

# Scottish Borders Prevention & Protection Activities

## Quarter 4: 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### Fire Safety Enforcement Audits

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is the enforcing authority for the Fire Scotland Act 2005 and Fire Safety Regulations 2006. The act applies to specific non-domestic premises and requires duty holders to comply with relevant aspects of the Act and Regulations. SFRS responsibilities as the enforcing authority are captured within an Enforcement Framework. The Framework identifies and assigns priority to premises type with those premises deemed as higher risk given priority for auditing purposes. Premise providing sleeping accommodation such as hospitals, care homes, houses of multiple occupation, hostels and hotels receive an annual audit. Other premises that are subject to audit but deemed lower risk will be visited every three or five years. Within Scottish Borders we have two (2) Officers who plan and carry out these duties. The Officers are also available to provide Fire Safety advice, consulting with partners such as Local Authority Building control functions and the wider public with Fire Scotland Act 2005 responsibilities.

SC BORDERS AUDITS 22/23	JANUARY- MARCH	YTD
	60	161

### Home Fire Safety Visits

The delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) is the corner stone of the SFRS Community Safety Engagement framework. By visiting households to provide fire safety advice and smoke alarms, the numbers of dwelling fires and casualties will be reduced. Requests for HFSVs are generated in several ways, including self-referral, SFRS partners referring and visits carried out after SFRS have attended a domestic fire incident. This is known as Post Domestic Incident Response (**PDIR**), offering a HFSV to the properties and occupants impacted directly by the fire and the wider neighbourhood area.

When a HFSV is generated, the risk within the property is calculated by asking the occupant a number of specific questions. The outcome will be either, High, Medium or Low risk. This outcome determines priority in relation to carrying out the visit and the frequency for future re-visits. The table below highlights the number of visits carried out in Scottish Borders for this reporting period.

SCOTTISH BORDERS	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTALS	YTD
<b>Ward</b>					
East Berwickshire	4	2	0	6	37
Galashiels & District	16	4	8	28	147
Hawick & Denholm	6	8	4	18	100
Hawick & Hermitage	10	21	16	47	183
Jedburgh & District	9	10	6	25	70
Kelso & District	11	2	3	16	48
Leaderdale & Melrose	4	9	6	19	74
Mid Berwickshire	7	3	2	12	36
Selkirkshire	4	7	5	16	45
Tweeddale East	10	11	10	31	72
Tweeddale West	10	3	0	13	45
<b>TOTALS</b>	30	84	94	229	857

### Home Fire Safety Referrals

The table below details how HFSVs were generated.

	Q4	YTD
<b>Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)</b>	<b>60</b>	
<b>Berwickshire Housing</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Waverley Housing</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>DAAS</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>MARAC</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>NHS</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Self-referral</b>	<b>83</b>	
<b>SB Cares</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>SB Social Care</b>	<b>17</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>556</b>

### **Partnership Working/Youth Engagement**

We recently delivered a Youth Engagement Fireskills course at Peebles Fire Station. Twelve (12) pupils from Peebles High School attended. This was very successful with positive feedback gained from participants and Teachers from the School. Topics covered included, Water Safety, Fire related anti-social behaviour, CPR and practical skills sessions.

Our activities in relation to Water and Road Safety continue with Partner support. As we approach warmer weather, more focus will be given to risk of associated with water, with the Community Action Team (CAT) planning the delivery of talks to Schools and other groups across the Scottish Borders.

### **Safeguarding**

During this period our teams continued to identify and refer adults at risk of harm and/or in need of support. Partner agencies have also requested a number of Enhanced Home Fire Safety Visits through Police concern reports or direct requests from social services. We continue to support partner agencies with Fire risk reduction and referral pathway training.

### **Other Work Completed or In Progress**

Our Local Community Action Team have also been involved with delivery and promotion of the following initiatives during the reporting period;

- Safety at Home
- Cooking Safety
- Fire & Alcohol
- Grass & Wildland Fires

The Local CAT attends various multi-agency forums within Scottish Borders. This includes Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC).

## Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

As reported previously, SFRS introduce changes to the way we respond to the above incident type from 1st July 2023. Full information can be accessed using the link below.



[Scottish Fire & Rescue Service: Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals \(UFAS\) \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://firescotland.gov.uk)