



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Locality Committee 9th November 2017
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report**

(Station Manager Don MacNeil)

Purpose of the Report

Station Manager (SM) Matt Acton has moved to the Response and Resilience directorate, based in the City of Edinburgh LSO area. SM Don MacNeil has taken over the relevant service delivery responsibilities from SM Acton.

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Locality Committee on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 07th September 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 Berwickshire Area
September and October 2017

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	0		
Fire- other	2	1 outdoor fire in Coldstream 1 outdoor fire in Eyemouth	0
Special Service	2	1 x RTC 1x Effect Entry	2 (RTC)
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	29	Domestic/Commercial/industrial	

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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.

The team recently worked in partnership with Police Scotland to deliver an information event to promote fire and general safety at Farne Salmon in Duns.

The team also facilitated the 'Crucial Crew' initiative for 1500 Primary 7 school children from the Scottish Borders over a 3-week period, during September and October 2017.

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.

Resilient Communities

The annual Resilient Community Coordinators evening took place at the SBC bunker on 24/10/17, with representatives from across the Borders attending. The SFRS provided an overview of the resources stationed the Borders and the joint work being carried out between Resilient Community groups and partner agencies including the SFRS.

Drivewise Borders

SFRS staff took part in a multi-agency Young Drivers Initiative at Charterhall near Greenlaw. This event provided an opportunity for approximately seven hundred 14-17 year olds from all secondary schools in the Scottish Borders to attain the following learning outcomes:

- Explain good and bad driving behaviour.

- Learn basic driving skills.

- Understand the importance of a good attitude towards driving.

- Display and understand appropriate driver and passenger behaviour.

Farm Fire Safety

Work has taken place in partnership with Police Scotland, the NFU, NFU Mutual and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers. Events included farm walk and talks, attending agricultural shows, markets and auctions, and engagement with young members of the farming community. During the events, Fire Safety and security were promoted.

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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 continue to provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. These free visits provide the householder with a home safety 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 complete. It is anticipated the initiative will be rolled out to the Teviot and Liddesdale locality in early 2018, with the aspiration to have it mainstreamed throughout the Scottish Borders.

- We are continuing to develop a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The Local Area 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 Safety Audits continue to provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the properties are being managed regarding fire safety. Enforcement officers also engage 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.
- The partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF) continues with crews facilitating CPR training for members of the public.

All 356 of SFRS's fire stations are equipped with BHF donated 'Call Push Rescue' training kits and each station acts 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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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 Autumn Thematic Action Plan, which focusses on the following areas of Fire Safety;

Reduce:

The number of deliberate primary and secondary fires

Fires involving refuse/rubbish

Fire related antisocial behaviour

Unsafe Bonfires

Accidents and injuries arising from outdoor fires and/or misuse of fireworks

Ensure compliance with firework legislation

Report on acts of violence on SFRS staff

Refuse/rubbish/fly tipping referrals/uplifts

The Winter TAP is being prepared with a focus on Fire Safety in the home during the festive season.

Retained Duty System (RDS)

RDS recruitment is progressing well across the Berwickshire area. New firefighters have now started at Eyemouth and Duns.

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

Duns Fire Station:	Monday, 1900-2100hrs
Eyemouth 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

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Transformation Consultation

SFRS has started a consultation process with staff, which will also involve key stakeholders to progress the development of a Fire and Rescue Service, which will allow us to meet today's risks and do so much more for Scotland. Further information is available on the SFRS website:

www.firescotland.gov.uk/transformation

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

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.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 set out the priorities for the SFRS. This plan has been reviewed and has informed the 2018 Community Fire and Rescue Plan which is currently out for consultation.

This plan reflects a partnership approach and takes cognisance of the Scottish Borders Community Plan themes.

Consultation on the plan opened on 25th September 2017 and will close on 18th December 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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