



**Cheviot Locality Committee 13th September 2017
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

(Station Manager Matt Acton)

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Cheviot Locality Committee on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last report to the forum on 21st June 2017.

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 Cheviot Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	3	2x private 1x sheltered housing	0
Fire- other	4	3x crop/grass 1x barbeque	0
Special Service	7	4 x RTC 1 x effect entry 1 x lift persons fallen 1x advice only	2 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	23	Commercial/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 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 Cheviot 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.
- **Cheviot Youth Group Initiative-** Crews from Kelso Fire Station are taking part in an initiative to engage with the local Cheviot Youth Group at The Planet, Kelso. This initiative involves a series of visits and discussions around life in the fire service and will include valuable safety messages, including fire safety in the home, bonfire night safety, water safety, amongst other topics. It is also a great opportunity for the firefighters to become positive role models for the young people of Kelso.
- Kelso crews recently attended the Mass Pipe Band and Family Day at Floors Castle, where they provided a demonstration of rescuing a casualty from a road traffic collision. Watch Manager Garry Lees provided an informative running commentary of the rescue to the crowd. The crews also delivered CPR training to the public at this well attended event.
- **Living Safely in the Home-** 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.

- **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.

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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.

- 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.
- Fire crews are taking part in a multi-agency young driver's initiative called Drivewise at Charterhall, Greenlaw. This event gives 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.
- Road Safety Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) have been delivering road safety awareness to the Borders College campus in Hawick and in 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 Alarm 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.

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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.

Prior to March 2015, the survival rate from out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in the Scottish Borders was just four per cent, below the Scottish average of 7 to 10 per cent. Two years on, and through this partnership approach, the figure for the Borders has risen to 29 per cent.

Thematic Action Plan

Crews are currently engaged with the Summer Thematic Action Plan which focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Deliberate fires
- Summer Safety
- Water Safety
- Wildfire and 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.

Retained Duty system

Kelso and Jedburgh fire stations are both currently at full establishment.

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 will inform the planning process for the 2017-20 plan, which will be produced late 2017.

We welcome 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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