



Quarter 3 Report, 1st October – 31st December 2023



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working Together to Save Lives

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for a safer Scotland**

Midlothian



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

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within Midlothian for Quarter 3 of 2023-24 (1st October – 31st December 2023) including information on the year to date figures. The Scottish Government provides an overarching vision for public services. This vision supported by 11 National Outcomes, which demonstrate commitment to creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable growth. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) can make a significant contribution to improving these outcomes for Midlothian by contributing to the Community Planning arrangements across the area. The national priorities for the SFRS are set out in the Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The SFRS Strategic Plan 2019-2022 outlines how the SFRS will deliver against these priorities and the outcomes against which this delivery can be measured. The priorities contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2021 contribute towards the priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan. The aims of the local Fire & Rescue Service in Midlothian are to reduce fire deaths and to reduce injuries from fire and other emergencies in the community. We aim to achieve this by working in partnership, being pro-active and targeting our prevention and protection activities to where they are required, based on evidence. The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Midlothian 2021 identifies the following five objectives as the main focus for service delivery locally:

Local Priorities:

- As part of a Community Partnership approach, we will make people safer in their homes.
- We will promote Community Resilience whilst contributing to improved outcomes for people involved in non-fire emergencies.
- Together with our Community Partners, we will contribute to making roads in Midlothian safer.
- As part of a Community Partnership, we will challenge anti-social behaviour.
- In partnership, we will aim to reduce the occurrence and impact of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals.

Area Commander Hilary Sangster
Local Senior Officer for Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders
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Performance Summary

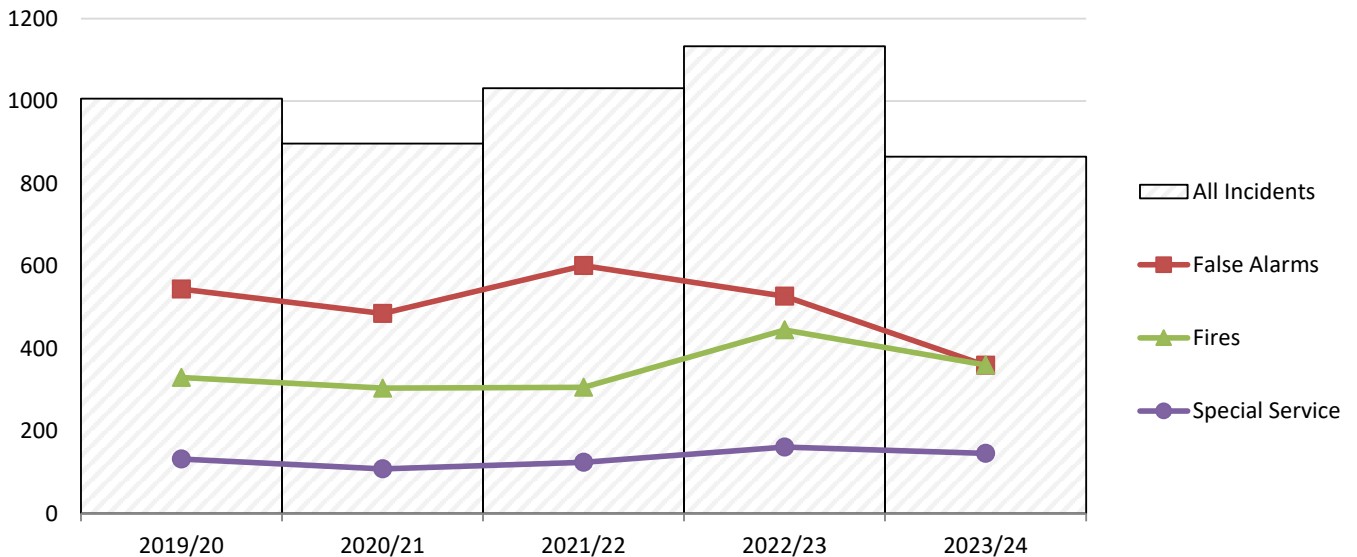
We measure how well we are meeting our priorities using 6 key indicators, depicted below

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Dec					RAG rating
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	YTD
All deliberate primary fires	42	36	36	52	53	▲
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	7	15	3	8	5	●
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	208	173	176	274	224	●
Special Service - RTCs	28	12	22	30	22	●
Special Service Casualties - All	40	21	24	25	27	▲
False Alarm - UFAs	301	215	335	285	142	●

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
Year to Date RAG Rating = the cumulative total of all quarterly performance in current year compared to cumulative total of all quarterly performance in previous year.

The chart below illustrates incidents YTD attended within Midlothian 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 risks
- deal with major events

Train our staff to deal with our local risks

All of our operational staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.

Gather and analyse risk information

All of our operational staff gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence, used in our preparations to resolve incidents.

We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.

We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.

Work with partners to mitigate risks

We continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership.

We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.

Deal with major events

There were no major fire events or significant emergency events in this reporting period.

Reduction of 'All deliberate primary fires'

Primary fires can be described as any property such as a residential house or a commercial building, road vehicle, land involving trees or external structure (fencing, garages, garden huts etc). The SFRS is committed to keeping people safe in our communities. We share information with partners to make sure that we reduce the risk to members of the community as well as property. Reduction of deliberate primary fires contributes to The Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

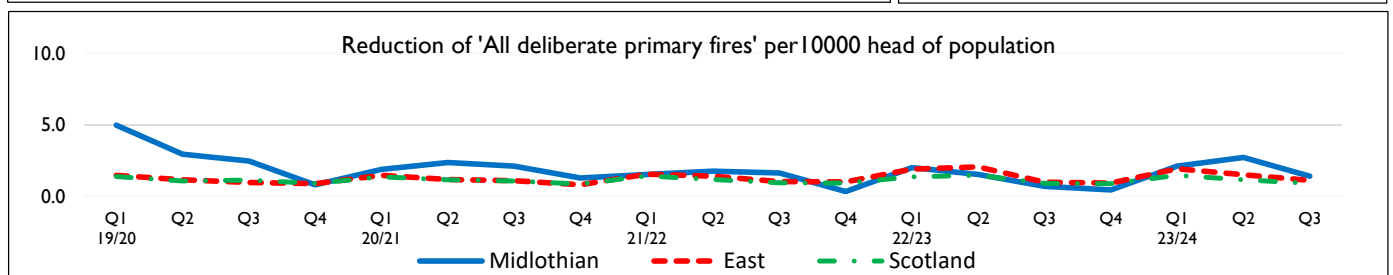
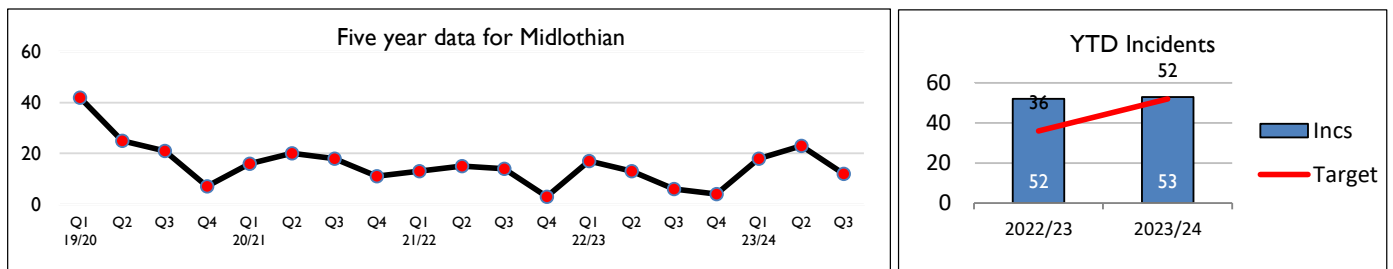
We aim to reduce primary deliberate Fires in Midlothian by contributing towards the SFRS target of 10% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this quarter, we responded to 12 deliberate Primary Fires, which is a decrease of 3 incidents compared with the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows the number of incidents in Midlothian are above the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend lines.

Reasons

Of the 12 deliberate primary fires attended during the reporting period, the breakdown is as follows: 6 were deliberate fires involving buildings, 2 of which were domestic dwelling properties. 5 Incidents were wilful fireraising of vehicles and 1 incident involved heathland/trees set alight during the reporting period. SFRS continues to work with partners and stakeholders to reduce wilful fireraising as a result of anti social behaviour. Appendix 1 provides information on preventative work and initiatives by SFRS to reduce the number of deliberate fires in Midlothian. This is an overall decrease of 3 incidents of wilful fireraising events in comparison of the

Actions

SFRS continue to work in partnership to educate and inform people about the dangers of fire. We routinely engage with schools and target areas where anti-social behaviour involving wilful fireraising is prevalent. Appendix 1 'Midlothian Prevention Q3 Report' provides further details on our prevention activities. During the reporting period, SFRS conducted a total of 96 HFSV in Midlothian. 38 HFSV were as a direct result of PDIR by operational crews. SFRS welcome referrals from partners for the most vulnerable people in our communities. In Q3 our staff delivered the following safety initiatives to communities in the Midlothian area: Electrical safety, Road



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 9	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	42	36	36	52	53	
Penicuik	1	4	2	5	2	
Bonnyrigg	5	3	5	5	8	
Dalkeith	8	5	12	7	8	
Midlothian West	7	6	2	3	3	
Midlothian East	16	10	10	17	17	
Midlothian South	5	8	5	15	15	

Reduction of 'All 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 response activity in saving lives.

Results

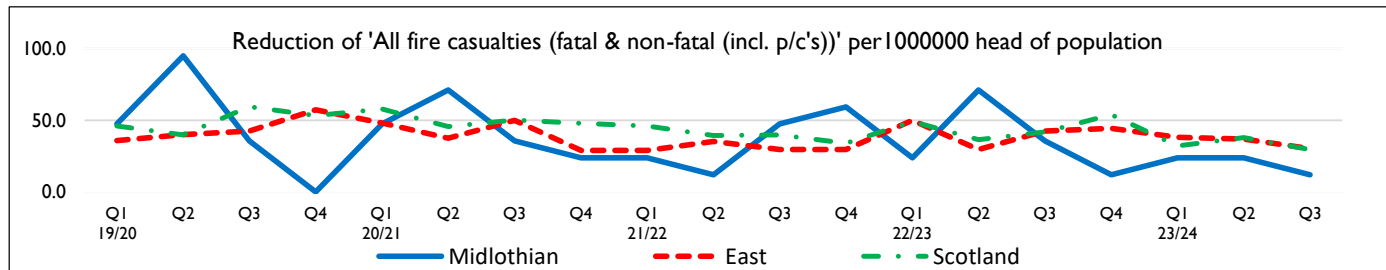
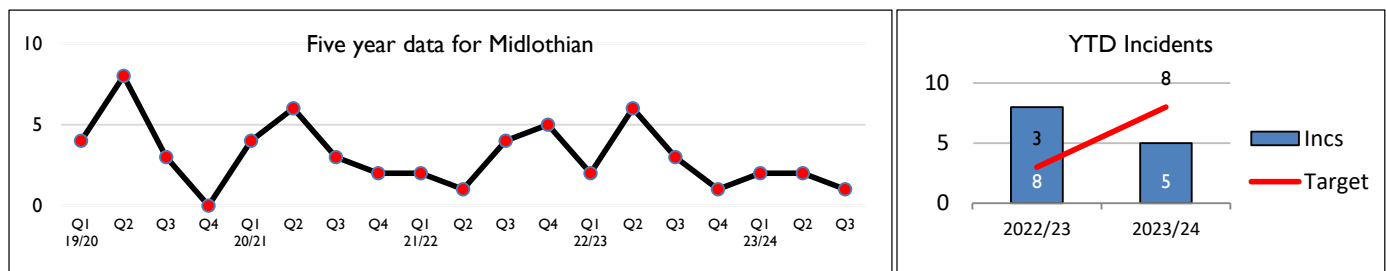
Sadly, the area attended 1 incident during the reporting period which resulted in a fatality. We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in Midlothian each per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In quarter 3, this is an increase of 1 from the same reporting period from last year. The long-term trend based upon casualties/10,000 population shows Midlothian is performing below the Scottish average and East SDA average.

Reasons

Historically Midlothian has low numbers of casualties from fires and it is positive to note that this trend remains low for the reporting period. SFRS continues to work with partners to maintain this trend.

Actions

We continue to work with our partners in Midlothian Council and seek opportunities with social work and NHS to target those most vulnerable and at risk from fire. Appendix 1 'Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on current activities.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 1	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	7	15	3	8	5	
Penicuik	0	2	2	3	1	
Bonnyrigg	3	0	0	0	1	
Dalkeith	3	7	0	3	0	
Midlothian West	0	1	0	0	2	
Midlothian East	1	0	0	1	1	
Midlothian South	0	5	1	1	0	

Reduction of 'All deliberate fires excl. dwellings'

Historically deliberate fire setting has not been a significant problem for the SFRS in Midlothian, however recent years have shown a distinct increase in this activity and there is a close link between deliberate secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. In the main, deliberate fires are secondary fires categorised into refuse/bins, grassland or derelict buildings incidents. Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

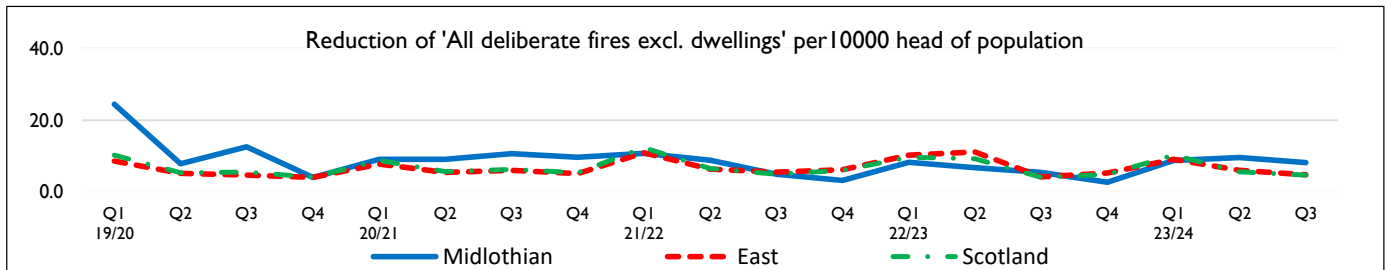
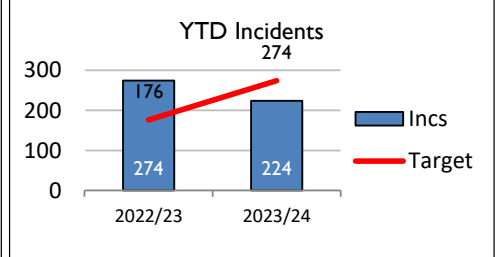
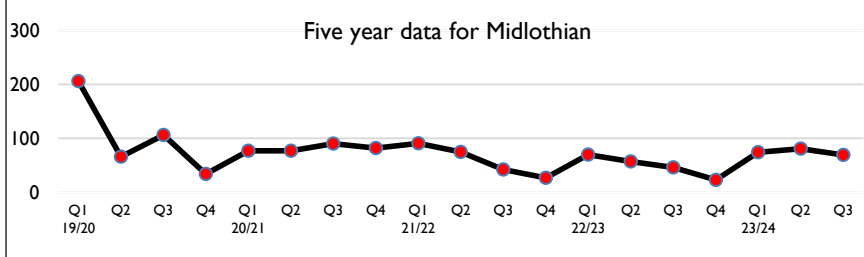
There were 58 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is an increase of 22 when compared to the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Midlothian performing above the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend line.

Reasons

The 58 incidents SFRS attended were mainly 'deliberate secondary fires' involving refuse that was set alight. Incidents range from commercial/domestic structures refuse/bins including wheelie and recycling bins have also been set alight during the reporting period. The figures also include incidents attended by SFRS on Bonfire night.

Actions

The SFRS continue to work with our Partners and any emerging themes are managed in Partnership with relevant intervention and prevention activities carried out. Various on-going preventative activities have been undertaken throughout the year targeting the issue of deliberate fire-raising. This includes various youth engagement events, thematic actions, information sharing/visits to schools and other partnership work.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 37	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	208	173	176	274	224	
Penicuik	8	13	10	21	26	
Bonnyrigg	26	32	23	26	41	
Dalkeith	40	32	34	52	30	
Midlothian West	28	26	19	26	30	
Midlothian East	70	39	58	92	45	
Midlothian South	36	31	32	57	52	

Reduction of 'Special Service - RTCs'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan, number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.

Results

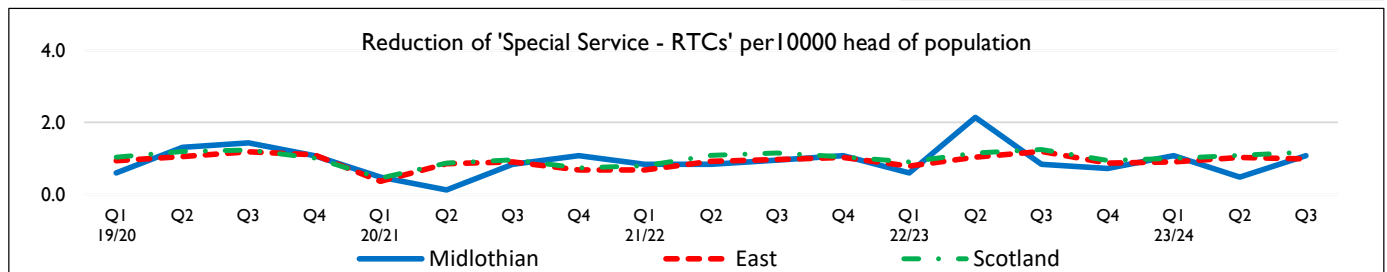
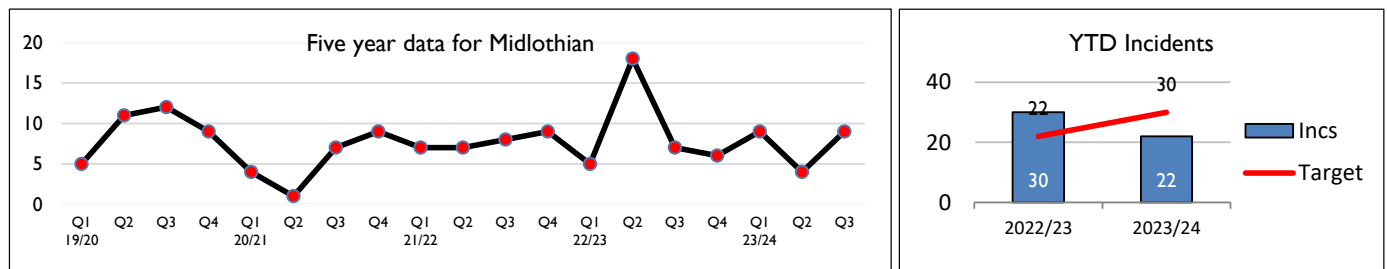
SFRS attended 9 Road Traffic Collisions during this period, which is an increase of 2 when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is below the Scottish trend line and slightly above the East Service Delivery area trend line. SFRS only attends RTCs when requested by the initial 999 caller or by partners when they require assistance to extricate trapped casualties from their vehicles.

Reasons

The SFRS only attend those RTC's they are requested to attend this number does not reflect the total number within Midlothian. It should be noted that the actual number of RTCs in the Midlothian area will be higher than what is being reported by SFRS.

Actions

The SFRS is a member of a multi-agency approach to reducing Road Traffic Collision's and the associated casualties and fatalities. The continued delivery of Tomorrow's Driver programme targeting young people is an excellent partnership approach to reducing road traffic collisions. The programme is delivered to all secondary schools in Midlothian.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	28	12	22	30	22	
Penicuik	9	3	2	4	3	
Bonnyrigg	1	0	2	3	1	
Dalkeith	3	1	4	9	3	
Midlothian West	5	4	7	5	6	
Midlothian East	7	3	4	7	5	
Midlothian South	3	1	3	2	4	

Reduction of 'Special Service Casualties - All'

While much of this risk is out with the control of SFRS, responding to Non-Fire Emergencies is a key part of our intervention activities. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to drive continuous improvement in this area. Reduction of Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies contributes to the Single Midlothian Plan.

Results

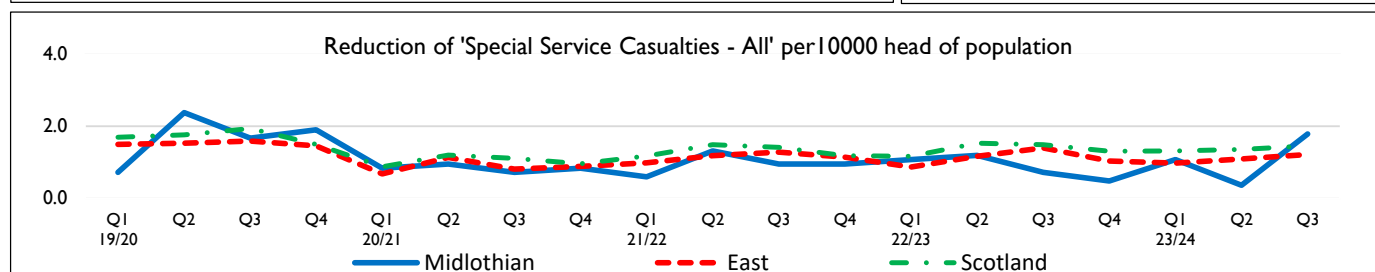
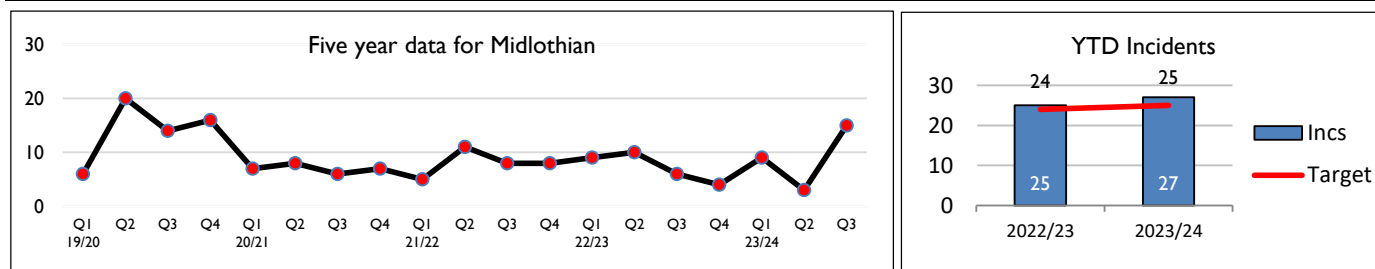
SFRS attended 39 Special Service incident types in Midlothian in the last quarter a decrease of 4 incidents from the same reporting period last year. There were 12 special service incidents that resulted in casualties during the reporting period, which sadly included 2 fatalities. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is above the Scottish and the East Service Delivery area trend lines.

Reasons

Of the 39 Special Service incidents SFRS attended, on 24 occasions SFRS crews were called to effect entry into properties or vehicles. On 5 occasions SFRS assisted partner agencies. Other SS incidents attended during the reporting period were responding to an incident involving hazardous material and persons trapped in lifts.

Actions

The SFRS in Midlothian will continue to respond to the communities needs in terms of other non-fire emergencies with the overall objective of reducing casualty and fatality rates within Midlothian. Given SFRS continual involvement in effecting entry to properties on behalf of our emergency partners, it would be reasonable to assume the number of Special Service casualties will increase over time.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 5	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	40	21	24	25	27	
Penicuik	10	6	3	6	11	
Bonnyrigg	5	1	2	4	4	
Dalkeith	3	5	4	6	3	
Midlothian West	8	3	5	7	2	
Midlothian East	13	6	4	1	2	
Midlothian South	1	0	6	1	5	

Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

False alarms are categorised into 4 sections; Good Intent, malicious, false alarm due to equipment and Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS). UFAS incidents are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources to commercial, retail, education or offices premises. It is classed as UFAS when the reason for that alarm turns out to be connected with faulty or defective alarm equipment. The SFRS is committed to working with partners and other stakeholders to reduce Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. SFRS still responds to fire alarm incidents in properties where there is a sleeping risk.

Results

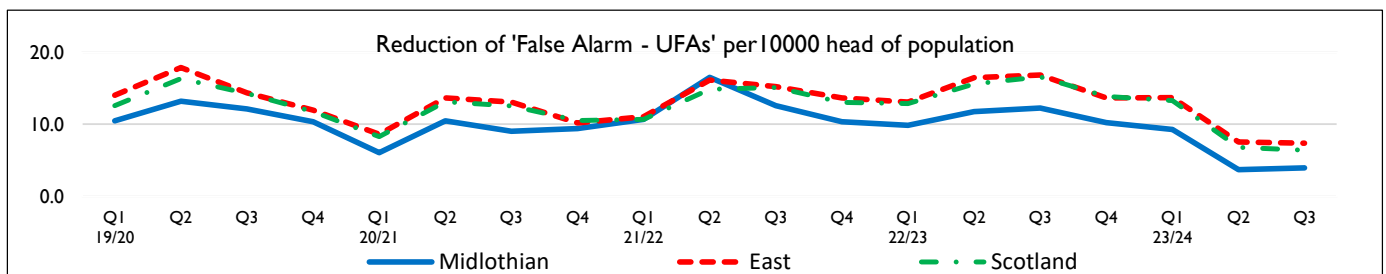
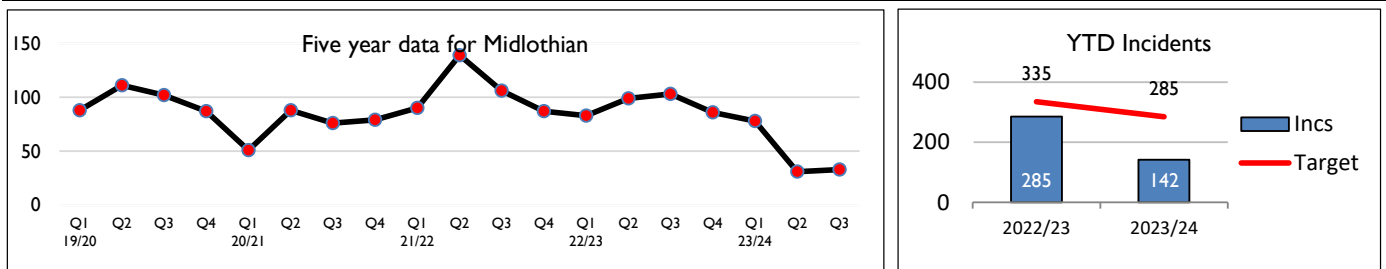
SFRS attended 97 False Alarms during the reporting period, which is a decrease of 87 from the same reporting period last year. SFRS attended 33 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during the reporting period, which is a decrease of 68 incidents when compared to the same reporting period last year. Of the 97 false alarms SFRS attended, 25 were false alarms good intent and 4 were malicious. Midlothian trend line is performing below the Scotland and the East delivery area trendline.

Reasons

The majority of false alarms and UFAS incidents are caused as a direct result of faulty equipment, during the reporting period, 68 of the 97 false alarms SFRS attended were attributable to faulty equipment. Other causes were cooking fumes, smoking or accidental activation. SFRS attended 4 malicious during the reporting period which is a decrease of 7 from the previous reporting period last year.

Actions

Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers work closely with premises to reduce further incidents. This includes discussing technological, procedural and management solutions in order to prevent future Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incident. From 1st July 2023 SFRS will not attend fire alarms activations in non-sleeping properties - unless the caller reports smoke or fire. In Midlothian, we are currently engaging with various premises giving advice to prevent further occurrences.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 24	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	301	215	335	285	142	
Penicuik	39	34	34	30	13	
Bonnyrigg	49	30	47	34	27	
Dalkeith	49	18	45	47	39	
Midlothian West	94	75	121	92	31	
Midlothian East	44	30	54	44	18	
Midlothian South	26	28	34	38	14	

Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 3: 1st October – 31st Dec 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 Midlothian we have 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.

MIDLOTHIAN AUDITS 23/24	OCTOBER-DECEMBER	YTD
	31	79

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 (**page 5**), 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 Midlothian for this reporting period.

MIDLOTHIAN QRT 2	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTALS	PREV QRT 23/24	YTD
Ward						
Bonnyrigg	2	5	5	12	16	36
Dalkeith	5	11	11	27	24	42
Mid East	4	9	9	22	21	45
Mid South	5	7	4	16	20	40
Mid West	1	2	5	8	14	25
Penicuik	3	6	2	11	12	23
TOTALS				96	211	307

Home Fire Safety Referrals

The table below details how HFSVs were generated.

Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)	38	YTD
Melville Housing	1	
EMPPPO	5	
Midlothian Housing	2	
MID NHS Demetia Team	2	
Midlothian Occupational Therapist	3	
Other	6	
Police	1	
Police Concern	1	
Self-referral	30	
Woman's Aid	3	
Scottish Ambulance Service	2	
Social Services	2	
Total	96	307

Partnership Working/Youth Engagement

Fire Safety and Support Education (FSSE) engagement

SFRS regularly engage with Children and Youths to discourage fire-related anti-social behaviour. This is very successful, however, on occasion we have to undertake additional actions and interventions. Our FSSE policy procedure is used to engage with those individuals who demonstrate an unsafe or concerning interest in fire or have been involved in fire-related antisocial behaviour. Such individuals are normally referred to us via Police Scotland. SFRS have trained members of staff, Fire Safety Advisors (FSAs) who carry out one-one discussion(s) with individuals, highlighting the dangers and consequences of such behaviour. Within the report period, SFRS have engaged with 1 Youth.

Safeguarding

During this period our teams continued to identify and refer adults at risk of harm and/or in need of support. This has resulted in **7** referrals being processed to Social Services.

Partner agencies have also requested **17** Enhanced Home Fire Safety Visits through Police concern reports or direct requests from social services.

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;

- Electrical Safety
- Road Safety
- Festive Safety
- Bonfire Safety

Bonfire Period Activity

I am pleased to report that once again we have seen a decrease in fire related anti-social behaviour. Between 29th October and 8th of November, SFRS attended a total of eight (8) secondary fires (refuse or woodland). Three (3) of those attendances occurred on the Bonfire night. No verbal or physical abuse was reported by our staff. These positives outcomes are the result of continued partnership working with Police Scotland, MLC and the communities within Midlothian. Our Community Action Team (CAT) play a huge part, delivering talks to all High Schools and various Youth Groups leading up to Bonfire night. Our safety presentations are also available to the wider public via Social Media platforms such as Twitter and YouTube.

Youth engagement activities

The local Community Action Team (CAT) have been busy delivering weekly Fire Safety talks at St Davids High School Nurture Group. In addition, CAT have delivered a 2-day Fireskills course to 7 youths from the same School.

Road safety

SFRS participated in a Partnership led Road safety event at Glencourse Barracks. To further enhance Road Safety awareness, we also delivered 'Tomorrow's Drivers' presentation to all Midlothian High Schools.

Other Ongoing Work

Risk recognition training remains a major objective for SFRS. This allows partners such as Health and Social Services to identify the risk of fire within homes. As a result of this raised awareness, a HFSV can then be made to SFRS. We strongly encourage all partners to regularly review staff awareness and contact us should further training be required.

The Local CAT has been engaging with Ukrainian visitors at refuge hotel in Dalkeith to deliver fire safety information.

SFRS staff are working with Scottish Water Gladhouse reservoir and Pentland Hills Ranger to deliver Water Safety and Wildfire Education to visitors at these locations. Midlothian Council and Scottish Water are also involved in this initiative.



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safe Scotland

Do you know someone
OVER 50 who
SMOKES?



.....
And do they meet one or more
of the following criteria:

- Living alone?
- Mobility issues?
- Using medical oxygen?

THEY MAY BE AT **GREATER RISK OF FIRE**
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