
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Police & Fire and Rescue Committee – 20th November 2018

Subject Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Performance Report and Service updates

Purpose To advise members of the Police and Fire Committee as to progress against North Ayrshire's local fire and rescue plan and to provide committee members with other key Fire and Rescue Service updates

Recommendation For members to note the information contained within this report

1. Introduction

1.1 On the 3rd October 2016, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) laid before the Scottish Parliament its new Strategic Plan for the period 2016 – 2019. As a result of this publication, the Service was legally obliged to review its existing local fire and rescue plans for the 32 local authorities across Scotland. On the completion of this review a new local fire and rescue plan for North Ayrshire was developed and following a public consultation was presented to the Police & Fire and Rescue Committee for approval on the 5th September 2017.

2. Performance Summary

2.1 Review of operational responses within North Ayrshire for the period 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2018 identified a 7% increase in activity levels across the local authority area from the corresponding activity period 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017. Review of the preceding three years average in respect of current activity levels within North Ayrshire indicated a 8% increase in overall operational activity over the six month period. In reviewing operational activity on a broad level, false alarms accounted for 48% of all activity within North Ayrshire, with fire related and special service activity accounting for 440% and 12% respectively.

2.2 For the period 1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019, progress is being monitored across six indicators, utilising the three year rolling average as basis of measuring performance. Year on year and the rolling five year average figures are also being used to review short and long terms changes in demand and trends.

2.3 Utilising the defined approach in Section 2.2, review of performance against these six indicators identified four indicators were above the three year average due to a rise in activity. One indicator has seen a reduction in its respective three year average of more than 5% and one has reduced by less than 5% over the three year rolling average. Further analysis of this performance is provided in the associated performance report.

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Updates

- 3.1 The Director of Prevention and Protection (Assistant Chief Officer David McGown) has written to the Chairs of Community Planning Partnerships across Scotland and provided an update as to the progress of the Building Safer Communities Programme. A copy of this letter is attached as an appendix for Committee's information and awareness.
- 3.2 The SFRS recently completed its fire fatality analysis for the 2017 – 2018 period. Tragically, a total of 205 people have lost their lives in fires since the formation of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in 2013, with 44 of these being recorded in 2017/18. The total of 44 fire fatalities for 2017/18 mirrors that of the previous year and is the joint second highest number of fire fatalities recorded for SFRS since 2013/14.
- 3.2.1 The 44 fatalities over the 2017/18 reporting period are 7% greater than the five-year average of 41, however when considering the ten-year average of 49 fire fatalities, the reporting period is 10% lower than the ten-year average.
- 3.2.2 Of the total number of fire fatalities recorded during the first five years of the SFRS, 50% of fatalities were aged 60 years or over. The number of fire fatalities for 60+ years of age was decreasing from 2014/15 year on year with 2016/17 having the second lowest number recorded since 2013/14. However, for 2017/18 this has jumped to 23, an increase of 35% from the 2016/17 figure of 17.
- 3.2.3 Anecdotally, age was seen as a major contributory factor regarding fire fatalities and this was reflected in statistics. However, other main contributory factors such as living alone, smoking, restricted mobility and poor health affect all age ranges (certainly above 20 years old) and would appear to be becoming more frequent as a contributory factor over age.
- 3.2.4 In addition to the identification of the primary cause of fatal fires, the Fire investigation (FI) teams also investigate any other surrounding factors that may have contributed to the incident occurring or the incident outcome, many of which may be regarded as relating to health issues or lifestyle choices.

During 2017/18, it has been identified that the most common factors contributing to fire fatalities were:-

- A smoker within the premises
- Person living alone
- People with health issues (medicated)
- Persons under the influence of alcohol
- People with mental health issues
- People with mobility issues

It should be noted that the majority of fire fatalities were found to have involved, either directly or indirectly, more than one contributing factor.

- 3.3 On the 31st October 2018, the SFRS published its Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics for 2017 – 2018. A copy of this statistical report is attached for information.

4. Proposal

It is proposed that members of the Police & Fire and Rescue Committee ...

- i. Note the content of the performance summary and associated report for the period 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2018.
- ii. Note the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service updates.

5. Implications

- 5.1 No implications have been identified at this time in respect of service delivery within North Ayrshire.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 Fire and Rescue Service activity is subject to regular monitoring and review and the local fire and rescue plan priorities identified within the local fire and rescue plan forms part of this reporting process. Members of the Police & Fire and Rescue Committee will be kept up to date as to progress against the local fire and rescue plan and to any future fire and rescue service updates as they arise.

Area Manager Jim Scott
Local Senior Officer
East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

For further information please contact Area Manager Jim Scott 01294 607000



**North Ayrshire Performance Report
1st April 2018 - 30th September 2018**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

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for a safer Scotland**



North Ayrshire Performance Report

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Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan Priorities

The Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan has been developed to set out the priorities and objectives within North Ayrshire and allows our local authority partners to scrutinise the performance outcomes of these priorities. We will continue to work closely with our partners in North Ayrshire to ensure we are all “**Working Together for a Safer Scotland**” through targeting risks to our communities at a local level.

The plan has been developed to complement key partnership activity embedded across North Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership. Through effective and co-ordinated partnership working we will seek to deliver continuous improvement in our performance and effective service delivery in our area of operations.

The Local Fire and Rescue Plan for North Ayrshire identified six areas for demand reduction and is subject to regular monitoring and reporting through the Police & Fire and Rescue Committee. A summary of the priorities and current activity is detailed below with further detail and analysis contained within this performance report.

	Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Unintentional Injury and Harm	Deliberate Fire Setting	Non-Domestic Fire Safety	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Ardrossan & Arran	4	1	8	42	2	41
Dalry & West Kilbride	10	0	9	31	1	10
Irvine East	10	1	9	13	1	6
Irvine South	8	3	5	62	6	71
Irvine West	10	4	7	65	3	42
Kilbirnie & Beith	2	1	6	27	1	20
Kilwinning	10	2	16	72	3	22
North Coast & Cumbraes	8	1	15	17	2	35
Saltcoats	13	3	5	14	1	31
Stevenston	8	3	8	93	1	33
Total Incidents	83	19	88	436	21	311

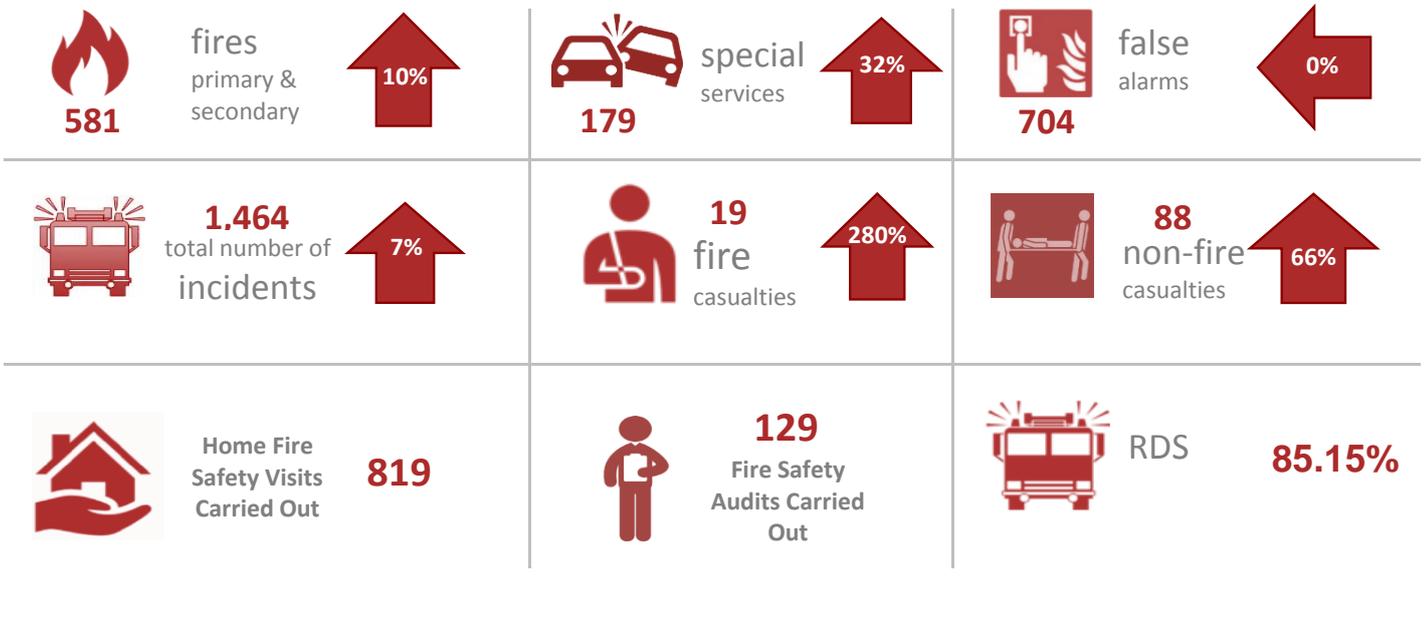
Year on Year Change	 12%	 280%	 66%	 9%	 5%	 -3%
3 Year Average Change	 3%	 -3%	 19%	 8%	 -8%	 9%
5 Year Average Change	 3%	 16%	 27%	 3%	 4%	 2%

About the statistics within this report

The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

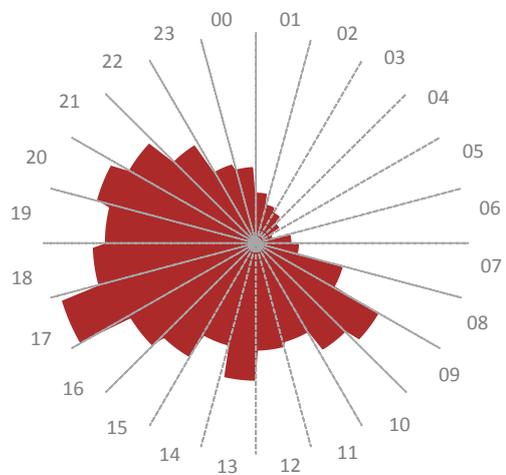
-  Activity levels have reduced by more than 5%
-  Activity levels have reduced by up to 5%
-  Activity levels have increased overall

North Ayrshire Delivery Activity Summary

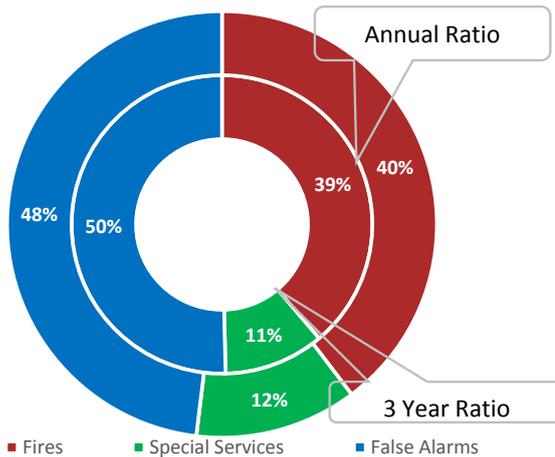


Activity by Time of Day

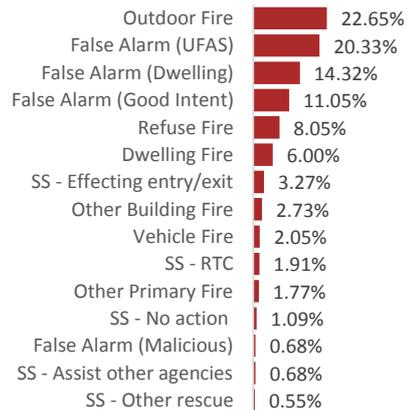
Hour (am)	Total	Hour (pm)	Total
Midnight	51	Mid-day	72
1am	34	1pm	92
2am	27	2pm	71
3am	24	3pm	88
4am	19	4pm	97
5am	12	5pm	134
6am	24	6pm	108
7am	29	7pm	100
8am	60	8pm	109
9am	94	9pm	97
10am	84	10pm	77
11am	69	11pm	55



Incidents by Classification



Top 15 Incident Types by % of Total Incidents



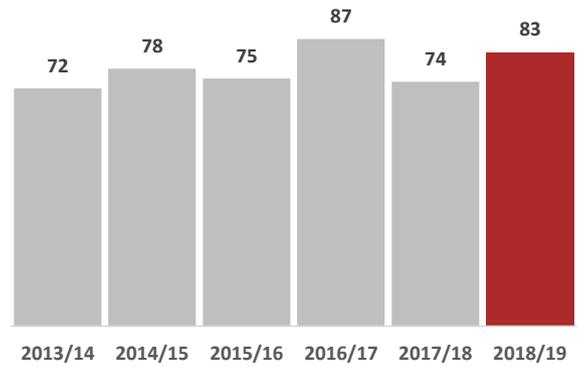
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fires



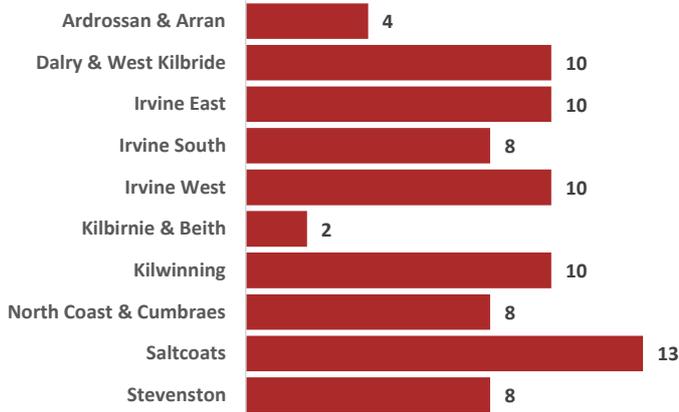
Performance Summary

Year on Year	3 Year Average	5 Year Average
12%	3%	3%

Accidental Dwelling Fires to Date



Accidental Dwelling Fires by Ward Area



Severity of Accidental Dwelling Fires



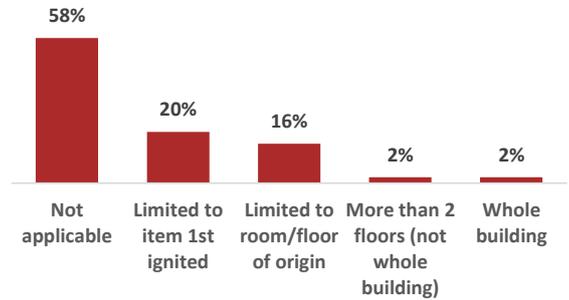
No Firefighting Action

45%

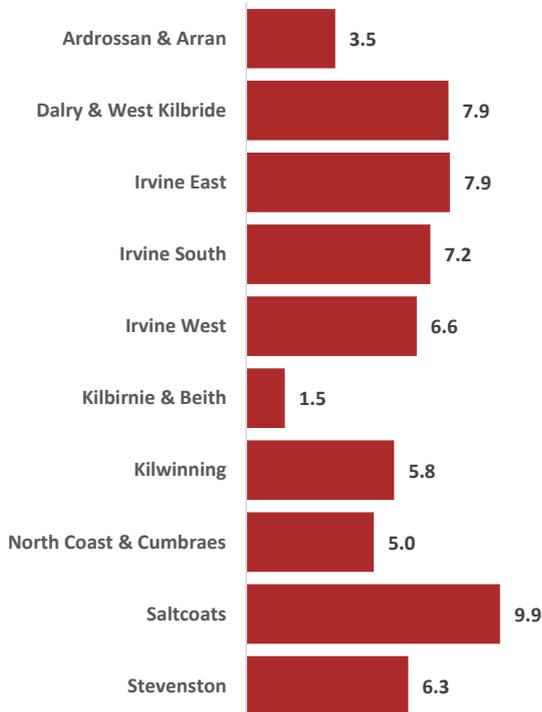
Direct Firefighting

18%

Extent of Fire Damage



Incidents Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



Automatic Detection & Actuation



Detection Present

89%



Detection Actuated

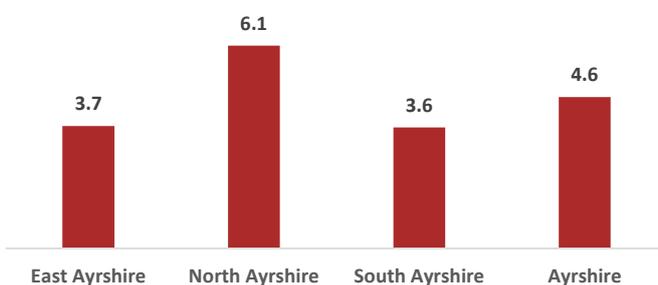
85%



Calls Made via Linked Alarms

20%

Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



Human Factors



Distraction

37%



Alcohol/Drug Impairment

11%

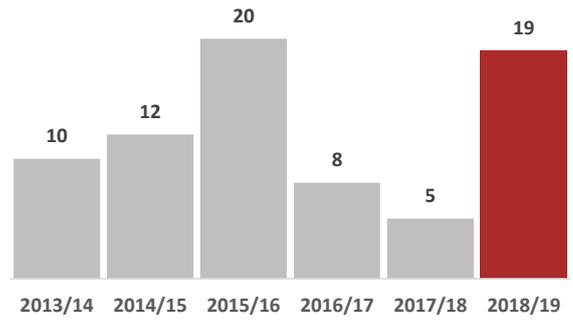
Domestic Safety - Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties



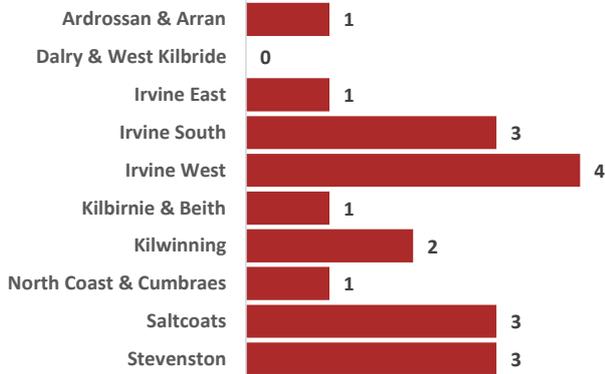
Performance Summary

Year on Year ◆ 280% 3 Year Average ▲ -3% 5 Year Average ◆ 16%

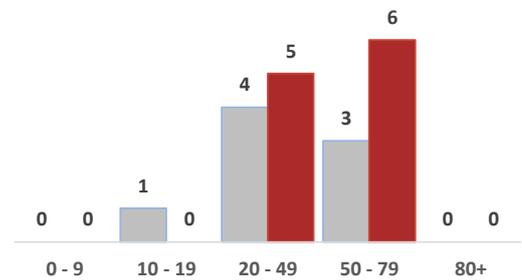
Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties Year to Date



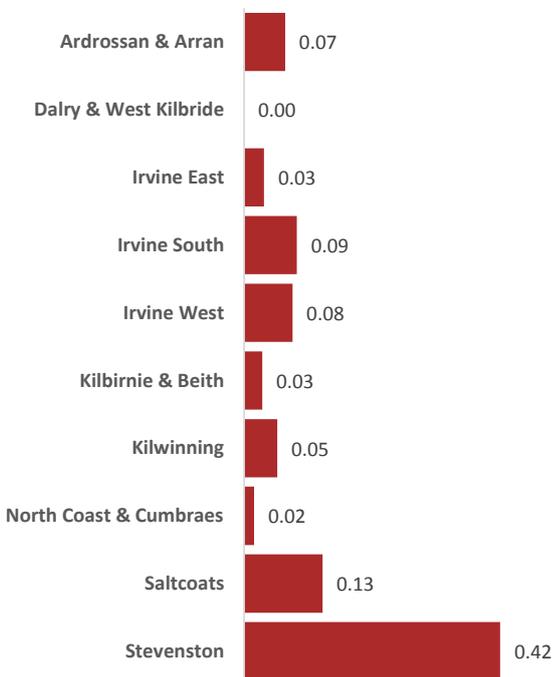
Fire Casualties by Ward Area



Age / Gender Profile



Casualties Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



Extent of Harm



1

First Aid at Scene



7

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

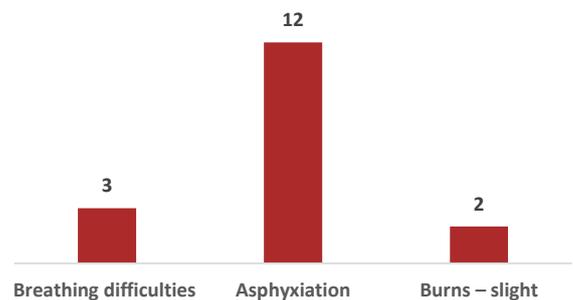
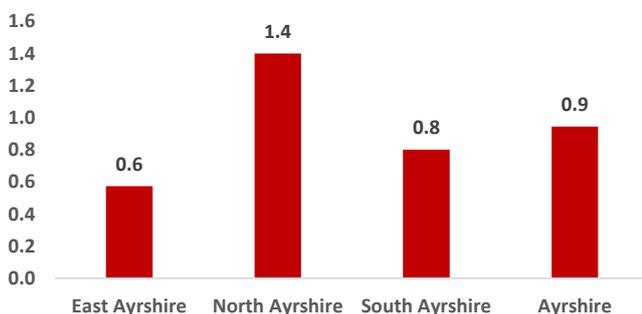
Hospital Serious



2

Fatal Injuries

Casualties Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



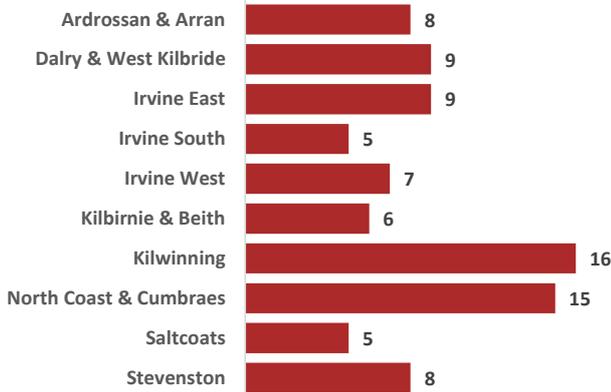
Unintentional Injury or Harm



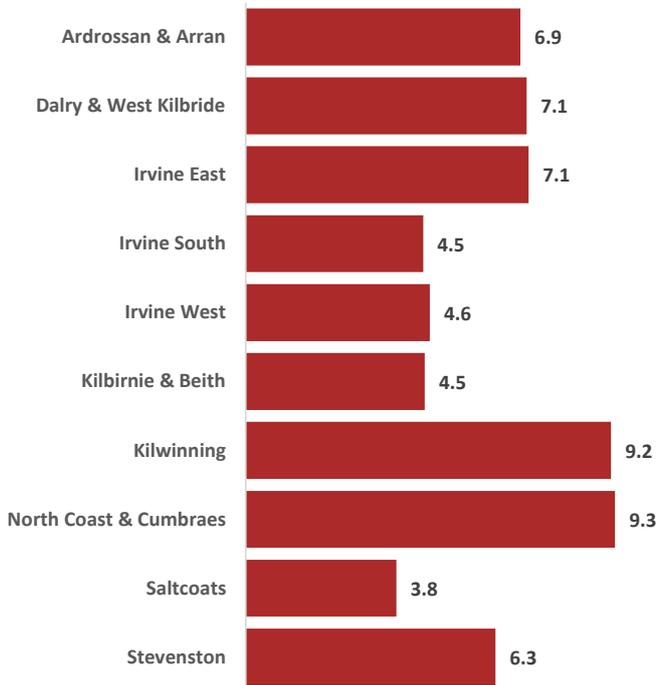
Performance Summary

Year on Year **66%** 3 Year Average **19%** 5 Year Average **27%**

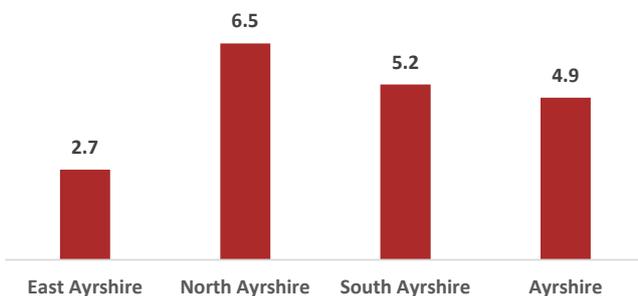
Non-Fire Casualties by Ward Area



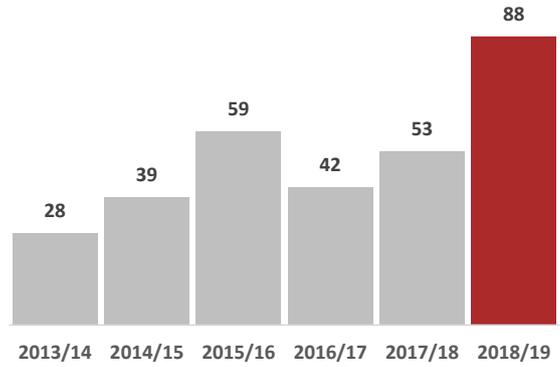
Casualties Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



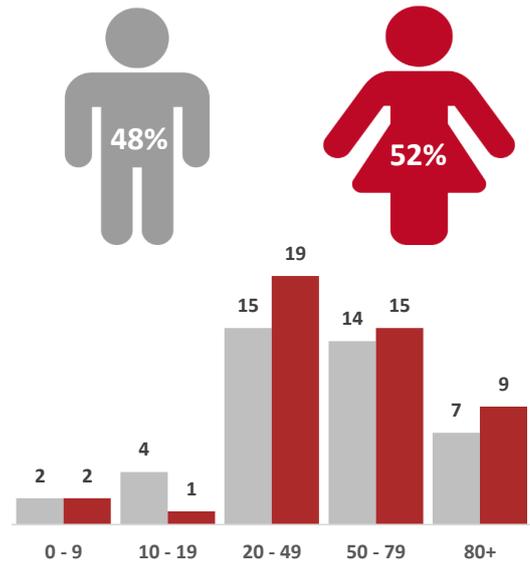
Non-Casualties Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



Special Service Casualties Year to Date



Age / Gender Profile



Extent of Harm



1

First Aid at Scene



50

Hospital Slight Injuries



10

Hospital Serious



3

Fatal Injuries



Road Traffic Collision

44%



Water Rescue

0%



Assisting Other Agencies

42%



All Other Incidents

14%

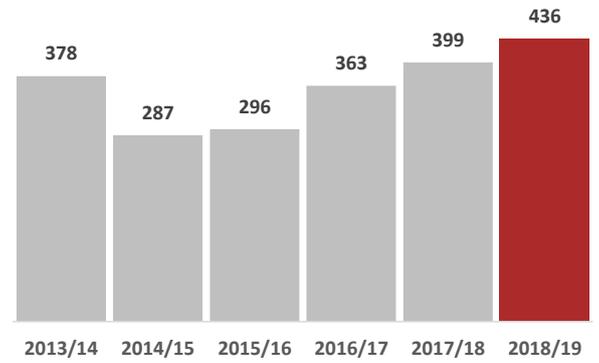
Deliberate Fire Setting



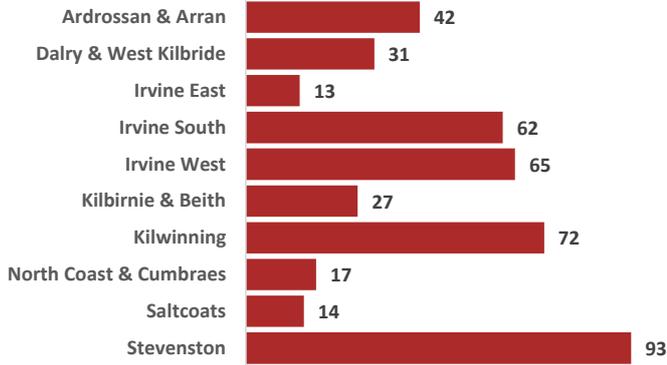
Performance Summary

Year on Year	3 Year Average	5 Year Average
9%	13%	3%

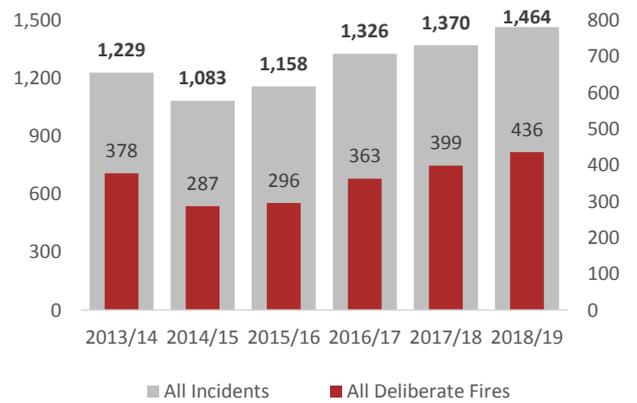
Deliberate Fires Year to Date



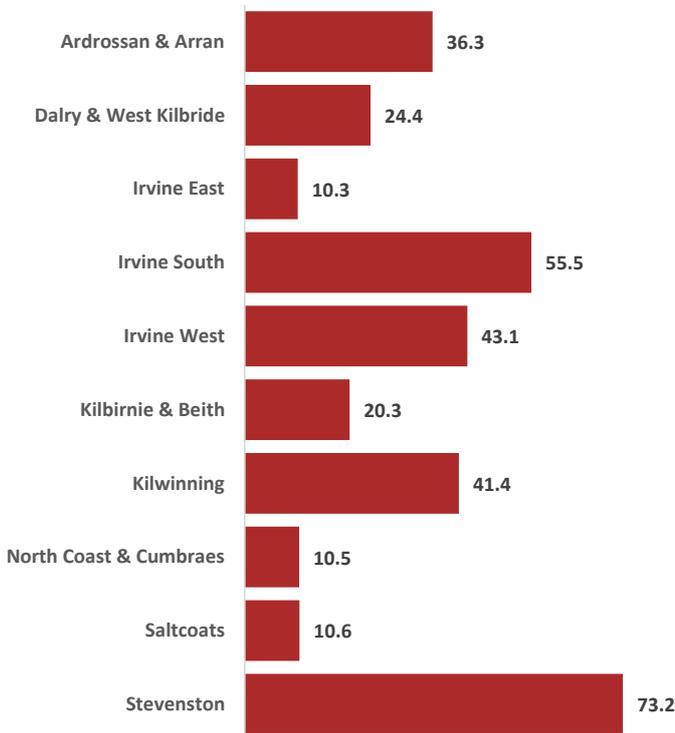
Deliberate Fires by Ward Area



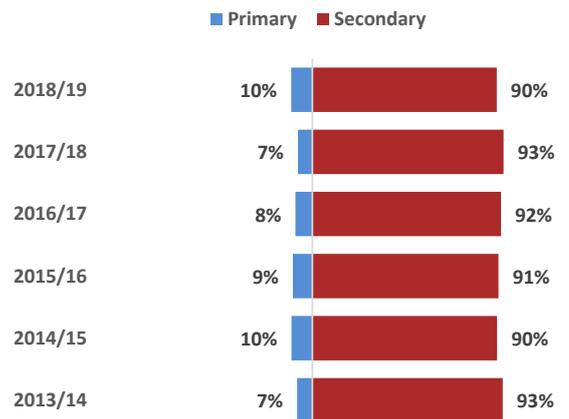
Deliberate Fires Compared to Operational Activity



Incidents Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



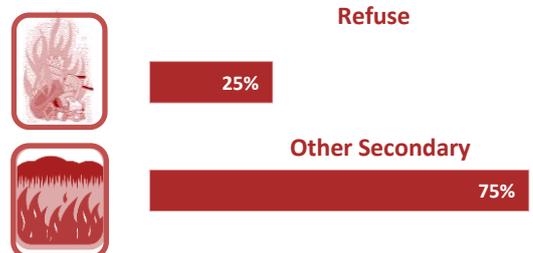
Deliberate Fires by Classification



Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



Secondary Fire Ratio by Activity Type



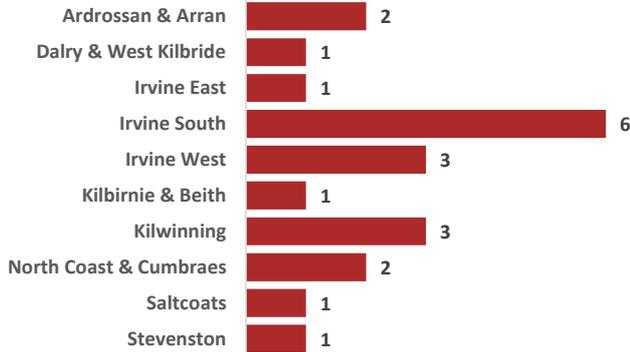
Non-Domestic Fire Safety



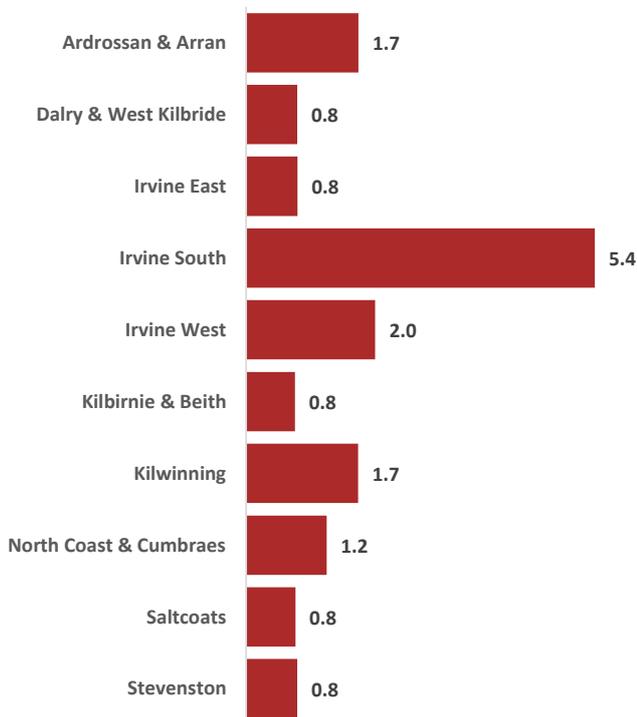
Performance Summary

Year on Year ◆ 5% 3 Year Average ● -8% 5 Year Average ◆ 4%

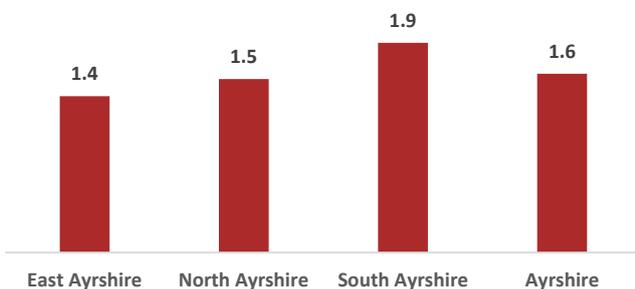
Non-Domestic Fires by Ward Area



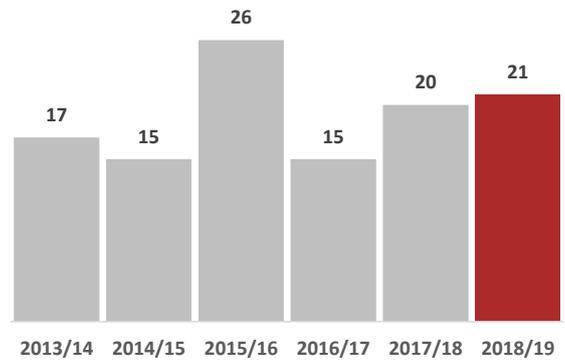
Incidents Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



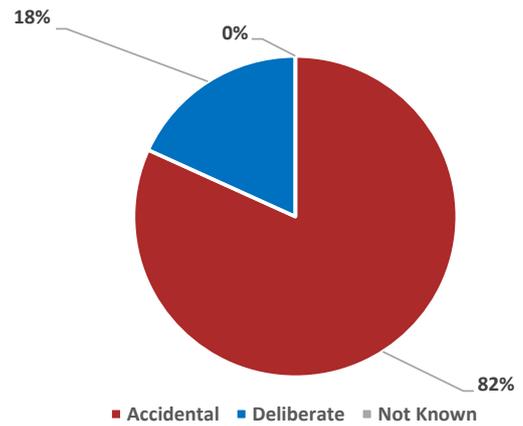
Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



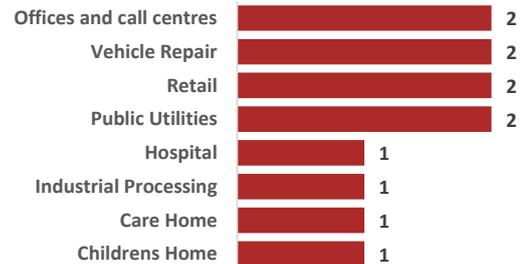
Non-Domestic Fires Year to Date



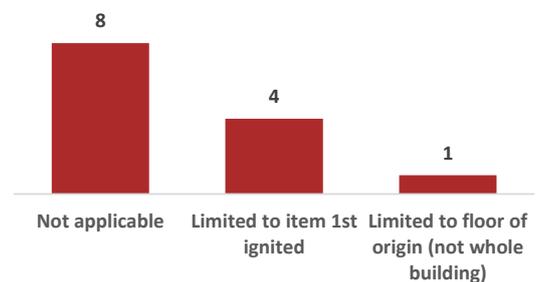
Non-Domestic Fires by Nature of Origin



Non-Domestic Fires by Premises Type



Extent of Fire Damage



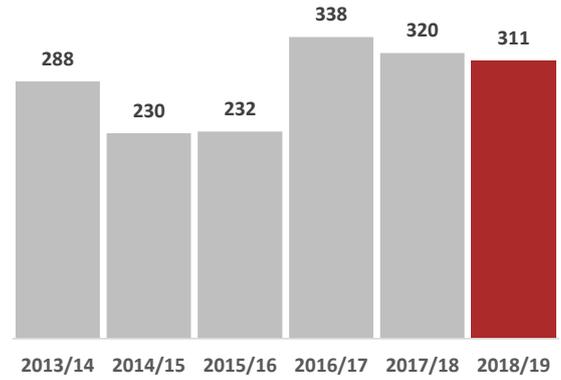
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



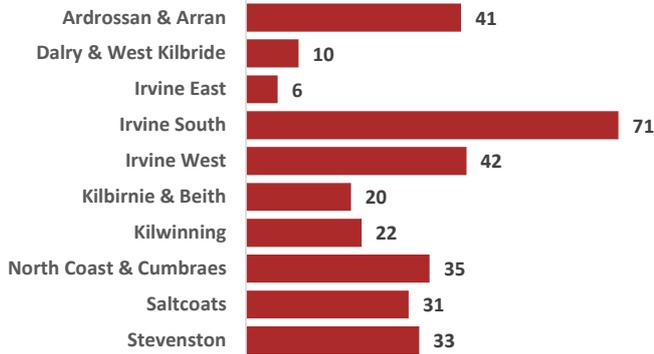
Performance Summary

Year on Year **3 Year Average** **5 Year Average**
▲ -3% ◆ 9% ◆ 2%

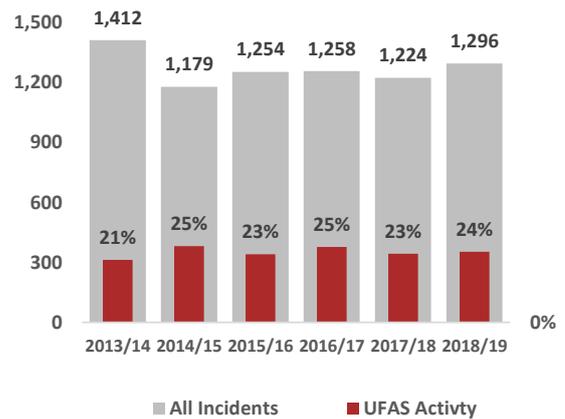
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals Year to Date



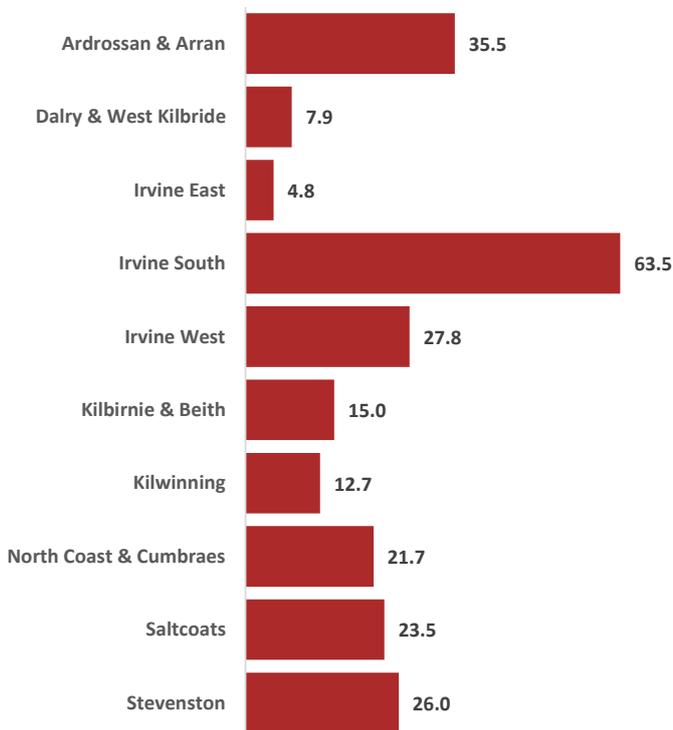
Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals by Ward Area



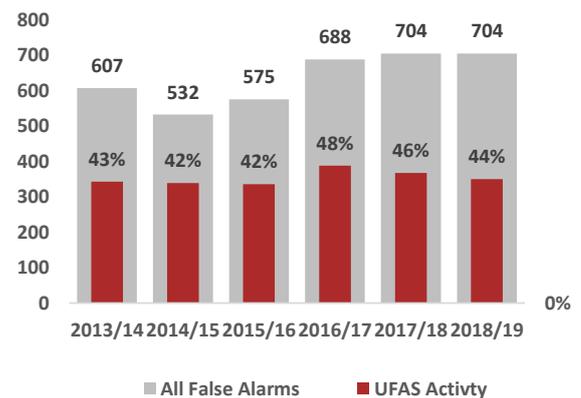
UFAS Percentage Against all Incidents



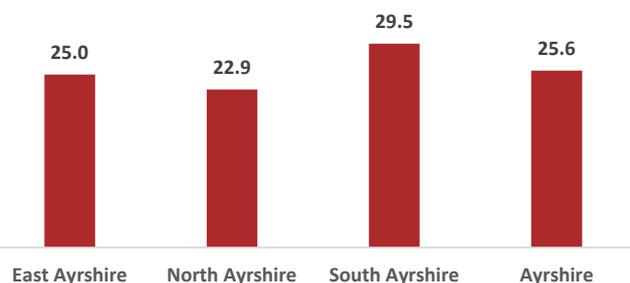
Incidents Per 10,000 Population - North Ayrshire



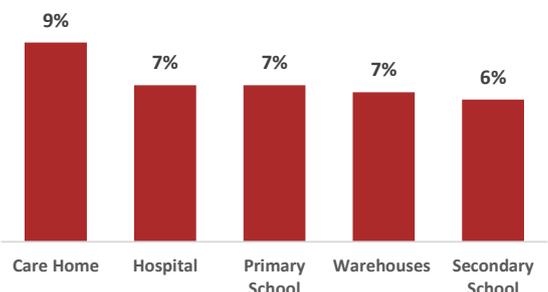
UFAS Percentage Against all False Alarms



Incidents Per 10,000 Population - Ayrshire



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals - Top 5 Premises



Home Fire Safety Visits



819
Home Fire Safety Visits Carried Out

628

Smoke Detectors Fitted During Home Fire Safety Visits

Percentage of High Risk Home Fire Safety Visits Carried Out
32%

Percentage of Visits Carried Out Following Attendance at an Incident
28%

Fire Safety Audits



Fire Safety Audits Carried Out
129



New Audits
86%



Re-Audits
2%



Post Fire Audits
9%



Complaint Audits
0%



Broadly Compliant

27%



Areas of Improvement

71%



Notice of Deficiencies

2%



Enforcement Notice

0%



Prohibition Notice

0%

Retained Duty System

Appliance Availability	Mon - Fri (08:00 - 18:00)	Mon - Thu (18:00 - 08:00)	Weekend (Fri 18:00 - Mon 08:00)	Total
Ardrossan	30.81%	74.36%	63.49%	57.42%
Dreghorn	79.62%	98.27%	90.40%	89.82%
Dalry	35.62%	94.64%	86.23%	74.04%
Beith	80.37%	99.06%	98.17%	93.19%
Kilbirnie	44.15%	94.68%	95.13%	79.89%
Largs	96.56%	99.83%	98.24%	98.27%
Skelmorlie	56.50%	99.38%	89.32%	82.94%
Millport - 1	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Millport - 2	45.50%	86.80%	53.21%	62.06%
Brodick	100.00%	100.00%	99.08%	99.66%
Lamlash	100.00%	100.00%	98.14%	99.31%
North Ayrshire	69.92%	95.18%	88.31%	85.15%
Ayrshire	66.17%	95.05%	88.07%	83.90%

Total Mobilisations	Total Time Deployed	No. of Personnel	Contracts
124	19:41:00	9	675%
264	19:12:00	12	950%
93	13:03:00	10	825%
126	04:43:00	12	1025%
115	16:32:00	10	925%
129	09:55:00	13	1000%
73	22:20:00	12	950%
32	16:20:00	13	1200%
44	01:16:00	8	800%
41	9:38	8	800%

Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF

Accidental Dwelling Fire

CSET

Community Safety Engagement Toolkit is a internal IT system used to record home fire safety visits and community safety activities

FSET

Fire Safety Experiential Training is a bespoke training programme developed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Ayrshire and delivered to community planning partners to raise awareness of fire safety within the domestic environment

HFSV

Home Fire Safety Visit

PDIR

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used by Prevention and Protection Directorate to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow-up home fire safety visit

Primary Fires

These include all fires in buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances

RDS

Retained Duty System. Professional on call firefighters who may have other primary employment responsibilities outside the Fire and Rescue Service but respond to emergency calls within their local area as and when required

RTC

Road Traffic Collision

Secondary Fires

These are the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or fire or more appliances attend. They include fires in single derelict buildings

Special Service

Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Westburn Drive, Cambuslang
G72 7NA

www.firescotland.gov.uk

To: Chairs
Community Safety Partnerships

Direct Line 0131 344 5009
Fax
E-mail david.mcgowan@firescotland.gov.uk
Our Ref DMcG/JH/BS
Your Ref
If phoning or
Calling ask for Assistant Chief Officer McGown
Date 13 August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES

I'm sure you'll be very aware of the Building Safer Communities Programme (BSCP), managed by the Scottish Government. To confirm, the BSCP is a collaborative programme, which seeks to help national and local partners and communities work together to make Scotland safer and stronger; and partnership, particularly at local level, is essential to the programme's success.

The programme is concerned with two distinct work streams:

- To reduce the numbers of victims of crime, and
- To reduce the incidences of unintentional harm and injury.

I currently lead on the Unintentional Harm & Injury work stream, and write to you now updating on current progress, and requesting your support on a couple of areas of work we're progressing.

An Executive Group has been formed to implement the findings of the national strategic assessment of harm and injury in Scotland, and also to progress the key actions arising from a national learning event held in April of this year. The high level areas which the Executive Group are progressing, in partnership with many organisations are:

- National strategy and policy,
- Sharing of good practice,
- Evaluation of activities, and
- Communications and engagement.

With regard to national strategy and policy, this is being led by RoSPA, who are about to embark on a period of consultation with key personnel within the community safety landscape in order to collect feedback on existing policies and strategies on unintentional harm/injury, and to clarify the need for national direction. Liz Lumsden and Carlene McAvoy of RoSPA will be in touch with you over the coming months to arrange meetings with CSPs/CPPs (and others) to discuss this, and also to secure further input and responses, via surveys, from partner organisations and group members. Naturally, we would be very keen to hear your views on this subject, and provide invaluable input to establish a clear picture.

With regard to the sharing of good practice, we are in the process of developing an unintentional harm national web-based tool to gather and share projects and initiatives across Scotland that support the reduction of unintentional harm and injury, and to provide advice and guidance that will drive forward best practice. We are keen to liaise with all CSPs/CPPs about the range of interventions and approaches that are underway in your area. Over the next few months Hollie Gibson (Building Safer Communities Policy Officer at Scottish Government) will be in touch with you to discuss this in more detail, and again we would be very grateful for your support in taking this work forward.

I understand you will continue to hear more of the work of the BSCP through your Community Safety Partnership arrangements, however I hope that this provides you with an idea of how we are progressing our work, which of course can only result in real success with the support of the many, and successful, local partnership arrangements.

I also look forward to your full support when our colleagues at RoSPA and Scottish Government make contact soon.

Finally, please contact me at any time to discuss in detail some of the work I've outlined here.

Yours faithfully

DAVID McGOWN
ASSISTANT CHIEF OFFICER
DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION AND PROTECTION
SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
(Strategic Lead on Unintentional Harm & Injury, BSCP)



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

FIRE AND RESCUE INCIDENT STATISTICS (SCOTLAND) 2017-18

31 October 2018



**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

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This publication is accompanied by the following documents:

Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics Workbook 2017-18
Technical Notes on Statistics 2017-18
Statistical News 2017-18

1. Main Points

All incidents

- **91,695** incidents attended, up 0.5%
 - ▶ **26,115** fires, down 4.2% on last year (2016-17)
 - ▶ **12,369** non-fire incidents, up 6.1% on last year
 - ▶ **52,452** false alarms, up 1.7% on last year

Primary fires

- **10,654** primary fires, down 2.3% on last year
 - ▶ **5,310** dwelling fires, down 4.3%
 - **4,752** of these were accidental, down 3.6%
 - **62.1%** of accidental dwelling fires started with a cooking appliance
 - ▶ **383** other residential fires, down 7.7%

Secondary and chimney fires

- **14,698** secondary fires, down 6.1%
 - ▶ **6,888** refuse fires, down 13.2%
- **763** chimney fires, up 7.5%

Casualties in fires

- **44** fatal fire casualties, equal to last year
- **8.1** fire fatalities per million population
- **1,113** non-fatal casualties, down 12.1%
 - ▶ **879** casualties requiring hospital or first aid, down 6.1%
 - **417** hospitalised casualties, down 7.1%
 - ▶ **797** casualties in accidental dwelling fires, down 15.2%

False alarms

- **51,787** false fire alarms, up 1.8%
- **2.0** false fire alarms for every fire incident attended
- **665** non-fire false alarms, down 7.3% although up 8.0% on the five-year average

Non-fire incidents and casualties

- **13,128** non-fire incidents, up 6.1%
 - ▶ **3,116** were to effect entry or exit, up 9.3%
 - ▶ **2,525** road traffic collisions, up by 2.6%
- **410** fatal casualties, down from 505
- **3,766** non-fatal casualties, 4.8% increase



2. Commentary¹

2.1. All Incidents

In 2017-18 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended 91,695 incidents. This is a 0.5% increase on 2016-17 (91,220) and is the highest number of incidents attended since 2010-11.

Non-fire incidents had the largest proportional change rising 6.1% from 12,369 in 2016-17 to 13,128, a new high in this series.

False alarms have increased 1.7% on 2016-17 reaching 52,452 (up from 51,580 last year), the highest figure since 2009-10.

In contrast, the total number of fires is down 4.2% on last year (from 27,271) reaching the second

lowest annual figure on record at 26,115. This continues the long-term reduction in fire incidents in Scotland, down 42.8% in the last ten years.

Of these fire incidents 10,654 were primary fires (40.8% of fires attended), 14,698 were secondary fires (56.3% of fires attended) and 763 were chimney fires (2.9% of fires attended).

In the last five years the breakdown of incidents attended has shifted, with the proportion of non-fire incidents rising from 10.9% in 2012-13 to 14.3%. Fires have decreased from 31.9% of incidents to 28.5%, while false alarms have varied annually between a recent low of 55.6% in 2015-16 and 58.0% in 2014-15.

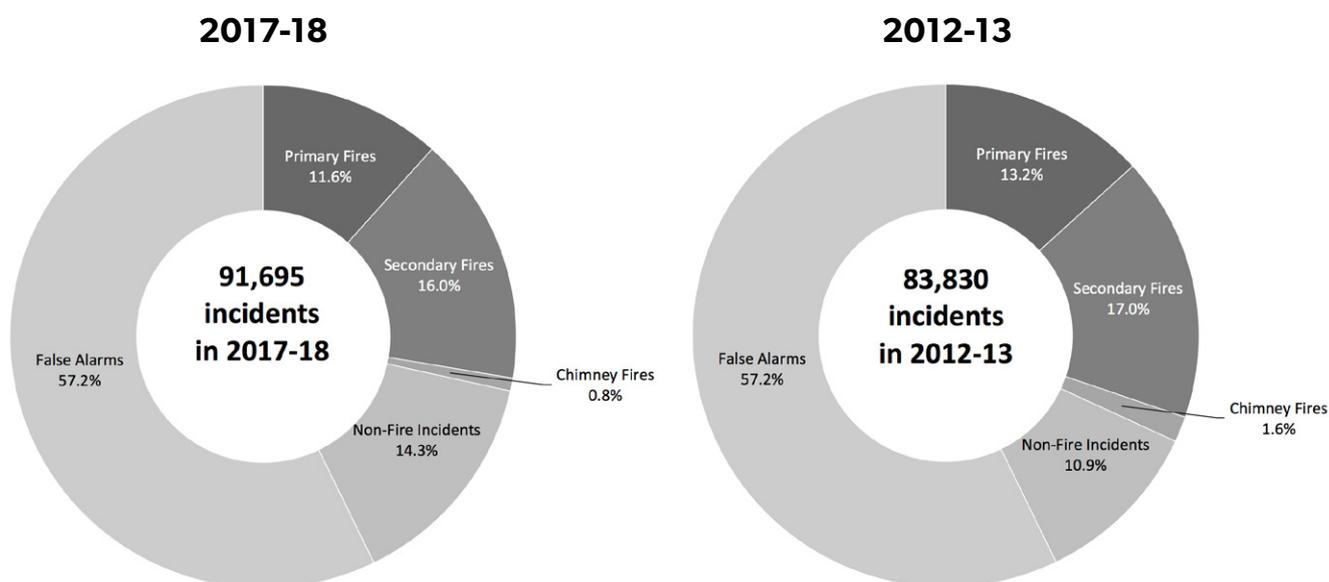


Figure 1: Percentage of incidents by type 2017-18 and 2012-13

¹The 2017-18 statistics presented in this bulletin are provisional full year figures, we have revised figures for 2016-17 and 2015-16. Annual revisions typically increase the counts by a small proportion. For definitions and discussion please see the accompanying Technical Notes on Statistics.

2.2. Primary Fires

Fires which result in harm to people, or which take place in buildings, vehicles and some outdoor locations, are called primary fires², as are all fires that are attended by at least five fire appliances. The total number of primary fires is down 2.3% on last year at 10,654 (from 10,904), and down 21.8% on ten years ago.

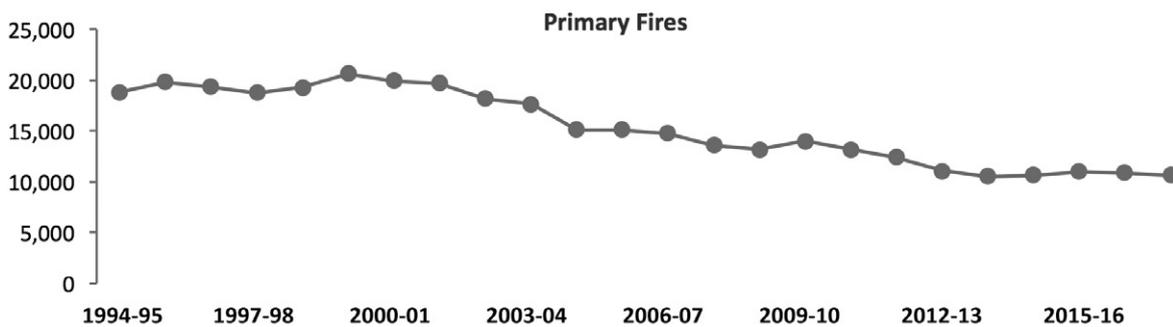


Figure 2: Long-term trend of primary fires

2.2.1. Property type

Dwelling fires are the largest component of these at 5,310. This is down 4.3% on 5,548 last year, a new low in this series. Fires in 'Other Residential' buildings reduced by 7.7% in the last year. This is down 19.3% on five years ago and a new low in this series. These continue the long-term trend of decreasing fires in residences.

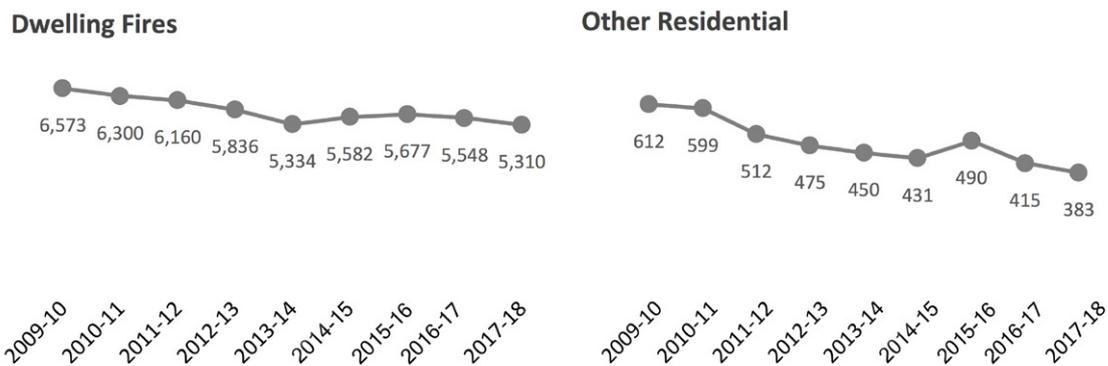


Figure 3: Residence fires, 2009-10 onwards

Road vehicle fires have decreased by 5.2% and while it is the second highest figure in the last five years, it is down 34.5% on ten years ago.

² Please see Technical Notes for the definition.

2.2.2. Motive

Of the 10,654 primary fires, 7,929 were classed as accidental. This is down 3.4% from 8,209 last year and is the lowest in this series following a long-term decrease in accidental fires.

There were 2,725 deliberate³ primary fires, up 1.1% from 2,695 last year. This is the third consecutive year of small increases following many years of decline.

Deliberate primary fires make up 25.6% of the total, a similar proportion to five years ago (25.5%).

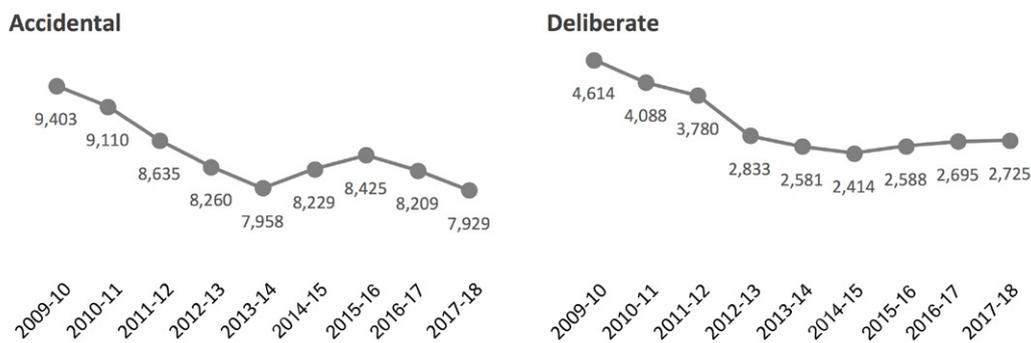


Figure 4: Primary fires by motive, 2009-10 onwards

The number of accidental dwelling fires has decreased 3.6% to 4,752, from 4,930 last year. The number of deliberate dwelling fires decreased at a faster pace and has reached a new low of 558, down 9.7% on last year (from 618) and less than half the 2009-10 figure.

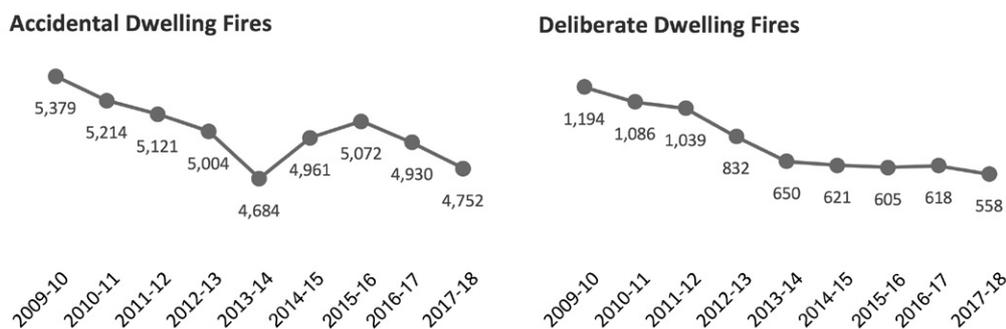


Figure 5: Dwelling fires by motive, 2009-10 onward

³Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as resulting from arson or criminal intent as it includes other fires set deliberately which required intervention.

Accidental fires in non-dwelling buildings have decreased 5.2% to 1,633 (from 1,722), continuing the downward trend. Deliberate fires in such buildings have not changed much in recent years.

2.2.3. Geography

As there is considerable regional variation in the frequency of fires, we use rates to more fairly compare different areas. Around three quarters of casualties occur in accidental dwelling fires making this an important topic to explore at lower geographies.

West Dunbartonshire had the highest rate of accidental dwelling fires in Scotland, at 312.7 per 100,000 dwellings, followed by Glasgow City at 274.7 and Dundee City at 263.6. Orkney Islands had a considerably lower rate at 62.5, well below the Scotland average of 183.1.

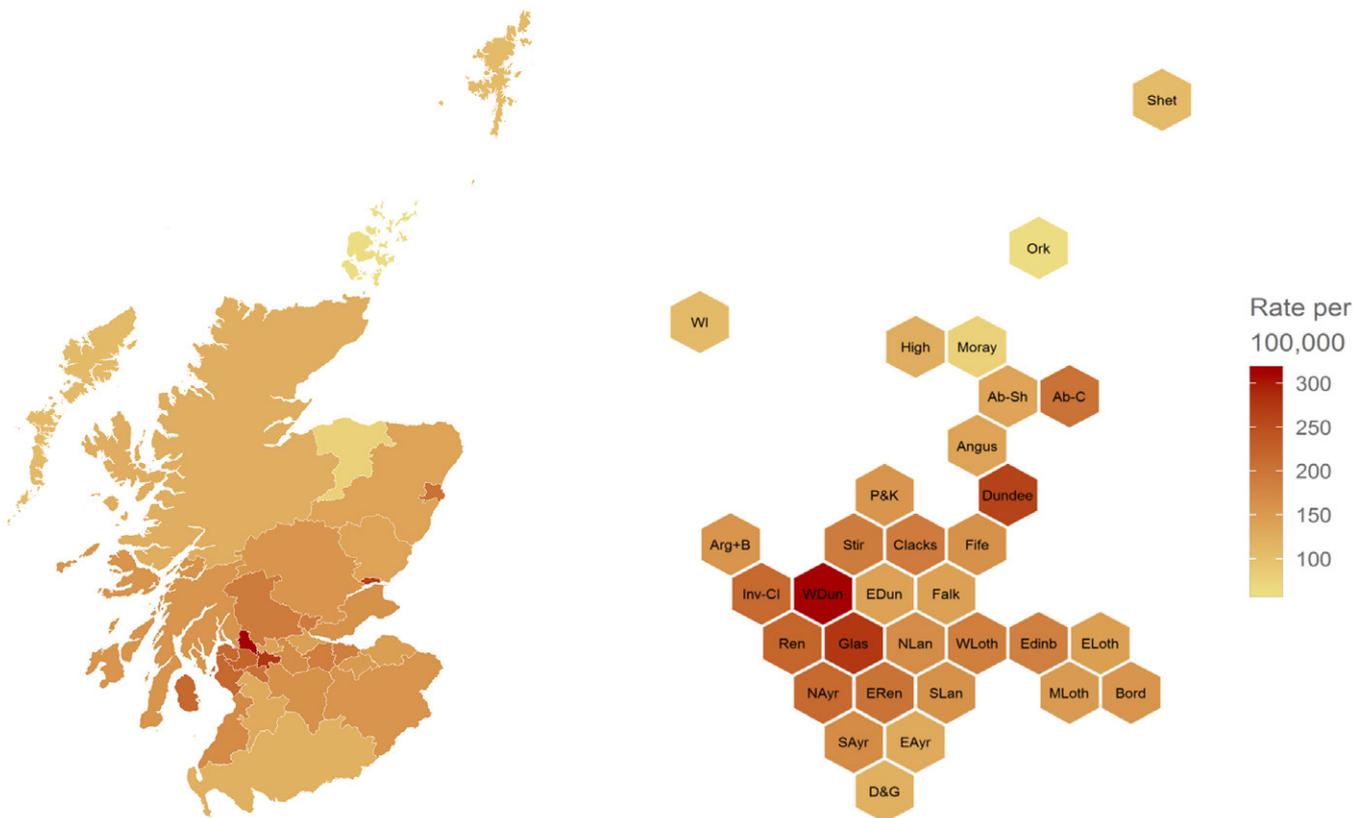


Figure 6: Accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 dwellings, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2017-18

2.2.4. Comparison with England and Wales

As with Scotland, England and Wales has had a reduction in both the number of fires and rate of fires per million population. In 2017-18 Scotland had a rate of 1,964 primary fires per million population. This is 47.3% higher than the 1,333 in England and 42.2% higher than the 1,381 in Wales.

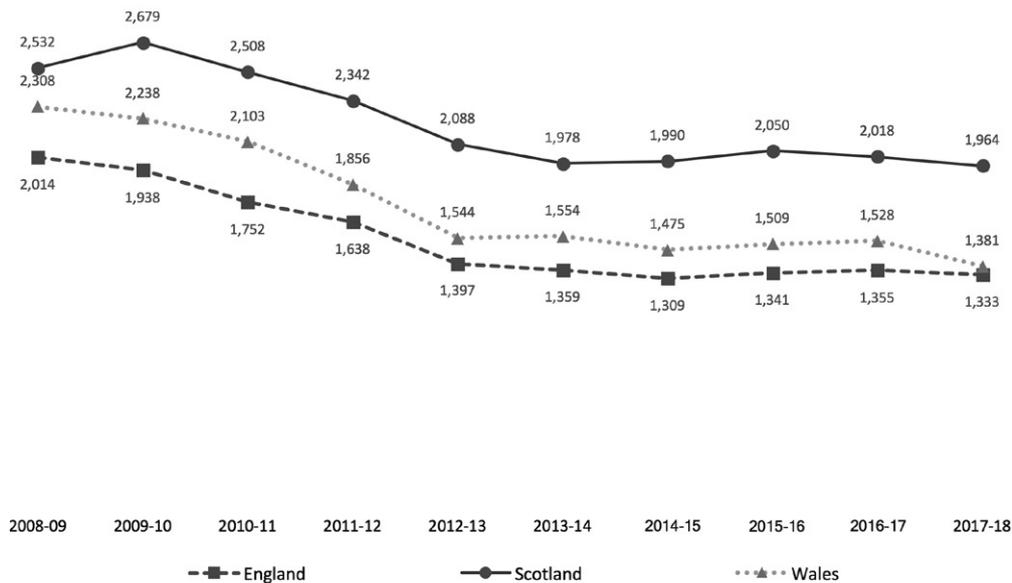


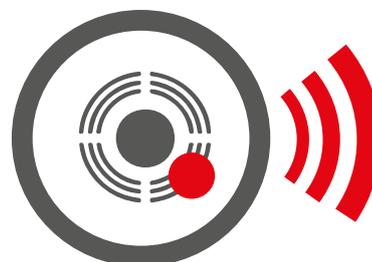
Figure 7: Primary fires per million population, Great Britain, 2008-09 onwards

2.2.5. Smoke alarms

In recent years, fires in dwellings without smoke alarms have been decreasing faster than the number of dwelling fires overall. There were 1,310 dwelling fires where the property had no smoke alarm in 2017-18, a 6.2% reduction on 1,396.

The percentage of dwelling fires where the property did not have any smoke alarms was 24.7% in 2017-18, which is down from 36.5% ten years ago.

In the 13.1% of dwelling fires where a smoke alarm was present but did not operate (698 incidents), 57.0% were due to the detector being too far from the fire. This has increased from 48.5% five years ago due to a reduction in the number with failed operation from other causes.



2.2.6. Ignition source

The source of ignition recorded in the majority of accidental dwelling fires (62.1%) was a cooking appliance. A further 8.8% were due to the electrical supply or electrical lighting, 7.7% were smoking related, and 7.4% were from other domestic appliances (excluding cooking and heating appliances)

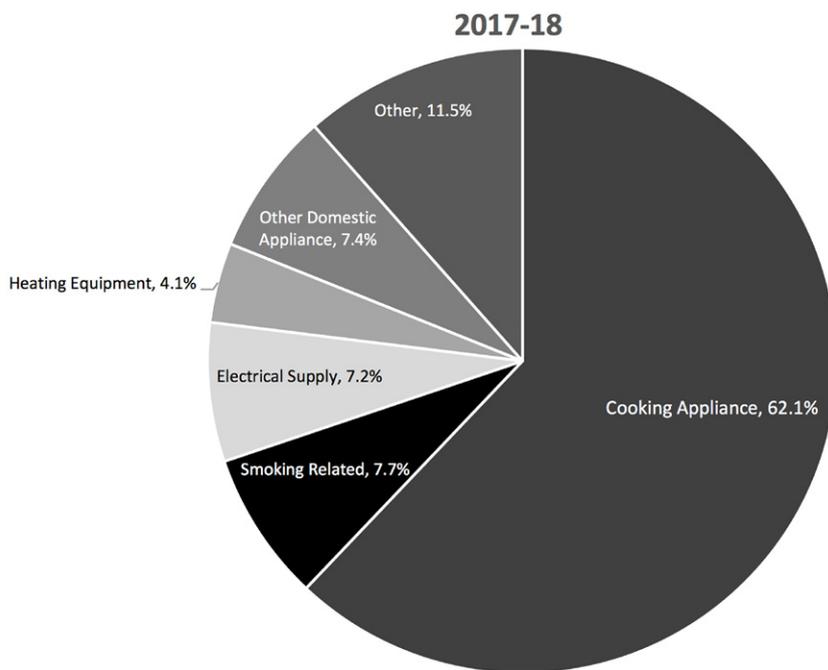


Figure 8: Percentage of accidental dwelling fires by ignition source, 2017-18

2.2.7. Spread of fire

The proportion of dwelling fires where the fire has spread from the initial item to elsewhere in the room has been decreasing in recent years, from 19.9% in 2010-11 to 16.0% in 2017-18. By contrast, the proportion of fires where fire was confined to the initial item has increased from 24.1% in 2010-11 to 27.5% in 2017-18.

The proportion of dwelling fires where the fire had spread beyond the initial room was 7.9% in 2017-18. Incidents where the fire was found to have resulted in smoke or heat damage only make up the largest proportion of dwelling fires at 46.8%.

2.2.8. Suspicion of alcohol or drug impairment

In 15.0% of accidental dwelling fires this year, impairment by the use of alcohol or drugs was suspected to have been a contributory factor.

2.2.9. Time of call

Dwelling fires are relatively infrequent during the night. The rate gradually increases through the day and peaks between 4pm and 7pm, the rate remains high until around 9pm when it begins to decline more rapidly.

Primary fires in other building types are similarly infrequent through the night, though the frequency rises rapidly from 7am until 9am, remaining at a relatively level rate throughout the day until around 9pm when it declines rapidly.

Primary outdoor fires are at relatively low rate between 3am and 1pm. The rate then rises gradually, peaking around 7pm then declining gradually until around 2am.

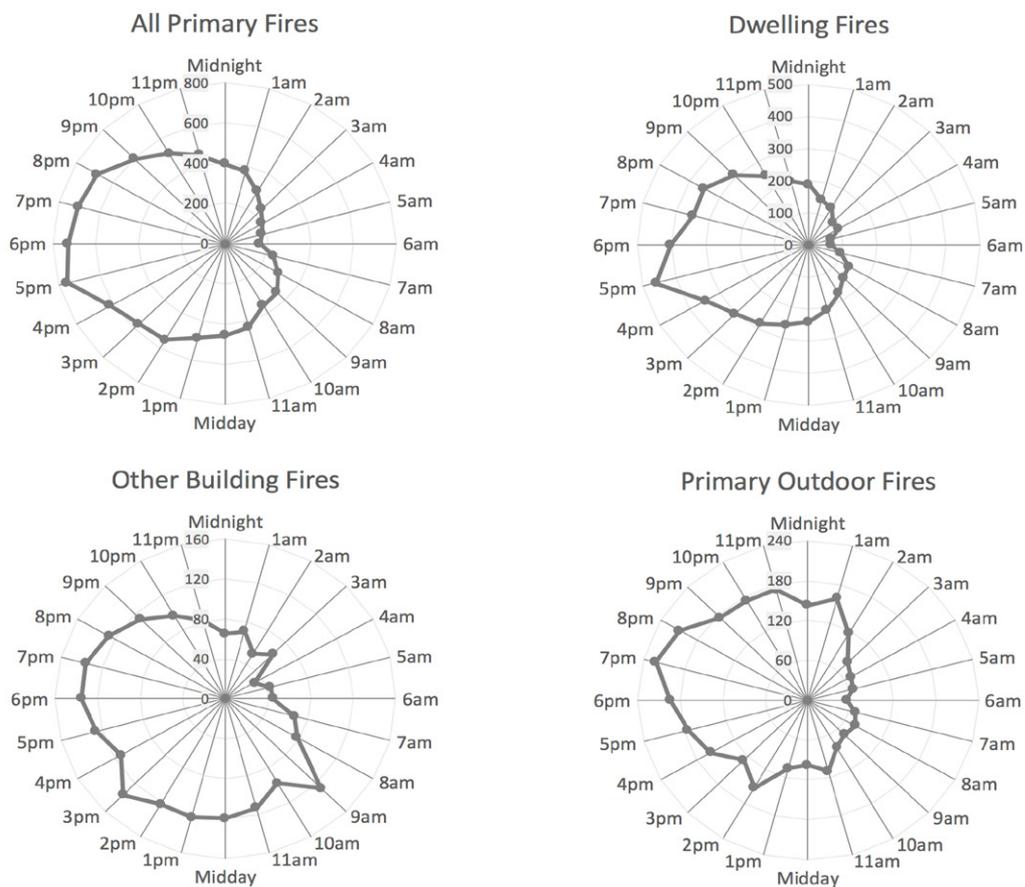


Figure 9: Primary fires by type and time of call, 2017-18

2.3. Secondary and Chimney Fires

Secondary fires⁴ occur outdoors and do not result in any harm to people.

In 2017-18 there were 14,698 secondary fires, down 6.1% on last year (from 15,657) and down 51.6% on ten years ago. The long-term trend has shown a sharper decline than for primary fires.

For historical reasons, chimney fires are counted separately, with the total including both residential and non-residential buildings. These have decreased significantly over decades, reaching a low of 710 in 2016-17. There has been a 7.5% increase this year to 763, however it is still the second lowest figure on record. Chimney fires have decreased 53.3% over the past ten years.

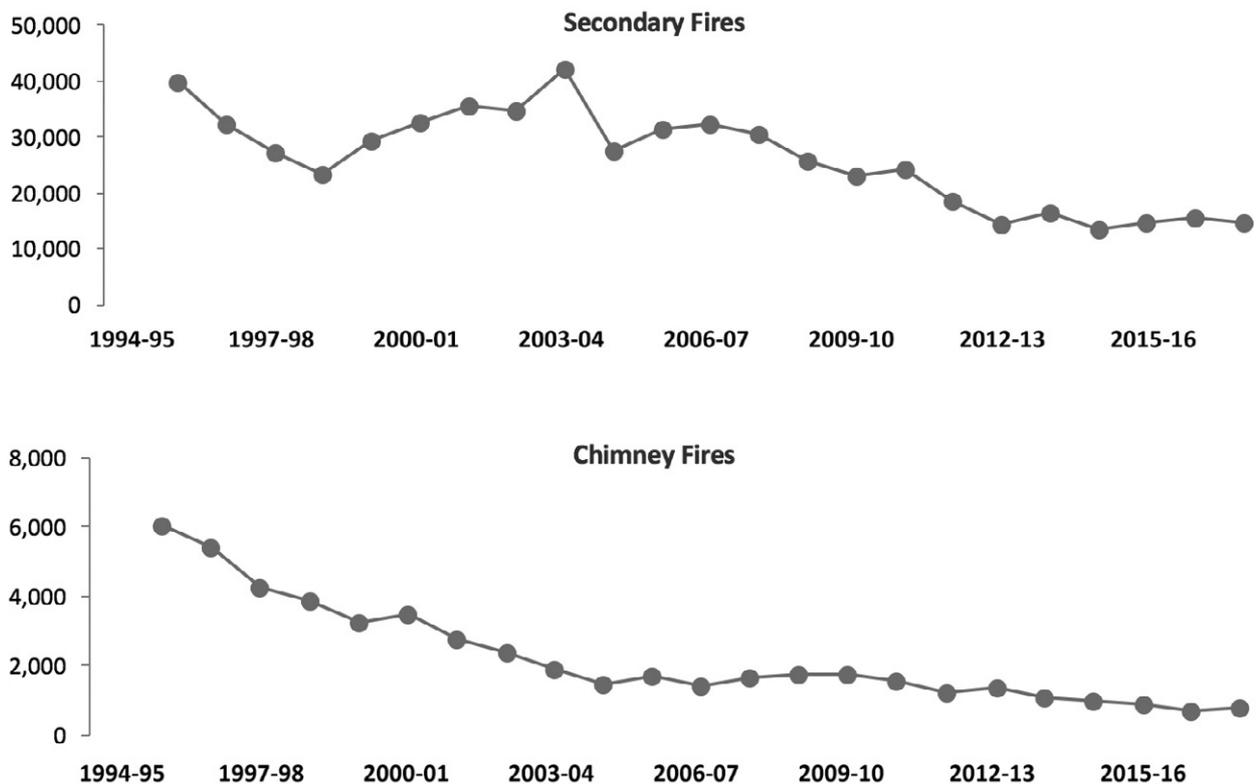
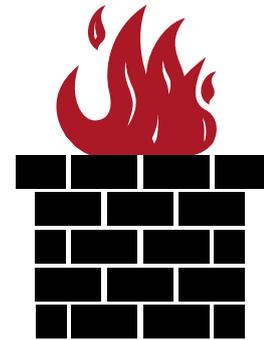


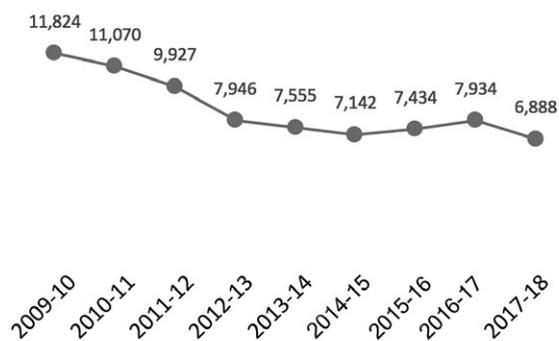
Figure 10: Long-term trend of secondary and chimney fires

⁴Please see Technical Notes for the definition.

2.3.1. Property type

The largest property category within secondary fires is 'Refuse' at 46.9%. These reached a new low in this series at 6,888 having decreased 13.2% on last year (from 7,934). Each of the published subcategories of refuse fires also reached a record low this year. There has been a long-term reduction in all refuse fires. Non-refuse secondary fires have shown no clear trend since 2012-13.

Refuse Secondary Fires



Non-Refuse Secondary Fires

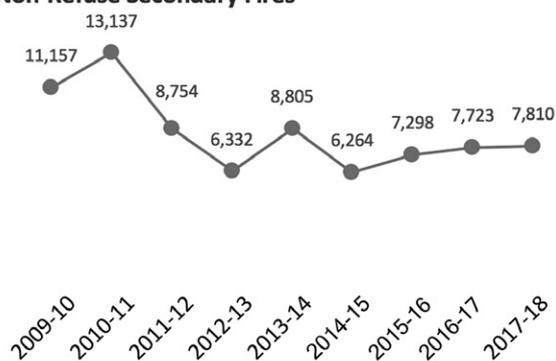


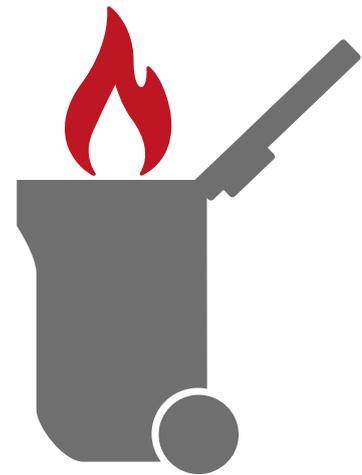
Figure 11: Refuse and non-refuse secondary fires, 2009-10 onwards

2.3.2. Motive

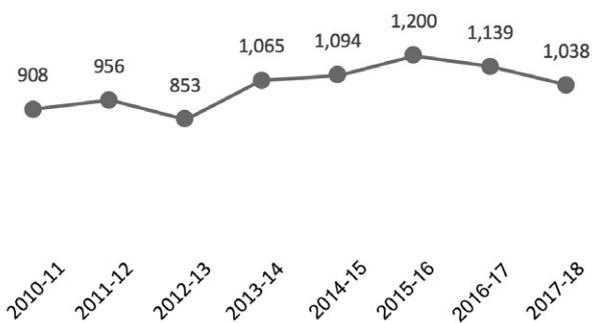
The vast majority of secondary fires in 2017-18 were considered deliberate⁵ (82.3%).

In 2017-18 there were 5,850 deliberate refuse fires, down 13.9% on last year (from 6,795) and 1,038 accidental refuse fires, down 8.9% on last year (from 1,139). This year deliberate refuse fires accounted for 83.7% of refuse fires (down from 89.3% in 2010-11).

The reduction in secondary fires in recent years is accounted for mainly by the reduction in deliberate refuse fires. This stands in contrast with primary fires where deliberate fires are a small proportion of the total and accidental fires are the driver of overall reductions.



Accidental Refuse Secondary Fires



Deliberate Refuse Secondary Fires

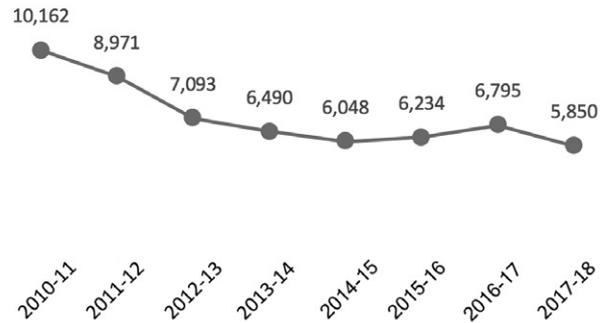


Figure 12: Refuse fires by motive, 2010-11 onwards

⁵ Fires classed as 'Deliberate' should not be interpreted as resulting from arson or criminal intent as it includes other fires set deliberately which required intervention.

2.3.3. Geography

In 2017-18 Dundee City had the highest rate of secondary fires in Scotland at 519.8 per 100,000 population, almost double the Scotland average of 270.9. East Ayrshire is also very high with 485.5. Inverclyde follows with 441.8 (down from 718.8). The Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands have very low rates at 40.9 and 47.7 respectively.

For refuse fires Dundee remains highest at 261.6 per 100,000 population followed by Glasgow City at 246.2. The average rate for Scotland is 127.0. For non-refuse fires the Scotland average rate is 144.0 per 100,000 population. Midlothian has the highest non-refuse rate in Scotland at 308.6 followed by Inverclyde at 299.6.

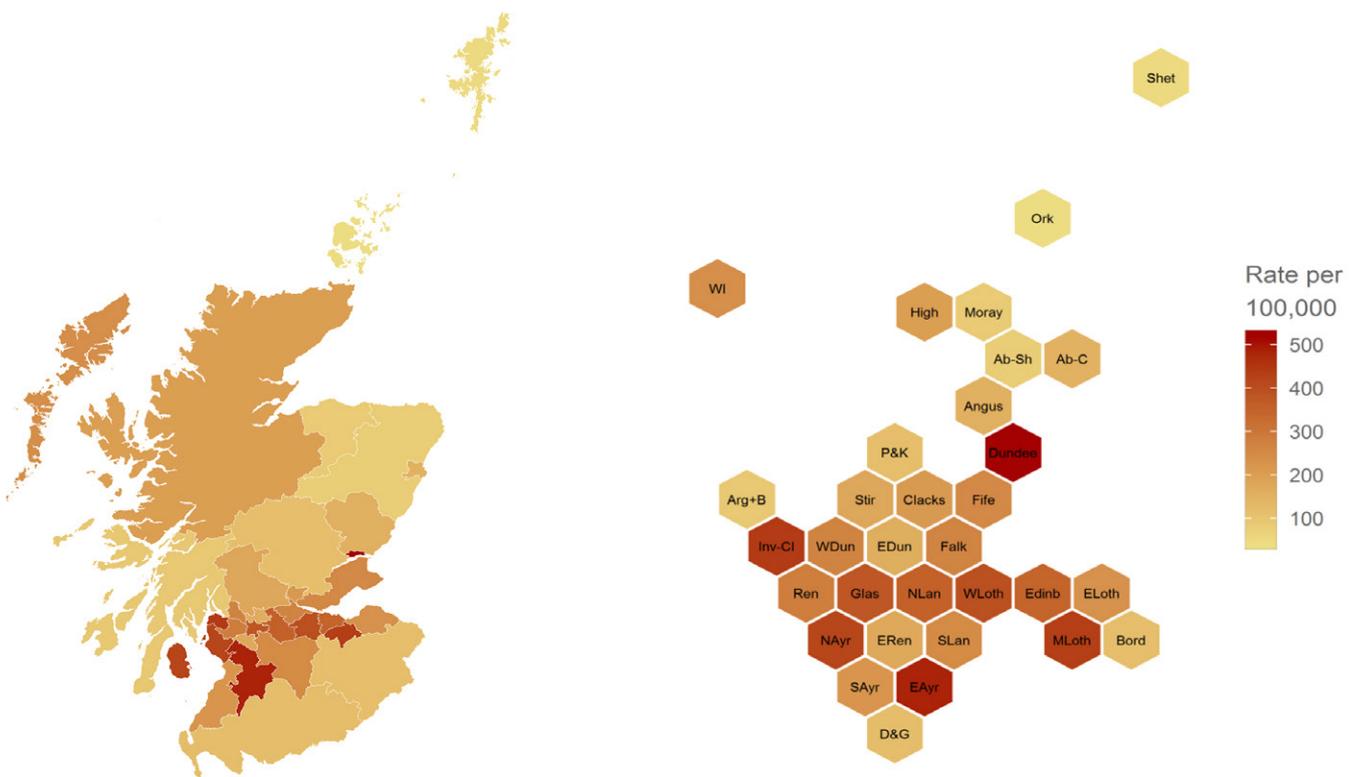


Figure 13: Secondary fires per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2017-18

2.3.4. Comparison with England and Wales

The rate of secondary fires in Scotland per million population (2,709) is 69.3% higher than in England (1,600) and 34.4% higher than Wales (2,016).

There has been a long-term reduction in the rate of secondary fires across Britain.

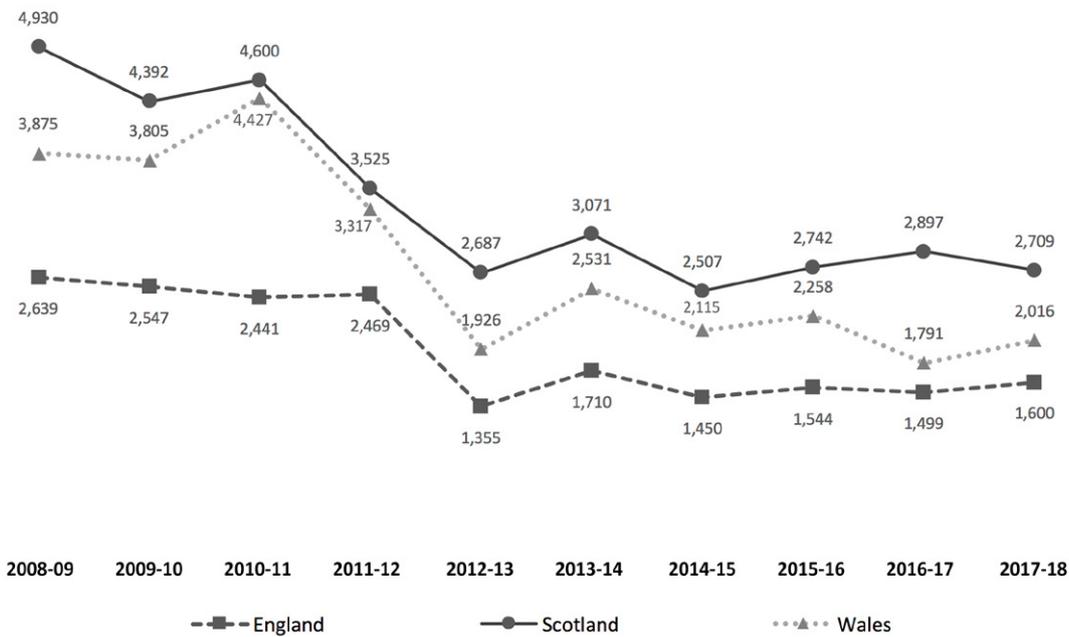


Figure 14: Secondary fires per million population, Great Britain, 2008-09 onwards

2.4. Casualties in Fires

2.4.1. Fatal casualties

There were 44 fatal fire casualties in 2017-18, the same as last year. There has been a long-term decrease in both the number and rate of fatal fire casualties.

The number of fire fatalities in accidental fires increased from 35 last year to 42 this year (the highest since 2011-12). The number in deliberate fires was a new low in this series at 2, down from 9 last year.

Of the 44 fatalities, 37 occurred in dwelling fires and 35 of these were classed as accidental dwelling fires.

Over the last three years the main cause of fire death was being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes at 42.9%, with burns accounting for a further 22.6%.

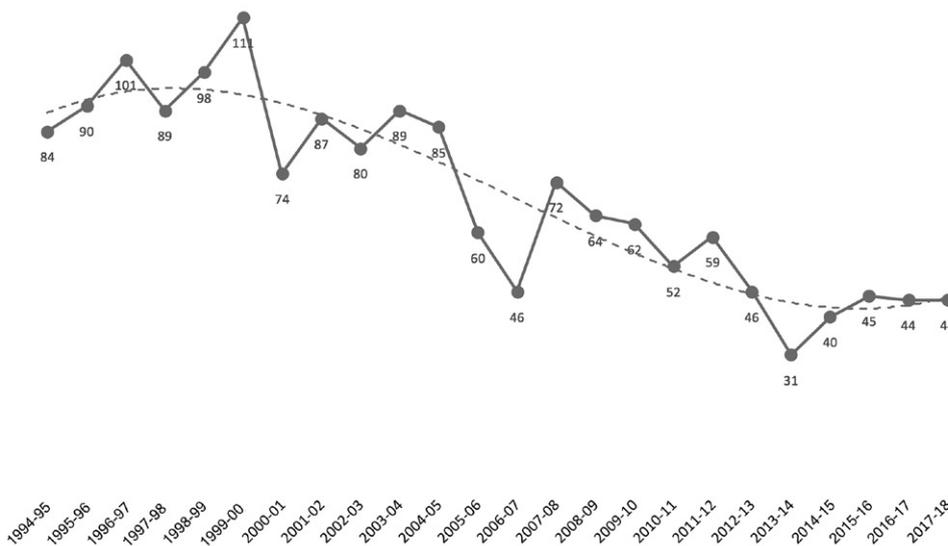


Figure 15: Long-term series of Fire Fatalities in Scotland with trend line, 1994-95 onward

Rates

The rate of fire deaths per million population was 8.1 in 2017-18. The rate by gender is markedly different with 10.0 fatal deaths per million for males and 6.4 for females over the last three years. The three-year average rate varies considerably by age, at 16.2 per million population for the over 60s, 8.8 for those aged 30 to 59 and 3.6 for those aged 17 to 29.

There have been no fatal fire casualties for persons aged under 17 in the last three years.

In 2017-18 there were 4.1 fatal casualties per 1,000 fires, with 7.0 fatal casualties per 1,000 dwelling fires and 7.4 per 1,000 accidental dwelling fires.

Comparison with England and Wales

The fire fatality rate per million population remains higher in Scotland than elsewhere in Britain with 8.1 fire fatalities per million population, compared with 6.0 in England and 4.8 in Wales. The five-year average figures are 5.3 for England, 7.6 for Scotland, and 5.8 for Wales.

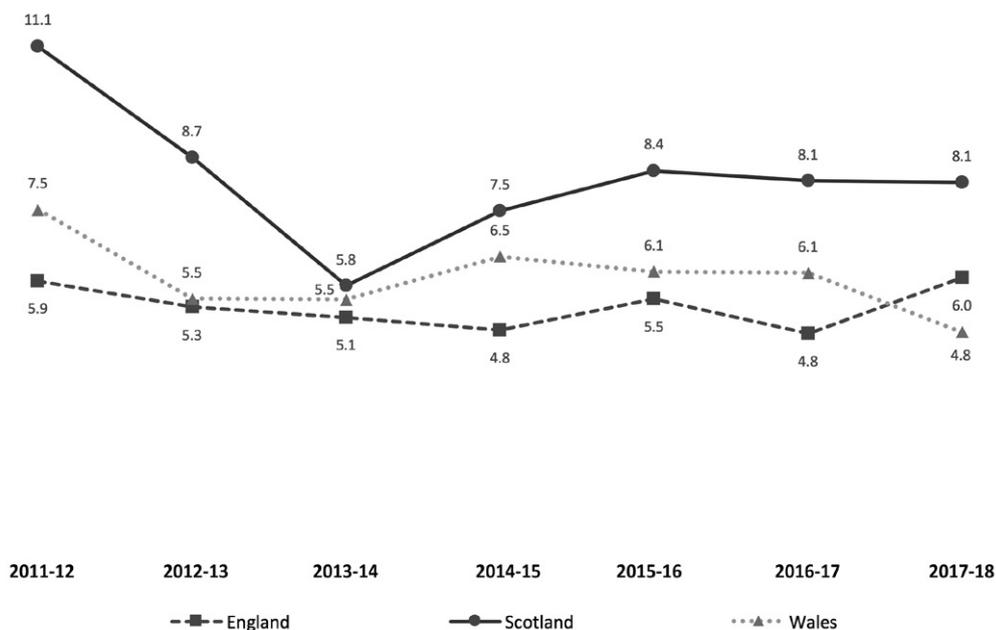


Figure 16: Fire fatalities per million population, Great Britain, 2011-12 onwards

2.4.2. Non-fatal casualties

There were 1,113 non-fatal fire casualties in 2017-18, down 12.1% from 1,266 last year. Casualties recorded are now at around half the annual total from 20 years ago.

Excluding those encouraged to visit a doctor as a precautionary measure, there were 879 casualties, down from 936 last year (6.1%). 417 casualties attended hospital, down 7.1% from 449 last year, with the remaining 462 casualties having received first aid at the scene (down 10.9% from 440 last year).

Most fire casualties occur in dwelling fires, with 921 in 2017-18 (82.7%), the lowest figure in this series.

As with accidental fires, non-fatal casualties are at a new low in this series at 933 (down 11.4% on 1,053 last year). Casualties in accidental dwelling

fires is similarly at a new low of 797, down from 940 last year. Non-fatal casualties in deliberate fires decreased 15.5% on last year from 213 to 180.

Over the last three years the primary cause of injury in fires was being overcome by gas, smoke or toxic fumes at 73.2% with burns accounting for a further 14.0%.



Rates

In 2017-18 there were 200.2 non-fatal fire casualties per million population in Scotland (excluding SFRS staff), below the three-year average of 222.2. As with fatal casualties, there is a gender difference in casualty rates; for males the average annual rate is 254.0 per million population over the last three years, while for females it is 189.6.

The age variation in rate per million differs from that of fatal casualties. This year the highest rate was for those aged between 30 and 59 at 216.9 incidents per million population, slightly above the rate for the over 60s at 201.3 and those aged 17 to 29 at 197.8. Persons aged under 17 have a much lower rate of casualties at 89.4 per million population.

The severity of injuries resulting from fires appears to be decreasing over time; the number of fire casualties recorded as attending hospital per 1,000 dwelling fires is now 65.0, down from 67.4 last year and 71.5 five years ago.

Comparison with England and Wales

The rate of non-fatal casualties is higher in Scotland at 205.2 per million population, compared to 131.1 in England and 168.3 in Wales. There has been a long-term decrease in non-fatal casualty rates across Britain.

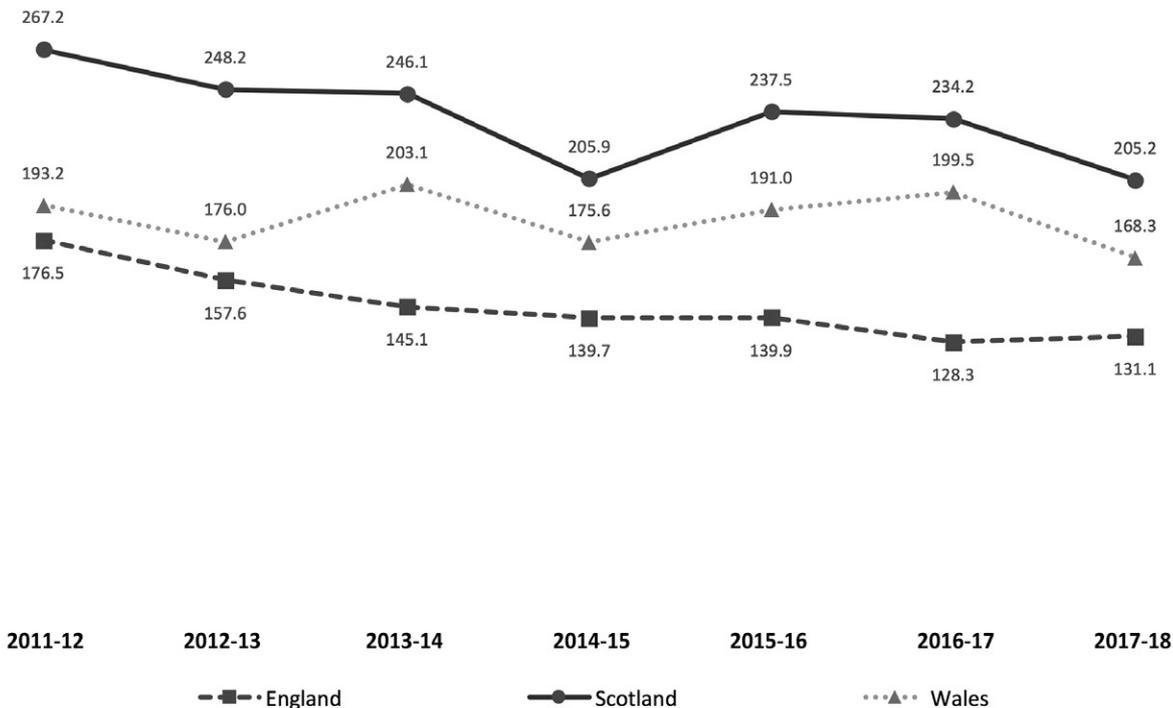


Figure 17: Non-fatal fire casualties per million population, Great Britain, 2011-12 onwards

2.4.3. Suspicion of alcohol or drug impairment

Accidental dwelling fires where impairment by the use of alcohol or drugs was suspected to have been a contributory factor have a much higher rate of casualties. The three-year average is 14.0 fatal casualties per 1,000 accidental dwelling fires compared to 1.9 fatal casualties where such impairment is not suspected as being a factor. For non-fatal casualties, there are 375.8 casualties per 1,000 fires with impairment by alcohol or drugs suspected as being a factor compared to 133.7 without.

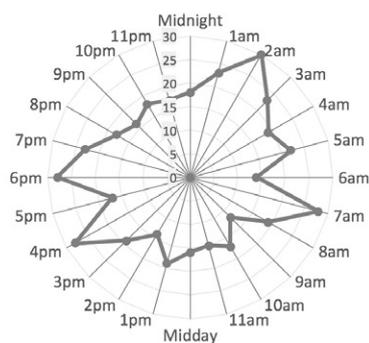
There were 254 non-fatal casualties and 9 fatal casualties in accidental dwelling fires where impairment by alcohol or drugs is a suspected factor in the fire this year.

2.4.4. Time of call

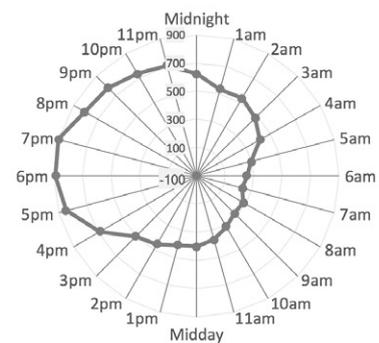
Although night time fires are far rarer than fires during the day (see section 2.2.9), the number of fatal fire casualties per hour is similar between night and day. This means that the risk per 1,000 fires is more concentrated between 1am and 8am.

For non-fatal casualties however, there is a substantial increase during the late afternoon between 4pm and 7pm when fires are more frequent. The casualty rate per 1,000 fires is higher during the late evening and night, than during the day.

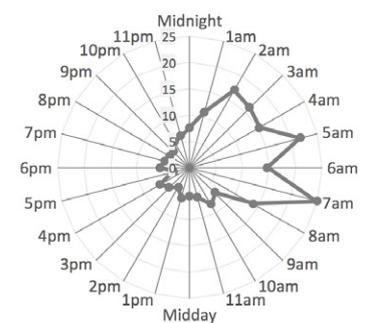
Fatal Casualties in Primary Dwelling Fires 11 Year Average



Non-fatal Casualties in Primary Dwelling Fires 11 Year Average



Rate of Fatal Casualties in Primary Dwelling Fires 11 Year Average



Rate of Non-fatal Casualties in Primary Dwelling Fires 11 Year Average

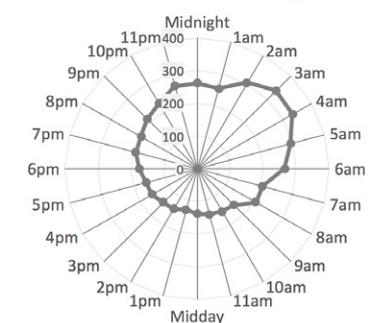


Figure 18: Fire casualties and casualty rates by time of call, 11 year average

2.5. False Alarms



There were 52,452 false alarms in 2017-18, up 1.7% from 51,580. Of these, 51,787 were fire false alarms, up 1.8% on last year (from 50,863).

In 2017-18 there were twice as many fire false alarms as fire incidents attended.

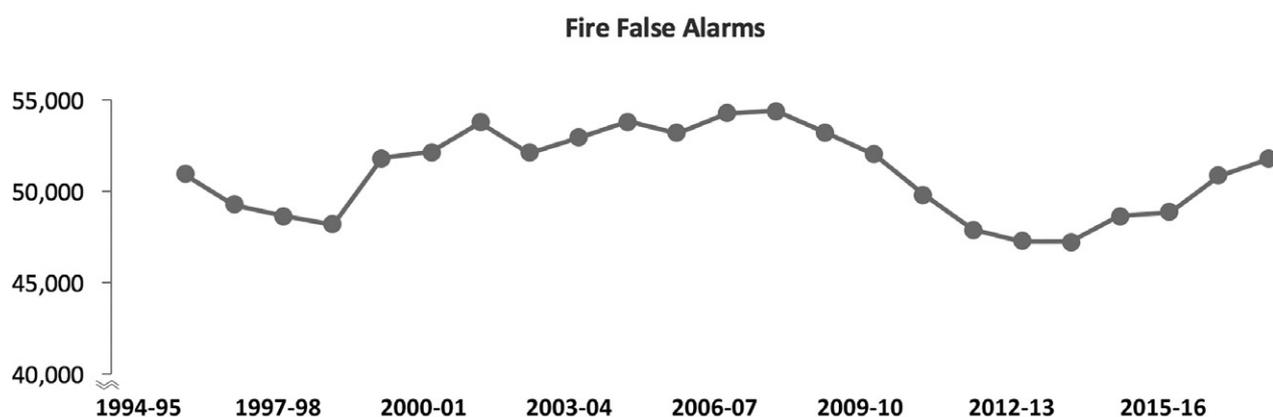


Figure 19: Long-term trend in fire false alarms, 1994-95 onwards

2.5.1. Source

Fire false alarms caused by the detecting apparatus is the highest proportion of false alarms at 40,359. This is a 1.8% increase on last year. There has been a 15.1% increase in false alarms due to apparatus over the last ten years (from 35,056). The share of apparatus false alarms has increased from 64.4% ten years ago to 77.9% now.

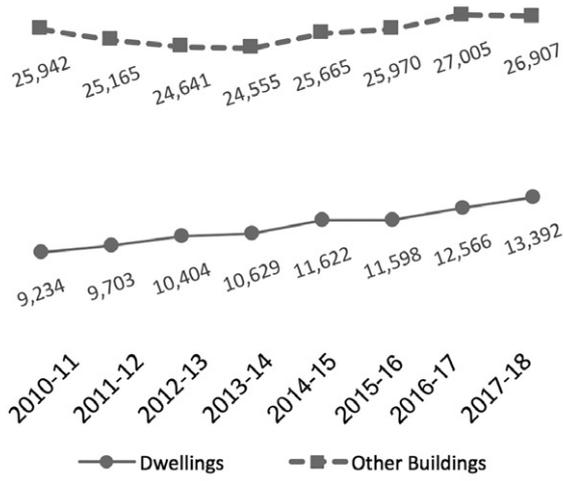
The total number of apparatus false alarms in dwellings is a new high in this series at 13,392, 28.7% higher than five years ago (from 10,404). In other kinds of building there were 26,907 in 2017-18, very similar to the previous figure (27,005) but up 9.2% in the last five years (from 24,641).

Calls with good intent are the next largest type of false alarms at 9,090. This is a 1.5% increase on last year but down 37.7% on 10 years ago.

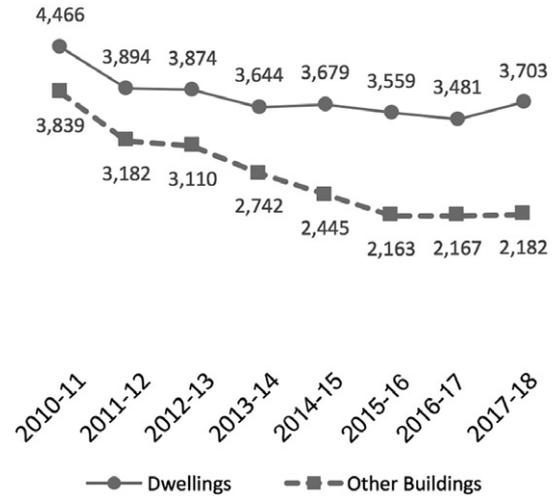
The least frequent kind of false alarm are those with malicious intent. There were 2,338 such false alarms in 2017-18 down 2.5% on last year (from 2,281). There has been a 51.1% decrease in this type of call over the past 10 years (from 4,783).

The smallest category of false alarms is non-fire false alarms of which there were 665, down from 717 last year. The 665 this year is an 8.0% increase on the previous five-year average.

Due to Apparatus



Good Intent



Malicious Intent

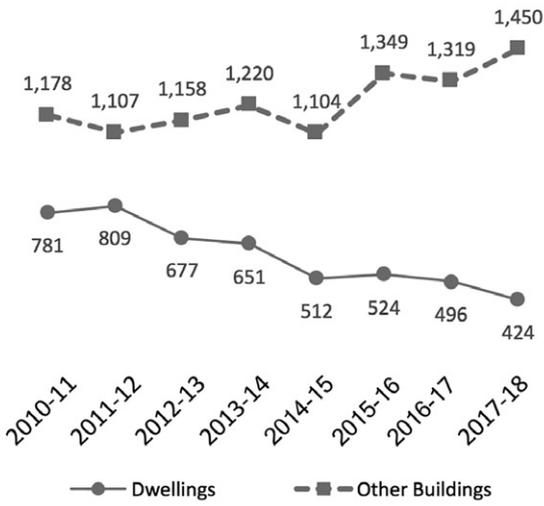


Figure 20: False fire alarms by source, 2010-11 onwards

2.6. Non-fire Incidents and Casualties

There were 13,128 non-fire incidents attended in 2017-18, up 6.1% from 12,369 last year. This is the highest full-year figure since recording began in 2009-10 and is a 20.9% increase on the five-year average to last year.

There has been an increase in inter-agency cooperation in Scotland which accounts for most of the increase in non-fire incidents.

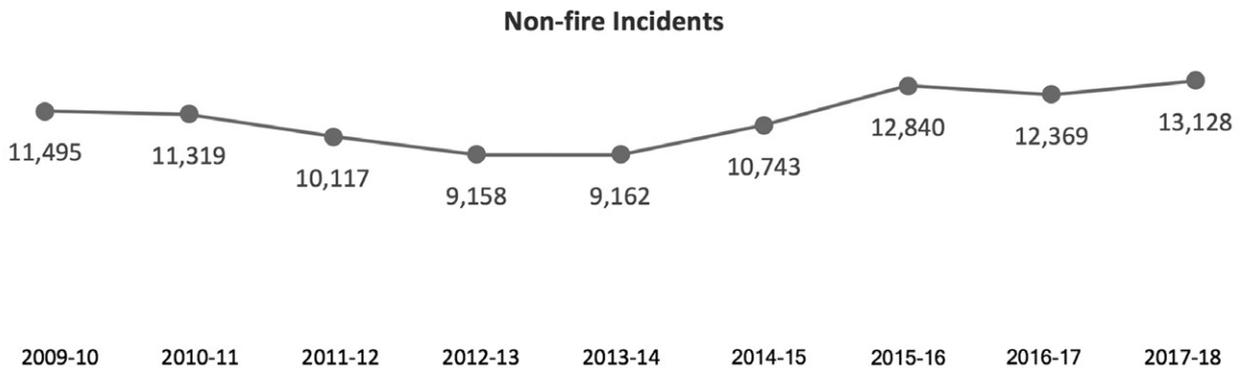


Figure 21: Non-fire incidents, 2009-10 onwards

2.6.1. Incident type

The largest non-fire incident category in 2017-18 was 'Effect Entry or Exit', which frequently involves the breaking open of a locked door to assist the Scottish Ambulance Service or Police Scotland in their work. There were 3,116 incidents of this kind, up 9.3% on 2,852 last year. Effecting entry or exit now amounts to 23.7% of non-fire incident activity, up from 11.7% five years ago.

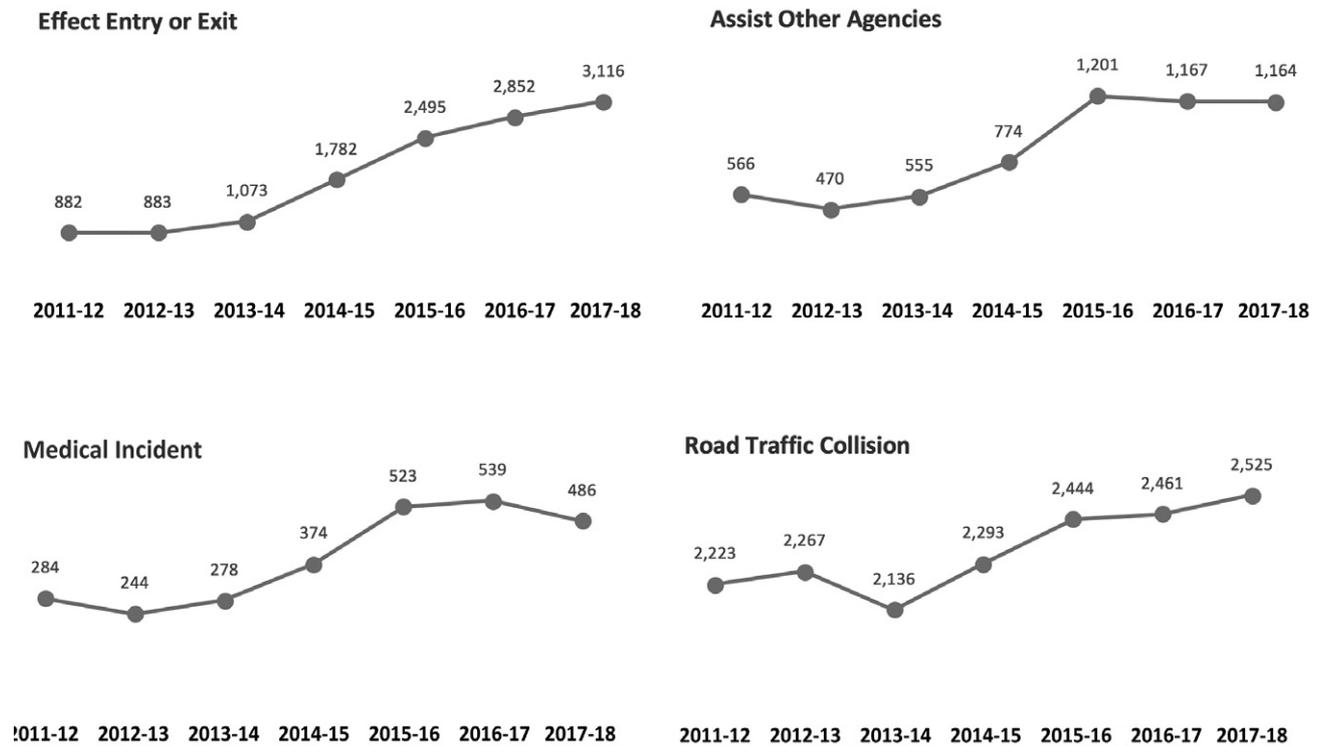


Figure 22: Non-fire incidents by type, 2011-12 onwards

The total for incidents classed as 'Assist Other Agencies' has remained steady at 1,164 compared with 1,167 last year.

The number of incidents where Firefighters operated as a medical first or co-responder decreased by 9.8% to 486 (from 539). The trial of Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest which SFRS participated in with the Scottish Ambulance Service ran from October 2015 to September

2017. During this time SFRS attended medical incidents which it had not previously attended, resulting in an increase in both the number of incidents recorded and the number of casualties attended during the three financial years concerned.

There were 2,525 road traffic collisions attended in 2017-18, up by 2.6% on last year. This is the highest number attended since 2009-10.

Non-fire Incidents

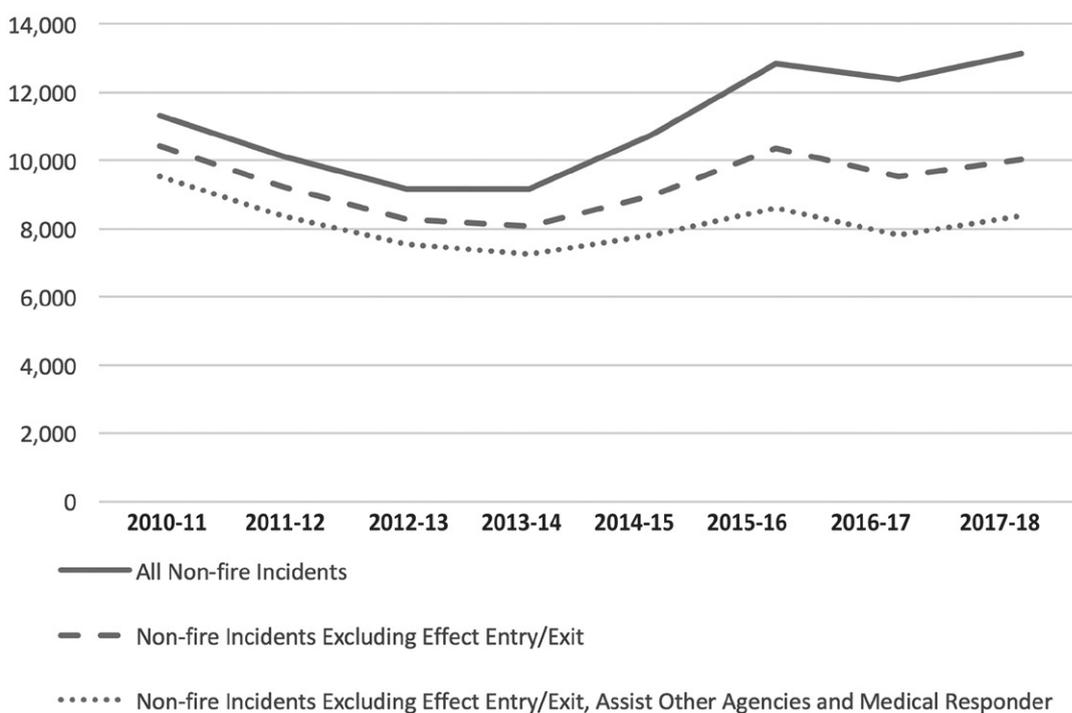


Figure 23: Non-fire incident trends, 2010-11 onwards

2.6.2. Geography

The national average rate of non-fire incidents per 100,000 population was 242.0 in 2017-18. Argyll and Bute had the highest rate at 350.2 resulting from having the second highest rate of road traffic collisions at 88.7 per 100,000 population (after Highland at 100.3), and the highest rate of assist other agencies in Scotland at 61.1 (well above the national average of 21.5).

Inverclyde and Glasgow follow with 313.6 and 311.9 respectively. Orkney Islands has the lowest rate at 100.0 incidents per 100,000 population.

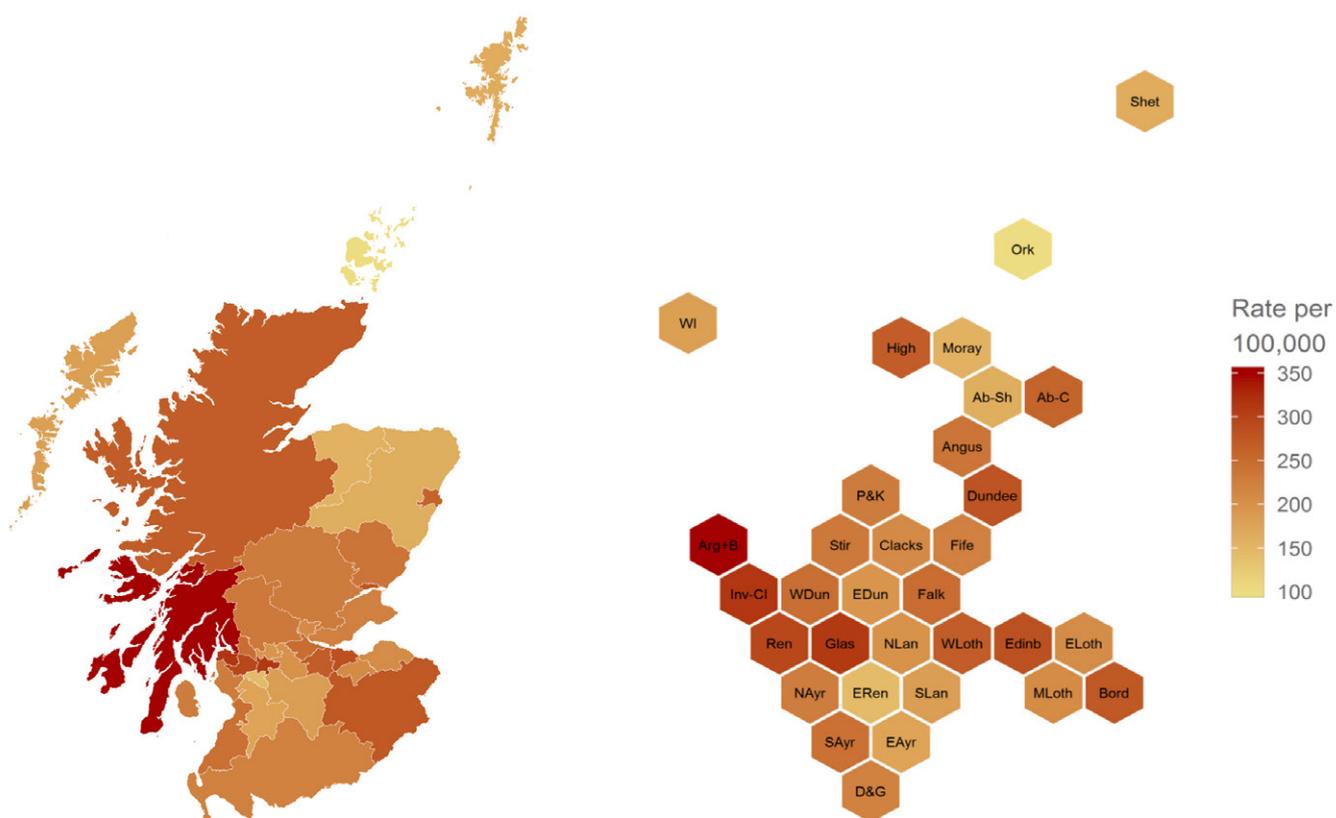


Figure 24: Non-fire incidents per 100,000 population, choropleth and area normalised cartogram 2017-18

2.6.3. Fatal casualties

There were 410 fatal casualties at non-fire incidents attended. This is a decrease from 505 last year though a significant increase on the totals for years prior to 2014-15.

With the significant increase in the 'Effecting Entry or Exit' incidents attended there have been five consecutive years of large proportional increases in the number of fatal casualties encountered by SFRS personnel. In 2012-13 there were 5 recorded fatalities, compared to the total of 128 recorded in 2017-18.

There were 72 fatal casualties recorded at 'Assist Other Agencies' incidents.

The number of fatal casualties recorded at medical incidents was 59 in 2017-18 (see section 2.6.1 for discussion of the OHCA trial).

Road traffic collision fatal casualties are at a new low in this series down from 94 last year to 81 in 2017-18.

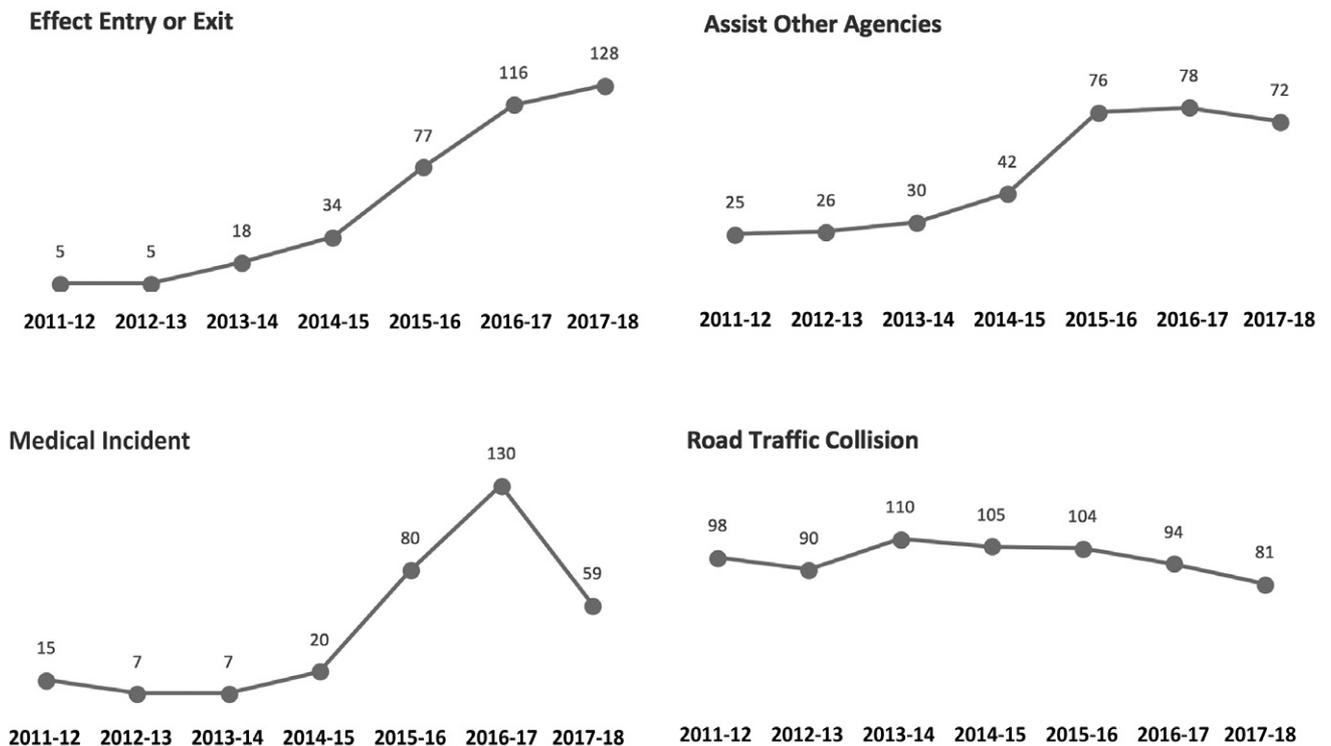


Figure 25: Fatal casualties in non-fire incidents by type, 2011-12 onwards. Please note that the 2015-16 and 2016-17 casualty figures for medical incidents involve casualties in the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial, see section 2.6.1 for details.

2.6.4. Non-fatal casualties

There were 3,766 non-fatal casualties recorded at non-fire incidents attended. This is a 4.8% increase on last year and (as with the number of fatal casualties) a significant increase on the totals for years prior to 2014-15.

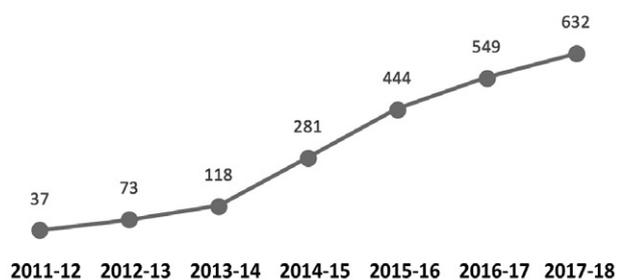
There were 632 casualties recorded in 'Effecting Entry or Exit' incidents in 2017-18, 332 in 'Assist

Other Agencies' incidents, and 277 in medical incidents.

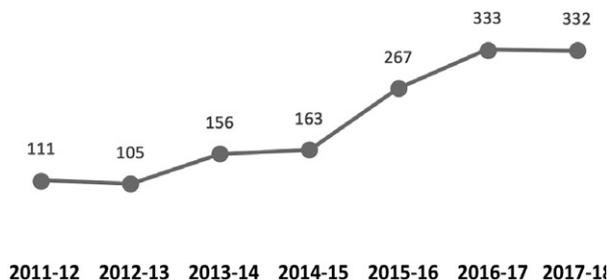
There were 2,057 non-fatal casualties from road traffic collisions recorded in 2017-18.

Please see section 2.6.1 for discussion of the OHCA trial which had an impact on the number of medical incidents recorded in the last three years.

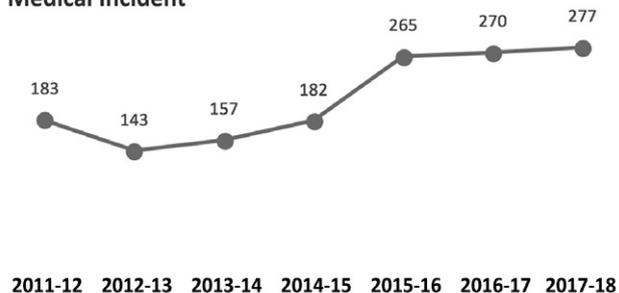
Effect Entry or Exit



Assist Other Agencies



Medical Incident



Road Traffic Collision

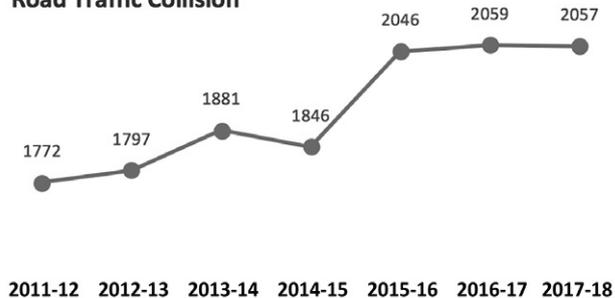


Figure 26: Non-fatal casualties in non-fire incidents by type, 2011-12 onwards. Please note that the 2015-16 and 2016-17 casualty figures for medical incidents involve casualties from the Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial, see section 2.6.1 for details.

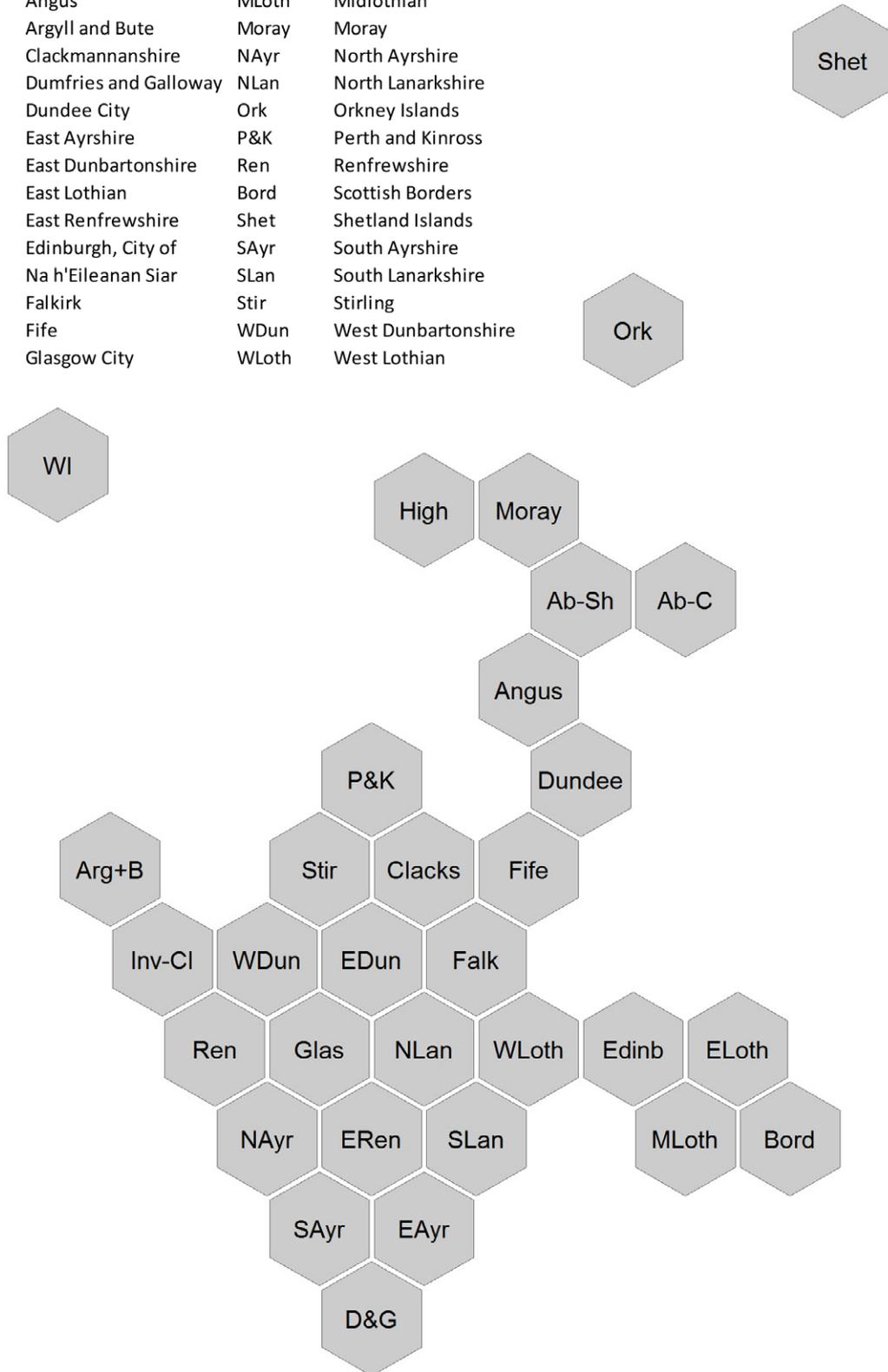
Appendix A

Key	Local Authority Name	Key	Local Authority Name
1	Aberdeen City	17	Highland
2	Aberdeenshire	18	Inverclyde
3	Angus	19	Midlothian
4	Argyll and Bute	20	Moray
5	Clackmannanshire	21	North Ayrshire
6	Dumfries and Galloway	22	North Lanarkshire
7	Dundee City	23	Orkney Islands
8	East Ayrshire	24	Perth and Kinross
9	East Dunbartonshire	25	Renfrewshire
10	East Lothian	26	Scottish Borders
11	East Renfrewshire	27	Shetland Islands
12	Edinburgh, City of	28	South Ayrshire
13	Na h'Eileanan Siar	29	South Lanarkshire
14	Falkirk	30	Stirling
15	Fife	31	West Dunbartonshire
16	Glasgow City	32	West Lothian



Cartogram Local Authority Key

Shortform	Local Authority Name	Shortform	Local Authority Name
Ab-C	Aberdeen City	High	Highland
Ab-Sh	Aberdeenshire	Inv-CI	Inverclyde
Angus	Angus	MLoth	Midlothian
Arg+B	Argyll and Bute	Moray	Moray
Clacks	Clackmannanshire	NAyr	North Ayrshire
D&G	Dumfries and Galloway	NLan	North Lanarkshire
Dundee	Dundee City	Ork	Orkney Islands
EAYr	East Ayrshire	P&K	Perth and Kinross
EDun	East Dunbartonshire	Ren	Renfrewshire
ELoth	East Lothian	Bord	Scottish Borders
ERen	East Renfrewshire	Shet	Shetland Islands
Edinb	Edinburgh, City of	SAYr	South Ayrshire
WI	Na h'Eileanan Siar	SLan	South Lanarkshire
Falk	Falkirk	Stir	Stirling
Fife	Fife	WDun	West Dunbartonshire
Glas	Glasgow City	WLoth	West Lothian



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