

# Midlothian, Prevention, Protection & Preparedness Activities

## Quarter 4: 1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### 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
	<b>48</b>	<b>127</b>

### 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 4	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTALS	PREV QRT 23/24	YTD
<b>Ward</b>						
Bonnyrigg	8	14	4	<b>26</b>	12	<b>62</b>
Dalkeith	6	11	8	<b>25</b>	27	<b>67</b>
Mid East	5	6	4	<b>15</b>	22	<b>60</b>
Mid South	2	8	2	<b>12</b>	16	<b>52</b>
Mid West	5	7	6	<b>18</b>	8	<b>43</b>

Penicuik	5	6	3	<b>14</b>	11	<b>37</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>110</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>417</b>

### Home Fire Safety Referrals

The table below details how HFSVs were generated.

Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)	50	YTD
Melville Housing	1	
EMPPPO	3	
Midlothian Housing	2	
MID NHS Demetia Team	1	
Midlothian Occupational Therapist	2	
Other	7	
Police	1	
Police Concern	7	
Self-referral	29	
Woman's Aid	3	
Scottish Ambulance Service	2	
Social Services	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>417</b>

## **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. It is pleasing to report that we have had no requests for such engagement during this period. This is a result of our Community Safety activities and partnership presence.

### **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 **10** referrals being processed to Social Services.

Partner agencies have also requested **9** 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 (CAT) have also been involved with delivery and promotion of the following initiatives during the reporting period;

- Fire Safety in the Home
- Cooking Safety
- Grass & Wildland Fires
- Road Safety

### **Youth engagement activities**

The local CAT continue to target High, Primary Schools and Youth Groups to engage and educate in relation to various safety topics including the reduction of fire related anti-social behaviour.

### **Road Safety**

This is a core theme for SFRS with CAT and local operational crews regularly engaging with our community to deliver our Road Safety presentations. An example of this is the ongoing initiative with Midlothian Road Safety Forum.

### **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. We have recently delivered this training to members of the Public Protection Office within Mid/East Lothian.

We are currently planning Summer initiatives relating to Water, Countryside Safety and Grassland/Wildfires. Water Safety activities will be delivered in partnership with MLC and Pentland Hills Rangers.



SCOTTISH  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
Working together for a safer 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**  
**AND WE NEED TO REACH THEM!**



**#MAKETHECALL**

**0800 0731 999**

to book a free

**HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT**

or text "FIRE" to 80800 from your mobile phone