



**Eildon Locality Committee Report 22nd June 2017
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Eildon Area Forum regarding Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 9th 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 Eildon Area*

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	9	9x accidental dwelling	3
Fire- Other	29	27x woodland/refuse 1 x retail outlet 1x farm building	0
Special Service	15	2 x medical responder 3x animal rescue 2x effect entry 5x RTC 3X Flood/water rescue	2X (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	52	Various domestic & industrial	0

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

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 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 staff 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 academic year targets young drivers and prospective drivers from across the entire Scottish Borders
- SFRS staff from Galashiels & Community Action Team are supporting the Under 17s Borders Drivewise Project. This is being delivered over 14 days from April to October at Charterhall airfield near Duns. All 9 Borders secondary schools are participating. It is anticipated approximately 700 students will receive driver awareness and road safety education as a result of this initiative.
- Appliances from Galashiels Community Fire Station were involved in a successful multi pump exercise at a Chemical Production site in Walkerburn on the 25th March to test our operational preparedness.
- 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 requests basis, year round to build resilience in the community and to drive down the numbers of people who die from cardiac arrest.
- SFRS working in partnership with TD1 Youth Hub, Galashiels, and Community Learning and Development are planning the second delivery of the award winning diversionary initiative for 8 students over this summer break
- SFRS staff from Galashiels are continuing to mentor a young person identified from TD1 project 2016 to engage in direct mentoring in employability skills and vocational training, attending Galashiels every Tuesday night with the retained crew.
- 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.
- 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 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.

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. We are currently seeking to recruit RDS firefighters at Galashiels Community Fire Station.

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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