



**LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT
SCOTTISH BORDERS**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year to Date Report, 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

**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.

CONTENTS	PAGE
1 Introduction	3
2 Performance Summary	4
3 Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities	
<i>Local Risk Management and Preparedness</i>	5
<i>All deliberate fires</i>	7
<i>All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))</i>	9
<i>All deliberate fires excl. dwellings</i>	11
<i>Special Service - RTCs</i>	13
<i>Special Service Casualties - All</i>	15
<i>False Alarm - UFAs</i>	17
4 Appendices	
5 Glossary	

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.) Mar					RAG rating
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	YTD
All deliberate fires	158	149	134	127	97	●
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	18	21	33	17	11	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	150	137	128	118	92	●
Special Service - RTCs	93	87	99	52	69	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	101	102	94	52	86	◆
False Alarm - UFAs	456	521	458	448	516	◆

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.

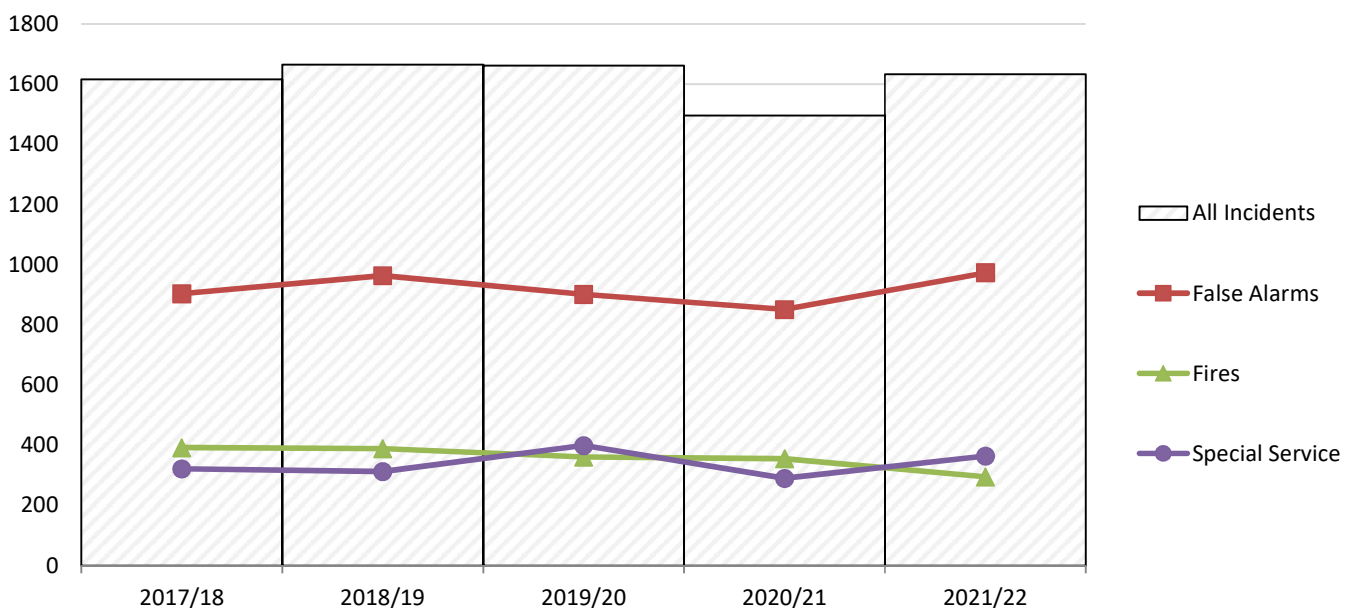
Note

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 2021 to 31st March 2022 SFRS responded to 1636 incidents in the Scottish Borders. This is an increase of 140 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 59% of our emergency calls. The consultation on UFAS is complete. The change to UFAS response, planned for April 2023, 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

The service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.

We said we would;

- Train our staff to deal with our local risks
- Gather and analyse risk information
- Work with partners to mitigate risk
- Deal with major events

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

Our Operational staff have continued to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

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 quarterly basis.

Gather and analyse risk information

Our Operational staff continue to gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence (OI) which is used in our preparations to resolve incidents. At the current time we hold over 250 OI documents on premises within the LSO area.

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.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the Lothian & Borders Local Resilience partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders to ensure emergency risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

During the reporting quarter no major events were declared but we participated in the planning process for current events such as The Jim Clark Rally.

Reduction of 'All deliberate 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 75 dwelling fires recorded compared to 80 for the same period last year. It is pleasing to see this figure has decreased year on year within the reporting period.

Please note 72 of these fires were accidental.

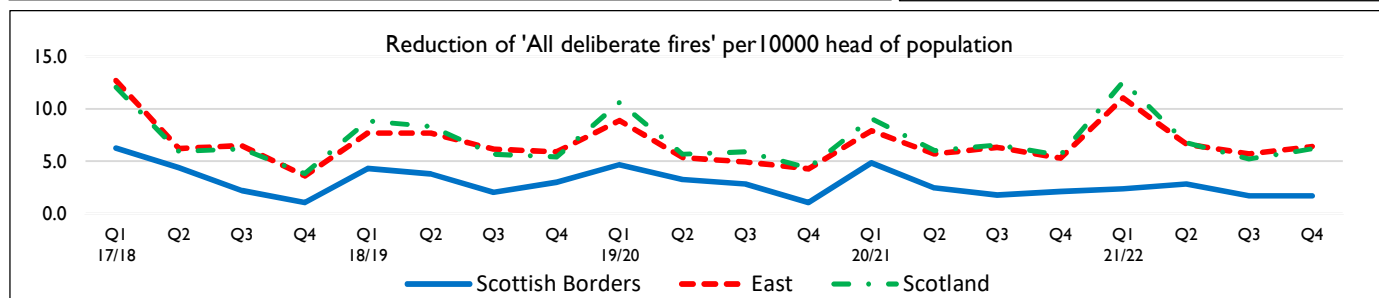
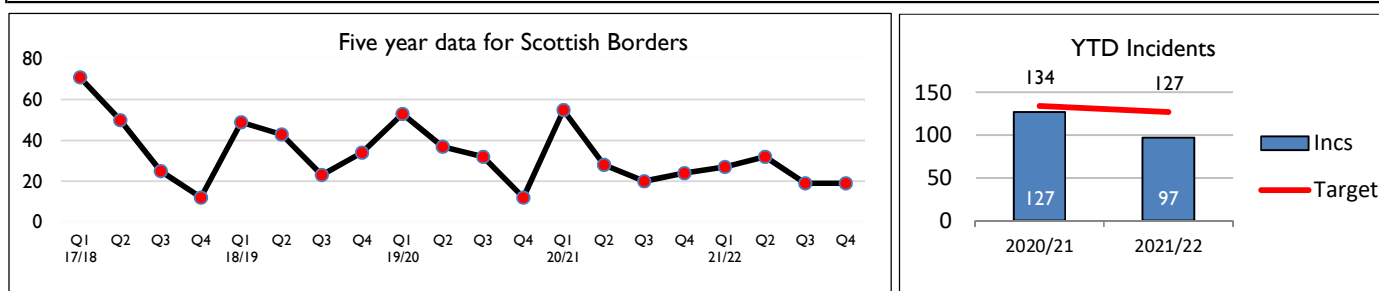
Reasons

Cooking appliances accounted for 31 of these dwelling fires with 8 due to negligent use of equipment and 8 partitionable to faulty fuel supplies. Analysis highlights 34 of these incidents involved adults 18 to 64 years old and 20 in 65+ age group. This proves that our a targeted approach to drive down the risk of fire, with an emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable through age and isolation is correct.

Actions

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) conduct Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following all domestic fires. Evidence proves that the home owner, and surrounding neighbours, are more likely to accept fire safety guidance and advice when an event occurs within their local area.

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 Teams members.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 9	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	158	149	134	127	97	
Tweeddale West	14	9	9	13	9	
Tweeddale East	6	14	9	11	6	
Galashiels & District	64	35	20	21	7	
Selkirkshire	12	8	7	4	8	
Leaderdale & Melrose	5	8	10	8	3	
Mid Berwickshire	7	8	15	9	9	
East Berwickshire	8	17	11	7	11	
Kelso & District	12	19	7	12	7	
Jedburgh & District	5	6	7	3	10	
Hawick & Denholm	16	15	31	24	16	
Hawick & Hermitage	9	10	8	15	11	

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

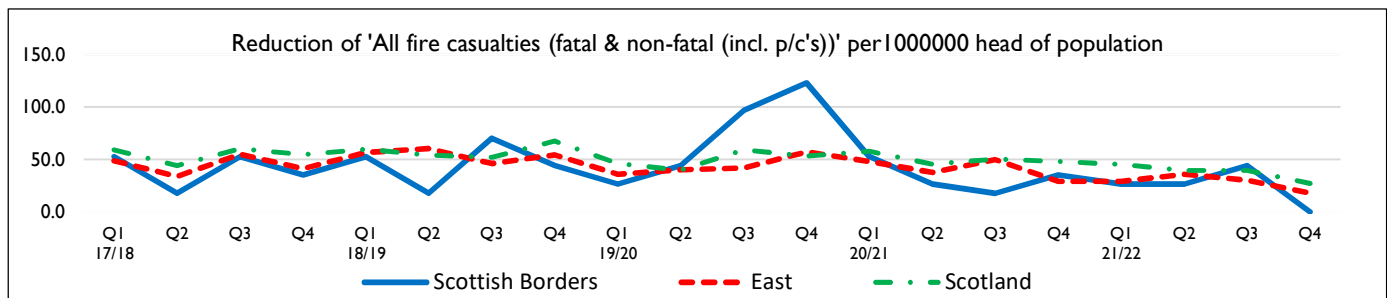
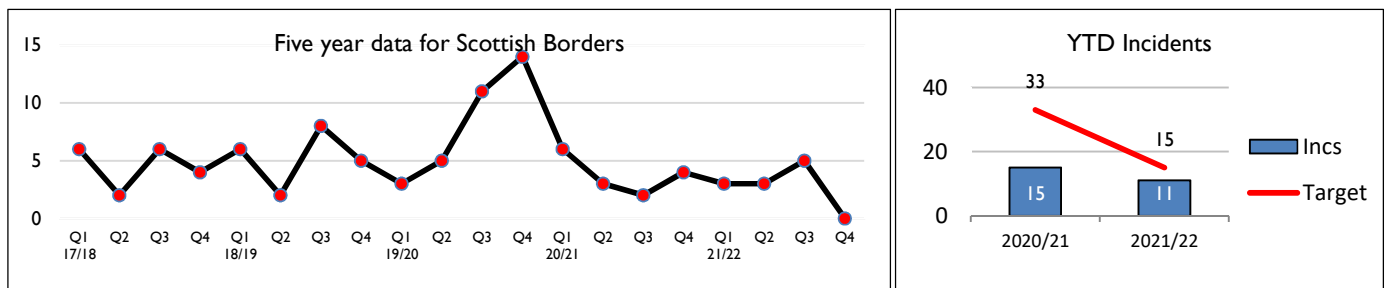
We aim to reduce fire casualties in the Scottish Borders year on year with a SFRS target of reducing fire casualties by 5% per year over a three-year rolling period. There have been 11 casualties in the reporting period to date, a reduction from last year's report.

Reasons

In this quarter one person required a precautionary check from Scottish Ambulance Service. This means a total of 11 fire related casualties in the reporting year, a reduction from 17 in the same reporting period last year.

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. 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 Teams members.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 1	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	18	21	33	17	11	
Tweeddale West	0	1	3	2	0	
Tweeddale East	0	0	3	1	0	
Galashiels & District	9	2	4	3	5	
Selkirkshire	1	1	3	2	0	
Leaderdale & Melrose	1	2	0	2	1	
Mid Berwickshire	5	3	3	2	0	
East Berwickshire	0	2	0	0	0	
Kelso & District	0	7	3	1	3	
Jedburgh & District	0	3	8	2	0	
Hawick & Denholm	1	0	3	0	1	
Hawick & Hermitage	1	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

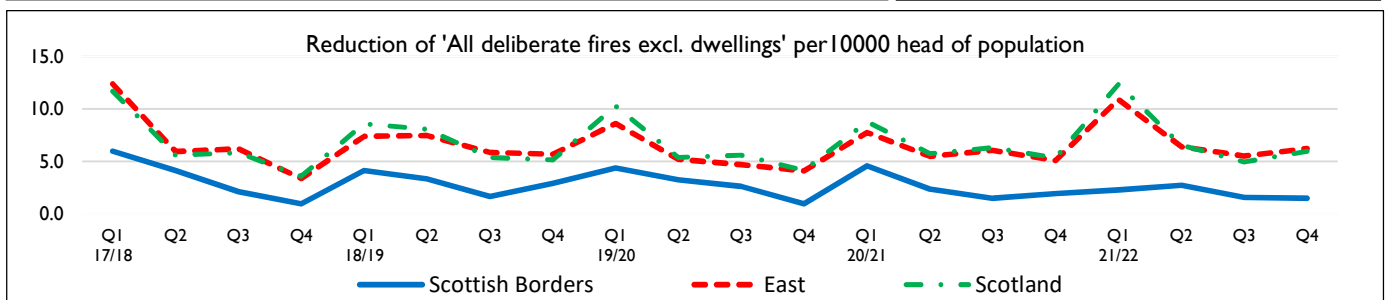
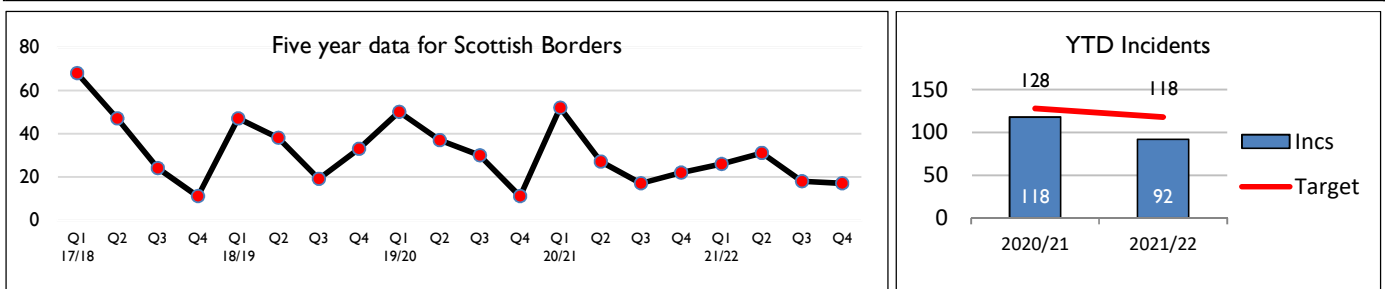
There have been 92 incidents of this nature in the year to date period, this is a decrease of 26 when compared to the same reporting period last year. In the reporting quarter there were 39 incidents.

Reasons

Secondary fires involving refuse, grass or derelict buildings accounted for 49% of all deliberate fires.

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 - 8	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	150	137	128	118	92	
Tweeddale West	14	6	9	13	8	
Tweeddale East	6	13	9	11	5	
Galashiels & District	61	33	18	21	7	
Selkirkshire	12	7	7	4	8	
Leaderdale & Melrose	5	8	10	7	3	
Mid Berwickshire	7	8	15	8	7	
East Berwickshire	4	14	11	7	10	
Kelso & District	12	17	7	7	7	
Jedburgh & District	5	6	7	3	10	
Hawick & Denholm	16	15	27	22	16	
Hawick & Hermitage	8	10	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 69 RTC's in the reporting period, up from 52 in the reporting period last year. Unfortunately 2 people lost their lives in this quarter and a total of 4 in the reporting year, an increase of 2 from the same 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 rise due to traffic levels increasing. Whilst it is disappointing to see this increase it should be noted, apart from 2020/21, these events have dropped year on year.

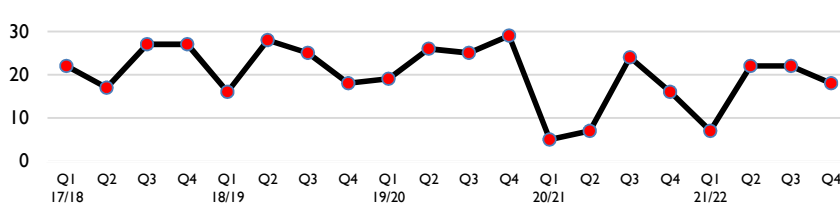
Reasons

Police Scotland are responsible for determining the cause of RTC's however, SFRS 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.

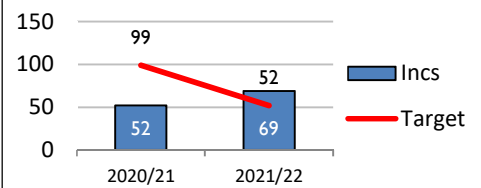
Actions

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.

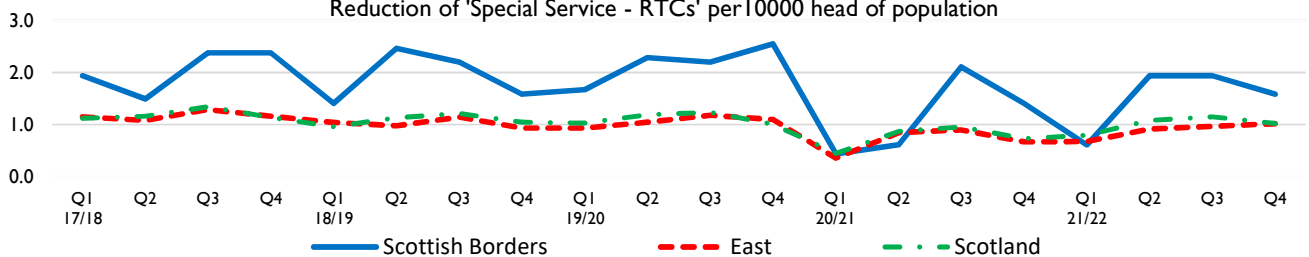
Five year data for Scottish Borders



YTD Incidents



Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs' per 10000 head of population



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 6	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	93	87	99	52	69	
Tweeddale West	20	12	14	6	9	
Tweeddale East	6	8	3	3	3	
Galashiels & District	11	11	12	7	8	
Selkirkshire	8	6	4	3	4	
Leaderdale & Melrose	9	9	14	9	10	
Mid Berwickshire	4	10	7	7	10	
East Berwickshire	10	11	13	4	6	
Jedburgh & District	13	11	11	8	10	
Hawick & Denholm	5	5	6	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, but other casualties including flooding and medical emergencies.

Results

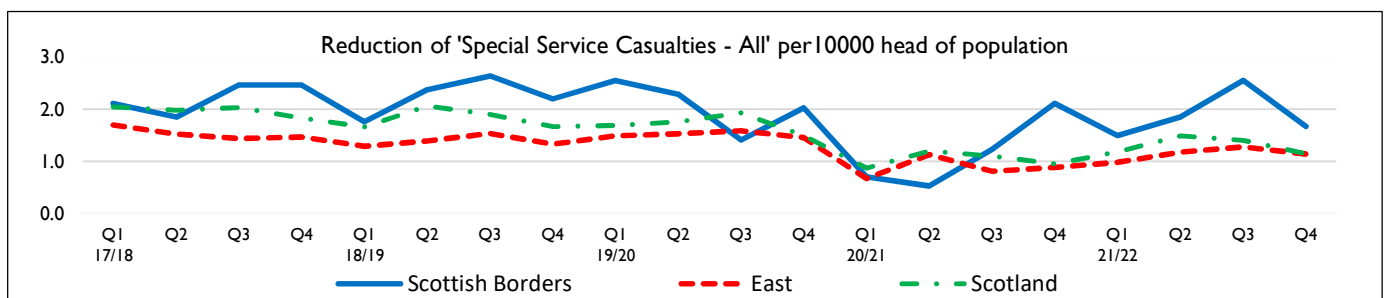
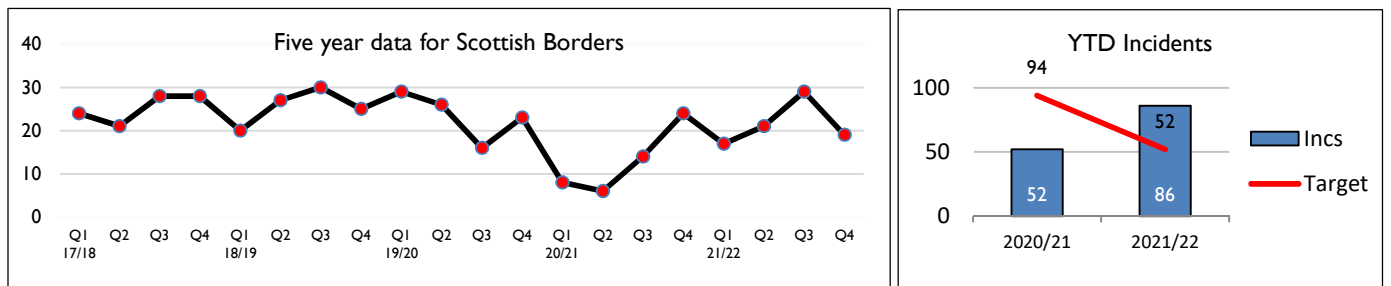
There have been 86 special service casualties during the reporting period, an increase from 2020/21, during the Pandemic and associated lockdowns. 24 casualties injuries appeared to be serious and required hospital treatment, 34 casualties injuries were slight but attended hospital and on 6 occasions first aid provided by Ffs was sufficient to deal with the injury. The split between male and female casualties was 50/50. In general, there has been a small reduction across the five-year reporting period. A snap shot analysis of incident and casualty type is 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. This year SFRS attended 101 effecting entry incidents in the Scottish Borders. Traditional special service response includes water rescue (32), hazardous material response (3), RTC's (69) 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. Within MELSB we have focussed Scottish Borders stations on water and road safety campaigns



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 8	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	101	102	94	52	86	
Tweeddale West	22	11	8	2	7	
Tweeddale East	5	6	6	3	2	
Galashiels & District	17	13	12	9	11	
Selkirkshire	10	7	6	3	9	
Leaderdale & Melrose	6	10	4	6	13	
Mid Berwickshire	14	14	6	9	8	
East Berwickshire	7	6	10	4	7	
Kelso & District	4	7	11	5	5	
Jedburgh & District	7	12	14	5	12	
Hawick & Denholm	5	11	8	3	5	
Hawick & Hermitage	4	5	9	3	7	

Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

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. The SFRS are committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce UFAS. Planned for April 2023 SFRS will introduce new procedures and mobilisation to UFAS which will reduce the burden on SFRS crews and create capacity for community safety and training opportunities.

Results

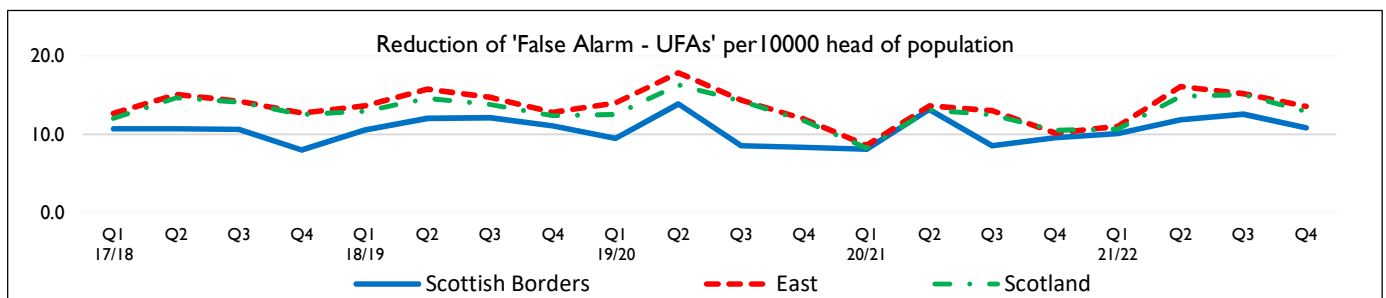
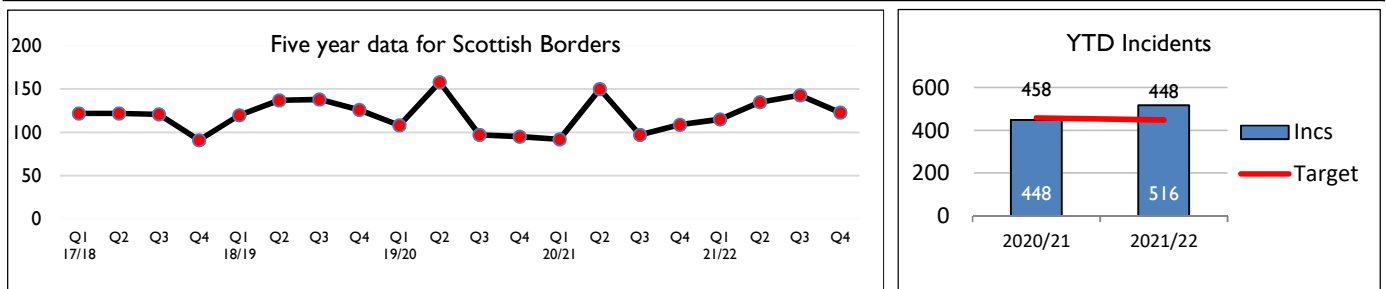
There have been 515 fire calls that were classed as UFAS in the Scottish Borders during the reporting period.

Reasons

217 of these calls were due to false alarm with good intent and 60 were malicious calls. 48 of these alarms were caused by duty holders testing their alarm systems without informing the alarm receiving centre and 63 were caused by human behaviour, 22% of these calls could have been prevented by staff knowing procedure and practice within their own workplace.

Actions

We continue to proactively monitor UFAS activity and our Fire Safety Protection Officers (FSPO) 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 our response to UFAS will change in April 2023 our FSPO staff will continue to support, advise and educate duty holders on their responsibilities.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 47	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	456	521	458	448	516	
Tweeddale West	64	57	62	66	53	
Tweeddale East	23	42	26	23	28	
Galashiels & District	86	73	58	63	100	
Selkirkshire	43	50	44	38	45	
Leaderdale & Melrose	60	69	62	60	101	
Mid Berwickshire	28	42	30	21	38	
East Berwickshire	24	24	23	31	33	
Kelso & District	46	56	39	58	32	
Jedburgh & District	25	29	29	26	26	
Hawick & Denholm	34	44	42	45	40	
Hawick & Hermitage	23	35	43	17	20	