



**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 31<sup>st</sup> December 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. For the reporting period within the report we have accessed over 3800hrs of appliance covering across MELSB utilising staff through the Bank Hours initiative. 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 focused 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 7 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	YTD
All accidental dwelling fires	67	59	57	58	54	●
All accidental dwelling fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	11	14	8	11	10	●
All deliberate fires	115	122	103	78	108	◆
Non domestic fires	33	35	33	25	37	◆
Special Service - RTC casualties	47	36	13	35	32	●
Special Service - Non RTC casualties	30	35	15	32	28	●
False Alarm - UFAs	395	363	339	393	416	●

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.

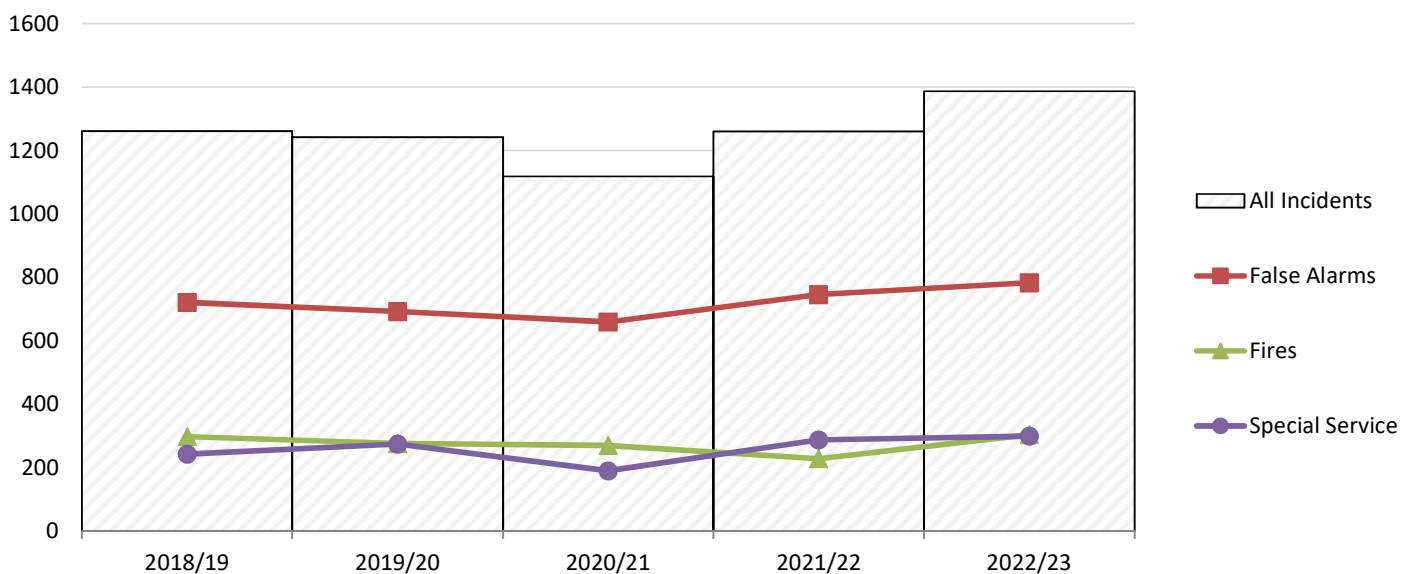
**Note**

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 31st December 2022 SFRS responded to 1391 incidents in the Scottish Borders. This included 55 accidental dwelling fires, 198 accidental fires, 59 RTCs and 301 special service incidents. This is an increase of 132 incidents compared to the same period last year. False alarms accounted for 56% of our emergency calls. The change to UFAS response, planned for July 2023, will drive down the number of false alarm mobilisations that crews attend and create time and opportunity for more training and community safety initiatives. SFRS nationally and locally are making partners and duty holders aware of this change in our operational response to UFAS.

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. LSO Sangster proposed seconding a Swift Water Rescue Instructor (SRTI) from an operational watch to the local training team to support the delivery of flood response training to current and new stations within the Borders as well as Hawick and Galashiels SRT stations. This person started in post January 2023.

#### 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. Staff at MELSB wholetime stations received an input from the OI team this quarter to ensure data input was of a high quality, they understood process, purpose etc and this training will be cascaded to our On call station. 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 period 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, UCI World Cycling Championships, Tour of the Borders etc.

## Reduction of 'All accidental 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 54 dwelling fires recorded compared to 58 for the same period last year. It is pleasing to see this figure decrease within the reporting period and continue to drop across the five year reporting period. There were 3 deliberate dwelling fires.

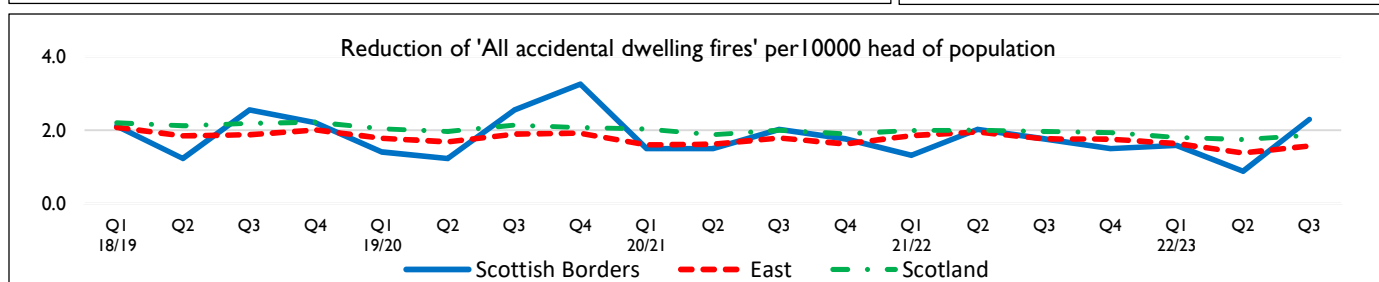
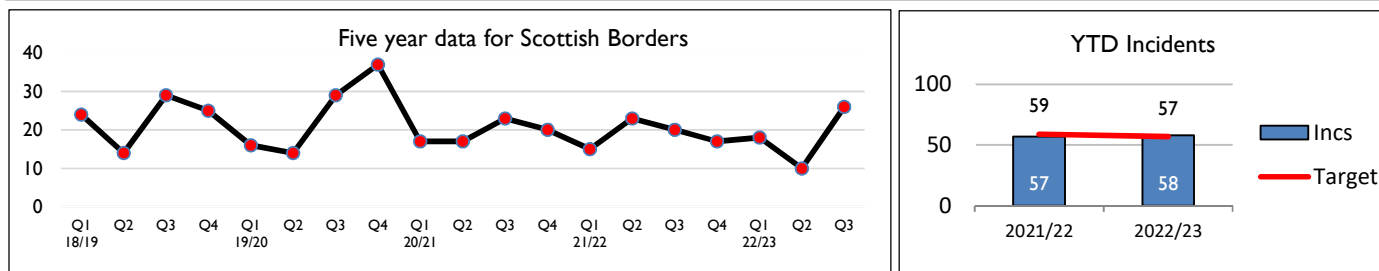
### Reasons

Cooking appliances accounted for 21 of these dwelling fires with 3 due to negligent use of equipment and 2 partitionable to faulty fuel supplies. Analysis highlights 22 of these incidents involved adults 18 to 64 years old and 21 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 focused correctly.

### 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 - 5	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	67	59	57	58	54	
Tweeddale West	6	5	4	3	7	
Tweeddale East	2	4	4	2	3	
Galashiels & District	9	10	18	5	10	
Selkirkshire	8	7	4	9	2	
Leaderdale & Melrose	9	6	3	4	7	
Mid Berwickshire	9	8	2	6	8	
East Berwickshire	4	3	4	7	2	
Kelso & District	6	2	3	7	7	
Jedburgh & District	5	3	4	1	2	
Hawick & Denholm	5	4	2	8	2	
Hawick & Hermitage	4	7	9	6	4	

## Reduction of 'All accidental dwelling 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

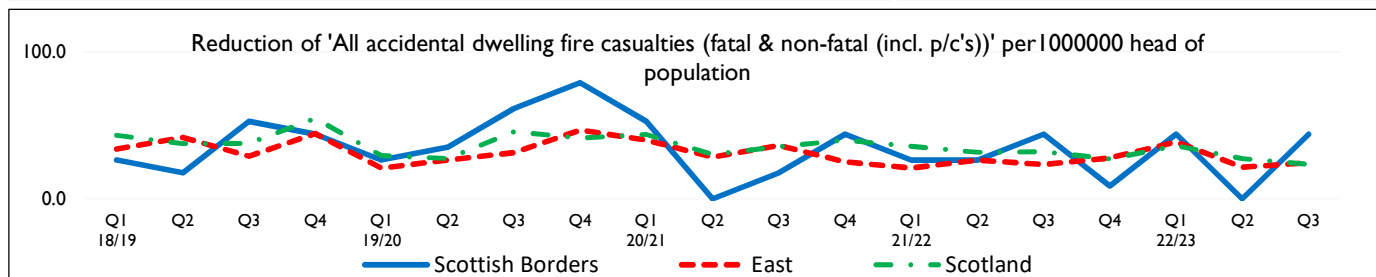
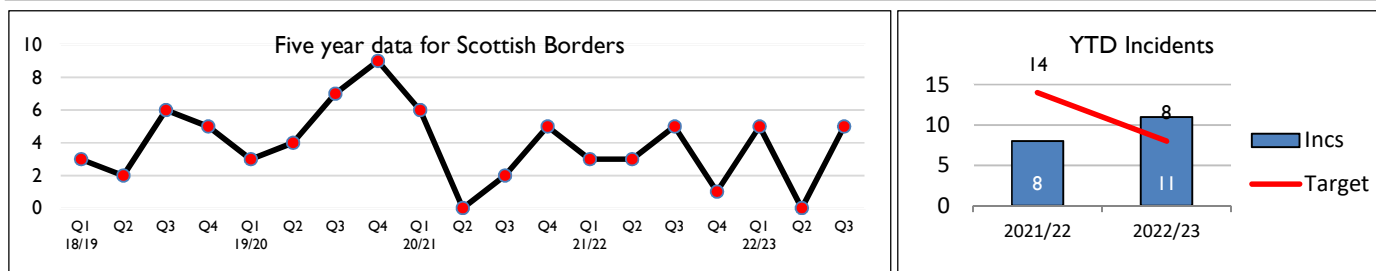
We aim to reduce fire casualties in the Scottish Borders year on year with a SFRS target of reducing fire casualties by 5% per year over a three-year rolling period. There has been 10 casualty in the reporting period to date, a reduction from last year's report of 11. Unfortunately one person was fatally injured at an incident, we are still waiting on information to confirm if this is a fire death. Of the other incidents 4 members of the public attended hospital with slight injuries, 6 received treatment on scene and SFRS staff provided oxygen on 7 occasions to injured persons.

### Reasons

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.

### Actions

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. Our operational crews, during community safety or operational activity, are able to raise concerns to partners through our Adult and Child protection policy.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - I	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	11	14	8	11	10	
Tweeddale West	1	1	1	0	0	
Tweeddale East	0	0	1	0	1	
Galashiels & District	0	1	2	5	0	
Selkirkshire	1	2	0	0	0	
Leaderdale & Melrose	1	0	1	1	2	
Mid Berwickshire	3	2	0	0	1	
East Berwickshire	2	0	0	0	1	
Kelso & District	2	1	0	3	3	
Jedburgh & District	1	4	1	0	1	
Hawick & Denholm	0	0	0	1	0	
Hawick & Hermitage	0	3	2	1	1	

## Reduction of 'All deliberate fires'

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

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

It is disappointing to see this figure has increased to 108 compared to 78 for 2021/22 period, however the figure has dropped from a high of 122 in 2019/20. There have been 3 deliberate dwelling fires recorded compared to 3 for the same period last year, 2 were by the property owner This could be that since lockdown we are able to get out to educate the public on fire safety within the home and community.

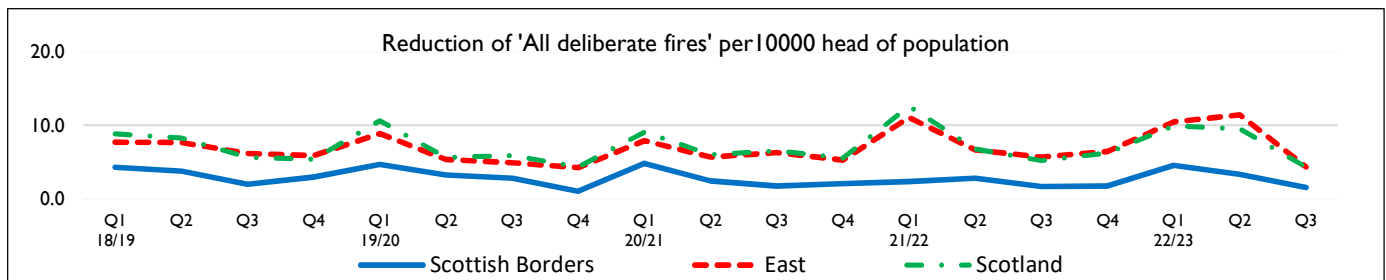
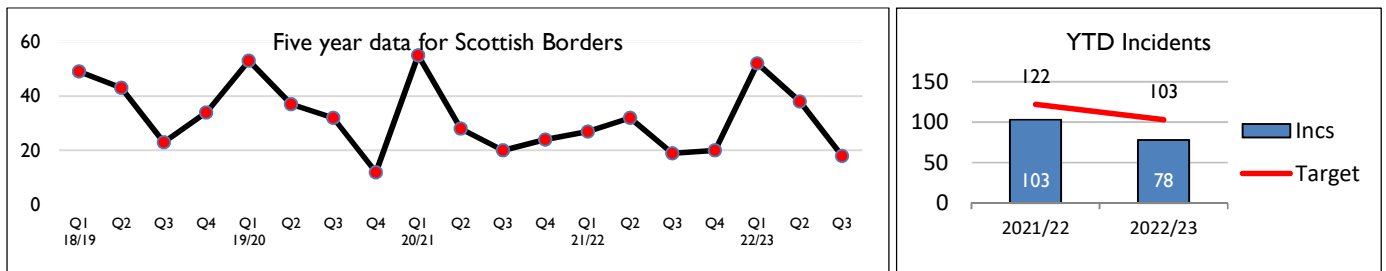
### Reasons

Grassland and refuse fires accounted for 64 of the recorded fires. Car fires accounted for 5 of the fires recorded, 3 were dwelling fire . Analysis highlights 8 of these incidents involved adults 18 to 64 years old and 5 in 10 to 17 age group. This proves that our a targeted approach to drive down the risk of secondary fire and anti social behaviour fires , with an emphasis on those who are particularly vulnerable through age is correct.

### Actions

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) conduct Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) following all domestic fires, deliberate or accidental. 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. From analysis its clear there is a spike in grassland and refuse fire in the summer so our thematic action plan captures this community safety work as a priority comming in to summer.

We work closely with partners to identify persons at risk from fire, this often requires cross agency or joint home safety visits



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 10	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	115	122	103	78	108	
Tweeddale West	6	7	11	8	12	
Tweeddale East	9	9	9	4	5	
Galashiels & District	31	19	16	5	13	
Selkirkshire	4	7	3	6	7	
Leaderdale & Melrose	8	9	6	2	9	
Mid Berwickshire	5	14	7	9	7	
East Berwickshire	13	11	4	10	13	
Kelso & District	14	7	10	5	1	
Jedburgh & District	6	6	2	8	11	
Hawick & Denholm	10	25	20	10	23	
Hawick & Hermitage	9	8	15	11	7	



## Reduction of 'Non domestic fires'

Non domestic fires typically involve agricultural, industrial, educational etc buildings. Evidence shows that there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and anti-social behaviour as well as non domestic fires.

### Results

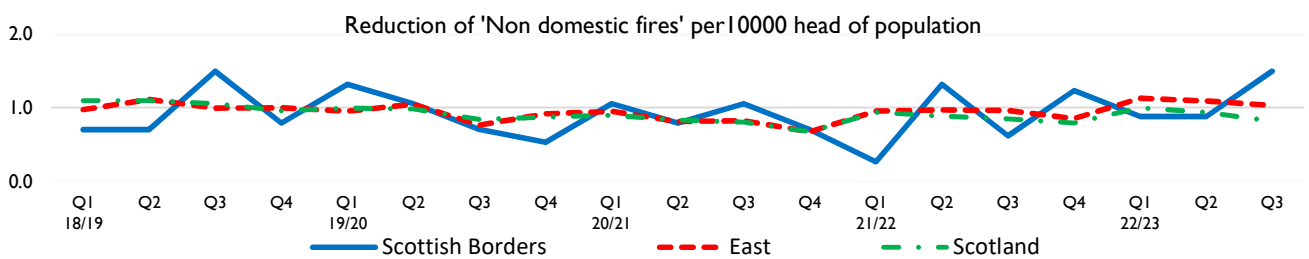
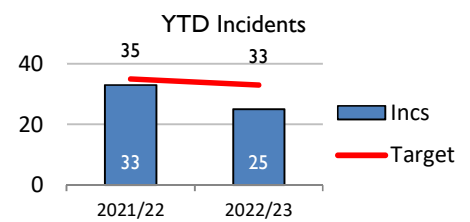
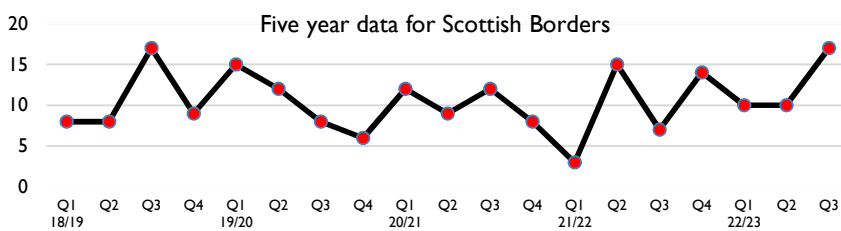
There have been 37 incidents of this nature in the reporting period, a small increase from last year and slightly above average with previous years.

### Reasons

The vast majority of these incidents, 25, were accidental with 12 caused by adults. 9 incidents were caused by equipment overheating, 4 were due to faulty fuel supplies and 2 were negligent use of equipment. Only 7 were deliberate.

### Actions

SFRS carry out Post Fire Audits of any premises that has a fire that falls under the Fire Scotland Act. Our fire safety protection officers (FSPO) work with duty holders to ensure compliance with all regulations, to educate on their responsibilities and to support businesses growth and continuity.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 3	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	33	35	33	25	37	
Tweeddale West	1	3	4	5	6	
Tweeddale East	2	2	0	1	3	
Galashiels & District	7	2	7	4	2	
Selkirkshire	2	3	3	1	3	
Leaderdale & Melrose	3	5	1	0	3	
Mid Berwickshire	3	5	4	3	0	
East Berwickshire	2	3	1	3	3	
Kelso & District	6	4	5	1	3	
Jedburgh & District	5	5	4	3	6	
Hawick & Denholm	1	3	1	2	6	
Hawick & Hermitage	1	0	3	2	2	

## Reduction of 'Special Service - RTC casualties'

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. 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.

### Results

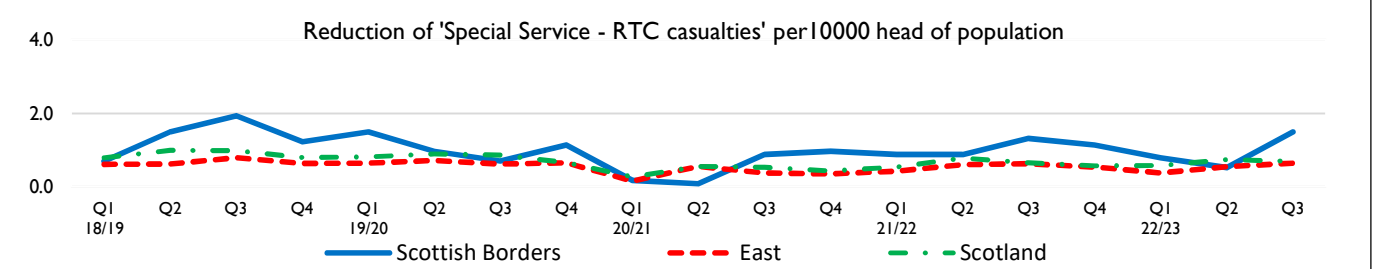
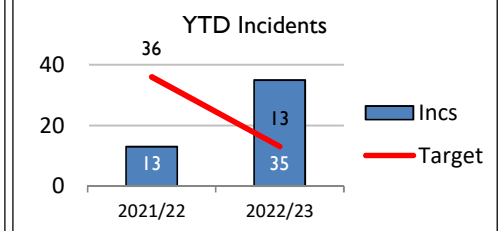
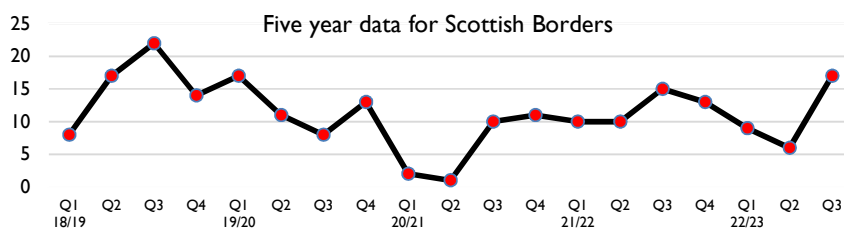
SFRS attended 59 RTC's in the reporting period. SFRS took operational action on 20 occasions to rescue casualties. In this period 25 people were injured and unfortunatley 7 casualties lost their lives. 87% of all RTC attended involved cars, 10% vans and 3% motorcycles

### 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. We are working with Police Scotland to ensure our local messaging and focus is targeted correctly to have the greatest impact on the most at risk groups to reduce RTC casualty numbers.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 3	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	47	36	13	35	32	
Tweeddale West	7	3	0	7	1	
Tweeddale East	3	5	0	1	0	
Galashiels & District	6	6	2	3	5	
Selkirkshire	2	0	0	3	3	
Leaderdale & Melrose	3	3	3	8	5	
Mid Berwickshire	12	2	2	1	0	
East Berwickshire	2	4	2	3	6	
Kelso & District	0	5	1	2	3	
Jedburgh & District	5	6	2	5	4	
Hawick & Denholm	3	1	0	1	3	
Hawick & Hermitage	4	1	1	1	2	

## Reduction of 'Special Service - Non RTC casualties'

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.

### Results

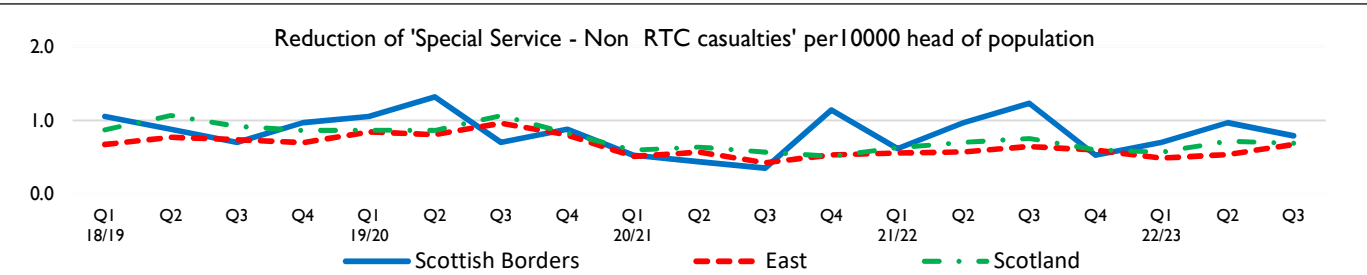
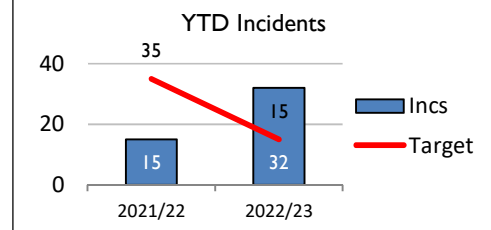
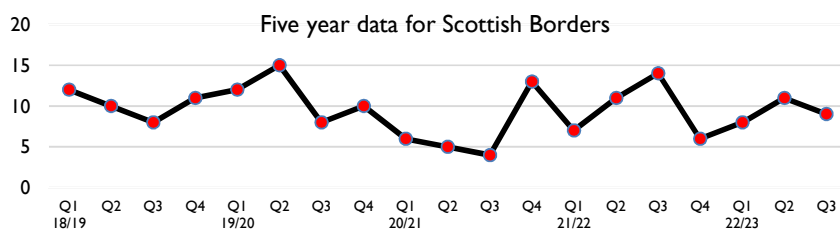
There have been 62 special service non RTC casualties during the reporting period, unfortunately 3 persons lost their lives. 15 casualty injuries appeared to be serious and required hospital treatment, 33 casualty injuries were slight but attended hospital and on 1 occasion first aid provided by Ffs was sufficient to deal with the injury. The split between male and female casualties was 37 male to 25 female. In general, there has been a small reduction across the five-year reporting period.

### Reasons

The reason for these special services are varied and diverse such as local demographics, access to services, deprivation etc. For example during the reporting period SFRS supported partner agencies by forcing entry to 69 premises on their behalf, 28 times to support partner agencies and 7 hazardous material incidents.

### 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 of water etc. We participate fully in initiatives such as Scottish Borders Drivewise Event, our annual Thematic action plan which includes water safety, derelict properties, vulnerable persons etc.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 3	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	30	35	15	32	28	
Tweeddale West	3	3	1	0	3	
Tweeddale East	0	0	1	1	1	
Galashiels & District	5	5	1	2	3	
Selkirkshire	3	4	1	4	3	
Leaderdale & Melrose	4	0	0	1	1	
Mid Berwickshire	1	3	4	5	6	
East Berwickshire	1	2	1	3	2	
Kelso & District	5	3	1	2	2	
Jedburgh & District	3	4	2	4	2	
Hawick & Denholm	5	4	2	4	2	
Hawick & Hermitage	0	7	1	6	3	

## 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 and delayed until July 2023, to give duty holders more time to become familiar with the changes and their responsibilities, 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

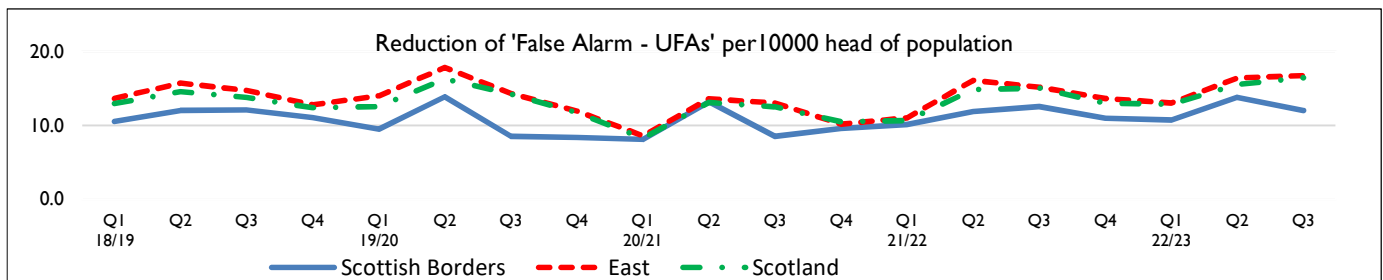
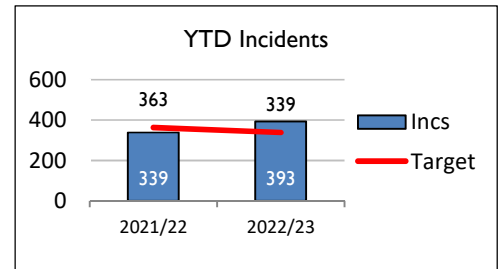
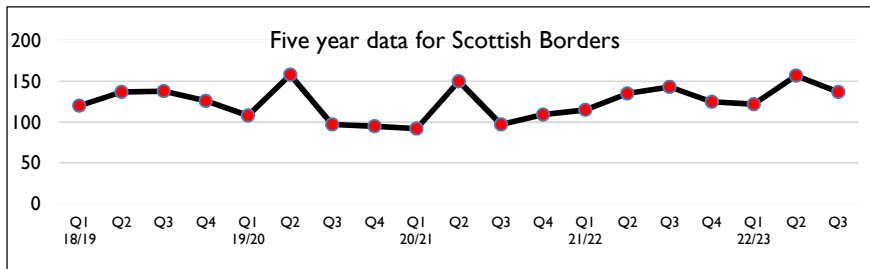
There have been 784 fire calls that were classed as UFAS in the Scottish Borders during the reporting period. On average SFRS send nine firefighters and two fire appliances to every UFAS call out. It takes around 15 minutes for firefighters to investigate the cause, from the appliance leaving the station 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

186 of these calls were due to false alarm with good intent, 61 were malicious calls and 17 were caused by human behaviour. 104 UFAS incidents were due to faulty equipment, 103 due to cooking and 59 were accidental. 38 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 July 2023 our FSPO staff will continue to support, advise and educate duty holders on their responsibilities.



YTD ward ave. for Scottish Borders - 38	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Sparklines
Scottish Borders	395	363	339	393	416	
Tweeddale West	41	55	48	39	76	
Tweeddale East	29	14	20	15	21	
Galashiels & District	56	45	41	77	63	
Selkirkshire	39	36	28	39	27	
Leaderdale & Melrose	48	50	45	77	62	
Mid Berwickshire	33	25	18	28	19	
East Berwickshire	23	20	25	28	29	
Kelso & District	49	32	46	22	43	
Jedburgh & District	24	22	16	22	22	
Hawick & Denholm	25	31	38	32	17	
Hawick & Hermitage	28	33	14	14	37	