



**LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT  
SCOTTISH BORDERS**



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

**Year to Date Report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 30th June 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.

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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.

This report gives information on operational activity within the reporting period and the steps we will take, through our partnership prevention activity, to address any increase or trend identified.

The Scottish Borders is served by thirteen On Call (previously retained) stations and two wholetime stations, therefore the vast majority of the Firefighters within the Borders work the On Call duty system. Our on call firefighters work tirelessly to protect their local and surrounding communities, often balancing responding to emergencies via a pager with their primary employment and family commitments. An on going internal challenge, across Scotland and MELSB, is recruitment of On Call staff. This was identified early in LSO Sangster introduction to the area and identified as a top priority for Group and Station Commanders. In the first six months of this year we have created a local recruitment team, focussing our efforts where the need is greatest, and introduced the Bank Hours initiative. This initiative allows us to locate On Call volunteers to remote work locations. Both projects serve the purpose of increasing appliance availability across the LSO and Scottish Borders area.

The Borders has the support of three On Call Support Watch Commanders (OCSWC). The purpose of creating these post across Scotland was to bring additional resource to support appliance availability, a more locally focussed recruitment campaign, support pre-employment engagement programme, which invites candidates into the station environment for up to 12 weeks prior to their selection tests. (This helps candidates to understand the role and the level of commitment required to become an on call firefighter)

Locally we have already seen many improvements from gathering Operational Intelligence to supporting Community Safety events, recruitment campaigns, maintaining appliance availability and assisting in the delivery of training.

## Performance Summary

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

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Jun					RAG rating
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	YTD
All deliberate primary fires	13	20	7	6	18	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	6	3	6	3	1	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	47	50	52	26	52	◆
Special Service - RTCs	16	19	5	7	14	◆
Special Service Casualties - All	20	29	8	17	17	●
False Alarm - UFAs	120	108	92	115	121	▲

### 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.

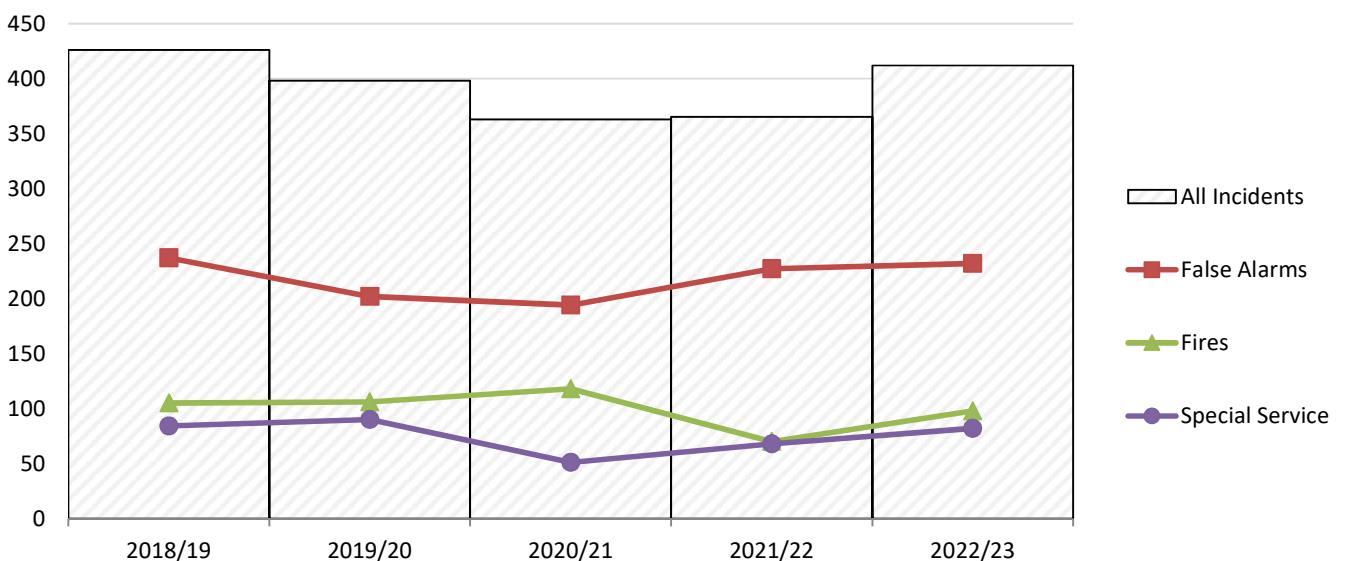
### Note

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 2022 to 30th June 2022 SFRS responded to 413 incidents in the Scottish Borders. This included 18 accidental dwelling fires, 49 accidental fires and 82 special service incidents. This is an increase of 48 incidents compared to the same period last year although it should be borne in mind the pandemic and lockdowns have affected reporting figures. False alarms accounted for 56% of our emergency calls. 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 continue to undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training. During 2022/23 all firefighters in the Scottish Borders will participate in the Training for Operational Competence programme. Core skills including pumps, ladders, breathing apparatus, RTC and incident command continue to be practiced and assessed on a quarterly basis. This combined with basic training for new recruits working towards red, amber and green assessments means our staff continually refresh skills and learn new techniques.

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 any issues raised highlighted by operational crews during incidents or HFSV are passed to the appropriate partner agency for action by our Community Action Team. We are a CPP partner working with colleagues on the new Action Plan. We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders to ensure emergency risks are mitigated and that known events are planned and managed in a collaborative approach.

Deal with major events

During the reporting quarter no major events were declared. We continue to be an active member of the emergency planning process for upcoming major events such as The Tour of Britain, Tour of the Borders etc.

## Reduction of 'All deliberate primary 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 18 dwelling fires recorded compared to 15 for the same period last year. It is disappointing to see this figure has increased within the reporting period however we experienced only one deliberate dwelling fire, this down from three in the last four year reporting period. This could be that since lockdown we are able to get out to educate the public on fire safety within the home.

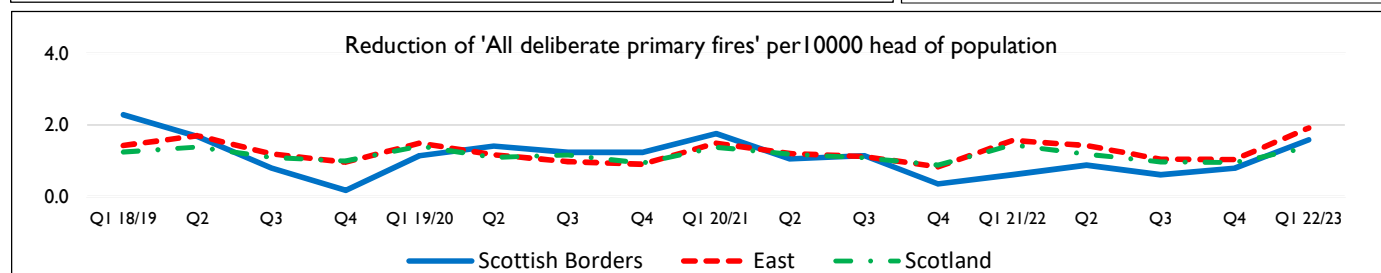
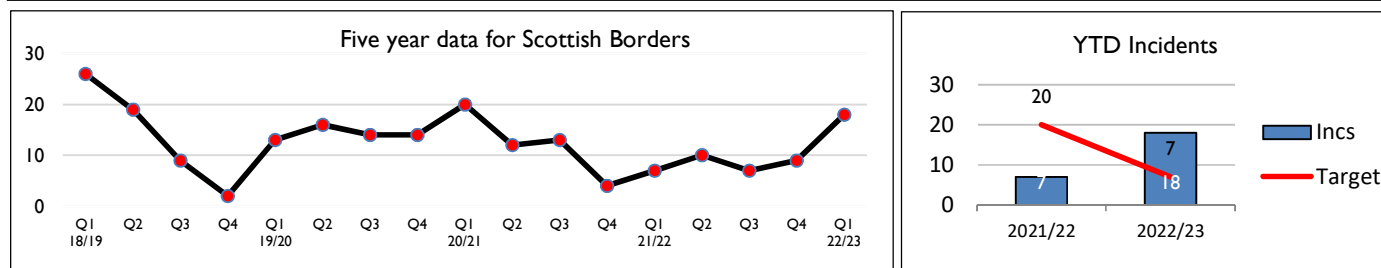
### Reasons

Cooking appliances accounted for 7 of these dwelling fires with 3 due to negligent use of equipment and 2 partitionable to faulty fuel supplies. Analysis highlights 8 of these incidents involved adults 18 to 64 years old and 2 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 - 2	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	13	20	7	6	18	
Tweeddale West	0	4	0	0	1	
Tweeddale East	2	1	1	1	2	
Galashiels & District	5	2	1	0	1	
Selkirkshire	0	1	0	0	1	
Leaderdale & Melrose	0	0	1	1	1	
Mid Berwickshire	2	4	1	2	3	
East Berwickshire	1	2	0	2	1	
Kelso & District	1	0	0	0	0	
Jedburgh & District	0	0	0	0	2	
Hawick & Denholm	1	6	3	0	5	
Hawick & Hermitage	1	0	0	0	1	

## 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

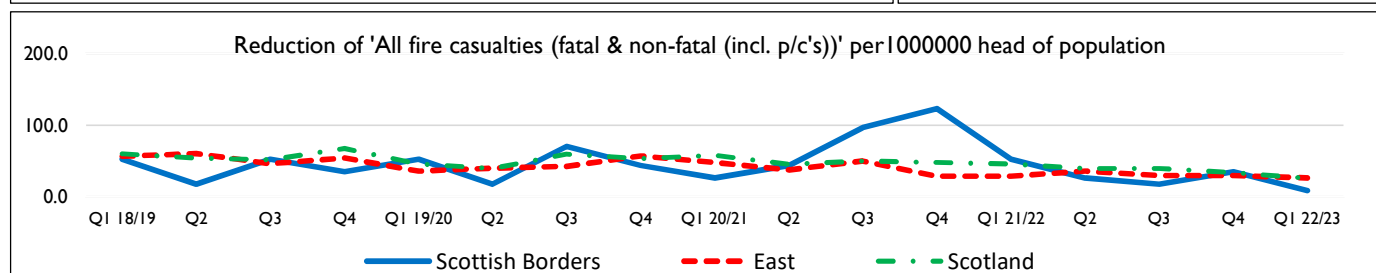
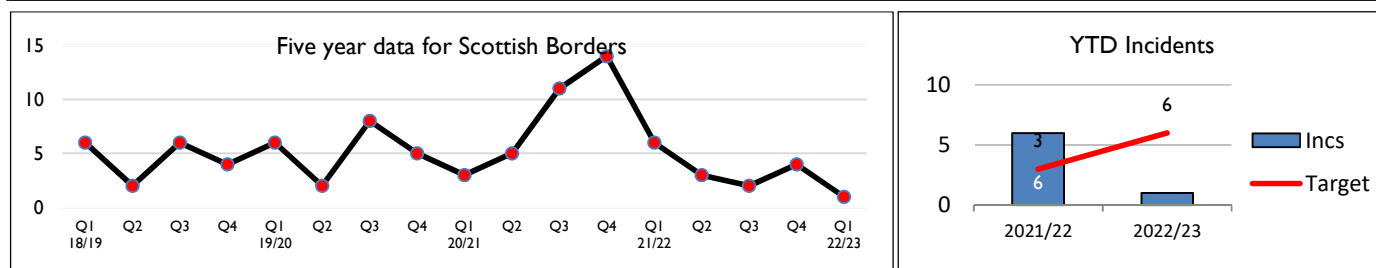
We aim to reduce fire casualties in the Scottish Borders year on year with a SFRS target of reducing fire casualties by 5% per year over a three-year rolling period. There has been one casualty in the reporting period to date, a reduction from last year's report.

### Reasons

In this quarter one person required support from FFs and Scottish Ambulance Service and went to hospital for a precautionary check up, the injuries appeared to be slight.

### 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 - 0	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	6	3	6	3	1	
Tweeddale West	1	0	1	0	0	
Tweeddale East	0	0	0	0	0	
Galashiels & District	1	0	2	0	0	
Selkirkshire	1	2	0	0	0	
Leaderdale & Melrose	1	0	1	1	0	
Mid Berwickshire	0	1	0	0	0	
East Berwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	
Kelso & District	2	0	0	1	0	
Jedburgh & District	0	0	0	0	1	
Hawick & Denholm	0	0	0	0	0	
Hawick & Hermitage	0	0	2	1	0	

## 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. With the impact of Climate Change already being apparent its important we educate people on the risk and environmental impact of grass and wildfire, which is evident across the Country this year. Evidence shows that there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour as well as the climate.

### Results

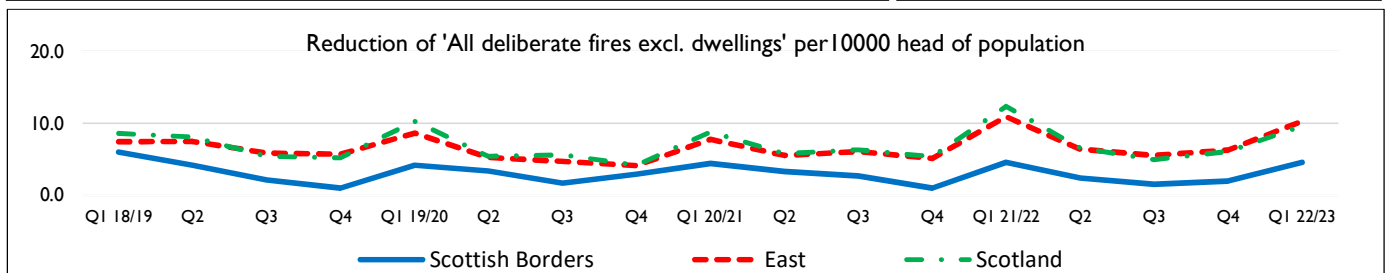
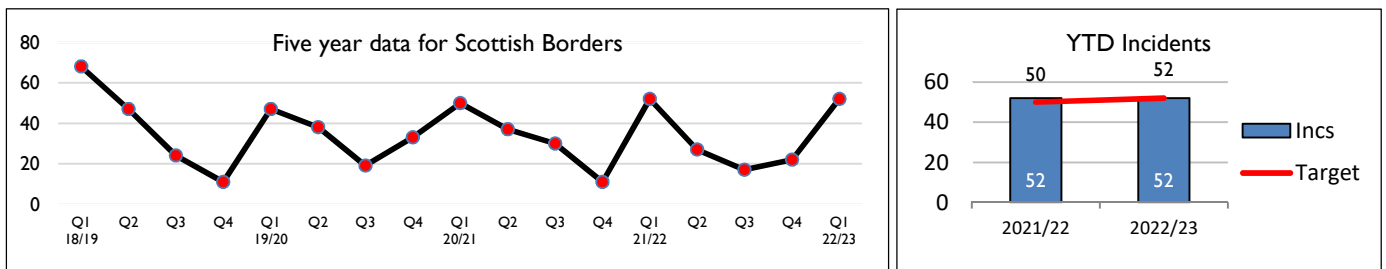
There have been 52 incidents of this nature in the reporting quarter, an large increase from last year, but average with previous years.

### Reasons

Secondary fires involving refuse, grass or derelict buildings accounted for 54% 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. To address the risk of climate change SFRS have identified MELSB to support their Wildfire Strategy. Coldstream and Lauder stations will become Tier 2 Wildfire stations, supporting Musselburgh which will be a Tier 3 station. This will bring greater skill, knowledge, equipment and partnership working to our area to enhance our future prevention and response to these types of fire. The strategy should be fully embedded and operational within three years.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 5	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	47	50	52	26	52	
Tweeddale West	3	6	5	3	7	
Tweeddale East	4	6	7	1	2	
Galashiels & District	12	8	8	1	8	
Selkirkshire	1	2	1	2	4	
Leaderdale & Melrose	2	2	3	2	3	
Mid Berwickshire	2	8	6	4	7	
East Berwickshire	5	5	1	6	3	
Kelso & District	5	0	3	1	1	
Jedburgh & District	3	0	1	2	4	
Hawick & Denholm	5	11	11	2	11	
Hawick & Hermitage	5	2	6	2	2	



## Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, education 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

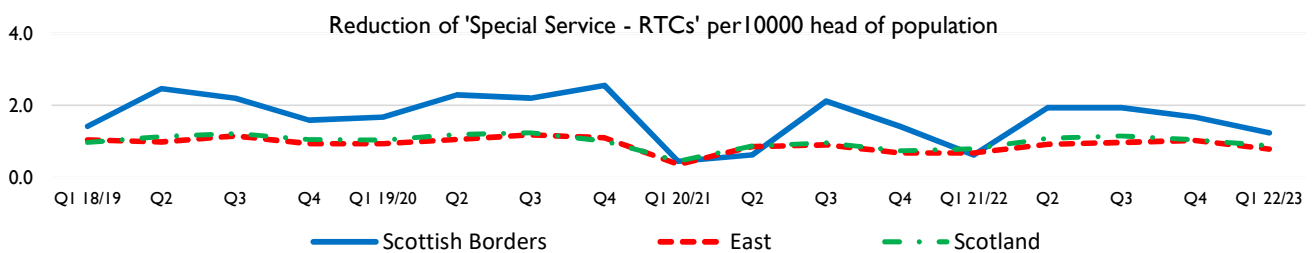
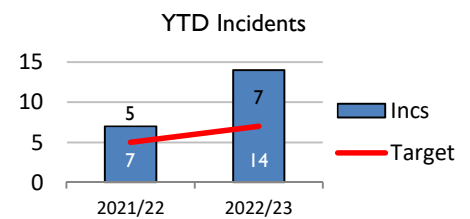
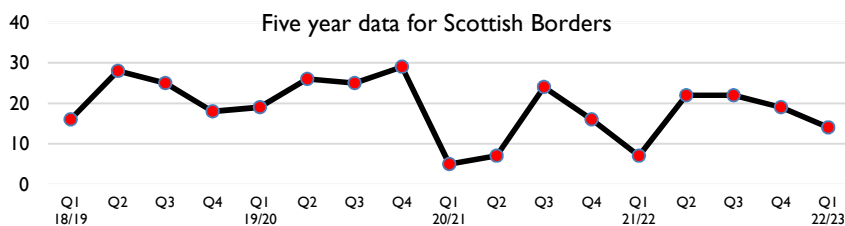
SFRS attended 14 RTC's in the reporting period, up from 7 in the reporting period last year. Although the increase is concerning SFRS took operational action on only four occasions to rescue casualties. It should be borne in mind that the Pandemic, and associated lockdowns, meant that there was far less activity on our roads last year so it is not surprising to see this figure rise due to traffic levels increasing.

### 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.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - I	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	16	19	5	7	14	
Tweeddale West	2	3	0	1	0	
Tweeddale East	2	1	1	0	0	
Galashiels & District	2	2	0	0	1	
Selkirkshire	0	0	0	1	2	
Leaderdale & Melrose	1	2	0	1	0	
Mid Berwickshire	0	1	2	0	1	
East Berwickshire	4	4	0	1	5	
Kelso & District	0	2	0	0	1	
Jedburgh & District	0	1	1	1	1	
Hawick & Denholm	3	1	0	1	1	
Hawick & Hermitage	2	2	1	1	2	

## Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

The figures within the table 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, bariatric and medical emergencies.

### Results

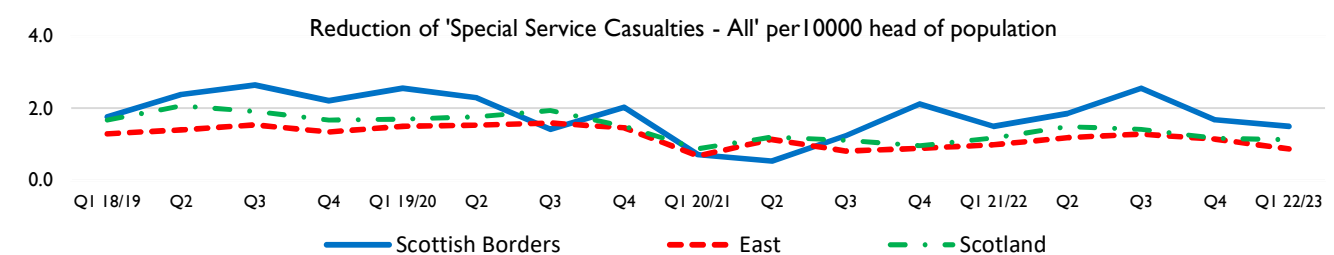
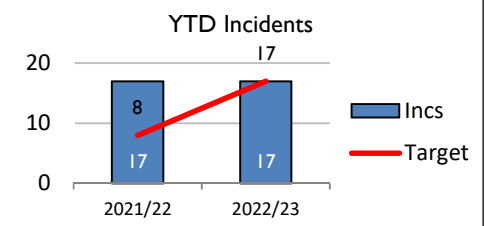
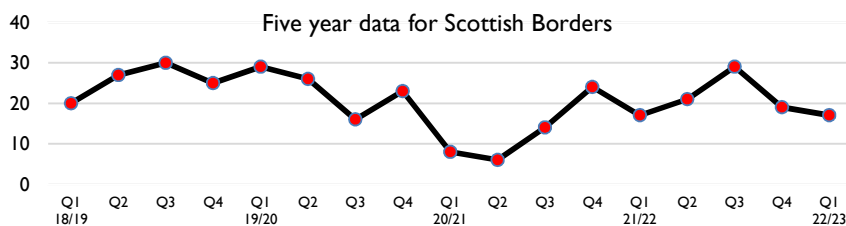
There have been 17 special service casualties during the reporting period, the same as previous reporting period. 4 casualties injuries appeared to be serious and required hospital treatment, 8 casualties injuries were slight but attended hospital and on 5 occasions first aid provided by Ffs was sufficient 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 quarter SFRS attended 27 effecting entry incidents in the Scottish Borders. Traditional special service response includes water rescue (4), flooding (4), hazardous material response (5), RTC's (14) 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 - 2	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	20	29	8	17	17	
Tweeddale West	1	2	1	2	1	
Tweeddale East	1	4	0	0	1	
Galashiels & District	1	1	1	1	0	
Selkirkshire	2	2	1	4	1	
Leaderdale & Melrose	2	3	0	0	0	
Mid Berwickshire	1	2	3	1	3	
East Berwickshire	2	4	0	4	3	
Kelso & District	2	2	0	0	2	
Jedburgh & District	0	7	0	1	2	
Hawick & Denholm	5	0	1	2	2	
Hawick & Hermitage	3	2	1	2	2	

## 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

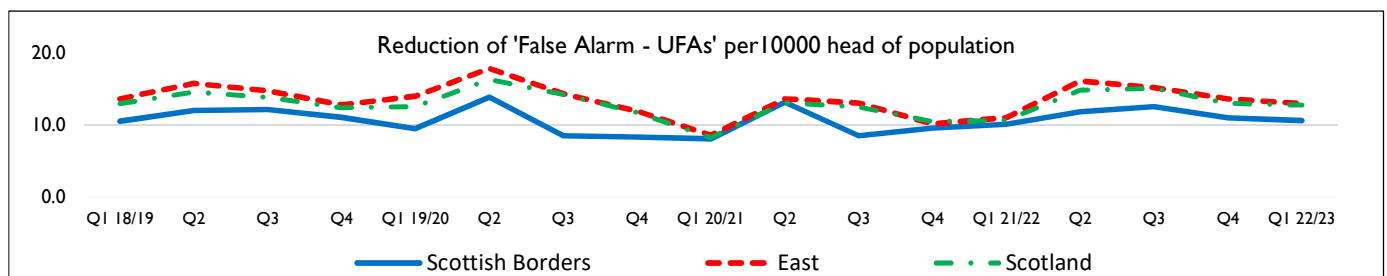
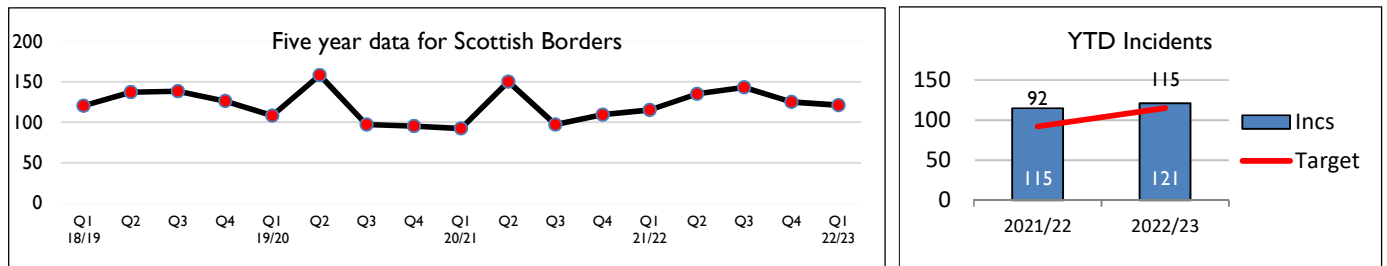
There have been 121 fire calls that were classed as UFAS in the Scottish Borders during the reporting period. On average SFRS send nine firefighters and two fire appliances to every UFAS call out. It takes around 15 minutes for firefighters to investigate the cause, from the appliance leaving the station to the cause of the alarm being identified. This means every year SFRS lose over 64,000 productive hours. To put this in to context, that's the equivalent cost of £3.5 million. This causes significant disruption to our training, fire safety and community safety work but crucially, while firefighters are investigating the cause of the alarm, they cannot attend real emergencies.

### Reasons

44 of these calls were due to false alarm with good intent, 47 were malicious calls and 17 were caused by human behaviour. 13 of these calls were caused by staff testing the alarm, these calls could have been prevented by staff knowing their own procedure and practice within their 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 - 11	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	120	108	92	115	121	
<b>Tweeddale West</b>	9	20	10	15	<b>18</b>	
Tweeddale East	6	2	5	5	1	
<b>Galashiels &amp; District</b>	18	11	8	18	<b>28</b>	
Selkirkshire	15	14	9	15	5	
<b>Leaderdale &amp; Melrose</b>	13	23	13	20	<b>14</b>	
Mid Berwickshire	8	8	7	9	6	
East Berwickshire	7	2	5	7	6	
Kelso & District	18	6	13	4	10	
Jedburgh & District	11	6	3	3	6	
Hawick & Denholm	7	8	16	12	5	
<b>Hawick &amp; Hermitage</b>	8	8	3	7	<b>22</b>	