



PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

4 DECEMBER 2013

Report by Area Manager David Stapley, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**SUBJECT: FIRE AND RESCUE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – 1 JULY
TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Abstract

The Report contains performance information relating to the second quarter (July-September) of 2013/14 on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in support of Member scrutiny of local service delivery.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide information for the Committee regarding the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, against the performance indicators and targets detailed within the interim Perth and Kinross Fire and Rescue Plan 2013/14, to facilitate local scrutiny.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

Note, scrutinise and question the content of this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 A performance management framework has been developed to facilitate the monitoring of performance against the agreed priorities and outcomes ensuring effective targeting of resources and the principles of Best Value are met.
- 4.2 The Perth and Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan was approved by the Full Council Committee on the 1st of May 2013.

4.3 The priorities and outcomes contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan reflect “place” and the contribution of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to the Single Outcome Agreement and Community Planning Partnership.

4.4 In summary the following priorities and targets are detailed within the plan.

- Reduce Casualties by 5%
- Reduce Primary Fires by 5%
- Maintain Firefighter Safety and Operational Preparedness
- Reduce Deliberate Fires by 5%
- Reduce Emergency Service Calls by 5%
- Reduce Unwanted Calls by 10%
- Increase Working Smoke Alarm Ownership

5 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

5.1 Appendix 1 attached to this report provides a detailed breakdown and analysis of all data collected during the reporting period. In addition a further two sections are included to provide Members with an overview of a range of additional activities undertaken by the local personnel/stations in support of Prevention and preparation for emergency response.

5.2 A suite of 14 indicators enable the measurement of performance across the seven priorities. The annual targets have been further broken down into quarters to facilitate performance monitoring and assist Members in their scrutiny role.

5.3 In summary during the reporting period, we have achieved positive results in 9 out of the 14 indicators and targets set, these were;

	Performance Indicator	Quarterly Target	Actual Performance	Positive Variance
1	Fatalities arising from fire	0	0	N/A
2	Number of injuries arising from fires	8	6	+2
3	Number of dwelling fires	24	20	+4
4	Number of other primary fires	38	31	+7
5	% of personnel retaining currency in core skills	60%	66%	+6%
6	Number of deliberate primary fires	11	10	+1
8	Number of emergency special service calls	76	66	+10
12	Number of home fire safety visits	1,103	1,140	+37
14	Number of work related injuries	2	2	N/A

5.4 Conversely there are 5 indicators and targets which were not met, these were;

	Performance Indicator	Quarterly Target	Actual Performance	Negative Variance
7	Number of deliberate secondary fires	16	29	-13
9	Number of malicious false alarm calls	6	11	-5
10	Number of unwanted fire signals from non-domestic premises	247	310	-63
11	% of dwelling fires where smoke alarm operated	62%	44%	-18%
13	Number of legislative fire safety audits	216	171	-45

6 SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE REVIEW

6.1 Taking account of the accumulative performance across the first two reporting periods, 8 out of the 14 indicators which are on target or better and are summarised below.

	Performance Indicator	6 Month Target	Actual Performance	Positive Variance
1	Fatalities arising from fire	0	0	N/A
3	Number of dwelling fires	47	41	+6
4	Number of other primary fires	73	65	+8
5	% of personnel retaining currency in core skills	60%	66%	+6%
6	Number of deliberate primary fires	20	20	N/A
8	Number of emergency special service calls	133	125	+8
12	Number of home fire safety visits	2,206	2,460	+234
14	Number of work related injuries	4	4	N/A

6.2 Conversely the accumulative performance across the first two reporting periods there are 6 indicators which are off target and are summarised below.

	Performance Indicator	6 Month Target	Actual Performance	Negative Variance
2	Number of injuries arising from fires	13	17	-4
7	Number of deliberate secondary fires	41	53	-12
9	Number of malicious false alarm calls	15	32	-17
10	Number of unwanted fire signals from non-domestic premises	438	521	-83
11	% of dwelling fires where smoke alarm operated	62%	45%	-17%
13	Number of legislative fire safety audits	432	365	-77

6.3 Number of injuries arising from fire.

As a consequence of a high number of injuries in Q1 the target was exceeded by 6. The numbers have reduced in Q2 to more predictable levels. The annual target (28) which was set is unlikely to be achieved. This is a situation that is being experienced across Scotland and the wider LSO area. There are a number of factors which have contributed to this:

- Incident Reporting System parameters have changes, as a consequence all persons receiving minor medical treatment are categorised as casualties.
- A large percentage of fires attended involve elderly or vulnerable people. The outcome of this is that frequently first aid is administered or assistance of the ambulance service requested as a precautionary step.

6.4 Number of deliberate secondary fires

These were higher than expected though from analysis there has been no pattern or trend to these with the incidents occurring at varying locations and times of day. The main contributory cause has been the prolonged spell of dry weather presenting more opportunities for wilful firesetters. It is expected that we will return to more typical levels of activity as we enter the winter months.

6.5 Number of malicious false alarm calls

Similarly this problem has been spread throughout the Perth and Kinross area with no obvious pattern or trend with the operation of a break glass points on fire alarm systems being the most common cause as opposed to children making malicious calls, which was more prevalent in years gone by. We will continue to educate communities about the negative impact of such calls.

6.6 Number of unwanted fire signals from non-domestic premises

There was a disappointingly high proportion of calls during Q2. The main contributor is the high number of calls that are received from sheltered housing complexes as a consequence of cooking related incidents. A range of control measures have been implemented including engagement with Perth and Kinross Council housing and safety officers, engagement with staff and residents and undertaking a programme of Home Fire Safety Visits to sheltered housing complexes. We also plan to investigate initiatives from other areas to establish if these could be implemented locally in an attempt to reduce the impact this has on our local service delivery.

6.7 % of Dwelling fires where smoke detectors have operated

This indicator remained at similar levels during both reporting quarters though has a tendency to fluctuate. The large increase in smoke alarm ownership that we have achieved from over 20,000 HFSV's in the last 5 years may be having a beneficial effect in the early detection of fires resulting in a higher percentage of those homes without working smoke alarms experiencing fires in the home. Although anecdotal evidence, this appears to be reflected within these results.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Not applicable.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

8.1 There are no environmental issues arising as a consequence of this report.

9 SUMMARY

9.1 This report provides a summary of performance during Quarter 2 (July to September 2013) and summarises performance against target for the six months covering April to September. The analysis and summary included within this report and Appendix 1 highlights where performance is off target and where targets have been exceeded.

- 9.2 A range of work has been undertaken within the areas of Community Safety Engagement, Fire Safety Enforcement and Firefighter training. These prevention and risk reduction measures have contributed significantly to improve the safety of our communities across Perth and Kinross.
- 9.3 The focus of our activity during the third and fourth quarters will be to maintain the standard where performance meets or exceeds the target whilst seeking improvement in the areas where performance is off target.

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SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Perth and Kinross

Local Fire and Rescue Plan

2013-14

Quarterly Performance Report

(Quarter ending 30th September 2013)



BACKGROUND TO THIS QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

As from April 2013, the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 has required the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to publish a Local Fire and Rescue Plan for each local authority area, setting out the priorities for reducing risk and improving community safety.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan is a key part of the local scrutiny and engagement arrangements set out in the Act, and along with the designation of a Local Senior Officer for each Local Authority Area, aims to create a stronger, more formal relationship between councils and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, whereby elected members will play a direct and more formal role in shaping local priorities and scrutinising performance.

The Perth and Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the local fire and rescue priorities for reporting year 2013-14. A Challenging target has also been set against each priority to ensure that successful outcomes are achieved and continuous improvement is maintained.

Performance against the priorities is monitored and reviewed internally on a monthly basis and will be reported on, at the Community Safety Committee on a quarterly basis. The enclosed report covers reporting period 1st July 2013 to the 30th September 2013, in addition it will also be published on the Perth and Kinross Council Website and Scottish Fire and Rescue Website for wider public scrutiny.

UNDERSTANDING THE QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Performance Indicators

Data is collected for a total of 14 Local Area Performance Indicators (LAPI), which together with annual targets are used to assist in tracking the performance of the local fire and rescue service against the priorities within the Perth and Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-14. The LAPI's and associated targets are reported within section four of this report to aide a more detailed analysis of performance.




Reporting Format

The quarterly performance report is divided into five sections:

- 1. Performance at a glance** – provides a summary of performance against the priorities.
- 2. Prevention and Protection** – provides details of the Community Safety Engagement and Fire Safety Enforcement activities within the Perth and Kinross area
- 3. Response and Resilience** – provides details of the emergency response and resilience planning activities within the Perth and Kinross area
- 4. Local Area Performance Indicators** – provides a detailed analysis of each LAPI.
- 5. Contact Details** – should you wish to discuss anything relating to this report.

Performance Symbols






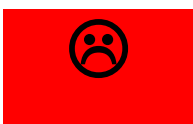
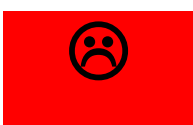
Colour coding and symbols are used to illustrate if the local fire and rescue service is on track for achieving the annual priorities within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-14. The colour coding is based on a 'traffic light' system set out in the table below

Key	Symbol
Achieving the Target	
Borderline between achieving or failing to achieve the Target	
Not achieving the Target	

1 PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

The table below provides a summary of how the service is performing against its priorities for the quarter ending 30th September 2013. At a glance, it can be seen that the service performed on target or above target against five out of its seven priorities.

Areas of good performance and areas where performance needs to be improved upon are set out in section four of this report. In this section, Local Area Performance Indicators (LAPI) have been set against service priorities to give an overview of performance.

Priorities	Direction of Travel
1. Reduce Casualties by 5%	
2. Reduce Primary Fires by 5%	
3. Maintain Firefighter Safety and Operational Preparedness	
4. Reduce Deliberate Fires by 5%	
5. Reduce Emergency Special Service Calls (ESSC) by 5%	
6. Reduce Unwanted Calls by 5%	
7. Increase Smoke Alarm Ownership by 5%	

2 PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

This section provides a summary of our performance in relation to the prevention and protection activities that the local fire and rescue service deliver which ultimately contribute towards making our communities safer.

The second quarter of this reporting year seen the continuation of service delivery towards the priorities and objectives within our Local Fire and Rescue Plan with numerous Community Safety Engagement (CSE) and Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) activities being undertaken throughout Perth and Kinross.

Community Fire Stations – Engagement Visits

Community Safety Committee Convenor, Cllr. Douglas Pover has completed his series of visits to each of the 14 community fire stations throughout Perth and Kinross with engagement events being held at Blairgowrie, Kinross, Auchterarder, Kirkmichael, Aberfeldy, Kinloch Rannoch and Glenshee. He was accompanied on various visits by a number of local councillors and other scrutiny committee members who took the opportunity to see the services that are delivered and engage with full-time, retained and volunteer firefighters throughout the Perth and Kinross area on matters related to our transition to a single national service. This enabled members to see first-hand the wide range of skills provided by community based firefighters that contribute to making our local area a safer place to live, work and visit.

This has included demonstrations of a wide range of community safety engagement activities that are delivered throughout Perth and Kinross including participating in a home fire safety visit in Comrie where free smoke alarms were fitted, the youth engagement work undertaken including Young Firefighter Courses and the use of fire stations as community hubs for a number of local groups, such as community councils, medical first responders and Tayside Mountain Rescue Team.



<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/09/engagement-event-in-perth-and-kinross.aspx>

A variety of emergency response services provided were also demonstrated including water and flood rescue skills, rope rescue and road traffic collision extrication skills along with the use of medical emergency defibrillators, in addition to the more traditional firefighting skills. This was intended to assist Councillor Pover and elected members further develop their knowledge and understanding of fire and rescue services, support partnership working arrangements and provide challenge and scrutiny as necessary.



One of the last of these engagement visits was to Kinloch Rannoch Community Fire Station to meet the local volunteer crew. Councillor Pover was accompanied on this visit by SFRS Board Member Bob Benson who also provides liaison with the Perth and Kinross scrutiny committee to enable local matters to be raised at a national level.

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/10/board-member-visits-station-at-kinloch-rannoch,-perth-kinross.aspx>

School's Kitchen and Home Safety Education Initiative

Following the end of the summer holidays and return to a new school term, our CSE staff undertook a School's Kitchen and Home Safety Education initiative for first year pupils during August. This formed part of the home economics curriculum for Perth High School, Breadalbane Academy and Blairgowrie High School and included interactive presentations covering the safe use of phone chargers, hair straighteners, microwave ovens, toasters and washing machines along with highlighting the fire related hazards they can present.

There was also a practical demonstration of the effects of applying water to a chip pan fire which emphasised the need for the preferred use of thermostatically controlled deep fat fryers and the actions to be taken in a fire situation. This was well received by all pupils who attended.



Electric Blanket Testing – Aberfeldy

As part of our early local preparations for Scottish Government's - 'Ready for Winter' campaign a free electric blanket testing event was held at Aberfeldy Community Fire Station on 7th August. This was facilitated following consultation with Highland Ward Councillor Mike Williamson and requests from within the local community. This is one of a series of similar events that are facilitated each year in partnership with PKC's Home Safety Officer – Stewart Nelson. As part of this partnership initiative Scottish and Southern Energy have provided new replacement electric blankets that are distributed free of charge where faults are detected.



Stewart was assisted by Highland Perthshire's District Liaison Manager – Frazer Macdonald and a total of 14 electric blankets were tested, 3 of which were found to be unsafe and posing a potential fire risk to the older people that had intended to use these thereby emphasising the importance of this community safety initiative.

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/08/electric-blanket-testing.aspx>

Continued reduction of serious fires in common stairwells in Perth

Our more recent partnership working arrangements that have been developed over several months continue to improve the safety of our communities in Perth. This followed a series of serious life threatening fires within common stairwells of tenements and blocks of flats in the Letham, Hillyland, Tulloch and City Centre areas in the early part of this year which resulted in several rescues, extensive damage and disruption for families and businesses. Some of these were deemed to have been set deliberately and posed a serious risk to life.

PKC have undertaken a series of upgrades to improve safety with an extensive programme of upgrade works to communal blocks of flats throughout Perth and Kinross. This includes the use of fire retardant paints and the installation of emergency lighting thereby reducing the risk of fire spread and assisting residents to escape from buildings where practicable to do so. The stairwell checks that were undertaken by PKC Community Safety Wardens, Firefighters and Police in the Perth City North Ward during the first quarter to identify and remove combustible items being stored there has also contributed to these improved outcomes.

Therefore this initiative was extended to the City Centre area during this quarter where fire crews from each Watch at Perth Community Fire Station visited allocated properties to ensure that a coordinated approach of inspection was undertaken. Similarly when dangerous build-ups of combustible materials and hazardous waste were discovered, established partnership working arrangements via Perth's Community Tasking and Co-ordination Group (CTAC) enabled the timely intervention and prompt uplift of items by PKC.

Proposals are being developed to ensure the longer term benefits of these initiatives are realised through embedding the safety checks of communal stairwells by Community Safety Wardens and improved waste management arrangements in the city centre area.

Preparation for Safe Drive Stay Alive

Although casualty numbers from Road Traffic Collisions are reducing, young drivers and their passengers remain a vulnerable group when it comes to collisions, injuries and fatalities across Perth and Kinross. Whilst not all collisions were attributable to young drivers, many included young people in the 17 to 25 age group. Factors in young driver crashes include inexperience, lack of awareness, distraction and, at times, peer pressure and over confidence.

Due to this the emergency services and their partners see the highly impactful Safe Drive Stay Alive event being as relevant now as it was when it was first introduced within Perth and Kinross in 2007. Therefore preparations are underway for this year's events.

The Safe Drive Stay Alive theatre production will once again engage with approximately 2,000 senior high school pupils and college students across Perth and Kinross with every secondary school and Perth College UHI participating.

The events are supported by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, NHS Tayside, Scottish Ambulance Service, Perth and Kinross Community Safety Partnership, Perth and Kinross Council and the Tayside and Central Scotland Transport Partnership (Tactran).

The Safe Drive Stay Alive 2013 event timetable is as follows:

BELLS SPORTS CENTRE, PERTH

Tuesday 26th November 2013, Show starts 1015 hrs till 1200 hrs approx.

Tuesday 26th November 2013, Show starts 1300 hrs till 1445 hrs approx.

Wednesday 27th November 2013, Show starts 1015 hrs till 1200 hrs approx.

Wednesday 27th November 2013, Show starts 1300 hrs till 1445 hrs approx.

Invites were sent to all Councillors to enable them to experience first-hand our key road safety prevention activity in Perth and Kinross.

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/11/safe-drive-stay-alive-roadshow-returns-to-tayside.aspx>

3 RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

This section provides a summary of our performance in relation to the Response and Resilience activities that the local fire and rescue service deliver which ultimately contribute towards making our communities safer.

During this quarter, SFRS provided emergency response at a number of challenging incidents throughout Perth and Kinross. In addition to this we participated in the partnership working arrangements that look to improve the resilience of our communities from the effects of severe weather and also ensure the safety of those attending major events held locally, including identifying how future improvements can be made.

Our crews have continued to undertake a series of training events to maintain and improve the skills they require to meet the challenges presented from the wide and varied risks we have within Perth and Kinross.

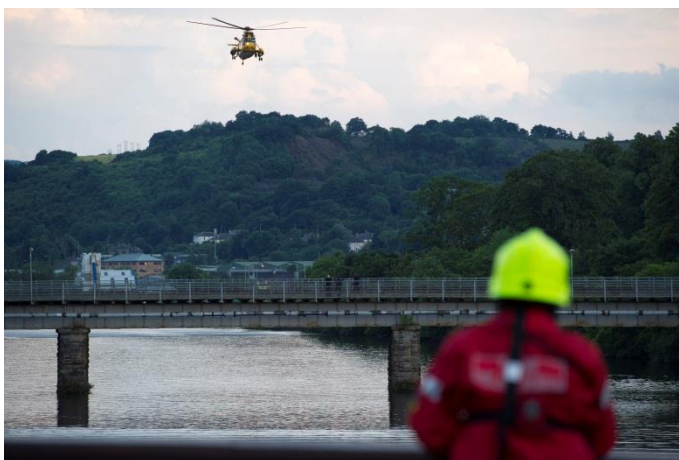
River Tay drowning and water safety review

The most serious and tragic of the incidents attended by SFRS during this reporting period was the death of 16 year old Mateusz Wilamowski on Sunday 28th July as he was swept away whilst attempting to cross the River Tay at North Muirton with a group of friends. This occurred whilst the Rewind Festival was taking place at Scone Palace Parklands and required a large scale multi-agency emergency response from Police, SFRS, Scottish Ambulance Service, RAF Search and Rescue Helicopter and Tayside Mountain Rescue Team in an attempt to locate him.



Picture: Courtesy of Graeme Hart, Perthshire Picture Agency

This included SFRS specialist water rescue trained crews from Perth who used boats as part of the search operations whilst crews from Auchterarder and Dunkeld were deployed downstream to extend the search area. The first call was received shortly before 7:30pm and these initial efforts were unsuccessful, Mateusz body was recovered by Police on Thursday 1st August.



Pictures: Courtesy of Graeme Hart, Perthshire Picture Agency

Following this tragic incident, engagement has been undertaken with Perth City Centre Ward Councillor's and a meeting was held with Cllr's Peter Barrett and Archie McLellan along with local SFRS managers to review water incident data in Perth and Kinross. From this a wider water safety review has been instigated through SFRS working with PKC's Safer Communities Team and local water safety charity Safe-Tay to determine further improved safety measures that could be implemented to reduce the likelihood of harm from this risk. Proposals are currently being developed for consideration.

Belmont Camp by Meigle – Fire involving solar roof panels

Fire crews from Alyth, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus and Macalpine in Dundee attended 2 fire related incidents approximately a month apart involving solar panels on the roof of a building at Belmont Camp by Meigle. The first of these occurred on 5th September with a further incident on 9th October at the same location. The presence of a residual current held within the panels after they had been electrically isolated from exposed live cables meant that there was an ongoing risk to firefighters (as shown below).



Crews wearing breathing apparatus used ladders and a hose reel to quickly extinguished the fire on both occasions and carried out limited stripping away of roof timbers and tiles to ensure each fire was fully extinguished.

Specialist solar panel engineers were called to advise SFRS Incident Commanders on the risks faced at these incidents. As this was an unusual type of fire, the lessons learned were shared with other crews to ensure that they are aware of these.

Hallhole Farm by Meikleour – Deliberate firesetting of baled hay

The prolonged summer period meant that good harvest conditions were experienced by farmers in Perth and Kinross. With this came the risk of fires as farmers baled straw and brought in grain crops. Whilst there was no significant increase in fires involving grain dryers there was an act of deliberate firesetting of a large quantity of straw bales at Hallhole Farm by Meikleour on Saturday 28th September that destroyed the bales involved in close proximity to the A93.



The incident was first reported at 3:11pm and two fire engines from Blairgowrie attended. On arrival they found a well developed fire involving approximately 150 tonnes of baled hay. The farmer used telehandlers to assist crews with hay drag tools to break up the burning bales and enable them to burn out whilst firefighters secured a local water supply and used hose reel jets to keep the machinery cool and prevent damage.

The incident that was eventually closed at 10:39pm.

T in the Park 2013

This year saw the 20th T in the Park music festival event. It has been held at Balado, Kinross-shire since 1997. This year's event which took place from Thursday 11th to Monday 15th July was the biggest to date with the first 36,000 campers arriving on Thursday swelling to 70,000 campers from Friday onwards, with an audience of 85,000 in attendance each day. There are also various concession stalls and shops provided, as well as other attractions, such as a large funfair, complete with a Big Wheel. This build takes a crew of around 15,000 contractors, sub-contractors, construction workers, caterers, etc, just 3 weeks to build but 12 months to plan.



Both our Events and Civil Contingencies and Fire Safety Enforcement Departments work closely to co-ordinate the SFRS's prevention, protection and response arrangements in support of this event.

In conjunction with all other agencies this process starts early in the planning year with various groups formed to review and revise existing contingency plans. This culminates in a large table top scenario based exercise prior to the event every year where all partner agencies including the event organisers (DF Concerts) test and exercise these contingency plans.

These exercises along with previous experience and reviews of historical data, support the risk assessment process to plan SFRS resources deployed to ensure the safety of festival goers and local residents in and around Kinross.

A debrief facilitated by PKC has already been undertaken to learn lessons from this year and make any further improvements required to build on the success. This ensures continual improvements are made year-on-year.

This year there were no significant fire or rescue incidents at the event and this is largely attributable to the multi-agency pre-planning work that is undertaken. SFRS also assisted in promoting the multi-agency key safety messages amongst festival goers via our new website (see link below) prior to and during the event.

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/07/safety-reminders-for-t-in-the-park-revellers.aspx>

Rewind Festival

This year's Rewind Festival took place on Scone Palace Parklands from Friday 26th to Sunday 28th July. The main festival within the arena passed off without incident and our Events and Civil Contingencies and Fire Safety Enforcement Departments provided a similar proportionate level of support to the pre-planning arrangements. This was contrasted by the tragic incident on the last day of the festival which resulted in the death of 16 year old Mateusz Wilamowski on Sunday 28th July as he was swept away whilst attempting to cross the River Tay at North Muirton with a group of friends (as reported in the Response and Resilience section of this report).

Community Resilience Event with elected members and SFRS Board Member

SFRS facilitated a multi-agency information event in Perth to outline to PKC's Community Safety and Environment Committee the work undertaken by partners to support residents and local groups in the event of an emergency.

The information event was held on Wednesday 21st August 2013 and hosted by SFRS at Perth Community Fire Station. It was also attended by SFRS Board Member for the local area, Bob Benson.

The committee members received presentations from Council colleagues, SFRS, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service (PKAVS) and Scottish & Southern Energy (SSE) about the work each organisation carries out individually to help people and also how partners come together to plan responses under the auspices of the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership (formerly Strategic Co-ordinating Group).

Helping communities become more resilient in the event of an emergency is part of this work and actions are on-going in supporting many community based groups with the preparation of local emergency plans.

The Committees heard that a key part of emergency planning is providing communities with advice on ways they can be better prepared to assist their local community, council and

emergency services to respond and recover from severe weather events including flooding, storm damage from high winds, winter weather and extended power loss.

They also learned about steps that councillors themselves can take to support community resilience such as providing members of the public with information about emergency planning, through surgeries, word-of-mouth and meetings as well as supporting the public with advice and assistance during any long term recovery from an emergency.

It was recognised that 'preparation' is the key to improving resilience and the use of local emergency plans prepared by communities, tailored to their needs, will assist with this, whilst emergency responders can help in producing, supporting, testing and exercising of such plans.

The Committees also visited Comrie to find out about work that has been going on in the village since significant flooding incidents occurred there last year. The event concluded at Comrie Community Fire Station with practical demonstrations of the flood sack products that are stored there by firefighters and the role that local volunteer medical emergency first responders play in supporting wider community resilience planning arrangements.

The picture shows members of Perth & Kinross Council's Community Safety and Environment Committees along with partner representatives from Comrie Community Council, SEPA, Police Scotland, PKAVS, Scottish Flood Forum, Comrie First Response Medical Team, SSE, council staff, local firefighters and SFRS Board Member for the local area, Bob Benson, at Comrie Community Fire Station.



<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/09/perth-and-kinross-what-would-you-do-in-an-emergency.aspx>

In further support of building community resilience within Perth and Kinross, SFRS have also facilitated two events, one in Comrie and a similar event in Aberfeldy to improve preparedness and support the development of local emergency planning arrangements during this reporting period.

Comrie Fortnight – Flood sack demonstration

Firefighters from Comrie Community Fire Station joined their partner agencies on the first day of the Comrie Fortnight event on Saturday 20th July. The good weather assisted in bringing out the local community to visit the event including the SFRS community safety stall where the local crew gave demonstrations of the correct use of flood sacks.

Following last year's serious flood incidents which affected the village, Perth and Kinross Council have provided 2,000 flood sacks which are available for distribution within the local community in the event of flood incidents. These are a lightweight flood defence product that swells to the size of a full sandbag as they absorb water, though often have to be weighted in position until this occurs. Feedback had been received from members of the local community following last year's incidents that some residents were unsure how to effectively use these in a flood situation. Therefore this well attended event was used to give a series of demonstrations throughout the day.

Working in partnership with the Council, the flood sacks are held in storage at Comrie Community Fire Station ready for distribution should they be needed.

Local residents commented very positively on the demonstration with many feeling better prepared should any future flood incident occur in the village. Our local firefighters also took the opportunity to promote our free home fire safety visits and booked a number of visits on the day. Firefighters also raised £510 for the Firefighters Charity as part of their flag day fundraising. All in all, it was a very worthwhile event.



The local crew also welcomed British astronaut Major Tim Peake and his family to the event. Major Peake's wife grew up in Comrie and was back in the village for a family visit (pictured above).

<http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2013/07/comrie-fortnight.aspx>

Aberfeldy Wader's Residents Association – Flood sack demonstration

A similar demonstration of the flood sack products was organised at the request of Cllr. Mike Williamson for the Wader's Residents Association in Tayside Crescent, Aberfeldy. This took place on the evening of Thursday 12th September and involved the crew from Aberfeldy supported by members of PKC. SFRS District Liaison Manager – Frazer Macdonald gave a presentation on the practical use of the flood sacks whilst local firefighters applied water from the fire engine to simulate the effects of floodwater.



After the demonstration a number of questions were asked by local residents and answered by Frazer. This was followed by a walk around tour of the flood risk areas in Aberfeldy with Cllr. Williamson, PKC's Health Safety and Wellbeing Manager – John Handling and SFRS Group Manager – Rab Middlemiss accompanying residents to discuss the practical application of flood defence products in areas of historical flooding that have been experienced locally.

This event was also well received and the information gained is intended to be used by the community based group to further develop their local emergency planning arrangements.

Training and Development events in the community

As part of the programme of training undertaken by our firefighters to maintain and further develop their skills we attempt to use local venues wherever practicable, as this supports realistic scenarios based on actual risks within our communities that we will provide an emergency response to.

During this quarter we have looked to build upon the successful training and planning events that have been undertaken in partnership with Blair Castle over a number of years by using other historic buildings as venues. These proved to be beneficial when attending a serious outbreak of fire at Blair Castle in March 2011 and assisted our crews to contain and extinguish the fire, limiting damage and protecting an important part of our heritage.

Therefore further events have been facilitated recently at Drummond Castle by Muthill (below – right) on 29th August and Blackcraigs Castle, Ballintuim by Bridge of Cally (below – left) on 2nd September.



Both of these training events were based on scenarios involving firefighting, search and rescue operations within the castle buildings. Positive feedback was received from local crews along with castle owners and staff as these events have clear benefits for the potential future attendance at emergency incidents within these buildings.

Emergency Medical Defibrillators

The training programme for our community based firefighters in the use of emergency medical defibrillators and the fitting of these on fire engines throughout Perth and Kinross that was commenced during the first quarter of this year has been completed. These are now available for use by firefighters should they be required whilst attending emergency incidents.

4 LOCAL AREA PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The local service continues to improve performance in a number of areas. For period ending 30th September 2013, eight of the fourteen LAPI's are showing that performance is on track / or exceeding the target and at this stage are therefore contributing towards achieving the priorities in the Perth and Kinross Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-14.

Detailed on the following pages are the Local Area Performance Indicators, associated graphs and commentary that provide an analysis of the performance, and highlight factors that have contributed to good levels of performance against the priorities set out in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

Where an LAPI shows that performance is not on track for meeting a target, this triggers an action plan, which details the steps that will be taken to bring performance back on track for delivering the priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2013-14.

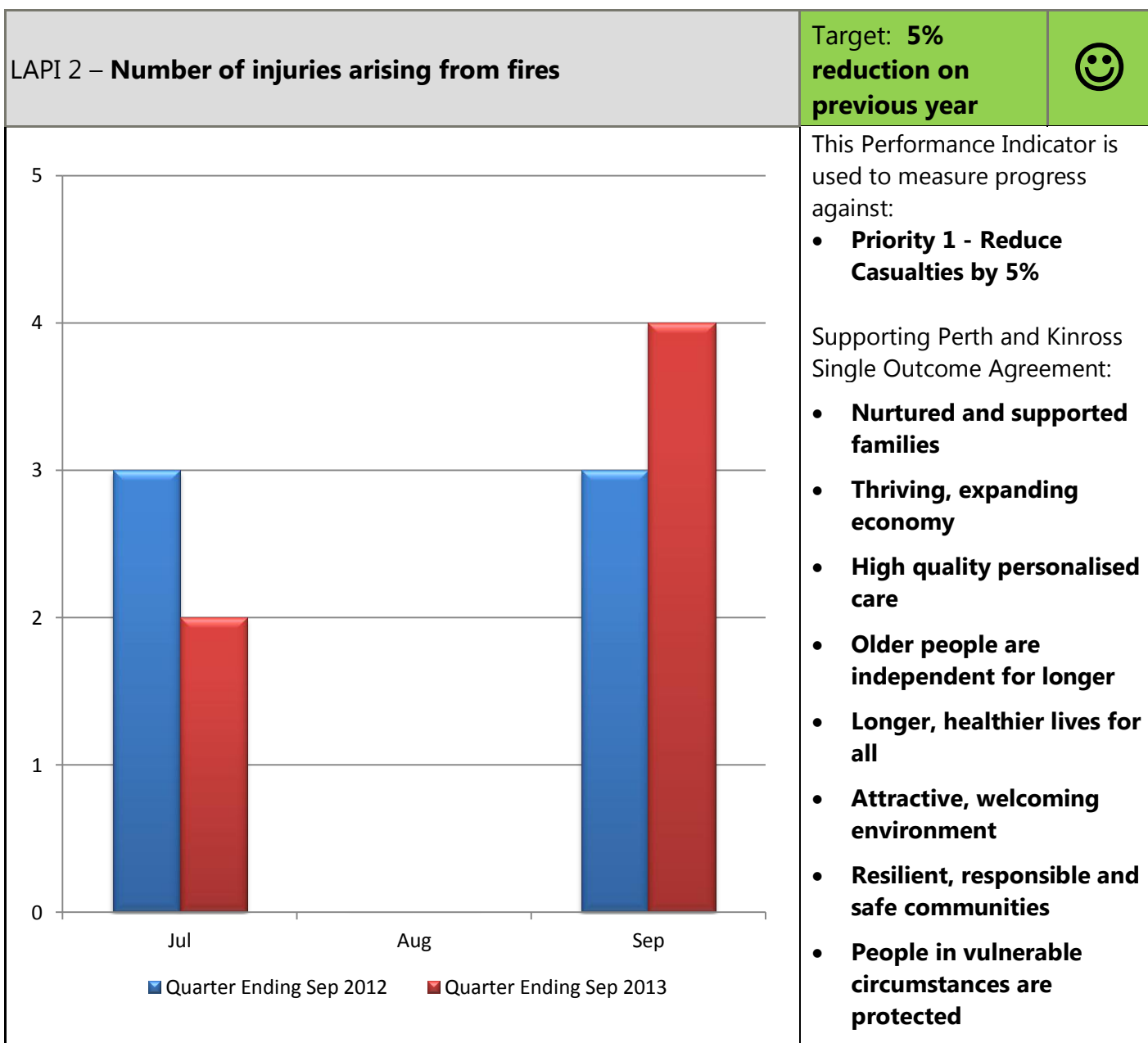


Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were no fatal injuries from fires during this reporting period and it is now more than 500 days since our last fire fatality in Perth and Kinross (7 April 2012). Whilst we have experienced a continued welcomed reduction in fire fatalities in the longer term, we have seen a marginal increase in fire casualties over a similar period though there was no increase during this quarter (see LAPI 2). Therefore we intend to continue to further improve our partnership arrangements to reduce the risk of injury from fire in Perth and Kinross.

It is felt that these outcomes are attributable to a number of factors including the large number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) undertaken within Perth and Kinross (over 20,000 in the last 5 years) and the resultant increase in smoke alarm ownership, thereby leading to earlier detection of fires and making these incidents more likely to be survivable. Also an increased awareness by

responding crews of the effects of smoke inhalation / Carbon Monoxide poisoning (particularly amongst older people) through enhanced medical first response training has led to an increase in precautionary checks being undertaken as SFRS personnel routinely administering oxygen therapy at the scene and request the attendance an ambulance to enable a full medical assessment to be undertaken by Paramedics. This is something that is now common practice amongst local operational firefighters.

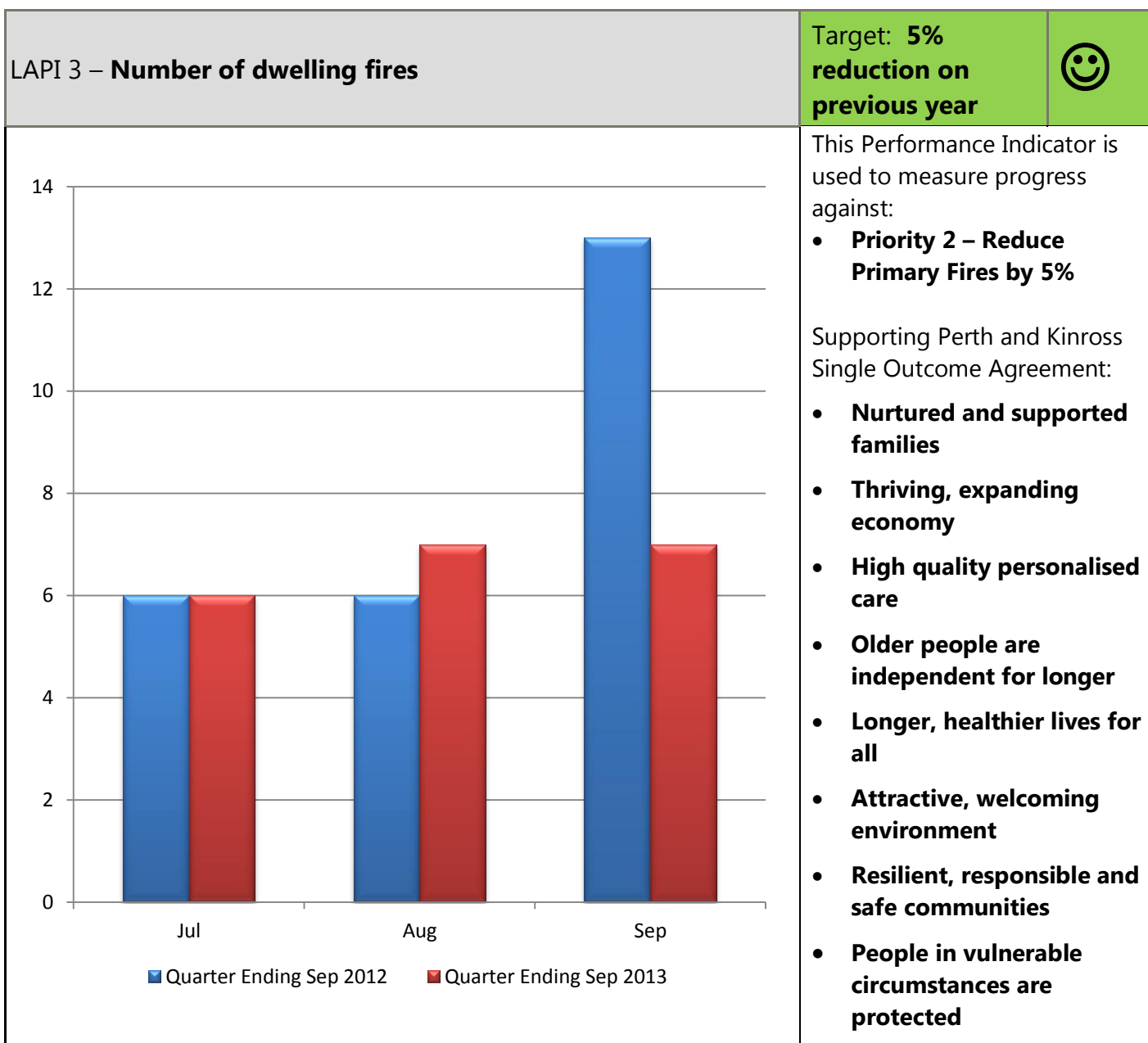


Local Senior Officer's Comments:

Despite a significant reduction in the number of fire casualties we have experienced during this reporting period in comparison to the first quarter of this year when we had 11 injuries in Perth and Kinross, we did still have 6 people injured in fires this quarter which is the same number as last year. This recent reduction is in contrast to the findings of our longer term trend analysis which has resulted in a slight rise in the the number of people injured in fires over the last 4 years where we experienced a low of 20 in total during 2010-11 up to 29 last year.

From these recent incidents, all of the people affected have either had a case study completed or initiated by local managers with further information / follow-up visits required to establish underlying causes, identify lessons and develop local solutions in partnership to reduce or prevent

similar events occurring. The majority of these fires were cooking related with the people affected coming from a range of ages, though three fire casualties were over 65. One of these incidents involved a person doing a 'fire walk' and burning his feet.

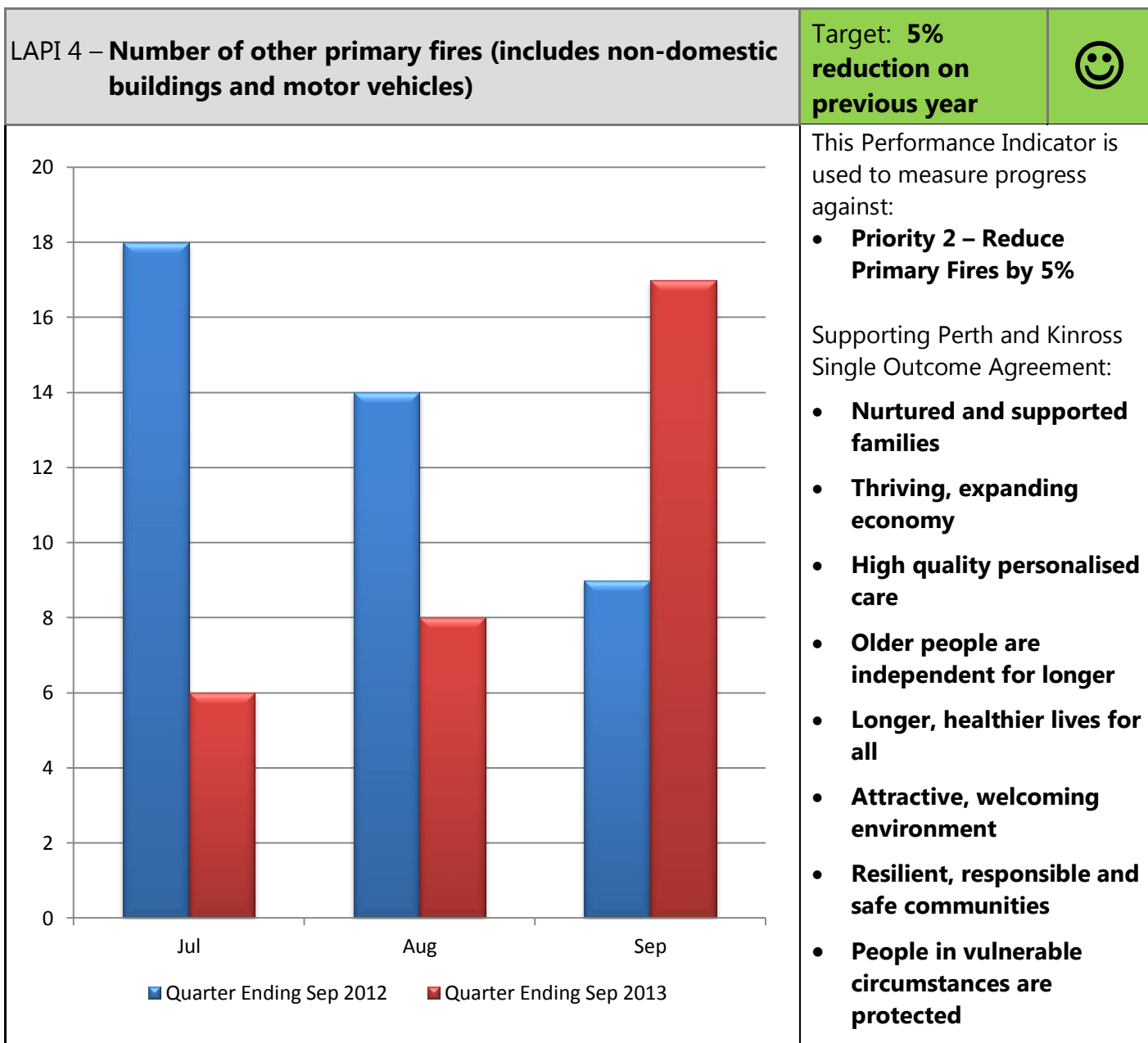


Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were 20 dwelling fires within Perth and Kinross during this reporting period in comparison to 25 within the same quarter last year. This is the lowest recorded number for this reporting period over the last five years, though the overall annual number of dwelling fires has remained at similar levels during this time, varying from an annual total of 121 last year to a high of 138 in 2010-11. There have been 41 dwelling fires in Perth and Kinross during the first 6 months of this year in comparison to 47 at this time last year, therefore at present there is a projected reduction in these incidents during this year.

The majority of these fires are attributable to cooking. A HFSV is undertaken for each dwelling fire that we attend. This practice along with the practical home safety advice given to householders

has led to increased safety awareness amongst adults. Combined with the various other CSE activities undertaken with young people (e.g. Junior Fire Inspectors) these have made a positive contribution towards achieving this improved outcome within Perth and Kinross.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were 31 other primary fire incidents during this quarter in comparison to 41 for the same period last year. This is the lowest in the last 5 years for this reporting period where figures have varied from 52 in 2011-12 to 39 in 2009-10, therefore marking a significant reduction in this incident type.

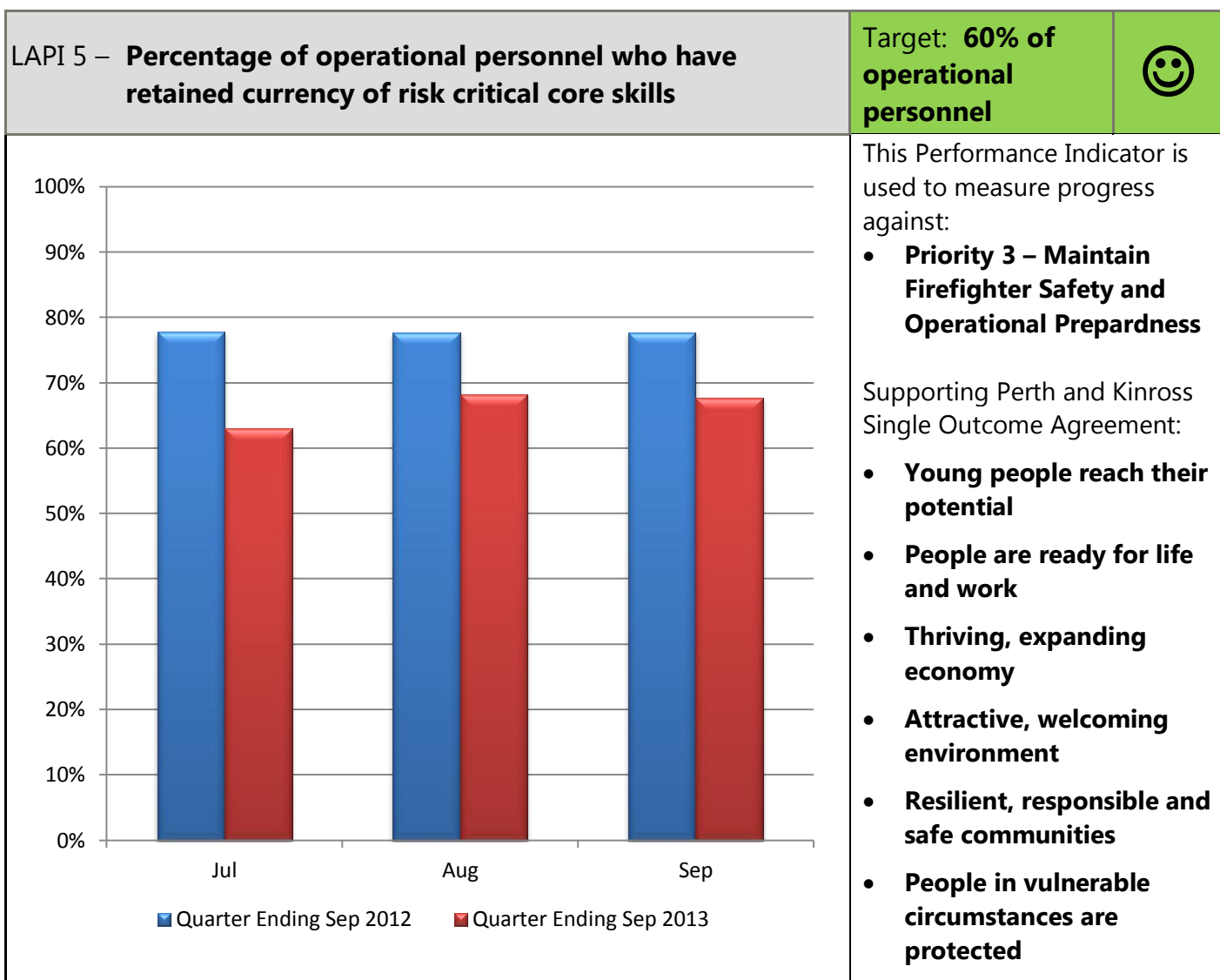
From these there were 16 vehicle fires of which 3 were deemed to be deliberate acts involving abandoned cars and 9 of these fires involved non-domestic buildings.

An established process is in place to undertake a post-fire audit by Fire Safety Enforcement Officers on each occasion we experience a fire in non-domestic premises. Similar to case studies

that are facilitated for fire casualties, these audits have been initiated for each incident with the majority having been concluded and some minor follow-up actions being progressed to date. These audits are intended to review practices and procedures to prevent further fire incidents occurring. None of these incidents were deemed to be significant (e.g. multiple casualties or multi-pump: 5 or more) with no patterns or trends to these.

The only incident that had a form of 'special interest' attached to it was a fire involving solar panels at Belmont Camp by Meigle on 5 September (as described in the Response and Resilience section) due to the uncommon hazards that were presented.

This reflects the longer term analysis for a continued reduction in all other primary fire incidents in Perth and Kinross.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

Within SFRS we place great value on the safety of our firefighters which subsequently assists us to ensure the safety of our communities. To assist us in achieving this we have identified key risk critical core skills that will enable our local firefighters to be ready to respond to the wide variety of emergency incidents that we experience within Perth and Kinross.

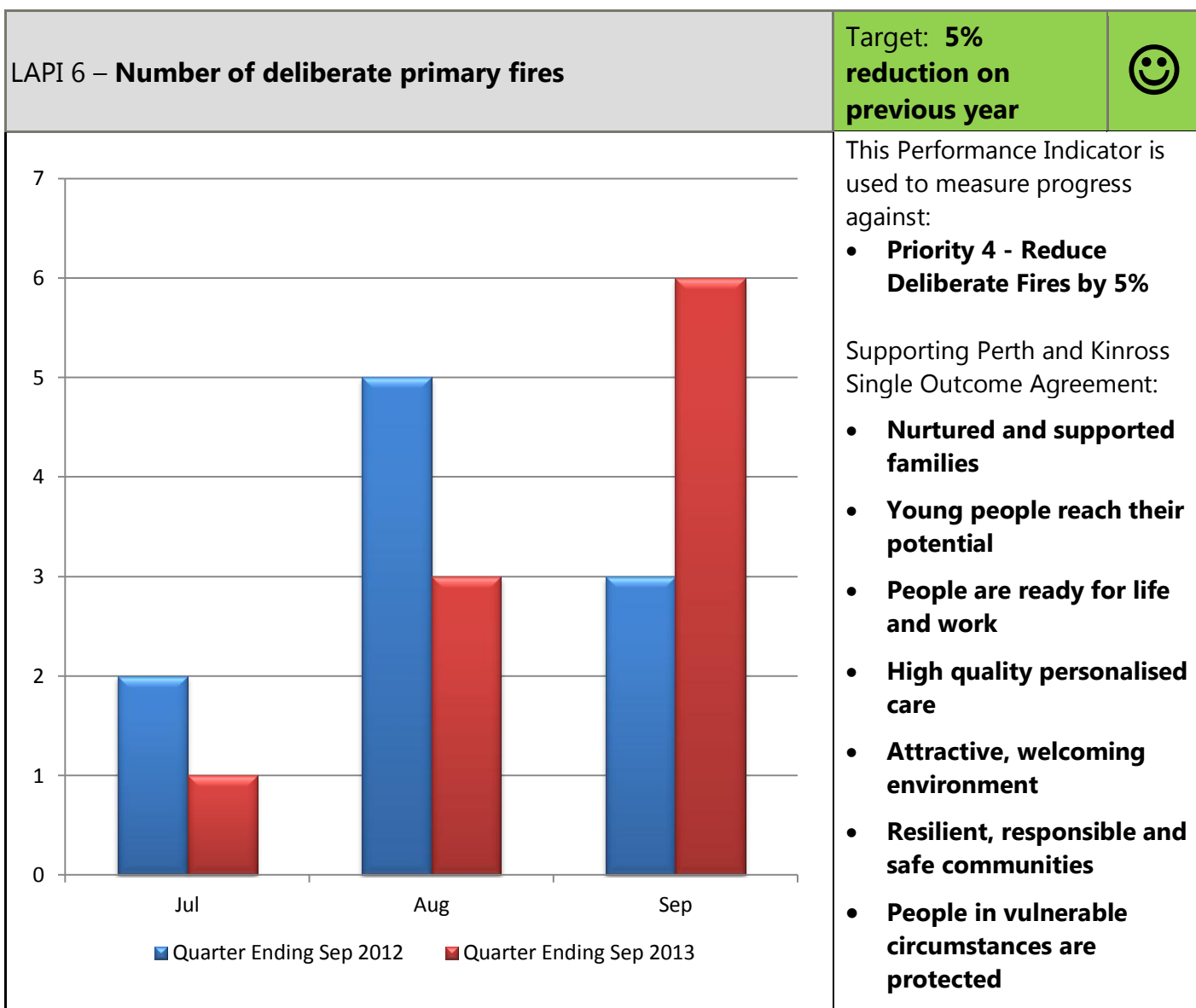
To ensure currency of risk critical core skills all operational personnel are required to be assessed by our training delivery staff in four areas over pre-defined timescales, as follows:

- Breathing Apparatus – 2 yearly
- Compartment Fire Behaviour – 2 yearly
- Road Traffic Collisions – 3 yearly
- First Aid – 3 yearly

The assessment of these skill sets was introduced within our antecedent service and has been carried forward locally within SFRS as a means to ensuring our 'business as usual' approach whilst new standards are introduced within our new service. These personal development courses are in addition to the on-going station based training which continues to be undertaken locally.

Due to our firefighters covering a wide area within Perth and Kinross whilst working a variety of full-time, part-time and volunteer duty systems, the acquisition and maintenance of these skills can prove to be challenging. We are continuing to facilitate these courses at our local training and development centre in Perth with an increasing number of personnel acquiring and maintaining these skill sets in comparison to the first quarter though this is less than last year. There are now 66% of our firefighters deemed competent in the four skill set areas in comparison to 61% in the first quarter whilst there were 78% at this time last year.

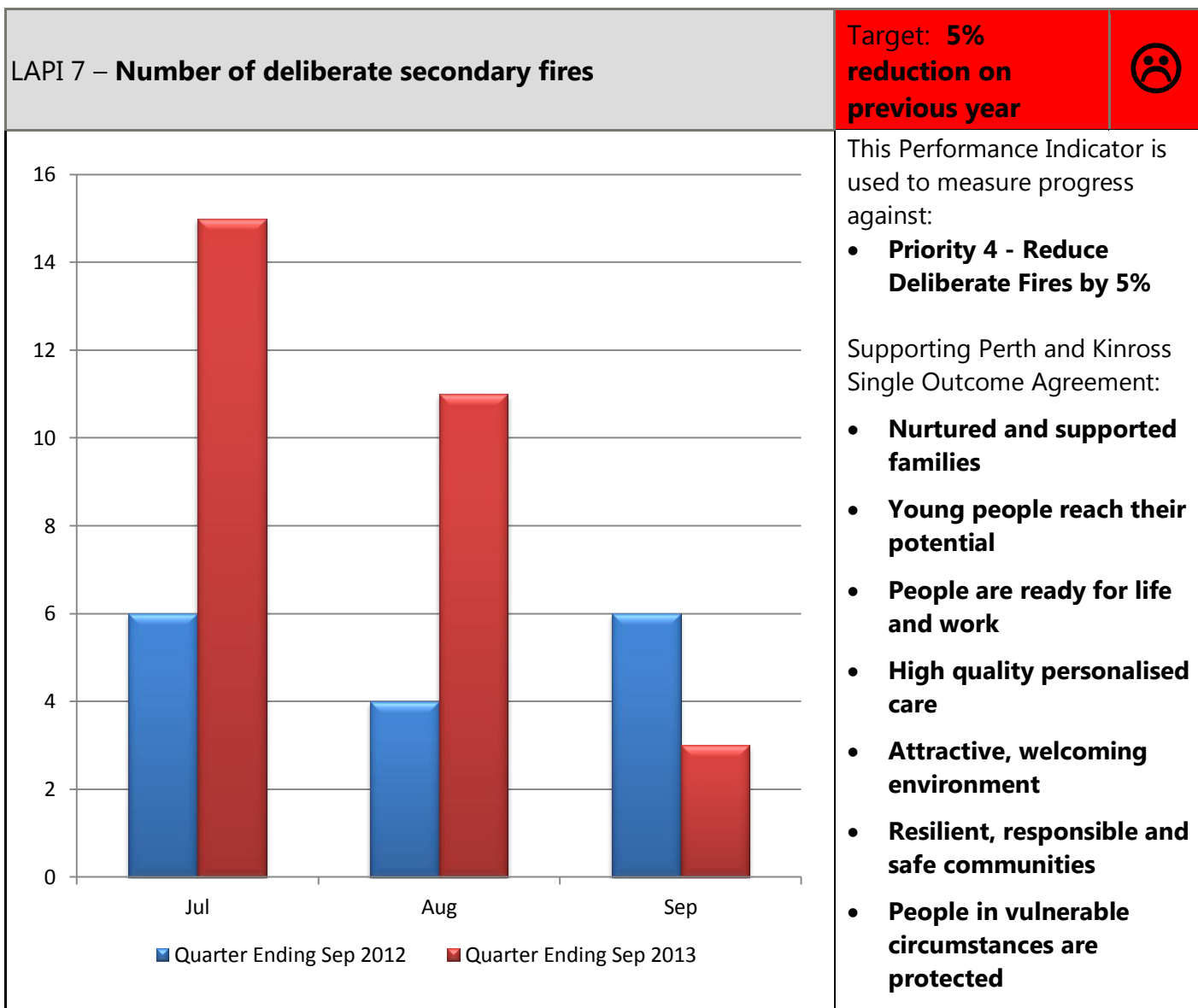
Therefore we are currently above our target for this year (60%) though this figure may fluctuate throughout the year as we introduce new staff to our service.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were 10 deliberate primary fire incidents during this quarter which is the same as this reporting period last year. This is the second lowest number for the last 5 years which has seen a high of 19 for this quarter in 2011-12 with a low of 5 being recorded in 2010-11.

Therefore deliberate primary fires remain relatively low in comparison to recent years. From these 10 deliberate primary fires 3 involved dwellings, 2 involved other buildings, 3 involved vehicles and 2 were other primary fires. There were no significant incidents (e.g. multiple casualties or multi-pump: 5 or more) and all fire investigations were carried out by attending SFRS Incident Commanders at a local level without the assistance of our specialist Fire Investigation team based in Aberdeen.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There was an increase in the number of deliberate secondary fires from July through to September, with 29 incidents occurring in comparison to 16 for the same period last year. This is also an increase in comparison to the first quarter when there were 24 deliberate secondary fires.

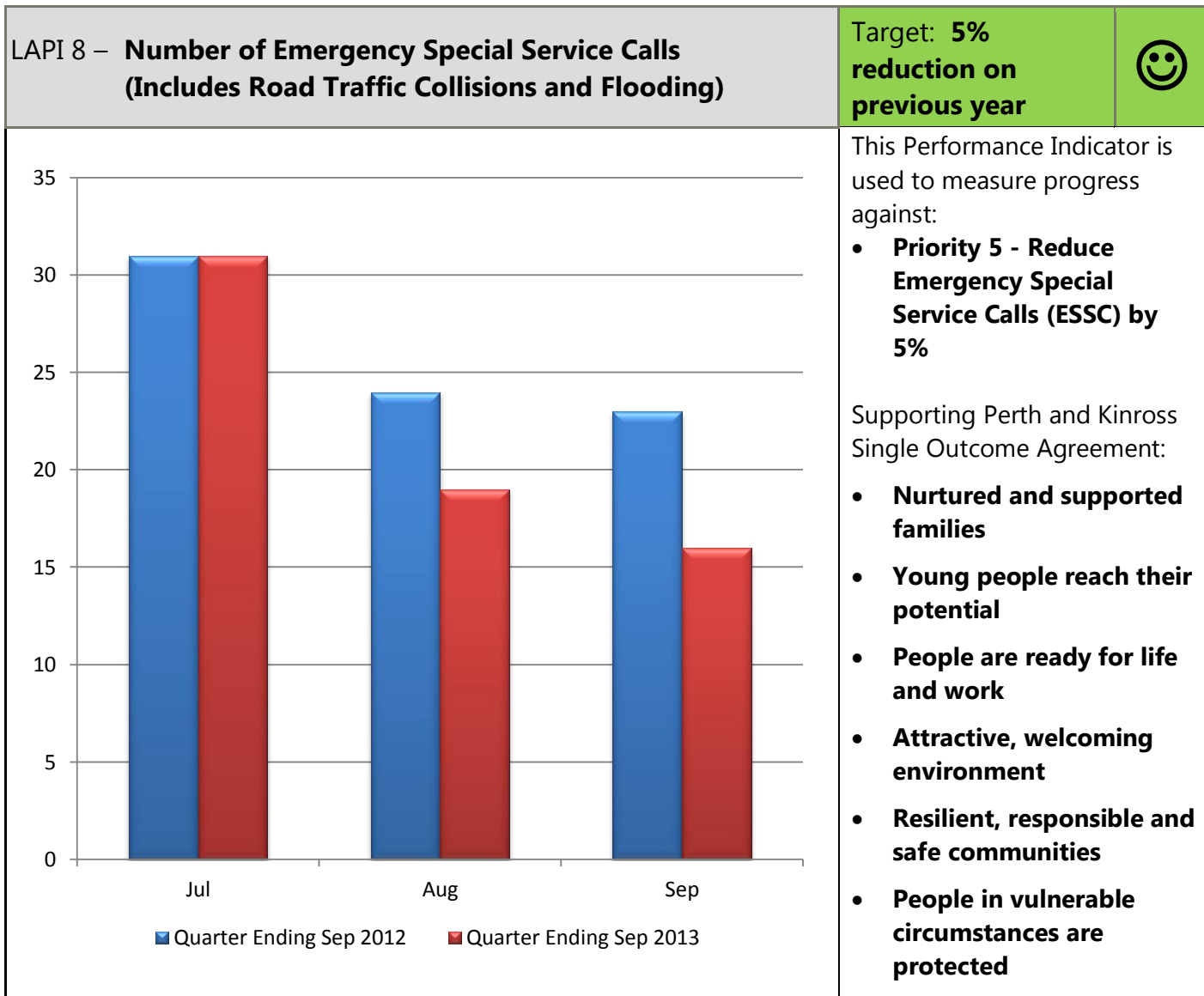
This is the the third highest for this period over the last 5 years which have varied from 39 in 2009-10 to last years low of 16. Though overall there has been a longer term reduction with 135, 150, 127 and 76 incidents being recorded during the last four completed reporting years.

Analysis of the deliberate secondary fires during this quarter shows that there were no significant incidents, patterns or trends from these, they occurred at various locations and times of day and mainly involved areas of grassland and discarded rubbish. Therefore it is felt that this increase is primarily attributable to the extended dry summer period experienced in comparison to recent

years, though we will continue to monitor activity of this incident type closely in the coming months to ensure that this short term increase is not carried forward.

Taking account of the seasonal conditions and the slight impact this appears to have had on secondary fires, there was still comparatively low levels of activity experienced locally which is in line with our pattern of a longer term reduction in deliberate secondary fires within Perth and Kinross.

This longer term positive outcome can largely be attributable to the changing culture and attitudes amongst young people being experienced locally, which SFRS contribute to through a number of partnership CSE initiatives including Safe Taysiders, Young Firefighters Courses, Local Community Fire Station visits and Fire setter Interventions to name some of the activities undertaken.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were 66 Emergency Special Service Calls (ESSC) this quarter in comparison to 78 for the same period last year. Incidents of this type are strongly influenced by weather conditions therefore whilst we experienced an increase in deliberate secondary fires as described against LAPI 7 we had a reduction in the number of ESSC attended. This was the lowest amount of ESSC for the last 5 years during this same July to September reporting period.

From these incidents a significant reduction in Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) was experienced with the lowest recorded amount over the last 4 years at 15, in comparison to 31 in 2010-11, though as stated comparatively favourable weather conditions would have been a contributory factor in this.

Whilst there were less RTC incidents overall, there were more casualties from these with the highest amount recorded over the same quarter for the last 4 years at 23, though fatal injuries from these were comparatively low for the same period with 1 person fatally injured. This is the

same amount as the last 2 years though 4 people were fatally injured from RTC's during the same period in 2010-11.

A contributory factor in improving the lifesaving capabilities locally has been the introduction of a heli-med air ambulance by Scottish Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) based at Perth Airport by Scone. This was launched on 22 May and though the crew provide emergency cover throughout Scotland it has been used at 3 RTC incidents in Perth and Kinross during this quarter to transfer the most seriously injured casualty to hospital on each occasion. Undoubtedly this is having a positive impact on medical trauma care, ensuring more patients meet the 'golden hour' and therefore are less likely to be fatally injured, which appears to be reflected in these figures. This will be monitored over the longer term though this is a welcomed introduction to our emergency rescue capabilities which can only have a beneficial effect on the safety of our communities and those visiting Perth and Kinross.

Each Watch at Perth Community Fire Station has visited Perth Airport to meet the SCAA crew to build relationships and discuss joint working practices. They have also commenced the first of a number of planned training events at the SFRS Training Centre in Perth with SCAA paramedics. These also involve the participation of British Association of Immediate Care Scotland (BASICS) qualified Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics based in Aberuthven and Ninewells Trauma Team members.

There were a number of water rescues during this period with 5 in the Perth City Centre ward area during July alone. This included the tragic incident where 16 year old Mateusz Wilamowski was swept away and drowned whilst attempting to cross the River Tay from North Muirton, Perth to Scone Palace Parklands as described in the Response and Resilience section of this report. This has prompted a wider partnership water safety review for the Perth and Kinross area.

A total of 5 incidents were attributable to flooding. This is the lowest amount experienced in the same quarter over the last 4 years with 19 flooding incidents in 2010-11, 34 in 2011-12 and 15 2013-14. Perth and Kinross typically has a significant risk of flooding as there is more water flowing through our local area from the River Tay and its tributaries than any other region in the UK. Therefore the improved drier weather conditions were the main influencing factor in this outcome.

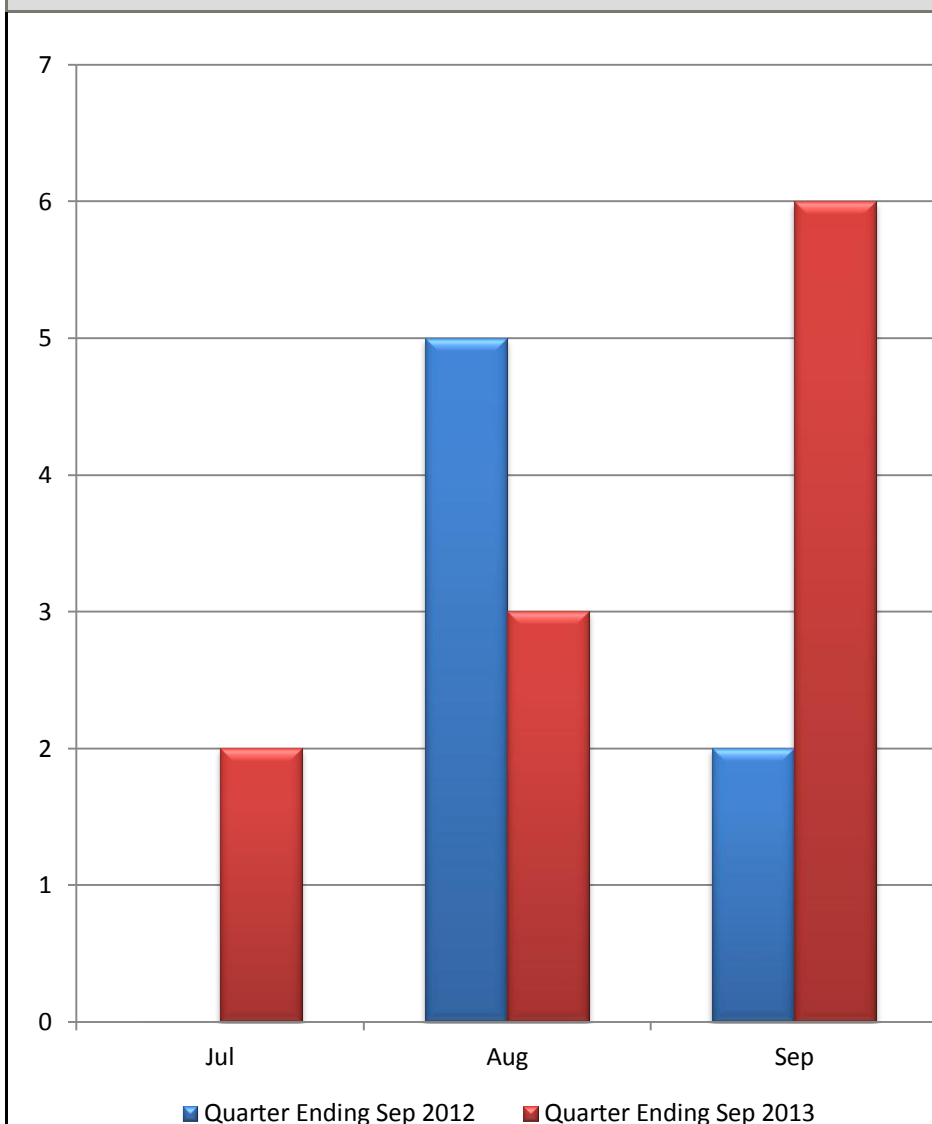
The most serious of these incidents was at Milnathort on Tuesday 23rd July when flash flooding affected properties in and around the area at the junction of Stirling Road and South Street at around 9pm. Fire crews from Kinross were supplemented by those from Auchterarder and Perth with an Environmental Protection Unit from Macalpine in Dundee also attending to supply additional pumps and flood protection equipment.

Members of the local community in Milnathort demonstrated their resilience and willingness to assist by placing sandbags from a nearby store in position as part of a pre-arranged contingency measure. PKC staff attended and supplied additional sandbags to replenish those used and the

incident was closed just after midnight once confirmation had been received that the weather front had passed through the local area.

LAPI 9 – Number of malicious false alarm calls

Target: **5% reduction on previous year**



This Performance Indicator is used to measure progress against:

- **Priority 6 - Reduce Unwanted Calls by 10%**

Supporting Perth and Kinross Single Outcome Agreement:

- **Nurtured and supported families**
- **Young people reach their potential**
- **People are ready for life and work**
- **Thriving, expanding economy**
- **High quality personalised care**
- **Attractive, welcoming environment**
- **Resilient, responsible and safe communities**
- **People in vulnerable circumstances are protected**

Local Senior Officer's Comments:

There were 11 malicious false alarm calls during this reporting period against a target of 6. This is similar to the first quarter where we experienced an increase in this incident type when there were 21. Last year saw the lowest number of malicious false alarm calls in four years when we had 33 calls in comparison to a high of 53 the previous year (2011-12).

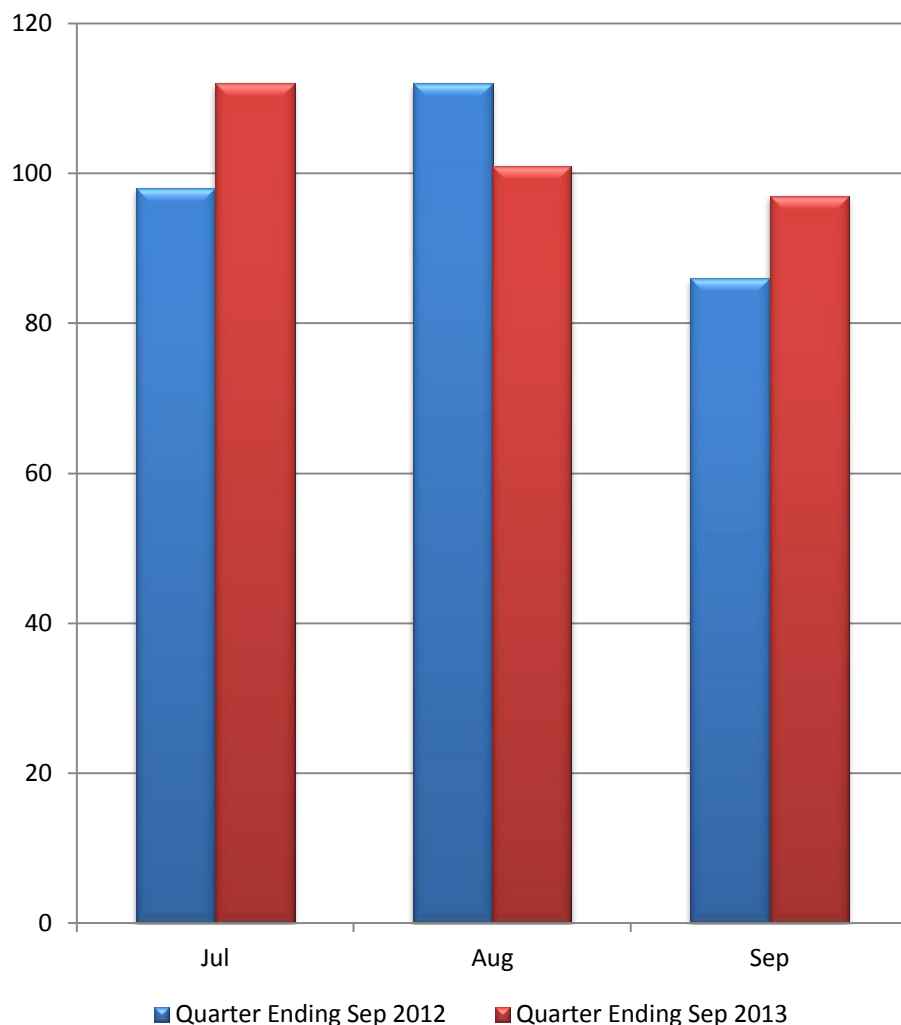
Analysis of these incidents over both quarters in Perth and Kinross has shown that a number of these occurred within residential care homes where older people often suffering from dementia had activated break glass points. Time has been spent by responding crews and / or Fire Safety Enforcement Officers to carry out follow-up visits and spend time with staff to establish means of

preventing reoccurrence. Whilst we have identified this as one of the main causes there has been no pattern established as these have occurred at various residential care homes.

This will continue to be monitored with locally tailored solutions being identified to reduce the likelihood of further incidents occurring where applicable.

LAPI 10 – Number of unwanted fire signal calls from non-domestic premises

Target: 10% reduction on previous year



This Performance Indicator is used to measure progress against:

- **Priority 6 - Reduce Unwanted Calls by 10%**

Supporting Perth and Kinross Single Outcome Agreement:

- **Nurtured and supported families**
- **Young people reach their potential**
- **People are ready for life and work**
- **Thriving, expanding economy**
- **High quality personalised care**
- **Attractive, welcoming environment**
- **Resilient, responsible and safe communities**
- **People in vulnerable circumstances are protected**

Local Senior Officer's Comments:

Unwanted Fire Signal (UwFS) calls are experienced where an Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) system is activated due to reasons other than a fire. This can range from accidental activations from cooking, steam from a shower or technical fault with the premise's AFA system.

There were 310 UwFS calls from non-domestic premises during this quarter against a target of 247. This was higher than last year (296) and the highest for the second quarter reporting period over the last 4 years. It also remains to be the most common incident type within the Perth and Kinross area with 43% of our calls being attributable to UwFS between July and September. Our longer term trend analysis has indicated that there will be a continued increase in this incident type as there has been a marginal increase over a sustained period.

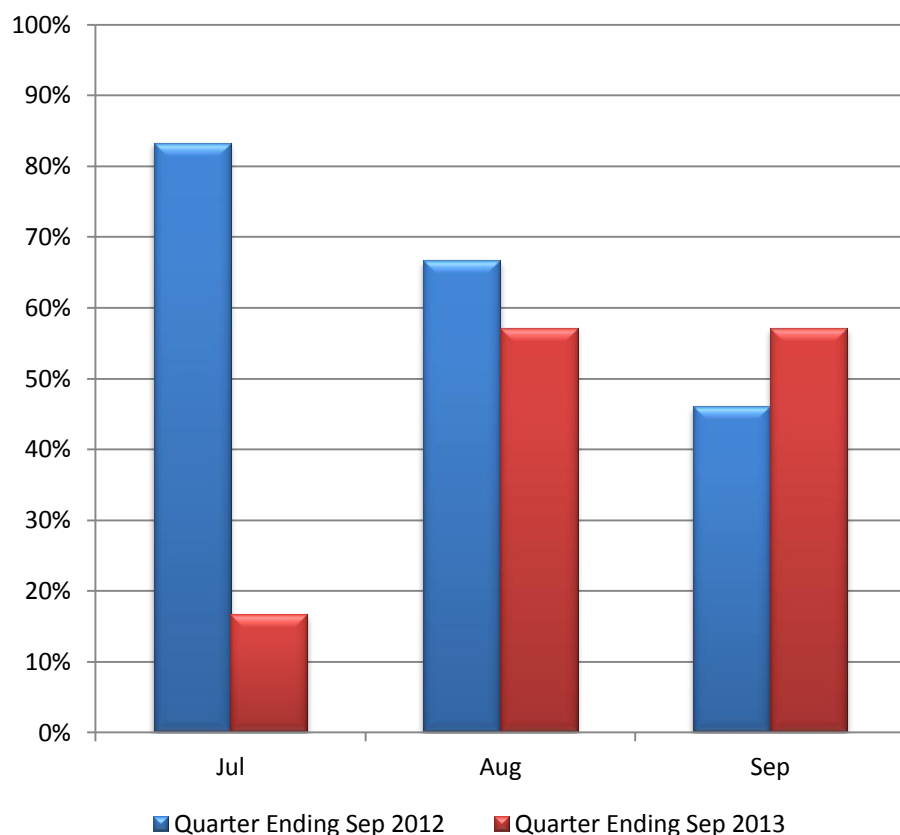
Responding crews have continued to spend time with whoever is deemed to be the 'responsible person' at each premise once it has been determined that the actuation has been as a result of an UwFS call. This is to analyse the cause and identify any actions whilst at the scene that can be undertaken to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence. This can range from requesting the attendance of a fire alarm engineer to repair faults to the notification or training of staff on internal practices and procedures within the premise. Where there are longer term issues we undertake specific action plans through our FSE Officers working with the responsible person(s) for these premises. These are recorded and monitored by the local risk managers for their respective areas.

We continue to find that premise owners and members of the business community have been very receptive in our attempts to reducing UwFS as they recognise the impact this has on their business, our service delivery and ultimately wider public safety. Through our FSE activities we ensure that buildings have the correct AFA system fitted, though with an increasing amount of AFA systems being installed it is proving to be challenging to reduce the number of UwFS experienced.

We plan to investigate initiatives from other areas to establish if these could be implemented locally in an attempt to reduce the impact this has on our local service delivery.

LAPI 11 – Percentage of dwelling fires where a smoke detector operated

Target: **5% increase on previous year**



This Performance Indicator is used to measure progress against:

- **Priority 7 – Increase Smoke Alarm Ownership by 5%**

Supporting Perth and Kinross Single Outcome Agreement:

- **Nurtured and supported families**
- **High quality personalised care**
- **Attractive, welcoming environment**
- **Resilient, responsible and safe communities**
- **People in vulnerable circumstances are protected**

Local Senior Officer's Comments:

This performance indicator is intended to direct our HFSV's and fire safety education activities to those most at risk from fire, thereby increasing smoke alarm ownership and early detection of fires which subsequently prevents or reduces injuries and damage within peoples' homes.

During this reporting period smoke detectors operated in 44% of the dwelling fires that we experienced within Perth and Kinross. This was 18% below our target of 62% also less than was recorded for the same quarter last year when the smoke detector operated in 65% of the dwelling fires that we attended. This has a tendency to fluctuate and when analysed against the recorded figures for the second quarter of the last five years this proved to be a similar return, as 44% was the second highest over this longer period.

Interpretation of this performance information indicates to us that the large increase in smoke alarm ownership in Perth and Kinross from the 20,000+ HFSV's undertaken in recent years will mean that more potential fires will be detected in the early stages as intended (e.g. cooking left unattended). This results in SFRS often not needing to be called as householders are alerted to this threat and can take remedial action such as turning appliances off and opening windows to

remove any residual light smoke or steam. It is felt that this information is also linked to the gradual reduction in dwelling fires that we have experienced over the longer term (see LAPI 3).

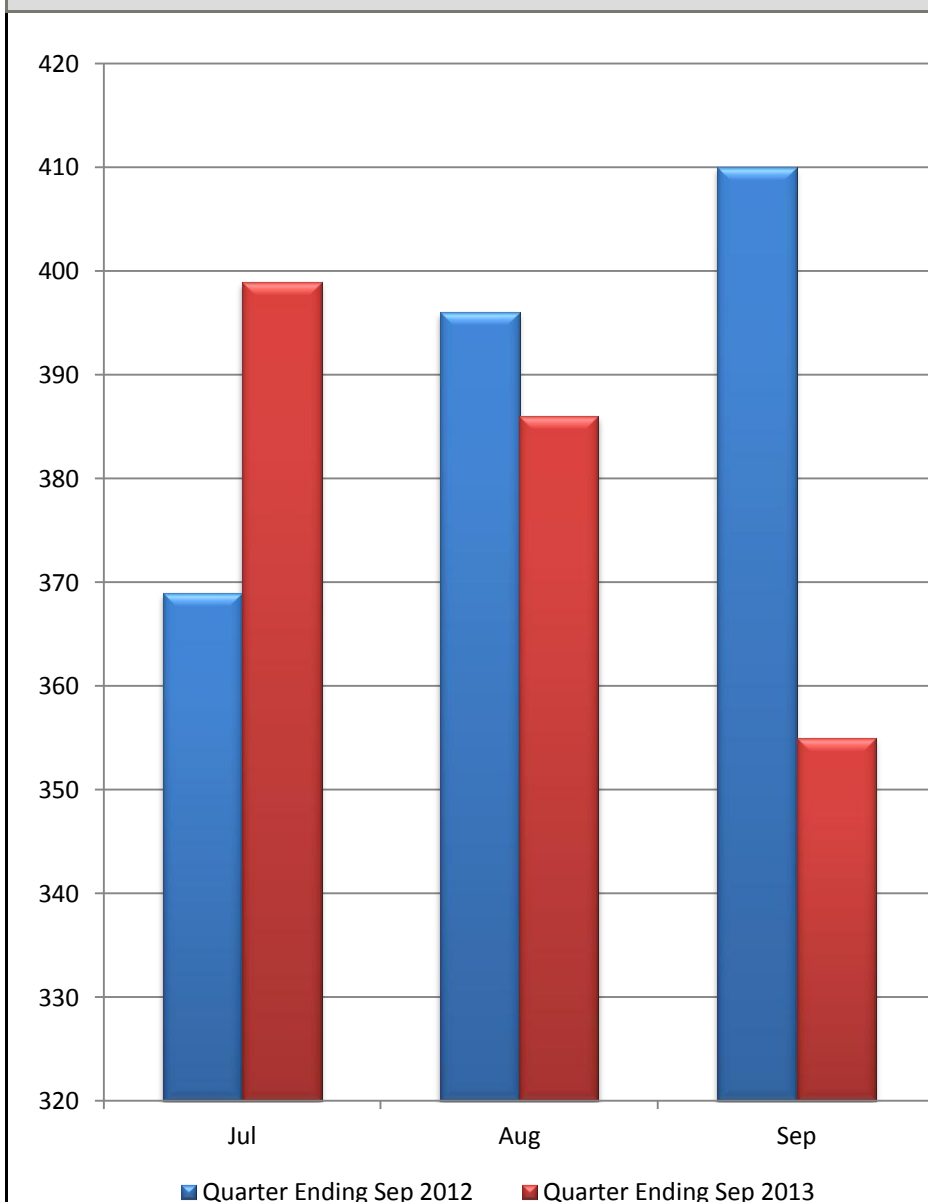
Therefore these proactive prevention activities are attributable to less dwelling fires being attended where smoke detectors have operated indicating that smoke alarms are being installed within homes that may have otherwise experienced fires. It has been our intention that HFSV's have been targeted towards these homes.

Our firefighters will continue to carry out HFSV's including incidents where they have attended a fire in people's homes. This is to fit smoke alarms where needed in the property affected and often neighbouring homes at the same time in what is termed as a 'hot strike' by our crews. This is in an attempt to further reduce the risk from fire to our communities.

Further initiatives continue to be developed through the P&K Home Safety Partnership to improve the sharing of information and wider 'Home Safety' related activities that can be incorporated into these visits (e.g. slips, trips and falls assessments). This is intended to ensure improved targeting of our prevention activities to those deemed most at risk.

LAPI 12 – Number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)

Target: Maintain
Target from
previous year



This Performance Indicator is used to measure progress against:

- **Priority 1 - Reduce Casualties by 5%**
- **Priority 2 – Reduce Primary Fires by 5%**

Supporting Perth and Kinross Single Outcome Agreement:

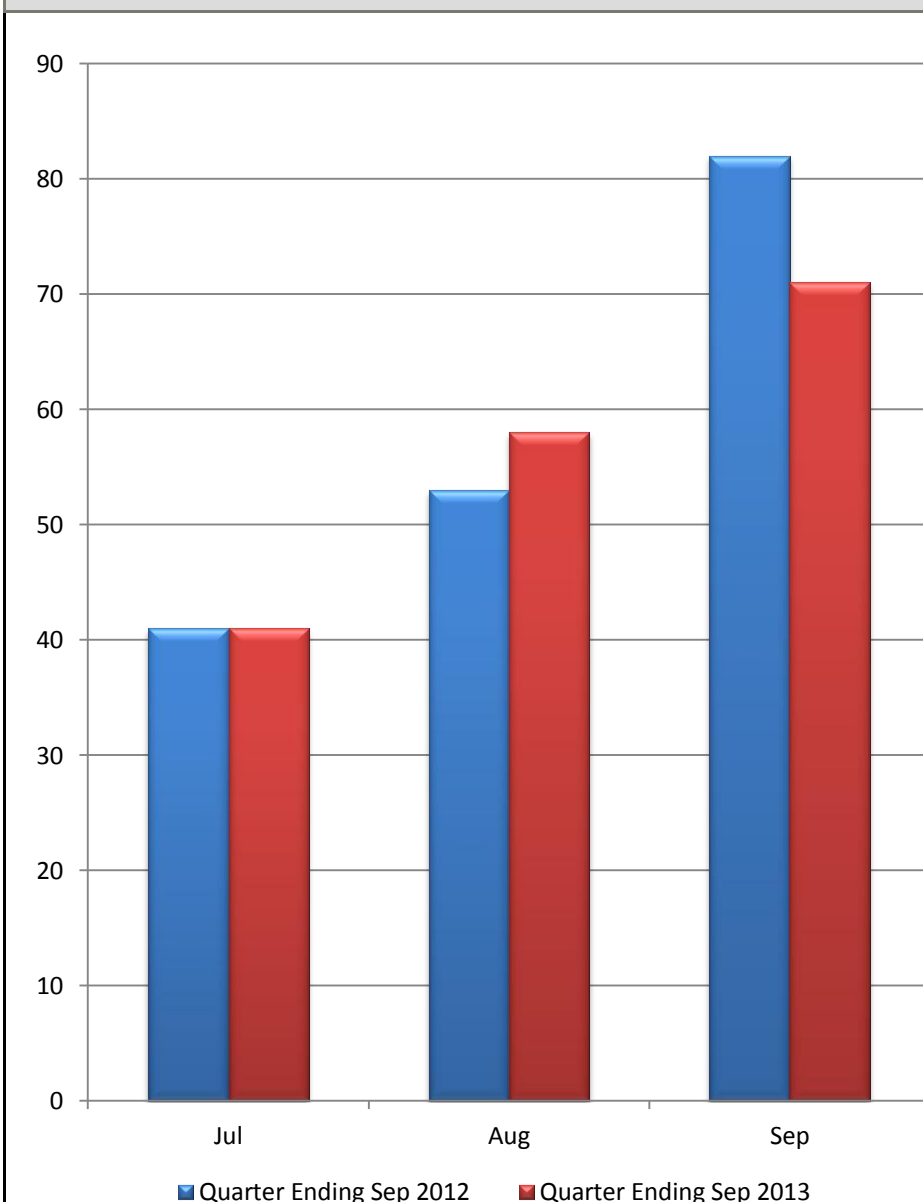
- **Nurtured and supported families**
- **Thriving, expanding economy**
- **High quality personalised care**
- **Older people are independent for longer**
- **Longer, healthier lives for all**
- **Attractive, welcoming environment**
- **Resilient, responsible and safe communities**
- **People in vulnerable circumstances are protected**

Local Senior Officer's Comments:

Our local crews continued to make good progress towards our annual target of 4,411 HFSV with 1,140 visits undertaken throughout Perth and Kinross against a quarterly target of 1,103. Where community fire stations reach their annual target local firefighters are organised to deliver and support neighbouring station areas in the delivery of HFSV's through flexible crewing arrangements. This is to ensure that we deliver comparable levels of service delivery to all our communities across Perth and Kinross.

LAPI 13 – Number of Legislative Fire Safety Audits

Target: **Maintain target from previous year**



This Performance Indicator is used to measure progress against:

- **Priority 1 - Reduce Casualties by 5%**
- **Priority 2 – Reduce Primary Fires by 5%**

Supporting Perth and Kinross Single Outcome Agreement:

- **Nurtured and supported families**
- **Thriving, expanding economy**
- **High quality personalised care**
- **Older people are independent for longer**
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- **Resilient, responsible and safe communities**
- **People in vulnerable circumstances are protected**

Local Senior Officer's Comments:

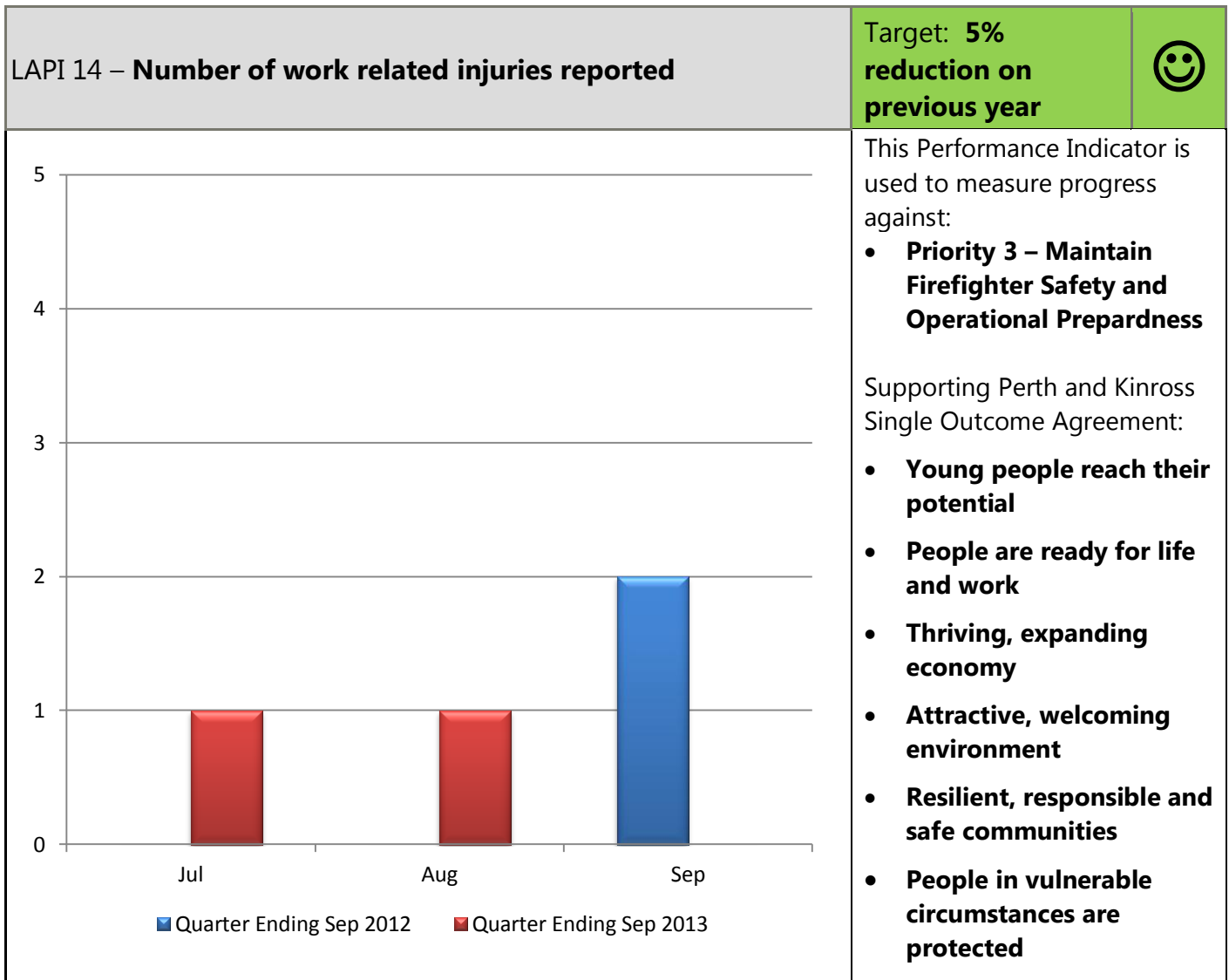
Similarly to maintaining the number of planned HFSV's for this year, we also intend to deliver the same level of performance output for legislative fire safety audits (870). These audits are primarily directed at premises where there is an identified life risk such as care homes, hospitals and shared accommodation. During this quarter we undertook 171 audits against a target of 216.

This is below target though there has been the requirement for a seasonal increase of fire safety event planning work in support of the large events that were held within the Perth and Kinross

area during this reporting period. This work was undertaken to ensure the safety of those using the temporary structures that were erected and the related safe working practices at events including T in the Park and the Rewind Festival. Therefore it is typical that we experience a lesser output of audits locally during the second quarter of each reporting year.

Focus will now resume on undertaking audits by our local FSE Officers and District Liaison Officers in their respective Perth and South Perthshire, Highland and East Perthshire areas. During this quarter we maintained our commitment of ensuring that post fire audits are undertaken in all non-domestic premises where we have attended incidents.

Our levels of activity will continue to be monitored and reviewed throughout this year to ensure we deliver the expected outcomes to our communities including those within the business sector.



Local Senior Officer's Comments:

This quarter we experienced 2 injuries to our firefighters which is the same amount recorded as last year. Our target for this reporting period is 2 and we therefore remain on target for the year to achieve a reduction in injuries at work to our firefighters. Over recent years we have seen a significant reduction in the number of injuries experienced from a high of 18 in 2010-11 to 5 and 7 injuries respectively in the last two years.

One of these was as a result of a back injury that was sustained this quarter whilst at a training event as a firefighter was manual handling a heavy object and the other was an accident on station where a firefighter tripped over an item of equipment. Both injuries were relatively minor and did not result in any days lost from work.

These were investigated by local managers with practices and information relating to these activities being reviewed and amended where deemed necessary to prevent or reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence.

We greatly value the safety of our firefighters whilst also recognising the need to facilitate frequent realistic and meaningful training events to ensure both their safety and the safety of our communities by responding effectively to emergencies. Therefore we intend to continue to review our practices and procedures to eliminate or reduce the likelihood of injuries being sustained to our staff as far as reasonably practicable.

5 CONTACT DETAILS

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