



LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT SCOTTISH BORDERS



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year to Date Report, 1st April 2021 – 31st December 2021

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



DISCLAIMER

The figures included in this report are provisional and subject to change as a result of quality assurance and review. The statistics quoted are internal management information published in the interests of transparency and openness.

The Scottish government publishes Official Statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

Please ensure any external partners in receipt of these reports are aware of this.

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Introduction

The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan and our strategies for Service Delivery are clearly aligned to the Community Planning Structure, which supports the delivery of Community Planning Partnership priorities and activities in the Scottish Borders. The priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan also contribute towards Scottish Government National Outcomes.

Performance Summary

We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	YTD
Dwelling fires	71	78	64	63	61	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	14	16	19	11	11	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	139	104	117	96	75	●
Special Service - RTCs	66	69	70	36	51	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	73	77	71	28	66	◆
False Alarm - Equipment failure	484	514	507	465	538	◆

RAG rating - KEY

◆	RED DIAMOND	10% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
▲	YELLOW TRIANGLE	Up to 9% higher than the previous YTD period, or local target not achieved.
●	GREEN CIRCLE	Equal to or improved upon the previous equivalent quarter (or YTD period), or local target achieved.

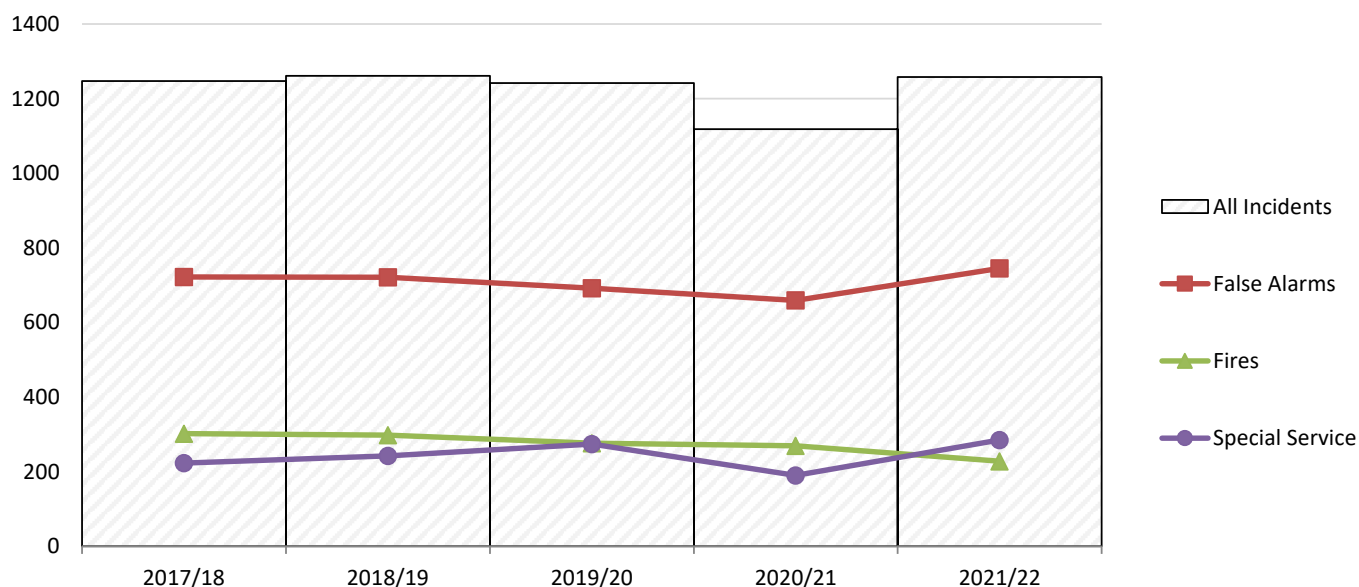
Note

Quarterly comparison RAG rating = the reporting period compared to the average of the three previous quarterly reporting periods

Incident Overview

During the period 1st April to 31st December 2021, the SFRS responded to 1260 incidents in the Scottish Borders. This is an increase of 18 incidents compared to the same period last year although it should be borne in mind the pandemic, and lockdowns throughout, have affected reporting figures. False alarms accounted for 58% of our emergency call. The consultation on UFAS is complete and SFRS are finalising the outcome and decision on the three options. This decision will drive down the number of false alarm that crews attend and create time and opportunity for more training and community safety initiatives.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Scottish Borders council over the last 5 fiscal years



Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities
Local Risk Management and Preparedness
<p>The service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.</p> <p>We said we would;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train our staff to deal with our local risks • Gather and analyse risk information • Work with partners to mitigate risk • Deal with major events
<u>Train our staff to deal with our local risks</u>
<p>Our Operational staff have continued to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.</p> <p>During 2021/22 all firefighters in the Scottish Borders will participate in the Training for Operational Competence programme. Core skills including pumps, ladders, breathing apparatus and incident command continue to be practiced and assessed on a regular basis.</p>
<u>Gather and analyse risk information</u>
<p>Our Operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents.</p> <p>We conduct post incident debriefs using a structured debrief process to identify any lessons that can be learned to enhance our preparedness and response to any incident.</p>
<u>Work with partners to mitigate risks</u>
<p>We continue to be an active member of the Lothian & Borders Local Resilience partnership.</p> <p>We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders to ensure emergency risks are mitigated.</p>
<u>Deal with major events</u>
<p>On 25th November, in response to Met Office warnings and the impact of Storm Arwen, SFRS responded with partners to support local communities throughout the weekend and following days.</p>

Reduction of 'Dwelling fires'

Dwelling fires can have devastating effects on our communities. The reduction of dwelling fires, accidental or deliberate, continues to be a priority for the SFRS in the Scottish Borders. We adopt a targeted approach whilst sharing information with partners in order to drive down the risk of fire within our local communities with an emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable through age, isolation or addiction.

Results

SFRS has set a national target of 10% reduction, over a three-year rolling period.

There have been 61 dwelling fires recorded compared to 63 for the same period last year, this represents a 3% decrease. It is pleasing to see this figure has decreased year on year within the 5 year reporting period.

Please note 59 of these fires were accidental.

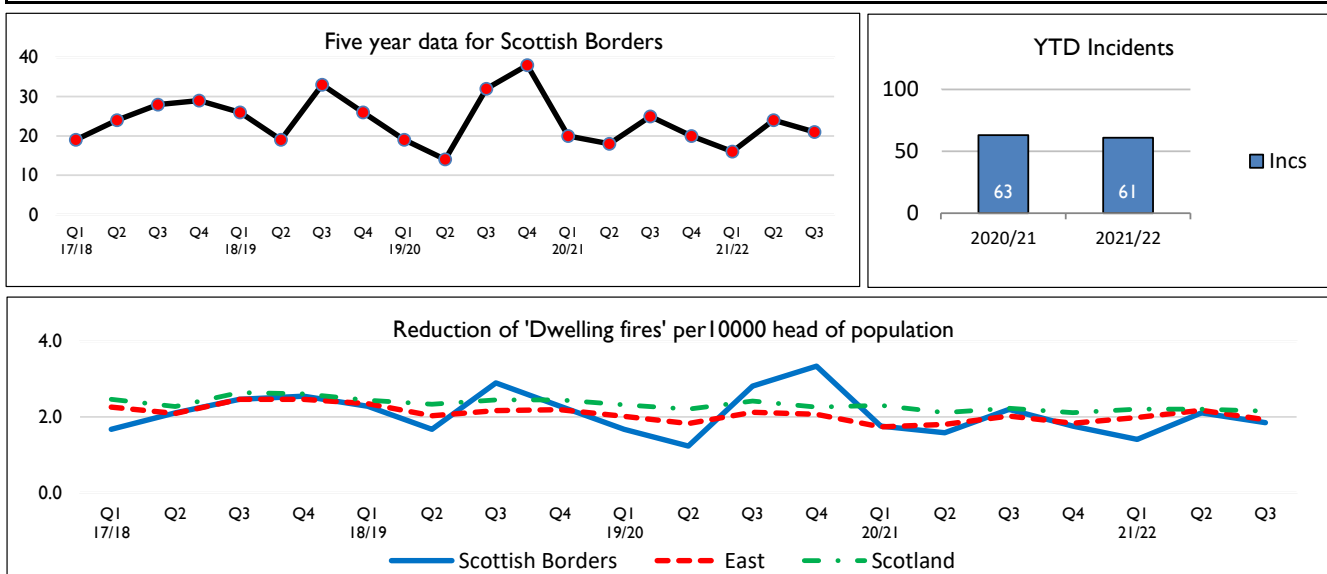
Reasons

Cooking appliances accounted for 56 of these dwelling fires with 6 due to negligent use of equipment and 5 related to chip pan use. Analysis highlights 29 of these incidents involving adults 18 to 64 years old and 15 incidents in the 65+ age group.

Actions

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) conduct Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following all domestic fires.

We work closely with partners to identify persons at risk from fire, this often requires cross agency or joint home safety visits organised and completed by our Community Action Team (CAT) members.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 6	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	71	78	64	63	61	
Tweeddale West	5	9	5	4	4	
Tweeddale East	0	3	4	4	2	
Galashiels & District	20	11	12	18	5	
Selkirkshire	5	9	7	4	9	
Leaderdale & Melrose	4	9	6	3	4	
Mid Berwickshire	10	9	8	3	8	
East Berwickshire	5	6	3	4	7	
Kelso & District	5	8	2	6	7	
Jedburgh & District	3	5	3	4	1	
Hawick & Denholm	8	5	7	4	8	
Hawick & Hermitage	6	4	7	9	6	

Reduction of 'All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))'

Fire casualty and fatality rates provide an indication of the amount of serious, life threatening injuries that occur due to fire. This can indicate not only the success of SFRS in reducing the number of life risk fires through community fire safety and similar activities but also their success in operational response activity in saving life.

Results

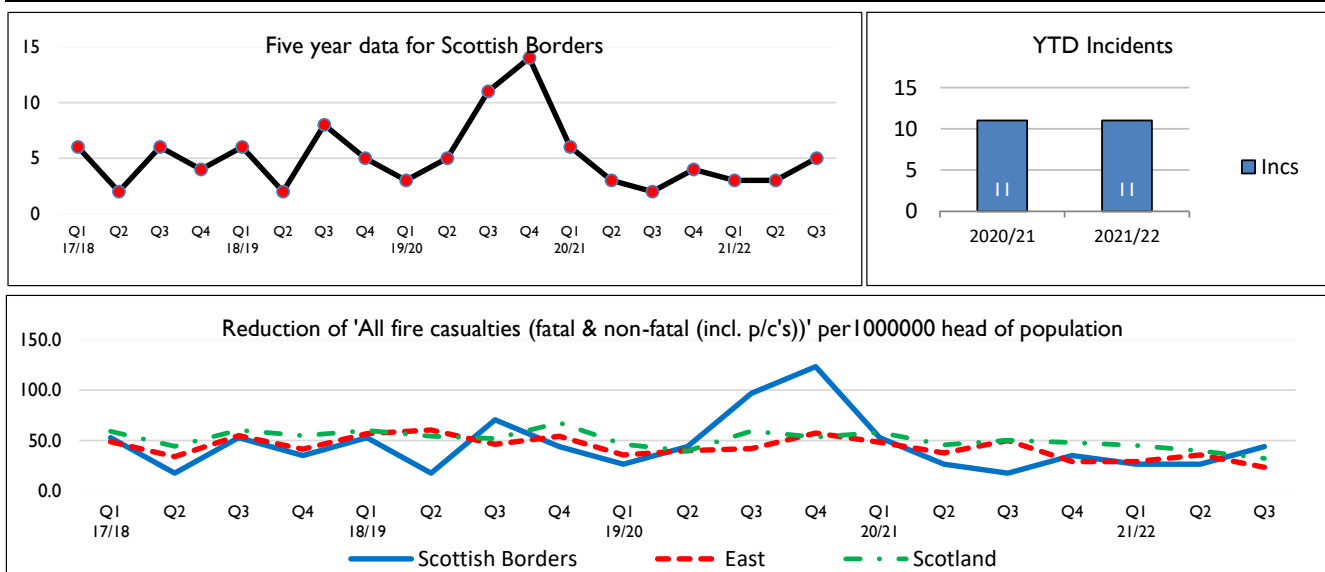
We aim to reduce fire casualties in the Scottish Borders year on year with a SFRS target of reducing fire casualties by 5% per year over a three-year rolling period. There have been 11 casualties in the year to date, the same as last year's reporting period.

Reasons

Of the 11 casualties 5 were taken to hospital for further assessment, 4 received first aid at the scene and 2 were advised to seek medical attention later. Oxygen was administered by SFRS at the scene on 7 occasions. 7 casualties were aged 60 years of age or over.

Actions

SFRS conduct Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following all domestic dwelling fires. This involves crews offering reassurance and fire safety advice to all households within the vicinity of the incident immediately or soon after the incident. Crews proactively target at risk groups including elderly people who are, statistically, more likely to experience a fire within their home



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - I	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	14	16	19	11	11	
Tweeddale West	0	1	1	1	0	
Tweeddale East	0	0	0	1	0	
Galashiels & District	8	1	1	2	5	
Selkirkshire	0	1	2	0	0	
Leaderdale & Melrose	1	1	0	1	1	
Mid Berwickshire	5	3	2	1	0	
East Berwickshire	0	2	0	0	0	
Kelso & District	0	5	1	1	3	
Jedburgh & District	0	2	6	2	0	
Hawick & Denholm	0	0	3	0	1	
Hawick & Hermitage	0	0	3	2	1	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Reduction of deliberate fire setting continues to be a priority for SFRS in the Scottish Borders. Deliberate fires of this nature typically involve grassland, refuse or derelict buildings. Evidence shows that there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour

Results

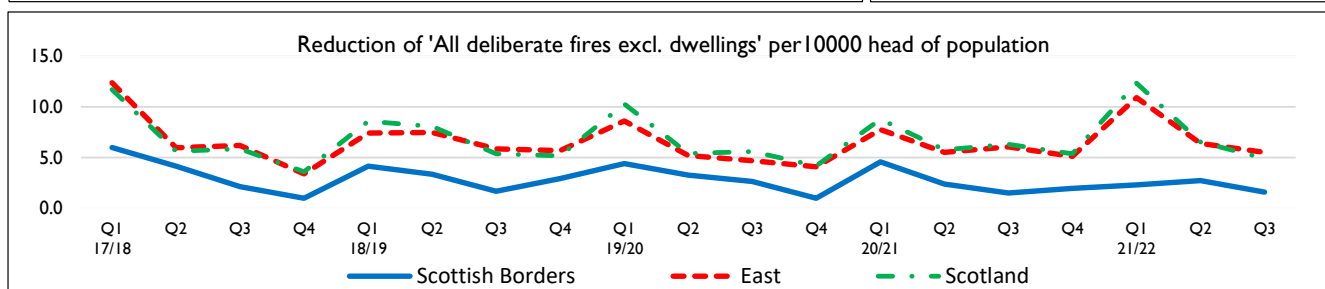
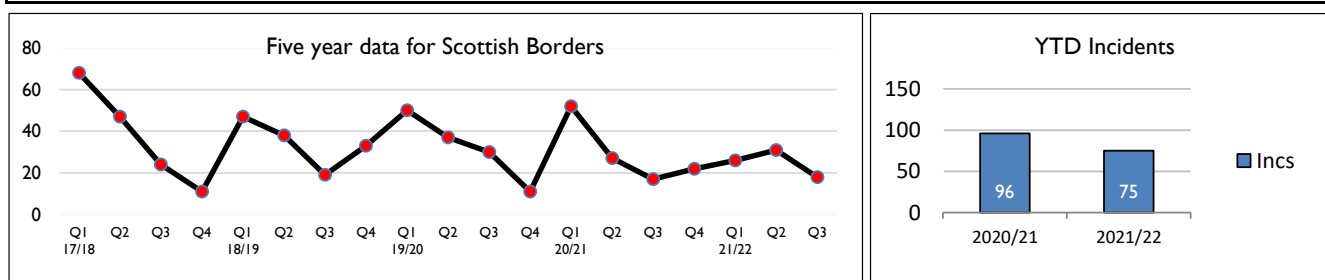
There have been 75 incidents of this nature in the year to date period, this is a decrease of 21 when compared to the same reporting period last year.

Reasons

Secondary fires involving refuse, grass or derelict buildings accounted for 41 of all deliberate fires in the reporting period.

Actions

SFRS carry out seasonal thematic action plans with the purpose of warning and educating the public regarding dangers, risk and safety measures. Where trends or patterns are identified SFRS will work with community partners to mitigate the risk of reoccurrence. Where necessary SFRS offer and provide a one to one service for young fire setters.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 7	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	139	104	117	96	75	
Tweeddale West	13	3	7	11	7	
Tweeddale East	6	8	9	9	4	
Galashiels & District	58	29	17	16	5	
Selkirkshire	11	3	7	3	6	
Leaderdale & Melrose	4	8	9	6	2	
Mid Berwickshire	7	5	14	6	7	
East Berwickshire	3	11	11	4	10	
Kelso & District	12	12	7	6	5	
Jedburgh & District	5	6	6	2	8	
Hawick & Denholm	15	10	22	18	10	
Hawick & Hermitage	5	9	8	15	11	

Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, educating and intervention is a key part in our Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) activity as well as an operational response. SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stake holders in order to reduce the amount of RTCs that occur in the Scottish Borders.

Results

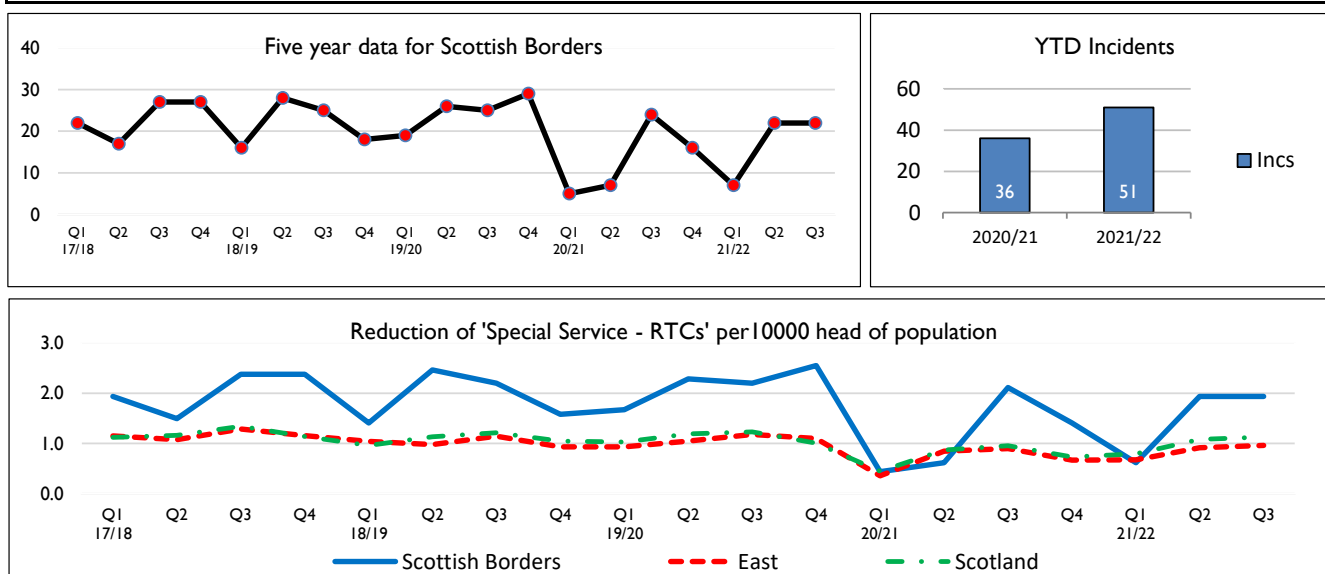
SFRS attended 51 RTC's in the reporting period, this up from 36 in the reporting period last year. It should be borne in mind that the Pandemic, and associated lockdowns, meant that there was far less activity on our roads last year so it is not surprising to see this figure. Whilst it is disappointing to see this increase it should be noted that year on year, apart from 2020/21, these events have dropped year on year.

Reasons

Police Scotland are responsible for determining the cause of RTC's however, SFRS has a significant role to play in preventing RTC's. SFRS respond to RTC's whenever it is confirmed persons are within the vehicle, regardless if they are trapped or not. This means that although we are mobilised in many instances only limited intervention is required.

Actions

SFRS are part of the Safer Communities Unit and a member of the Borders Road Safety Working Group. Our CAT, along with operational crews, attend educational establishments such as schools, the Borders College etc to deliver educational inputs to young drivers regarding the dangers the consequences of RTC's. We participate fully in initiatives such as Scottish Borders Drivewise Event.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 5	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	66	69	70	36	51	
Tweeddale West	14	11	10	2	7	
Tweeddale East	4	7	2	1	3	
Galashiels & District	8	9	10	6	5	
Selkirkshire	3	3	3	1	3	
Leaderdale & Melrose	7	7	8	7	9	
Mid Berwickshire	3	8	4	4	6	
East Berwickshire	7	8	8	4	4	
Kelso & District	4	0	10	1	3	
Jedburgh & District	11	8	9	6	6	
Hawick & Denholm	3	4	3	0	3	
Hawick & Hermitage	2	4	3	4	2	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

The figures below pertain to all non-fire related casualties and represent the diverse nature of incidents SFRS attend in the Scottish Borders other than fire related or UFAS. As the traditional role of the fire and rescue service evolves and expands SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders in order to reduce the number of RTC related casualties and fatalities and other casualties including flooding and medical emergencies.

Results

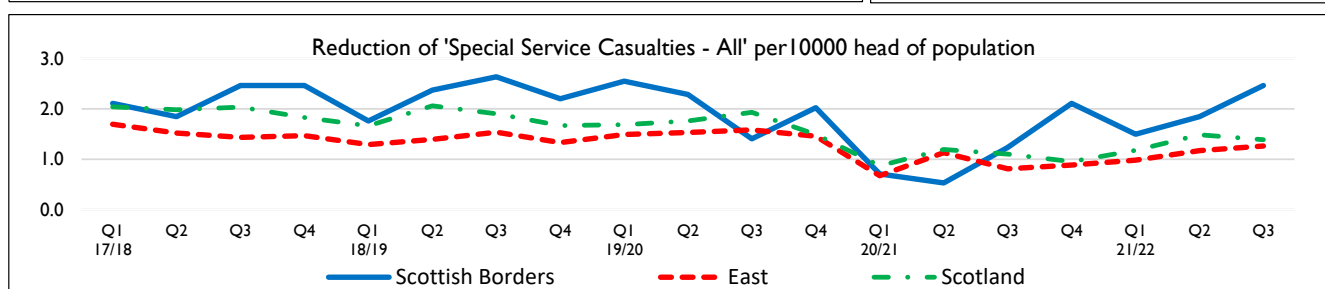
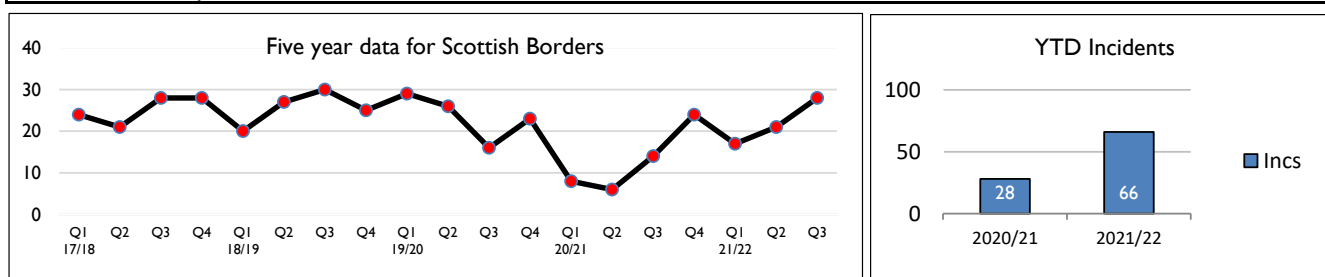
There have been 66 special service casualties during the reporting period, an increase of 38 from last years reporting period. This can partly be attributed the Pandemic, and associated lockdowns, where we experienced less operational activity. In general, there has been a small reduction across the five-year reporting period. A snap shot analysis of incident and casualty type is captured within the report summary page.

Reasons

The amount of “non-traditional” incidents SFRS mobilise to has increased markedly over the last few years. These include assisting our colleagues in Police Scotland, and primarily Scottish Ambulance Service, with effecting entry for emergency medical response and persons who have fallen in the home. Traditional special service response includes water rescue, hazardous material response, RTC's and rescues from height.

Actions

CAT members and operational crews participate regularly in partnership initiatives that target high risk groups with the specific aim of highlighting the potential severity and far reaching consequences of RTC's. SFRS crews provide, on request, CPR and defibrillator training to local communities. This work will be a focus of our staff as we recover from the Covid restrictions and interact more freely with our communities. By training local communities in CPR those suffering an out of hospital cardiac arrest have a better chance of survival due to early intervention.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 6	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	73	77	71	28	66	
Tweeddale West	15	10	6	1	7	
Tweeddale East	5	3	5	1	2	
Galashiels & District	10	11	11	3	5	
Selkirkshire	9	5	4	1	7	
Leaderdale & Melrose	4	7	3	3	9	
Mid Berwickshire	8	13	5	6	5	
East Berwickshire	5	3	6	3	6	
Kelso & District	3	5	8	2	4	
Jedburgh & District	7	8	10	4	9	
Hawick & Denholm	4	8	5	2	5	
Hawick & Hermitage	3	4	8	2	7	

Reduction of 'False Alarm - Equipment failure'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, when the reason for that fire alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. SFRS are committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce UFAS. SFRS recently completed an external consultation on our future operational response to UFAS. The purpose is to reduce the impact and cost of UFAS on local business, education establishments, environment etc and create capacity within SFRS for community safety and training opportunities.

Results

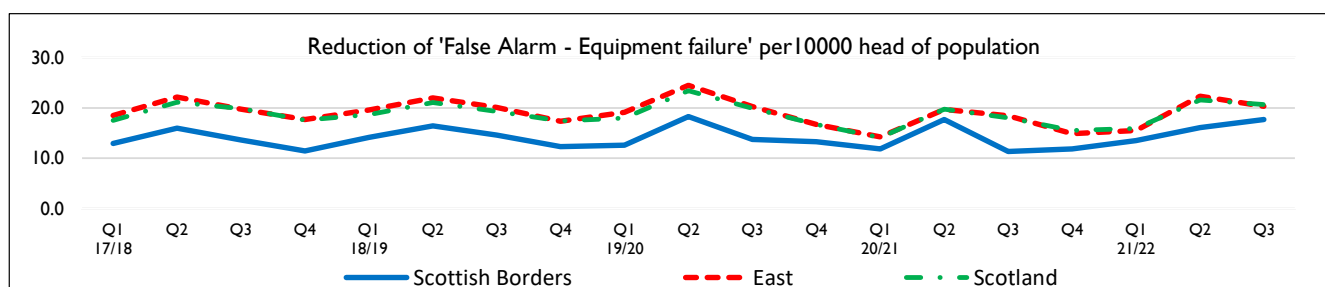
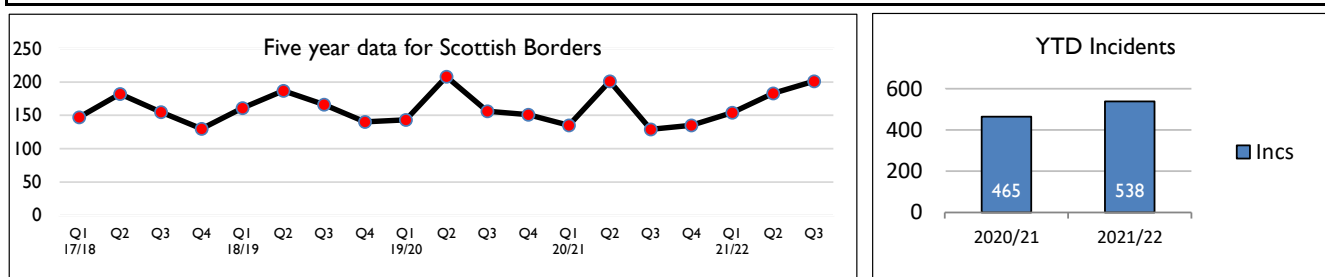
There have been 748 false alarm incidents in the Scottish Borders during the reporting period, equipment failure accounted for 538 of these incidents. 116 of these calls were due to false alarm with good intent and 46 were malicious calls. Please note the figures in this report relate only to false alarms due to equipment failure.

Reasons

Equipment failure accounted for 72% of all UFAS mobilisations in this reporting period, and continues to be the most common cause of this type of incident.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS activity and our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) work closely with identified premises to reduce the instance of these events. This work includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions to prevent future UFAS. Although the UFAS Strategy will amend the operational crews' response to UFAS our FSEO staff will continue to support, advise and educate duty holders on their responsibilities.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 49	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	484	514	507	465	538	
Tweeddale West	77	56	67	60	53	
Tweeddale East	31	35	12	26	29	
Galashiels & District	78	75	69	69	97	
Selkirkshire	48	47	44	32	51	
Leaderdale & Melrose	48	57	65	62	82	
Mid Berwickshire	27	40	36	32	39	
East Berwickshire	23	47	56	29	41	
Kelso & District	34	49	36	40	29	
Jedburgh & District	17	31	30	29	35	
Hawick & Denholm	38	27	40	45	41	
Hawick & Hermitage	63	50	52	41	41	