



**Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee- September 2017.
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

Station Manager Russell Bell.

Purpose of the Report;

The purpose of this report is to inform the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for the month of August 2017.

Service Delivery activity in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area.

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	1	1 x accidental	0
Fire- Other	2	2 x woodland/ grass/refuse	0
Special Service	5	2 x RTC 1 x effect entry 1 x flooding 1 x release person from bath	1 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	11	various domestic & industrial	N/A

Water Rescue training

Hawick Wholetime crews are trained to swift water rescue (technician) level with all staff competent to enter the water, and a proportional number also trained as boat operators. The station is provided with a fully kitted, Mercedes Sprinter van with towing trailer & boat to allow a full deployment to a water rescue incident. A live status has been achieved at Hawick as a Water Rescue Station. This is a not only a local, but a national asset, available to mobilise to any part of the country, or over the Border if it is requested.

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The specialist high volume pump has been redeployed to Dundee to allow training to take place. Once completed it will be relocated permanently as part of the Review of Specialist Equipment (RoSE project). Training has not been completed at this point, so Hawick will service both these specialist resources until that time.

Flood response training

Hawick Retained crew have received flood first responder training. This skill set equips the staff to be effective during flooding incidents such as assessing and pumping out flooded premises, and assisting with rescues during low level flooding.

5 Watch Duty System

In April 2017, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service introduced a common duty system throughout all Wholetime stations in Scotland. The 5 watch duty system which was in use within the majority of the West Service Delivery Area was rolled out nationally. Staff figures at Hawick Station reduced from a total of 28 to 25 with 5 Watches of 5**, replacing 4 Watches of 7. The new system provides a more flexible and effective use of staff and will not affect the number of staff who day to day attend operational incidents on the fire engine or as part of a water rescue team.

**A 'buffer' number of staff (totalling 2) are retained at Hawick Station as the new system is introduced, recognising future planning to counteract upcoming retirements.

Service Transformation

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service realise as a public Service that we need to diversify and innovate as the needs of our communities become sharper into focus.

One of these focus areas is out of hospital cardiac arrest, where the survival rate is very low if no immediate assistance is available.

Following guidance from the Scottish Ambulance Service, Hawick was deemed a suitable location to trial** the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services out of hospital cardiac arrest response.

Crews (both Whole time and Retained Duty System) have received enhanced joint training, (focussing on cardio pulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator use) from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service training staff and Scottish Ambulance Service partners which allows a response to local cardiac arrest emergencies, where appropriate. Hawick is now a 'live asset' and is on standby to meet the needs of our local communities.

**The extended trial period continues. A report has been passed to SFRS Strategic Leadership Team with recommendations that trial stations continue to offer the 'out of hospital cardiac arrest' service and that it is rolled out to all stations in Scotland via a 3 year delivery plan.

Prevention and Protection activity.

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

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provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity, which is ongoing at the moment within the Teviot & Liddesdale area;

- Liaison with Councillor Marshall regarding the Meadows area of Burnfoot, Hawick is on-going. A number of issues have been raised by residents, registered landlords, Councillors and SFRS and a collaborative approach to addressing the issues will be sought.
- Liaison with Councillor McAteer regarding Howegate area of Hawick is on-going, examining actions to address the anti-social behaviour issues in that part of the town.
- Drivewise- Borders Schools secondary age school pupils have been brought to Charterhall Airfield to take part in a driving instruction initiative led by Police Scotland and assisted by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The initiative allows pupils to drive cars in a controlled and safe environment under close instruction.
- Driving Into the Future- is an initiative aimed at educating new/ potential drivers. PowerPoint presentation in the classroom is followed by practical education with a crashed car in conjunction with local Scottish Fire and Rescue Service crews. This initiative has been running at Hawick High School and has received encouraging feedback from both students and staff.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The 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. Freephone number for this service is 0800 0731 999.
- 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.
- Crucial Crew is the practical follow up to the P6 educational input. All P7 pupils in the area attend a multi-agency event at Tweedbank where they are placed in real life scenarios and guided on the appropriate safe actions.
- 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'. It provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number- operationally, this can result in a reduction in the number of fire engines which will attend a 'repeat offender'.
- Fire Case Study and Adult & Child Protection Policies ensure multi agency involvement is provided for the support and protection for our higher risk members of the community.

Thematic Action Planning

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The Prevention & Protection (P&P) departments of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service initiate thematic plans throughout the year aimed at making our communities safer.

The Summer season 2017 thematic plan is current and during this period, P&P management will be required to report our level of success against the following indicators:

(Reduce the number of deliberate primary* and secondary** fires)

- Reduce the number of fires in derelict/ unoccupied buildings
- Reduce the number of fire involving refuse/ rubbish
- Reduce the number of outdoor fires involving grass/ heathland/ heather and/ or forested areas
- Reduce fire related anti-social behaviour
- Promote fire safety within seasonal sleeping risks (hotels, guest houses, boarding houses, caravan/ camping sites and holiday centres)
- Promote water safety and reduce the number of fires and accidents involving boats, leisure craft and ferries
- Contribute to the delivery of summer road safety

**Primary fires include buildings (including mobile homes) which are fit for occupation and those under construction. Caravans & vehicles (not derelict). Outdoor storage, plant and machinery. Agricultural and forestry premises & property.*

***Secondary fires include single derelict buildings. Grassland including heath, hedges, railway embankments and single trees. Intentional straw or stubble burning. Outdoor structures including lamp-posts, traffic signs, playground furniture, hoardings etc. Refuse and refuse containers. Derelict vehicles*

Multi Ward Operating Plan

The Multi Ward Operating Plan for Teviot & Liddesdale, covering the Hawick & Hermitage/ Hawick & Denholm Wards is available. The plan sets out the priorities and objectives for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within the area. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Teviot & Liddesdale to ensure we are all 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland'. The plan can be accessed electronically via the following link;

[Http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx)

The overarching Scottish Borders Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014- 2017 has been reviewed and a brief summary will be provided in this (September 2017) Teviot & Liddesdale Area Locality Committee meeting.

The full review report will be available on request. The new plan will be brought before this Committee in a future meeting.

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