



"Keeping People Safe"



**Berwickshire Area Forum 3rd March 2016
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Report.**

(Station Manager Matt Acton)

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to inform the Berwickshire Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last forum meeting on 3rd December 2015.

Within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders, five priorities, and actions outcomes 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 Berwickshire Area

Incident type	Occurrences	Detail	Casualties
Fire- House/Building	9	Cooking related x 7 Electrical fire x 2	4
Fire- Open	6	Car alight JCB alight Chimney fire x 4	1
Special Service	9	Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest x 2 Flooding x 2 Persons fallen x 2 RTC x 1 Effecting entry x 2	1
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	20	Non Deliberate	

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Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial.

A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest went live on 29th October 2015.

The trial will run at seven fire stations across Scotland, with three of these being in the Scottish Borders: Hawick, Lauder and Coldstream.

Firefighters at these stations have received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures that it has in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers.

If a fire service resource with a crew who are trained to provide high quality CPR and have a defibrillator is nearer to a potential cardiac arrest than a local Community First Responder team, then Ambulance Control will dispatch them at the same time as the ambulance crew, so that they can provide these life saving interventions while the ambulance is on its way.

The trials are part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aims to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020.

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 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 outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires. Fire raising awareness sessions presented by the team to partner agency practitioners have been and continue to be successful in promoting HFSVs and encouraging agencies to make referrals using the SFRS CSET online booking system.

Prevention and Protection

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 Berwickshire Ward area;

- Home Fire Safety Visits. 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 and fitted as part of this free service.
- 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.

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- 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. Legislation and enforcement Policy and Procedure for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals goes live on 1st December 2014.
- From the 1st April 2014 the 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 introduction of this 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.
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Working in collaboration with Borders College, Duns and Eyemouth Fire Stations are now used as venues for English classes for the ESOL group of students. Fire safety advice from the local crew is provided as part of the lesson plan.

- CPR Training

This is a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF) set to give communities across Scotland the opportunity to learn life-saving skills. All 356 of SFRS's fire stations recently took delivery of a BHF-donated Call Push Rescue training kit and each station will now act as a base for local people to learn vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and potentially save someone's life if they go into cardiac arrest.

It takes just 30 minutes to learn CPR using the Call Push Rescue kit and it's taught by DVD so there's no need to organise a trainer. Community groups will be able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the DVD and practice with the kit.

- Thematic Action Plan

The Winter Thematic Action plan is currently under way and focusses on the following areas of fire safety;

- Portable heater safety
- Electric blanket safety
- Safe use of candles
- Festive safety/ fairy lights and decorations.

We have worked closely with all our partners in the Scottish Borders Council Safer Communities Team as well as the four registered social landlords to

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promote these issues. Detailed festive fire safety information was provided for the council website and home fire safety public information articles were published in both Elder Voice and Scottish Borders Connect. The LALO is delivering a second series of fire safety awareness presentations to housing officers of the aforementioned landlords to re invigorate the home fire safety visit referral process in order to continue improving partnership working, with particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable tenants.

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 underway for recruitment of RDS Firefighters within the Scottish Borders. Applications have been received from candidates for Eyemouth, Duns and Coldstream Fire Stations and these are currently being progressed through the selection process. A new trainee has recently started at Coldstream.

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Scottish Borders 2014- 2017 have been approved following its consultation period. The local plan sets out the priorities for the 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 subsequent Ward plan 2015/16 for Berwickshire is now complete and available to elected members.

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