

SPOTLIGHT ON DELIBERATE FIRES IN RENFREWSHIRE

1st October – 31st December 2018



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide local authority partners with details of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) strategy to target Deliberate Fires in Renfrewshire during 1st October 2018 – 31st December 2018.

INDICATORS

Local SFRS Managers developed and implemented an effective multi-agency action plan to support partnership working. The success of prevention and intervention activities within the action plan and provision of fire safety advice to the public is measured against the following outcome based performance indicators:

- *Reduce the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires including:*
 - i. *Dwelling Fires*
 - ii. *Other Building Fires*
 - iii. *Vehicle Fires*
 - iv. *Other Primary Fires*
 - v. *Refuse Fires*
 - vi. *Other Secondary Fires*

In addition to the above, consideration was given to adopting a robust, multi-agency approach to dealing with fire offending and offenders. Such partnership working has proved to be a strong deterrent to fire setting in both urban and rural areas.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Coordinated multi-agency partnership working continues to be an effective way of protecting persons and property from fire, reducing operational response costs, and improving fire and fire related performance indicators.

The following is a representative list of partner agencies and local service providers that assisted to manage and minimise operational demand during the reporting period.

- *Community Planning Partner and Community Safety Partner*
- *Police Scotland*
- *Local Authority ASB Forums*
- *Community Wardens*
- *Local Authority Housing*
- *Trading Standards Scotland*
- *Firework Retailers/Wholesalers*
- *Education Authorities and Youth Services*
- *NHS*
- *Local Press/Media Agencies and Services*

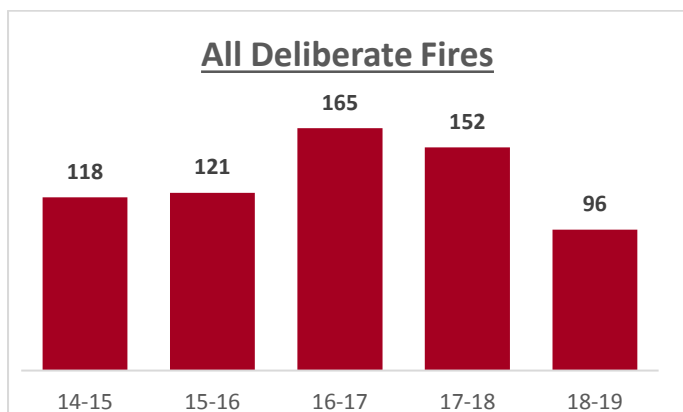
DEMAND REDUCTION PLAN

An effective multi-agency seasonal action plan was developed at Local Authority level to coordinate prevention activities, review emergency response arrangement and deliver appropriate safety messages and advice to the public.

The following measures were adopted as part of the demand reduction plan:

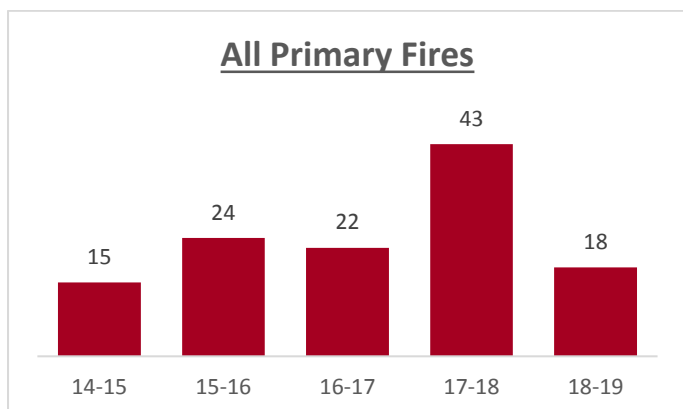
- *Bonfire education with children and young People*
- *Information exchange with Police Scotland at daily hub meetings.*
- *Encouraging residents within affected neighbourhoods to proactively report deliberate fire setters via Crimestoppers.*
- *Liaison with Local Authority CCTV control centre to identify persons involved in fire setting and other antisocial behaviour.*
- *Derelict, unoccupied or vulnerable properties were monitored and arrangements made to have high fire risk buildings made safe and secure.*

DELIBERATE FIRES IN RENFREWSHIRE



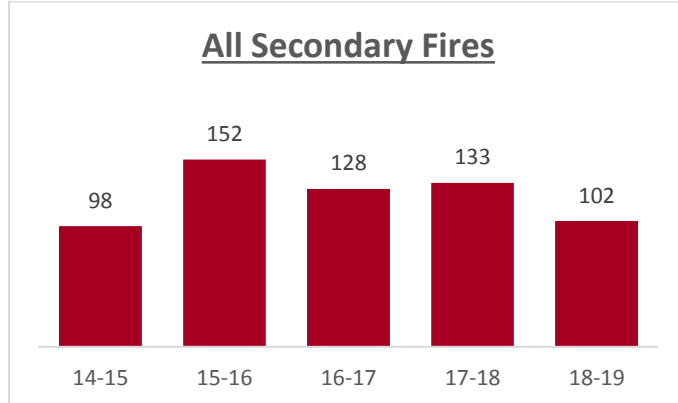
All deliberate fires for Q3 2018/19 show a significant decrease of 37% (56 incidents) when compared to the same period last year in Renfrewshire.

2018/19 is notably below the five year average for deliberate fires within the Renfrewshire Area.



Primary Fires also show a decrease when compared to last year's data. A decline of 58% (25 incidents) from 2017/18 across the Council Area.

Primary Fires - includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances. For example; buildings, caravans, non-derelect vehicles, outdoor storage (plant and machinery) other outdoor structures (post-boxes, tunnels, bridges, etc.).



Secondary Fires across Renfrewshire have shown a decrease during the reporting period. A decline of 31 incidents over Q3, which nearly equals the lowest figures over the 5 years. It is worth noting that bonfire and bonfire related incidents will be recorded under the secondary fires indicator.

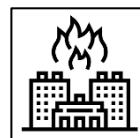
Secondary Fire – An incident that did not occur at a Primary location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident) and was attended by four or fewer appliances (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident). For example; single derelict buildings, grassland, hedges, railway embankments, single trees, straw, stubble, outdoor structures (lamp-posts, traffic signs, playground furniture, scaffolding), refuse and refuse containers, derelict vehicles (no registered owner).

PRIMARY FIRES BY ACTIVITY



Dwelling fires account for 22% of the activity during the Q3 2018/19 period. However, incidents show a decrease of 73% (11 incidents) when compared to the previous year. A total of four dwelling incidents have been recorded against 2018/19.

Other building fires show a similar trend with a 78% (7 incidents) reduction across Renfrewshire with only two incidents attended during the 3 month period.



Other buildings fires are fires in other residential or non-residential buildings. Other (institutional) residential buildings include properties such as hostels/hotels/B&Bs, nursing/care homes, student halls of residence etc. Non-residential buildings include properties such as offices, shops, factories, warehouses, restaurants, public buildings, religious buildings etc.



Deliberate vehicle fires show a 50% reduction from last year from 14 incidents to 7.

'Other' primary fires have remained the same compared to last year with five incidents attended during the Q3 period.



Other Primary Fires are all primary fires included in the following categories: Aircraft, outdoor, boat, outdoor structure, rail vehicles.

SECONDARY FIRES BY ACTIVITY



Refuse fires accounted for 68% of the activity during October – December 2018. SFRS attended a total of 53 incidents, a decrease from last year's 67 incidents (21%).

All deliberate secondary 'other' fires has also improved with a 40% reduction over the period. With the majority of the 25 incidents being grass and other outdoor furniture.



Other Secondary Fires are all secondary fires excluding refuse and chimney fires.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



During the 2018/19 period, SFRS staff across the three Renfrewshire stations and Safety Centre carried out a total of 469 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV). 166 of the visits were high risk. SFRS supplied and fitted a total of 320 smoke alarms during this period.

SFRS also supplied other safety equipment during October-December 2018 these included; 23 heat alarms, one set of fire retardant bedding, one electric blanket and one carbon monoxide detector.

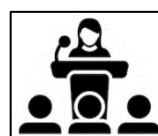
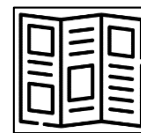


Following all domestic related incidents, SFRS carry out a Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR). Personnel will adopt the PDIR process to engage with householders following all dwelling house incidents to generate HFSV's.



SFRS conducted a total of 162 PDIRs during the Q3 period which resulted in 117 PDIRs generating one or more HFSVs.

During Q3, SFRS carried out two Thematic Action Plan (TAP) campaigns; Autumn/Bonfire TAP and Winter/Festive TAP. The TAP campaigns are national initiatives and resource staff and partners with material and data to put in place prevention activities to reduce incidents in data driven times of the year. For example; Bonfire TAP will target anti-social behaviour and bonfire related incidents by putting in place education programs to target schools. During the four week Autumn/Bonfire TAP, 37 activities were carried out relating to the campaign, these included: school talks, community planning meetings and foodbank visits. Although the Winter/Festive TAP crosses between Q3 and Q4, there have been 22 activities carried out focusing on the Winter TAP in Q3.



Local Community Action Team (CAT) and operational crews delivered a bonfire presentation which has been designed in collaboration with education professionals to provide positive engagement and education of children and young people. The presentation was delivered to all S1 pupils across Renfrewshire totalling 1830 pupils.

A bonfire strategy was implemented for the period leading up to bonfire night with a focus on the removal of unsafe bonfires and bonfire material. This was implemented with the assistance of the Police and Renfrewshire Council Warden Services. From the 2nd November 2018 – 5th November 2018 Police officers and a vehicle were located at Paisley and Johnstone Fire Stations to support appliances when mobilised to bonfires within the Renfrewshire area. CCTV Vans were also in use between 1800 and 2200 on the 5th November 2018, one vehicle dedicated to the Paisley Area and the other moving between Johnstone and Renfrew.



Daily tasking meetings continued in the lead up to Bonfire night. With a focus on deliberate fires, secondary fires and unsafe bonfires. The tasking group would concentrate resources from intelligence led data from the previous 24 hour period and target hot spot areas using a multi-agency approach.

FUTURE FOCUS

Although this mini report has focused on Deliberate Fires within Renfrewshire for Q3 2018/19, SFRS target deliberate fire setting all year round.

As we move into 2019, national Prevention & Protection (P&P) staff, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (ERRI) CAT and local officers will focus on the Spring/Easter TAP. This is an eight week campaign focused around the Easter Holiday period and targets deliberate primary and secondary fires.

The aims and objectives will be to achieve sustainable reductions in operational demand across the performance indicators during the set reporting period. ERRI Management will hope to achieve this by using local knowledge to identify likely hotspot areas, incident summary reports from previous years and cluster maps to develop tactical assessments for prevention activities.



A suite of materials including leaflets, presentations and guidance notes will be produced from the P&P Directorate towards the end of January 2019 and issued to the Area. This will allow Local Managers and CAT staff to factor in a multi-agency approach to preventing deliberate fire setting across Renfrewshire for the coming year.



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