



**PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

3 FEBRUARY 2016

Report by Area Manager C. Grieve, LSO PKAD, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

**SUBJECT: SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PERTH & KINROSS INTERIM
ACTIVITY REPORT**

Abstract

The report provides members with background information in relation to the activity of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within the Perth & Kinross area. It is intended to give an overview of some of the key Community Safety Engagement and operational activity events to keep members informed whilst formal quarterly performance reporting across the local area will be presented at the next committee meeting.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide information for the Committee regarding the performance and key activities of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, against the priorities, performance indicators and targets detailed within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross 2014 - 2017, to facilitate local scrutiny.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that members:

Note, scrutinise and question the contents of this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4 PERFORMANCE

- 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 Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Perth & Kinross 2014 – 2017 was approved by the Community Safety Committee on the 21st of May 2014.
- 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 Perth & Kinross Single Outcome Agreement / Community Plan 2013 – 2023 and Community Planning Partnership.

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

- Priority 1 – Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Priority 2 – Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires
- Priority 3 – Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Priority 4 – Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 5 – Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Properties
- Priority 6 – Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies
- Priority 7 – Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

5 SFRS ACTIVITY WITHIN PERTH AND KINROSS AREA

SFRS activity over recent months has included key events such as our bonfire period which is typically the busiest time of year for deliberate fire related incidents, the annual Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) – Road Safety Events and the recruitment of a jointly funded Community Safety Warden in the Aberfeldy area. The exceptional rainfall throughout Perth and Kinross provided additional challenges to the SFRS in the deployment of resources throughout the country.

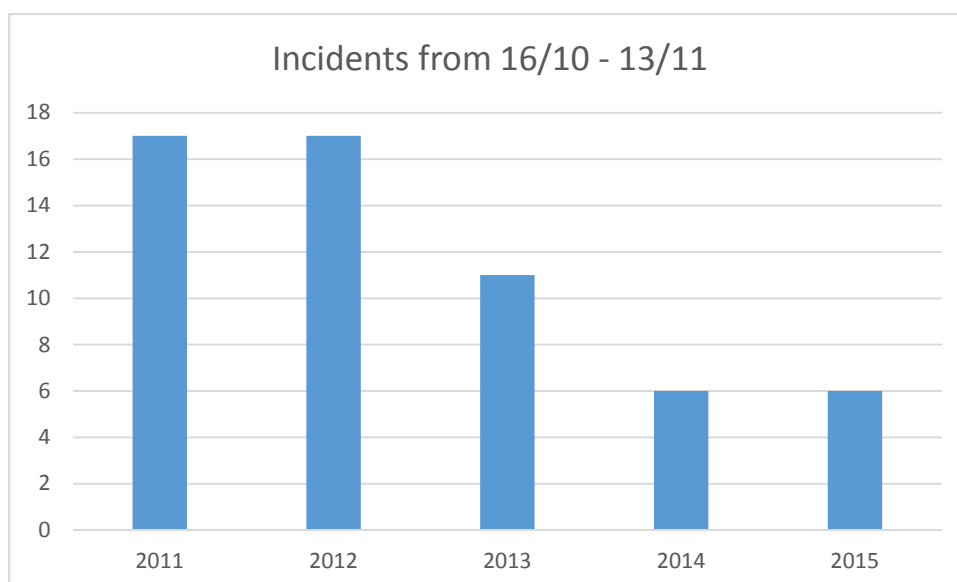
5.1 Operational Activity – Bonfire Period

Having had such a successful bonfire period in 2014 there was a realisation that to deliver the same results could prove a difficult challenge. It was once again a very successful period and with the partnership initiatives with Police Scotland, Perth & Kinross Council's - Safer Communities Team, Housing Officers and Environmental Services, who worked closely together prior to bonfire night to implement safety initiatives that had outstanding results including zero deliberate fires being recorded on 5th November. Firefighters did attend a bonfire but this was to extinguish the Round Tables organised event and this was pre-arranged agreement with SFRS.

As in previous years the planned prevention initiatives included school talks, safety campaigns using social media channels and local press, engagement with local communities to highlight the dangers of lighting unsupervised or poorly constructed bonfires and leaving flammable items lying around that increase the risk of deliberate fire setting.

A major contribution was highlighting the organised bonfire event which local community groups were very proactive in communicating throughout the area.

Over the longer term we have also experienced a continued reduction in deliberate fire setting locally during the 4 week period in and around bonfire night with the lowest number of incidents on record for the Perth & Kinross area.



As can be seen the figures year on year continue to drop over a period which has historically always been busy for Fire and Rescue Services. It should be noted that 2 of the fires for 2015 were responses to organised displays where agreement had been previously made. The on-going work between local partners is testament to the importance of working together to make the local communities safer. The implementation of rubbish uplifts, the identification of discarded furniture and household goods at properties and the engagement with local community groups enables the continual improvement in community safety.

Perth and Kinross young people have a better appreciation of the role of the firefighter through diversionary tactics and the engagement with them at community events and within the school environment. The joint approach when attending incidents with the Safer Community Wardens has also assisted firefighters in having a better understanding of the role of the wardens.

5.2 Operational Activity – Flooding in December and January

The higher than average temperatures along with heavy rainfall resulted in the SFRS having had to deal with a high volume of calls in relation to flooding incidents. Three weather fronts moved through the area, the 5th and 6th December saw 27 flooding incidents and 2 swift water rescues being dealt with in the P&K area. Between the 30th December and 31st December there were 7 flooding incidents and from the 3rd January 2016 until 7th January there were a further 73 flooding incidents with 4 swift water rescues in the P&K area. There was excellent work conducted by all agencies through the Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) with comprehensive use of teleconferencing to maintain communication links and advice. The excellent work conducted by the Tayside LRP resulted in the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson, attending Police Control in Dundee to meet members of the partnership. The LRP has been proactive in developing working relationships through training exercises and this proved invaluable during recent events.

The excellent working relationship between P&K, Police Scotland, SEPA and SFRS allowed information to be passed and resources to be allocated in preparation for potential flooding in Perth and Bridge of Earn. During each of the

flooding events specialist resources were deployed to the Perth and Kinross area, this included water rescue teams, High Volume Pumps and support appliances. Where resources required to be augmented the availability of national resources were identified and transported to suitable rendezvous locations. The 2 most notable incidents were the flooding at Marshall Place and the surrounding area within Perth and the rescue of a gentleman and his wife near Coupar Angus where, on both occasions, a multi-agency approach benefitted all those requiring assistance.



As the weather front moved North, Perth based SFRS personnel were mobilised to assist crews in Angus, Aberdeen and the surrounding area. This highlights the capability of the SFRS to deploy resources as and when required throughout Scotland

Close links were established with the press and communications were provided through various sources, including Police Scotland, to advise the public of the dangers of flooded roads. Unfortunately the guidance was not always adhered to and this resulted in 3 incidents where members of the public had to be rescued from their vehicles.



Related SFRS Local Priorities:

- Priority 1 – Local Risk Management and Preparedness
- Priority 3 – Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
- Priority 4 – Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

5.3 Community Safety Engagement – Safe Drive Stay Alive

Approximately 1,500 S5 secondary school pupils from across Perth & Kinross recently attended the multi-award winning and hard hitting road safety event Safe Drive Stay Alive.

Safe Drive Stay Alive was organised and delivered by representatives from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service along with partners from NHS Tayside, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Police Scotland, Perth & Kinross Council – Safer Communities Wardens and volunteers.



Three events took place at Bell's Sports Centre, Perth on 24th and 25th November which provided an important message to future drivers before they even begin to learn to drive or are passengers in a car with their friends. Drivers aged between 17 and 25 years old are the most at risk on our roads and statistics show that this age group is more likely to be involved in a collision, particularly young men, than any other group.

Related SFRS Local Priorities:

- Priority 6 – Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies

5.4 Community Safety Engagement – Community Safety Warden

The Aberfeldy Community Safety Warden initiative is now in its latter stages with the successful applicant progressing through a series of practical and medical tests to ensure that they can meet all the stipulated criteria. The initiative is being closely watched by other local authorities with a request that a comprehensive report be produced to assist in similar future joint initiatives.

Related SFRS Local Priorities:

- Priority 6 – Reduction in Casualties from Non Fire Emergencies

5.5 SFRS Community Engagement and Exercises

Personnel continue to work with local communities to facilitate training exercises throughout the area. The two most recent exercises were held at Kinpurnie Castle where crews dealt with a fire in the premises that was spreading to the upper floors and as part of the exercise also considered how to conduct salvage work.

The second notable exercise was a multi-agency table top exercise dealing with a variety of scenarios in HMP Perth. Such exercises enhance the capability of all partners and allow a greater understanding of how each service operates.

Related SFRS Local Priorities:

- Priority 1 – Local Risk Management and Preparedness

6 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Not applicable.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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

Colin Grieve
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