smoking
- Vulnerable Persons

We will work closely with our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as local partnerships to promote preventative work as well as inter agency solutions.

The LALO is in post within Council HQ in order to continue improving partnership working, with 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.

Retained Duty system

A national recruitment campaign is on-going for RDS firefighters at identified stations within the Scottish Borders.

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 has been published. The local plan sets out the priorities for the Scottish 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 Multi Ward Operating Plan for Eildon 2015/16 is complete and available within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Web page.

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