



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

**Tweeddale Area Forum 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
**Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

**Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Tweeddale Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

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 Tweeddale Area**

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	4	1x accidental dwelling 3x chimney	0
Fire- Other	15	2x car 13x woodland/refuse	0
Special Service	10	3 x medical responder 4x RTC 1x effect entry 2x hazmats	4 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	53	Various domestic & industrial	0

**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 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.

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### 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 Tweeddale area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide home fire safety visits (HFSV) all year round. SFRS is currently working with partners within Scottish Borders Council on a project to adapt the HFSV to incorporate unintentional harm in the home.
- Seven pupils from Peebles High School were identified and undertook a 6 days over 6 weeks development programme focused on Leadership and Wellbeing. This programme successfully concluded on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March at a demonstration and presentation day held at Galashiels Community Fire Station, attended by elected members, parents, friends, school and education dept. staff. An additional outcome of the programme was the delivery of a Resilience Day, planned and delivered by S3 pupils, which involved multiagency participation. It is hoped this will become part of the curriculum moving forward.
- All stations will be engaging communities with the Summer Thematic Action Plan. Targeting Road Safety, summer fire safety, deliberate fire setting, antisocial behaviour, water safety. They plan to facilitate this by open days, community safety talks / events, school engagement sessions etc.
- Pupils from Peebles High School recently attended a “Drivewise” road safety event at Charterhall airfield near Duns, sponsored by John Cleland and supported by SFRS, Police Scotland and IAM Roadsmart.
- All Tweeddale RDS Stations were involved in a successful multi pump exercise at a Chemical Production site in Walkerburn on the 25<sup>th</sup> March to test our operational preparedness.
- All stations are participating in the British Heart Foundation initiative- “Call Push Rescue”.

We have supported the recent “Save a Life Scotland” awareness and training day held at Priorsford Primary School. 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. The project is aimed at reducing the number of people who die from OHCA in Scotland by 1000 by 2020. The figure is currently at 3400 per year.

- 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 crews within the Scottish Borders referring over 50 times in the last year, with the aim of 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 summer the seasonal community safety calendar and thematic action plan will focus our activities on the following areas;

- Deliberate fire setting / fire related antisocial behaviour
- Summer Safety
- Water Safety
- Wildfire & outdoor fire safety

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.

### **Retained Duty System (RDS)**

A national recruitment campaign is on-going for RDS firefighters at identified stations within the Scottish Borders. West Linton and Galashiels stations are currently recruiting staff. West Linton currently have three candidates within the recruitment process

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

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 sets out the priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

We have a statutory responsibility to publish a Local Fire and Rescue Plan. The plan aligns to the SFRS Strategic Plan and adds local context by reflecting priorities for the Scottish Borders. We are in the process of reviewing our 2014-17 Local Fire and Rescue Plan; this review (**addendum to this report**) will inform the planning process for the 2017-20 plan, produced late 2017.

We require your feedback on the plan as you reflect the needs of the community as well as highlighting priorities for the SFRS.

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