



LOCAL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

FOR MIDLOTHIAN



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Midlothian



Quarter 2 Report, 1st July – 30th September, 2023

CONTENTS

PAGE

1	Introduction	3
2	Performance Summary	4
3	Progress on local fire & rescue plan priorities	
	<i>Local Risk Management and Preparedness</i>	5
	<i>All deliberate primary fires</i>	6
	<i>All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))</i>	7
	<i>All deliberate fires excl. dwellings</i>	8
	<i>Special Service - RTCs</i>	9
	<i>Special Service Casualties - All</i>	10
	<i>False Alarm - UFAs</i>	11

Introduction

This performance report provides information on our prevention, protection and operational response activities within Midlothian for Quarter 2 of 2022-23 (1st July – 30th September 2022) 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

hilary.sangster@firescotland.gov.uk 5

Performance Summary

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

Key performance indicator	Apr to (& incl.) Sep					RAG rating
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	YTD
All deliberate primary fires	28	30	22	37	41	◆
All fire casualties (fatal & non-fatal (incl. p/c's))	3	8	2	1	4	◆
All deliberate fires excl. dwellings	166	127	120	227	154	●
Special Service - RTCs	16	5	14	23	13	●
Special Service Casualties - All	26	15	16	19	12	●
False Alarm - UFAs	199	139	229	182	109	●

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.

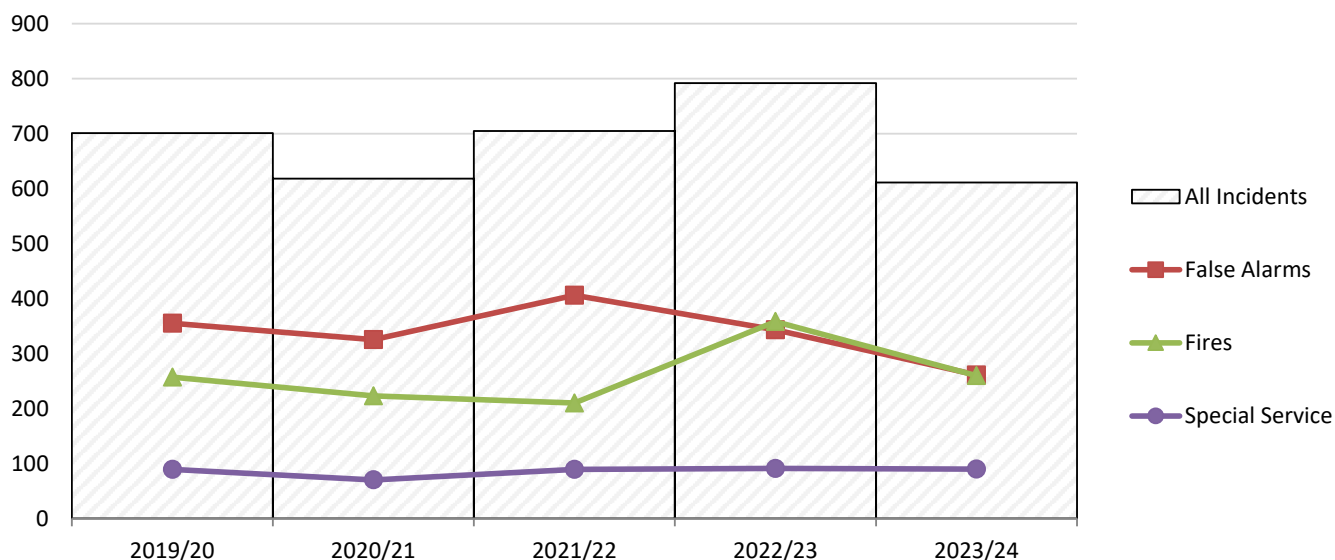
Note

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
<p>The Service must identify, prioritise and plan to meet the risks in each local community.</p> <p>We said we would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • train our staff to deal with our local risks • gather and analyse risk information • work with partners to mitigate risks • deal with major events
<u>Train our staff to deal with our local risks</u>
<p>All of our operational staff undertake routine and risk specific skill acquisition and maintenance training.</p>
<u>Gather and analyse risk information</u>
<p>All of our operational staff gather and analyse local risk information and operational intelligence, used in our preparations to resolve incidents.</p> <p>We conduct Post Incident Debriefs to identify any lessons that can be learned from our preparedness and response to emergency events.</p> <p>We use Urgent Operational Intelligence Briefings to inform our operational staff of any safety critical information.</p>
<u>Work with partners to mitigate risks</u>
<p>We continue to be an active member of the East Local Resilience Partnership.</p> <p>We share information with local authority partners and other key stakeholders (e.g. Police Scotland) to ensure emergency event risks are mitigated.</p>
<u>Deal with major events</u>
<p>There were no major fire events or significant emergency events in this reporting period.</p>

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

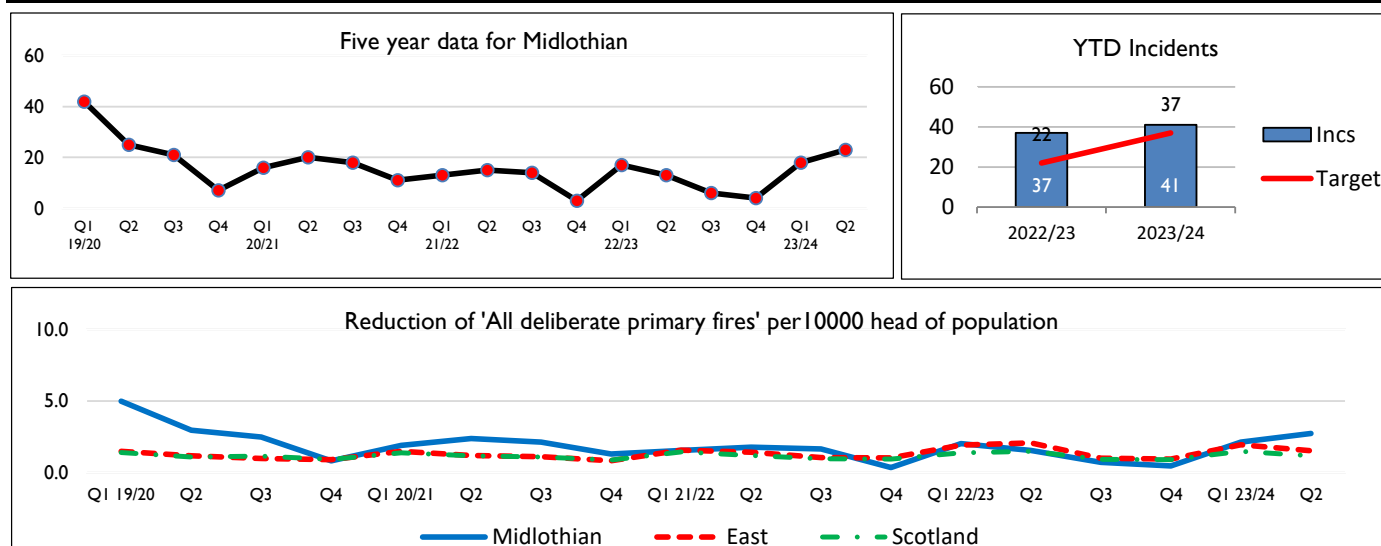
We aim to reduce primary deliberate Fires in Midlothian by contributing towards the SFRS target of 10% reduction per year, over a three-year rolling period. During this quarter, we responded to 23 deliberate Primary Fires, which is an increase of 6 incidents compared with the same period last year. The 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 23 deliberate primary fires attended during the reporting period, the majority involved wilful fireraising of grassland, heathland and crops such as hay bales. On 4 occasions, deliberate fires resulted in buildings, 2 of which were residential properties. There were 8 instances of fires involving transport, 6 cars, a motorcycle & caravan were wilfully 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 I provides information on preventative work and initiatives by SFRS to reduce the number of deliberate fires in Midlothian.

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 I 'Midlothian Prevention Q2 Report' provides further details on our prevention activities. During the reporting period, SFRS conducted a total of 104 HFSV in Midlothian which is a decrease of 3 from Q1 reporting period. SFRS continues to promote HFSVs and welcome referrals from partners for the most vulnerable people in our communities.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - 7	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	28	30	22	37	41	
Penicuik	1	4	0	3	1	
Bonnyrigg	2	3	3	5	7	
Dalkeith	6	4	7	4	7	
Midlothian West	3	4	2	2	3	
Midlothian East	13	9	7	13	13	
Midlothian South	3	6	3	10	10	

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

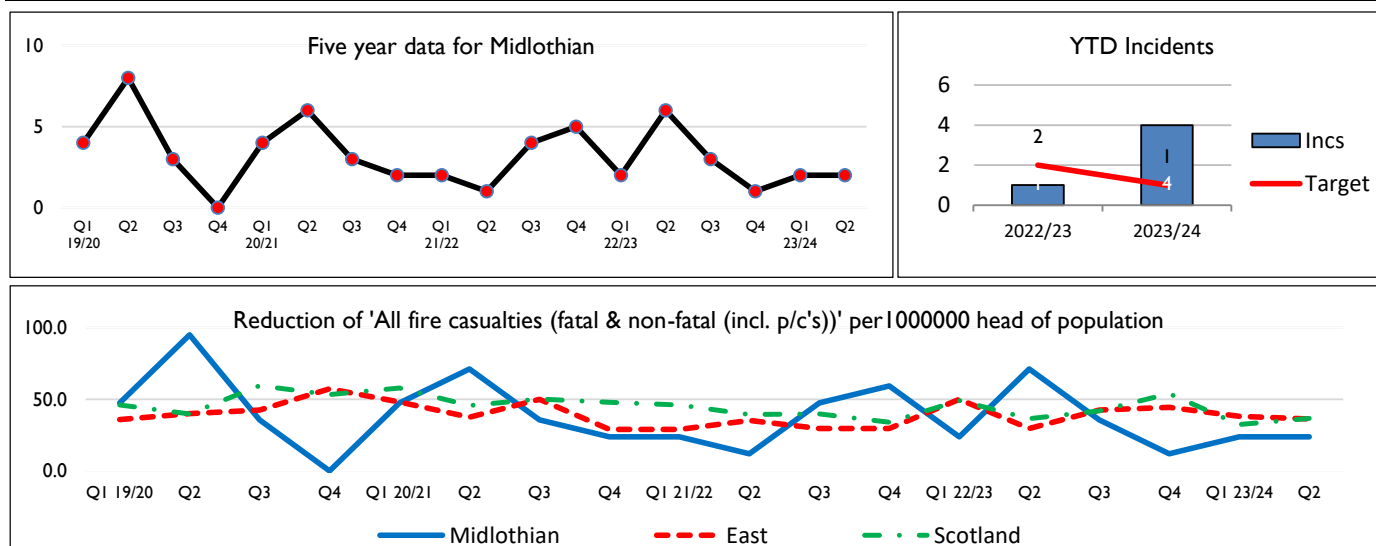
I am pleased to report there were no reported fire fatalities in the 3-month period. We aim to reduce Fire Casualties in Midlothian each per year, which contributes towards the SFRS target of reducing Fire Casualties by 5% per year, over a three-year rolling period. In this reporting period, the figures show a zero reduction when compared with the same reporting period last year which also reported 2 casualties. 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 I 'Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities' provides further details on current activities.



YTD ward ave. for Midlothian - I	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	3	8	2	1	4	
Penicuik	0	2	2	0	1	
Bonnyrigg	1	0	0	0	0	
Dalkeith	1	4	0	1	0	
Midlothian West	0	1	0	0	2	
Midlothian East	1	0	0	0	1	
Midlothian South	0	1	0	0	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

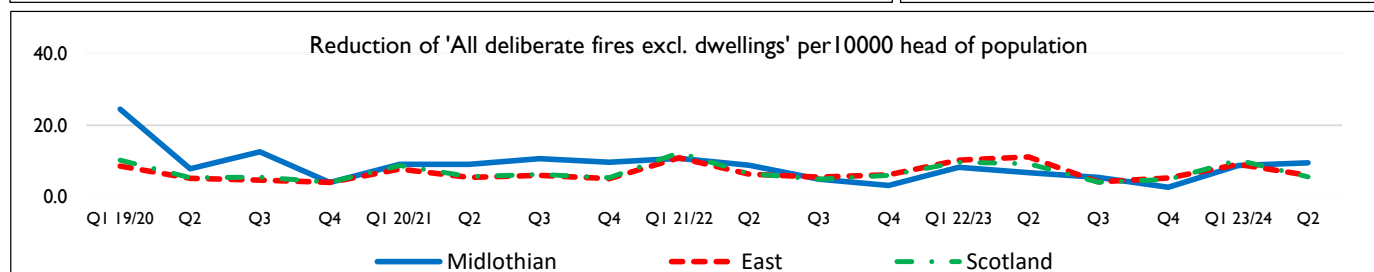
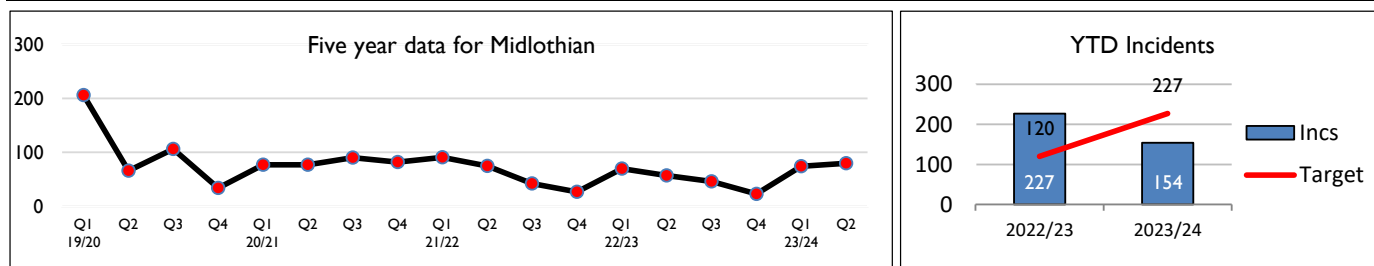
There were 83 deliberate fires within the reporting period, which is a decrease of 28 when compared to the same period last year. The long-term trend based upon incidents/10,000 population shows Midlothian performing slightly above the Scottish and East Service Delivery Area trend line.

Reasons

The 83 deliberate fire incidents were mainly 'deliberate secondary fires' involving waste, scrubland, wood or crop. Commercial/domestic structures refuse/bins including wheelie and recycling bins have also been set alight during the reporting period.

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 - 26	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	166	127	120	227	154	
Penicuik	8	12	3	19	17	
Bonnyrigg	23	22	16	25	26	
Dalkeith	35	25	21	45	19	
Midlothian West	22	19	11	22	22	
Midlothian East	57	31	42	69	31	
Midlothian South	21	18	27	47	39	

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

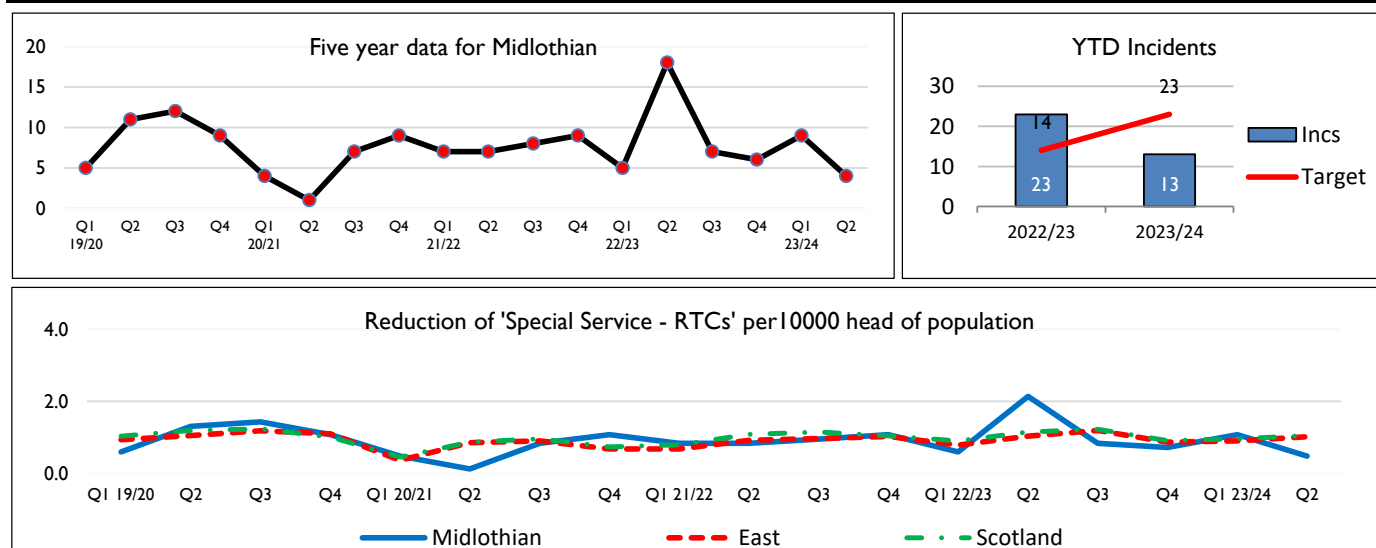
SFRS attended 4 Road Traffic Collisions during this period, which is a decrease of 14 when compared with the same reporting period last year. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is below the Scottish and East Service Delivery area trend lines. SFRS only attends RTCs when requested by the initial 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 number of RTCs in the Midlothian area will be higher than what is being reported.

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 - 2	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	16	5	14	23	13	
Penicuik	6	2	2	3	2	
Bonnyrigg	0	0	0	2	0	
Dalkeith	1	0	3	7	2	
Midlothian West	1	1	5	4	5	
Midlothian East	7	1	1	5	2	
Midlothian South	1	1	3	2	2	

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

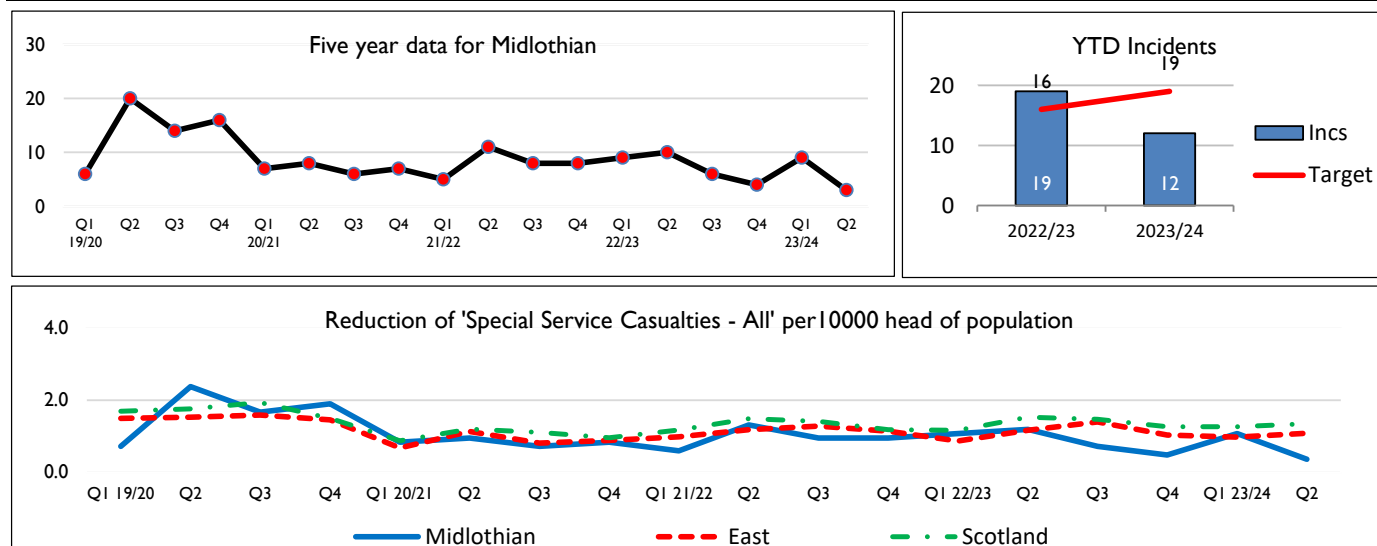
SFRS attended 34 Special Service incident types in the last quarter a decrease of 12 incidents from the same reporting period last year. This is a decrease of 8 special service casualties when compared with the same reporting period. Per 10,000 head of population, Midlothian is performing below the Scottish and in line with the East Service Delivery area trend lines.

Reasons

Of the 34 Special Service incidents SFRS attended, on 15 occasions SFRS crews were called to effect entry into properties/vehicles. On 5 occasions SFRS assisted partner agencies, 4 incidents involved flooding and on 2 occasions, SFRS provided an medical response to an immediate risk to life in support of the Scottish Ambulance Service.

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 - 2	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	26	15	16	19	12	
Penicuik	6	4	3	3	5	
Bonnyrigg	4	1	0	4	1	
Dalkeith	2	4	0	6	2	
Midlothian West	1	3	3	4	2	
Midlothian East	12	3	4	1	1	
Midlothian South	1	0	6	1	1	

Reduction of 'False Alarm - UFAs'

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are defined as incidents where an automated fire alarm system activates and results in the mobilisation of SFRS resources, 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.

Results

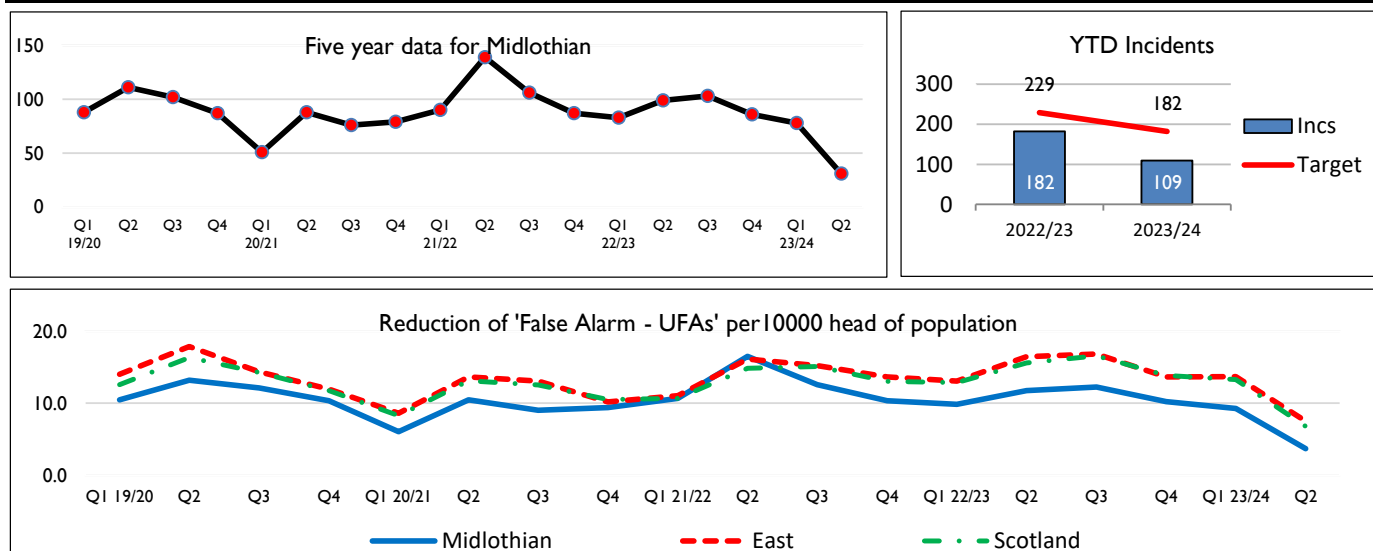
SFRS attended 17 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals incidents during this reporting period, which is a decrease of 51 incidents when compared to the same reporting period last year. Midlothian trend line is performing below the Scotland and the East delivery area trendline.

Reasons

During the reporting period, 32 incidents were classed as being UFAS. This is a reduction of 67 from the previous reporting period. SFRS operational crews continue to engage with occupiers and (commercial) property responsible persons to reduce UFAS incidents in the future.

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 - 18	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Sparklines
Midlothian	199	139	229	182	109	
Penicuik	21	22	22	26	11	
Bonnyrigg	33	17	28	20	20	
Dalkeith	29	13	32	30	27	
Midlothian West	64	47	81	52	24	
Midlothian East	32	23	46	26	15	
Midlothian South	20	17	20	28	12	

Midlothian Prevention & Protection Activities

Quarter 2: 1st July – 30th Sept 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	JULY-SEPTEMBER	YTD
	25	48

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 4**), 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	1	9	10	20	16	36
Dalkeith	6	6	6	18	24	42
Mid East	5	15	4	24	21	45
Mid South	7	8	5	20	20	40
Mid West	7	4	0	11	14	25
Penicuik	6	3	2	11	12	23
TOTALS				104	107	211

Home Fire Safety Referrals

The table below details how HFSVs were generated.

Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR)	41	YTD
Rapid Response Midlothian	1	
EMPPPO	3	
Midlothian Falls Team	2	
Midlothian Occupational Therapist	3	
Other	18	
Police	1	
Police Concern	1	
Self-referral	27	
Woman's Aid	6	
Scottish Ambulance Service	1	
Total	104	188

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

Partner agencies have also requested **26** 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;

- Holiday Safety
- Outdoor Safety
- Student Safety
- Chimney Fire Safety
- Road Safety

Bonfire Plans.

At the time of completing this report, work is well underway to prepare for Bonfire period. This, as with previous years will be planned and coordinated with other partners including the Local authority and Police Scotland.

The outcome and bonfire associated activity will be detailed within the Quarter 3 report.



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**
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

