



**Berwickshire Area Forum 2nd March 2017
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 1st December 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	10	House x 2 Deliberate x 2 Chimney fire x6	0
Fire- Open	8	Grass/woodland/refuse	0
Special Service	9	RTC x3 Effect entry x 2 Medical x 2 Hazmat x 1 Flooding x 1	3 casualties. 1 fatality.
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	20	Non deliberate- mixture of residential and commercial	0

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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 (LSITH).**

The LSITH initiative is a collaborative approach with community partners and SFRS staff, who fulfil a generic role capable of assessing all aspects of risk within the home including fire, slips, trips and falls and fuel poverty.

There have been a number of referrals made by the SFRS to community partners and an evaluation of this trial is now underway. After this evaluation, it is the aim of the SFRS and other partners within the LSITH group to rollout this work to another locality area (identity still to be confirmed) with the aspiration to have it mainstreamed throughout the Scottish Borders.

Fire crews have been trained to assess the environment of the home for signs of Fuel Poverty, looking at that persons home environment for example are they living in the one room, house is cold, size of property is it single occupancy etc. A referral process is in place for those identified as being at risk from fuel poverty where they are signposted to Heat Energy Scotland, where further support and guidance on fuel poverty is provided.

Examples of fuel poverty identified include; use of candles and propane cylinders to provide heating in the home, which present a fire risk.

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- **Farm Fire Safety**

We are currently looking at new ways to engage with the farming community to provide advice and guidance regarding farm fire safety and security. Work has taken place in partnership with Police Scotland, the NFU, NFU Mutual and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, where we have identified a number of positive engagement opportunities.

These include farm walk and talks, attending agricultural shows, markets and auctions, and engagement with young members of the farming community.

As part of this initiative, Reston Young Farmers will attend Duns Fire Station on Wednesday 22nd March for a tour of the fire station and to take part in presentations from firefighters and colleagues from Police Scotland. A review will take place following this, with a view to rolling this out across the YAC clubs across the Borders.

- 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.
- 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

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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.

- **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 its 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

The Winter Thematic Action Plan has recently closed and an evaluation of this is now underway. This focussed on the following areas of fire safety;

- Festive fire safety
- Electric blankets
- Portable heaters
- Candles

Crews will now move on to the Spring Thematic Action Plan which focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Grass and Wildland fires
- Deliberate fires

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

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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 (RDS)

RDS recruitment is progressing well across the Berwickshire area and applications have been received for Duns (2), Eyemouth (4) and Coldstream (3).

These applicants are at various stages in the recruitment process. Two candidates have progressed to a formal offer of employment and they start their initial training course in March.

There are still vacancies, and anyone interested in joining are welcome to meet the local crews during their weekly training nights, which take place as follows:

Duns Fire Station:	Monday, 1900-2100hrs
Eymouth Fire Station:	Monday, 1830-2030hrs
Coldstream Fire Station:	Thursday, 1900-2100hrs

Further details on vacancies are available on the My Job Scotland website:

www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/emergency-services

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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