

Teviot & Liddesdale Area
16 Nov 2021

10 c. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Update

Our Economy, Skills and Learning

We will assess the Provision of youth programmes which will promote better citizenship whilst potentially improving opportunities for the employment of our young people.

Work to reduce the impact of unwanted fire alarm signals on local businesses, retail outlets and educational establishments.

Our Health, Care and Wellbeing

We will provide a range of prevention advice and measures through holistic home safety visits with the aim of keeping people safe in their homes.

We will work with partner agencies to identify people in need throughout our communities.

We will explore opportunities to work closer with our Health and Social care colleagues in order to reach those most vulnerable in our communities whilst contributing to longer term health outcomes.

Our Quality of Life

In partnership with Police Scotland and other partners, we will prioritise the reduction of anti-social related Deliberate Fire Setting (excluding Dwellings) through a range of prevention, intervention and diversionary activities.

We will work with partner agencies to identify and address instances of domestic abuse.

We will reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads by continuing in active participation as a member of the Scottish Borders Road Safety Working Group.

We will contribute to prevention initiatives such as Police Scotland's Drivewise project and continue our "make it or break it" programme that highlights the consequences of RTC's to new and potential young drivers.

Our Place

We will work with partner agencies to identify people in our community living in fuel poverty.

We will reduce the impact of unwanted fire alarm signals and associated appliance movements on local road networks.

We will support local residents in living independently by providing safety advice.

Service delivery

Hawick Community Fire Station, forming part of the **specialised water rescue** resources serving Scotland, have recently received a **new and improved rescue boat**. The new craft is larger, more manoeuvrable and will enhance the capability of this well-established rescue resource. Our 'sister' station at Galashiels have also received their new craft, and we work closely along with these colleagues to respond to 'borders' incidents and further afield where required. On the staffing front, we have welcomed 2 new members of staff within October. These trainees will complete a 3 year development period before being deemed competent Firefighters. 3 Hawick staff have also recently passed the Crew Commander process, and will now move to the first stage of management within SFRS.

Flood First Responder training has been provided to the staff at Newcastleton Retained Station. This enhanced water based training provides them with the knowledge, understanding and specialist equipment to allow them to work safely within low level flood water- the exact conditions which have been experienced over the past 2 years within the village. The aforementioned water rescue teams at Hawick and Galashiels will work alongside flood first responders to provide a first class response to water based incidents.

Partnership Working

Our Community Action Team within the Scottish Borders core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS **Home Fire Safety Visit** policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working in order to focus on members of local communities at high risk from fire, helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

Covid19 restrictions prevented SFRS involvement in the home fire safety visit programme, but we have recently re-engaged the process and are ensuring the continued safety of our communities with their homes.

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. Recent events included the Tour of Britain (stage 7) and the Tour o The Borders.

Prevention and Protection

Activity which is ongoing within our area;

Our **Fire Safety Enforcement Officers** are continuing with routine audits, ensuring properties are safe and Fire Safety legislation is being complied with.

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing false alarms. We continue to provide advice on how to reduce reoccurrence.

Water Awareness events have been actioned throughout Scotland following the increase in open water swimming due to the high summer temperatures. Tragically, the increased numbers in our rivers and lochs produced a number of fatalities. Water rescue operational teams from Hawick & Galashiels, supported by our Prevention & Protection colleagues and local Councillors, held a water safety event in Kelso (August) which was well received. The event highlighted the dangers posed by our local waterways, but also showcased the specialist rescue options we are lucky to have positioned, locally. As detailed above, **Flood First Responder** training has been provided to the staff at Newcastleton Retained Station.

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Any questions on this brief please email– russell.bell2@firescotland.gov.uk

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