



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Eildon Area Forum 18th February 2016
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Eildon Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 5th November 2015.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders five priorities are identified;

1. Reduction of Dwelling Fires
2. Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities
3. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting(Not including Dwellings)
4. Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
5. Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions.

Response & Resilience activity in the Eildon Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House	4(-2)	All fires occurred in single occupancy premises.	0
Fire- Open	0		0
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	60(-4)	1 property, BGH, has triggered intervention figure.	0
Special Service	23(+6)	Defibrillator - 2 RTC -12 Effecting entry - 2 Flooding - 3 Animal rescue - 2 (flood related)	2 5 (slight injuries) 0 0 0

Storm Desmond, Storm Frank & flooding related incidents

Since December SFRS has worked closely with partner agencies within the Scottish Borders to ensure that the correct weight of response has been available to deal with the flooding suffered by the residents of the area.

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Storm Desmond

- Six SFRS stations involved to “warn & inform” in towns to assist Police Scotland.
- Over 300 people evacuated prior to flooding in Hawick
- Swift Water Rescue Teams (SRT) from Galashiels, Bathgate and Marionville and Dalkeith Flood Response Team redeployed to Hawick.
- SRT from Lochgelly and Falkirk redeployed to Galashiels as well as Sighthill fire appliance.
- Local retained stations utilised to assist SRT appliances.
- Incident Support Room (ISR) at Edinburgh Operations Control in operation and SFRS Officer positioned in “The Bunker” at St Boswells to assist co-ordinate multi agency response.
- In total twelve extra SFRS pumps and specialist teams were deployed in to the Scottish Borders.
- Resources remained in position over the weekend until all partners were confident river levels were dropping and the risk was reduced.
- Six rescues occurred such as people trapped in vehicles, persons trapped in their homes etc.

Storm Frank

- SRT from Galashiels, Bathgate and Marionville SRT and Dalkeith Flood Response Team redeployed to Peebles.
- Retained stations utilised for “warn and inform” then as part of rescue strategy.
- Local retained stations utilised to assist SRT appliances.
- SRT from Stirling and Falkirk redeployed to Galashiels as well as Sighthill fire appliance, these resources moved to Peebles early evening.
- ISR at Edinburgh Operations Control in operation and SFRS Officer deployed in “the Bunker” at St Boswells to assist co-ordinate multi agency response.
- In total twelve extra SFRS pumps and specialist teams were deployed in to Scottish Borders.
- Resources remained in position over night until all partners were confident river levels were dropping and the risk was reduced.
- Seventeen rescues occurred on this date and one Care Home evacuated by SFRS due to rising waters.

Similar cover moves were made during flash conditions, such as the heavy rain forecast on the 27th January. Similar cover moves as above were ordered to address the flood risk with in the Scottish Borders on the 27th January and several others over the last two months.

Partnership Working

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) community action team (CAT), within the Scottish Borders, core work centres on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continues to expand its partnership working with the key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social Care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at high risk from fire and achieve positive outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

Scottish Borders Command Officers continue to attend the Safety Advisory Group meetings to ensure SFRS assist in the production of appropriate Operational Plans for events within the Scottish Borders.

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Prevention and Protection

Fire prevention and protection activity is 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 that is ongoing now within the Eildon area;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staffs in all our local stations provide home fire safety visits all year round. These 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.
- All stations are participating in the British Heart Foundation initiative- Call Push Rescue. This was launched on October 16th, European Heart Start day, and over 150 people in the Scottish Borders received training on that day. Stations are providing free CPR training to the public on a monthly basis to build resilience in the community and to drive down the numbers of people who die from cardiac arrest.
- All stations will soon be involved in the SFRS Out Of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) project. This will see SFRS resources being deployed along with Ambulance crews to deal with cardiac arrests. The project is aimed at reducing the number of people who die from OHCA in Scotland by 1000 by 2020. The figure is currently at 3400 per year. Four pilots are being carried in in Scottish Borders at this time. Lauder Community Fire Station is part of the pilot programme being run in the Scottish Borders along with Hawick, Coldstream and Jedburgh stations.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The policy has created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensures those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk are brought to the attention of Social Services. This has resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers.
- We are developing a strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection are fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings.

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As we move into the summer the seasonal community safety calendar and thematic action plan will focus our activities on the following areas;

- Rubbish & Refuse fires
- Grass & Wildland Fires (Muirburn Code)
- Cooking safety
- Derelict property

We will work closely with our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as local partnerships to promote preventative work as well as inter agency solutions.

The LALO is in post within Council HQ in order to continue improving partnership working, with particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable members of society. The primary aims of this partnership activity are to help ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable persons throughout the community, and to seek to reduce the overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fire fatalities in homes.

Retained Duty system

A national recruitment campaign is on-going for RDS firefighters at identified stations within the Scottish Borders.

A local initiative was run in partnership with Radio Borders that included acknowledgement to local employers for release of employees to serve their local community. There has been positive feedback from this initiative which raised a lot of awareness in respect of recruitment, as well as our attendance at the Radio Borders recruitment fair at Galashiels.

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 has been approved following its consultation period. The local plan sets out the priorities for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, and we will continue to work with our community planning partners and local communities to make the most efficient use of resources and contribute towards the shared priorities and actions within the community planning partnership and community safety arrangements. The Multi Ward Operating Plan for Eildon 2014/15 is complete and available within the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Web page.

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