



**Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum February 2016.  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

**Station Manager Russell Bell.**

**Purpose of the Report;**

The purpose of this report is to inform the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for the month of January 2016.

**Service Delivery activity in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area.**

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	3	1 x kitchen (toaster), 1 x electrical fault, 1 chimney.	0
Fire- Open/ other	0		0
Special Service	18	12 x flooding, 2 x road traffic collision, 4 x out of hospital cardiac arrest.	6
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	12	3 x commercial, 4 x hospital, 2 x sheltered housing, 3 x residential.	N/A

Flooding

The Scottish Borders suffered another bout of significant flooding on 27 January. The main areas of flooding were in and around Hawick, Bonchester Bridge, Denholm and Jedburgh. Appliances were mobilised from Hawick, Selkirk, Jedburgh, Kelso, Lauder, Galashiels, Coldstream, Dalkeith, Musselburgh, Marionville & Falkirk to assist throughout the area and were active with evacuations, water rescue and pumping out flooded properties.

## **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

### Swift water rescue training

Wholetime crews are currently undergoing swift water rescue training, which will see Hawick become a national asset with regard to the ability to respond to water related incidents.

The training has three parts- trailer driving, swift water rescue and boat handling. The go live date will be confirmed for later this year and will enhance the local response to incidents involving flooding and life rescue.

The high volume pump will, as previously reported, leave Hawick as the swift water rescue skillset is realised.

### **Service Transformation**

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service realise as a public Service that we need to diversify and innovate as the needs of our communities become sharper into focus. One of these focus areas is out of hospital cardiac arrest, where the survival rate is very low if no immediate assistance is available.

Hawick has been chosen, following guidance from the Scottish Ambulance Service, as a suitable location to trial the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services out of hospital cardiac arrest response.

Crews (both Whole time and Retained Duty System) have received enhanced joint training, (focussing on cardio pulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator use) from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service training staff and Scottish Ambulance Service partners which allows a response to local cardiac arrest emergencies, where appropriate. Hawick is now a 'live asset' and is on standby to meet the needs of our local communities.

### **Prevention and Protection activity.**

Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years has been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provides the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.

Activity, which is ongoing at the moment within the Teviot & Liddesdale area;

- Community Planning Partnership- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have been active within the local Resilient Communities groups, and have submitted proposals supporting the Burnfoot Community Futures strategy for the Hub. We have also been actively supporting local elected members who have highlighted combustible materials on common stairwells.
- Young Drivers S6 Programme- is an initiative aimed at educating new/potential drivers. PowerPoint presentation in the classroom is followed by practical education with a crashed car in conjunction with local Scottish Fire and Rescue Service crews. This initiative has been running at Hawick High School and has received encouraging feedback from both students and staff.
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all our local stations provide Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The visits provide the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life are provided as part of this free service. Freephone number for this service is 0800 0731 999.

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

## **NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

- Firesharp is an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within our local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention.
- Crucial Crew is the practical follow up to the P6 educational input. All P7 pupils in the area attend a multi-agency event at Tweedbank where they are placed in real life scenarios and guided on the appropriate safe actions.
- Fire Safety Audits provide a targeted examination of a business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises are being managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also engages with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness.
- Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals are being addressed by our phased intervention actions which identifies premises which are producing 'false alarms', provides guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and can also evoke legislation if occurrences fail to reduce in number- operationally, this can result in a reduction in the number of fire engines which will attend a 'repeat offender'.
- Fire Case Study and Adult & Child Protection Policies ensure multi agency involvement is provided for the support and protection for our higher risk members of the community.

### **Thematic Action Planning**

The Prevention & Protection (P&P) departments of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service initiate thematic plans throughout the year aimed at making our communities safer.

The Winter season thematic period is now active and focusses on the following;

- a) Reduce the overall number of accidental fires in the home
- b) Reduce the overall number of accidental fire casualties and fatalities
- c) Minimise the number of accidental fires and fire casualties in the home involving persons over 60 years of age and over
- d) Target Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) at high risk households (those most at risk and/or most in need)
- e) Facilitate multi-agency partnership working to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable persons
- f) Provide relevant winter public safety information and advice relating to winter safety
- g) Highlight the increased risk from fire and accidents over the festive period due to alcohol consumption

### **Multi Ward Operating Plan**

The Multi Ward Operating Plan for Teviot & Liddesdale, covering the Hawick & Hermitage/ Hawick & Denholm Wards is available. The plan sets out the priorities and objectives for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within the area. The SFRS will continue to work closely with our partners in Teviot & Liddesdale to ensure we are all 'Working Together for a Safer Scotland'. The plan can be accessed electronically via the following link;

[Http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/east/ward-operational-plans.aspx)

Station Manager Russell Bell- Hawick Fire Station  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Tel: 07818454613 email: [russell.bell2@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:russell.bell2@firescotland.gov.uk)

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**