



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Area Forum 4th June 2015
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

(Station Manager Scott Forbes)

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 5th March 2015.

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

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	7	Farm Buildings, Chimney Fires, House Alight, Caravan Alight	
Fire- Open	4	Secondary Fires various	
Special Service	5	R.T.C x3, Effecting Entry, Chemical Incident	2
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	22	Non Deliberate	

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 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 outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires. Fire raising awareness sessions presented by the team to partner agency practitioners have been and continue to be successful in promoting HFSVs and encouraging agencies to make referrals using the SFRS CSET online booking system.

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 at the moment within the Berwickshire Ward area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staffs 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.
- 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.
- 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. Legislation and enforcement Policy and Procedure for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals goes live on 1st December 2014.
- From the 1st April 2014 the 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. This period has resulted in eight adults being referred.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- Road Safety Scottish Borders Community Action Team (CAT) have been delivering road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local Whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick.
- In December 2014, the Community Action Team took part in the multi-agency Violence against Women Conference at Tweed Horizons, which, together with our strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), puts us at the forefront of delivering the agenda of outcome six of the Local Fire Plan. The 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. We will also be involved the inaugural twelve-month CAADA (Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse) assessment. This work has provided the additional advantage of strengthening our partnership with external stakeholders, in particular Police Scotland, Adult and Child protection services and local housing providers.

The Spring Thematic Action Plan has just been completed with the following areas of safety and awareness to the general public being delivered by respective RDS stations within Berwickshire.

- Wildfire/Grassland
- Rubbish/Refuse
- Derelict Property

We now move into June and the start of our Summer Thematic Action Plan which runs through to the end of August and covers the following areas,

- Fire related anti-social behaviour
- Holiday Safety
- Countryside and Outdoor Safety

We have worked closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as the four registered social landlords to promote these issues. Detailed festive fire safety information was provided for the council website and home fire safety public information articles were published in both Elder Voice and Scottish Borders Connect. The LALO is delivering a second series of fire safety awareness presentations to housing officers of the aforementioned landlords to re invigorate the home fire safety visit referral process in order to continue improving partnership working, with particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable tenants. 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

National recruitment campaign round two was launched in May for RDS Firefighters within the Scottish Borders East. A successful campaign was run in March with applicants being recruited for Eyemouth, Duns and Coldstream. The May campaign focuses on Eyemouth and Duns where the two respective stations still have a vacancy at each. The closing date for this recruitment cycle is 1st June 2015.

Local Initiative being run in Partnership with Radio Borders that will include acknowledgement to local employers for release of Employees to serve their local community.

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 have been approved following its consultation period. The local plan sets out the priorities for the Fire and Rescue Service, and we will continue to work with our community planning partners and local communities to make the most efficient use of resources and contribute towards the shared priorities and actions within the community planning partnership and community safety arrangements. The subsequent Ward plan for Berwickshire is now complete and available to elected members.

Strategic Plan 2016-2019

The engagement and consultation process regarding stakeholders being consulted in respect of Fire and Rescue Service Strategic plan for 2016-2019 is now underway with a timescale of the end of June for this consultation process. Respective managers from within the service who attend the respective forums will deliver a short power point presentation on this process during the month of June.

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