



Service Delivery Area – North

Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan

Local Performance Report (April 2017 to September 2017)

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# **Executive Summary**

The Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the local priorities, actions and outcomes for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to deliver within the local communities of Aberdeen.

This report covers the 6 months of the reporting year from April 2017 to September 2017 inclusively.

Our performance is reported via 6 high-level local performance indicators (LPI) aligned to the priorities detailed within the current Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Service Plan designed to deliver a meaningful positive difference to our local communities.

These priorities have provided a clear direction for setting our local activities in order to continuously reduce fire risk within Aberdeen and concurrently maintain an effective and efficient response model.

It is encouraging to report that following analysis of the LPI's that the overall trend over the previous 6 months is extremely positive. We have noted a reduction in the majority of our key priority areas. Most notably we are pleased to report a continued trend in the reduction of fire casualties and accidental dwelling fires which pose the greatest risk of harm to people.

The service continues to ensure support to the community by ensuring sufficient provision and development of local resources. Fifteen new full time trainee firefighters joined local stations in April this year following successful completion of their 14 week initial training course. Crews at Central fire station have continued their initial training in water rescue and boat handling as we prepare to introduce this capability.

Local staff were supported as they progressed through rigorous national promotion processes. Eleven members of staff were successful in the Watch Managers process and have now taken up posts in local City stations. A further seventeen members of staff were successful during a Crew Managers promotion process and have now taken up posts in the local stations.

We have completed the planning stages and are at an advanced stage of a project to install a new and modern training facility on the North Anderson Drive fire station site. Once complete the facility will replace the existing outdated facility ensuring our operational crews are able to regularly maintain essential skills.

We have continued to actively support our partners in delivering the objectives of the City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). We are currently consulting with our partners and the local community on our new Fire and Rescue plan for Aberdeen City. To ensure consistency in local planning and delivery we have linked the draft SFRS plan to the key objectives of the LOIP where appropriate. Once complete the plan will determine our local priorities for reducing risk to the people who live, work and travel in Aberdeen City from April 2018 onwards.

### Section 1 Introduction

This report provides detail on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in the Aberdeen City area. It outlines our progress in the delivery of local priorities as set out within the current Local Fire and Rescue Plan and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service framework document.

These priorities are underpinned by local risk factors as identified and defined within the Single Outcome Agreement, local community safety strategic risk assessments and the known fire risk profile within Aberdeen.

It supports the drive to deliver continuous improvement in reducing the risk from fire for the citizens of Aberdeen and aims to provide sufficient information to allow the Committee to gauge how the Service is achieving the aspirations set out within the current local Fire and Rescue Plan.

The outcomes and measures provided in this report details a blend of quantitative and qualitative information to support Committee members in their local scrutiny role.

The Service aspires to deliver very high standards to our communities and our current performance is testament to the commitment, professionalism and dedication of our staff and the positive local partnerships embedded within the Aberdeen Community Planning and Safety forums.

However, we recognise that wherever our performance falls short of expectations we will respond promptly to address the areas of concern.

The report contains a series of Local Performance Indicators (LPI) that provide an assessment of the current fire risk within Aberdeen by:

- Subdividing the various fire related incidents into meaningful categories
- Setting out our direction of travel in reducing that risk
- Contextualising the fire risk profile
- Confirming the continued proactive measures that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service are implementing.

### Section 2 Performance Criteria

Our focus remains on delivering long term sustainable positive outcomes by prioritising our activities to support continuous improvement.

Our current suite of performance indicators is not necessarily permanent and will be kept under continual review to reflect that risk reduction is a continual and dynamic process in a changing environment.

### **Local Performance Indicator Outcomes**

### **LPI 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

### Our target is:

- To ensure our training, staff development and equipment continue to be fit for purpose to meet our current risk profile and is adaptable to changing circumstances
- To work locally with partner organisations and agencies to ensure effective wider consequence emergency response plans are developed for identified local risks, including local business continuity plans.
- To fulfil our statutory duties in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by way of our contribution to Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership.

# LPI 2 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from accidental dwelling fires

# LPI 3 - Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes of fire casualties and fatalities

# LPI 4 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from deliberate fires

# LPI 5 - Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the outcomes from fires in nondomestic properties

# **LPI 6 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**

 Our target is to deliver a long term continuous improvement in the responses to Unwanted Fire Alarm signals We have employed a Red, Amber, and Green (RAG) performance status measure that is primarily based against the previous rolling average of five years' incident data.

This allows us to take into account seasonal and yearly fluctuations within each LPI by allowing for deviation from normal activity levels.

Detailed below is an explanation of the RAG rating:

Red: The level is greater than 10% on average over the five-year period

Amber: The level is greater than 5% but less than 10% on average over the five-year

period

Green: The level is less than 5% or better on average over the five-year period

We would wish to highlight that a number of the LPI's already demonstrate a relatively low baseline in terms of number of incidents, e.g. a reduction from eight to four incidents within a limited timescale would show a 50% decrease and not necessarily provide a true reflection of the risk level.

We have therefore provided, in Section 3, further context within a situational assessment that provides further information for the committee to scrutinise the Service's current performance.

On some of the high level LPI's we have also provided further segmentation of the data to provide additional information to support Committee members in their scrutiny role.

### Section 3 Performance Outcomes

Determining how successful the Service is in reducing the fire risk profile within Aberdeen is a complex task.

There are many factors that may impact on our ability to reduce fire risk. External environmental factors such as deprivation, substance abuse and lifestyle choices to name but a few can influence the fire risk profile within Aberdeen.

In recent years, positive progress has been delivered in reducing the fire risk profile in Aberdeen and our task remains to continuously improve these risk levels further.

We continually assess our incident activity to match our risk reduction activities so that we can seek to deliver a positive outcome.

We balance our approach to our risk reduction activities with a complimentary focus on neighbourhoods who statistically are at higher risk from fire *and* identifying & supporting individual vulnerable people within our communities

We recognise that working with a wide range of our local partners is a key element in delivering improved outcomes and place high value on these strong relationships.

The RAG assessment highlights the continual improvements that have been made during this reporting period and identifies areas where future work is required to be carried out.

The LPI summary table below provides Committee members with a visual overview of the current SFRS performance for Aberdeen City.

Aberdeen City - Local Performance Summary				
LPI	Risk	RAG status		
01	Local Risk Management and Preparedness			
02	Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires			
03	Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities			
04	Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting			
05	Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property			
06	Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals			

# **LPI 1 - Local Risk Management and Preparedness**

### LPI Assessment:

The main areas of measurement of operational preparedness are:

- Staff competence
- Availability of Operational Intelligence
- Appliances, Equipment and Specialist Resources
- Operational Assurance

**Staff Competence** – All operational staff follow a nationally defined 3-year development programme which aims to ensure that all firefighters are equipped with the necessary skills required to perform their duties. The programme was significantly redesigned and commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 with a greater emphasis on standardisation aligned to national policy and procedures. The process provides the platform for individual and supported development and assessment for the core and expanded skill areas. Supporting elements such as our on-line learning materials and the personal development recording system were simultaneously updated to reflect the revised programme and to enhance the level of support available to our staff. The process has capacity for additional training categories specific to local risks such as Shipping, Airports, Rail, and Pipelines etc which are included within the programme to ensure that our firefighters are trained to deal with the incidents they may respond to in the local areas.

A proportion of staff training and assessment is undertaken at the North Training College near Portlethen where they receive instruction in a number of risk critical firefighting techniques. Here they are supported by skilled instructors making use of the excellent live fire training facilities. Operational personnel are required to undertake refresher training and assessment on a two or three yearly basis depending on the particular discipline. These disciplines include Fire Behaviour, Tactical Ventilation and Breathing Apparatus as each of these skills is deemed essential to the operational role. It is extremely encouraging to note that our staff achievement rate is 100% in each of the critical skills areas.

Practical training and exercising is a constant feature of the operational training programme with local managers seeking opportunities to train with their staff in the "real life environment" wherever possible. This includes regular training and interaction with key partner services such as the Scottish Ambulance Service (Including the Special Operations Response Team), Police Scotland, Aberdeen Airport Fire Service and Local authority. Training and development for all operational personnel builds from the very basic individual needs to that which covers the multi-agency and major disaster responses they may be involved with at local or national levels.

We are also focused on the development of skills which enable our staff to support the wider public prevention and protection agenda reflected within the current Aberdeen City Fire and Rescue Local Plan. The core development plan undertaken by all staff includes topics aimed at developing personal communications skills, working with others and understanding the diverse communities we serve.

**Availability of Operational Information** – Operational crews are now actively engaged in the review process for operational intelligence information. The review programme is focused on premises previously identified as high risk with crews inspecting and refreshing critical intelligence for these premises. Operational information is stored in a secure electronic format and can be accessed by firefighters from the cab of the fire appliances should they attend an incident at that premise. The ability to access detailed information at incidents supports firefighters at critical times and is vital element of the services approach to fire fighter safety. Ensuring the availability of accurate supporting information through interactive site visits and inspections is an important feature of the firefighter's work.

The SFRS has been working alongside partners in Aberdeen to provide reassurance to the community following the tragic fire which occurred at Grenfell tower in London in June this year. Local staff have supported public events engaging with residents and others from all 59 residential multi storey premises in the City. Our staff assisted delivered safety advice to concerned residents and have prioritised home fire safety visits to these premises. Operational crews carry out regular inspections of these properties throughout the year and we will continue this work aligned to national guidance and our local plan priorities.

# **Appliances, Equipment and Specialist Resources**

Operational staff based at Central Fire Station have undertaken initial training in advanced Water Rescue skills. The training plans was designed and delivered using local facilities and waterways with support from training instructors based both locally and nationally. This station will ultimately host a trailer mounted rescue boat with a dedicated response vehicle. Further training and provision of the associated equipment will take place in coming months aligned to our national Specialist Resources project.

Our local fleet of service vehicles and associated equipment continues to be maintained and updated aligned to new developments and national strategies. Plans have been developed to accommodate additional skills and equipment in Aberdeen which will support the services strategic and local objectives for prevention and protection.

Our retained (RDS) colleagues based at Dyce Fire Station Have recently recruited a number of new trainee firefighters to support the station and are actively seeking others to join us at this time. Retained staff by nature have primary employment out with the service and we recognise the dedication of the personnel who provide this vital service and the commitment of their primary employers in allowing staff to work as firefighters in support of our local community.

We continue to work alongside colleagues from The British Heart Foundation (BHF) and Save a Life for Scotland (SALFS) to deliver supported training sessions to members of the public. These sessions are designed to equip the community with basic lifesaving skills for assisting a casualty who may be suffering a cardiac arrest. Operational personnel have supported training opportunities in Aberdeen during a variety of public events to date and will continue to seek new opportunities in the future.

**Operational Assurance** – We have implemented a harmonised system of measuring operational readiness that provides assurance of the quality of service delivery. The process seeks to identify and confirm good performance with the potential of sharing good practice across the service as well as identifying potential areas for improvement. During 2017/18 all fire stations in Aberdeen City will be internally audited. The information gathered from these audits is used to confirm good practice and implement improvement. The audit process is continuous from year to year.

Status		

# **LPI 02 – Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires**

#### LPI Assessment:

Over the reporting period, there has been a continued reduction in the overall number of Accidental Dwelling Fires. This has seen an overall fall of 24 incidents comparable to quarter one of the previous year.

We have identified that a significant number of these fires did not spread beyond the item that was first ignited

We have assigned a Green status to this outcome in line with our RAG assessment criteria.

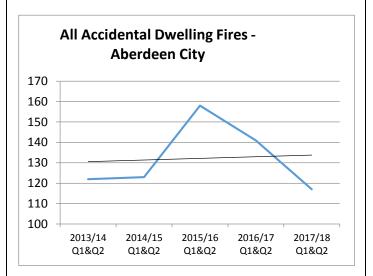
# **Situational Analysis:**

The last 6 months has seen an encouraging reduction in the number of incidents. We would wish to highlight that the longer term trend in the numbers of Accidental Dwelling House fires continues to indicate a steady overall reduction.

We continue to observe a trend in dwelling fires which have self-extinguished prior to the arrival of firefighters and requiring no action other than ensuring that the scene is safe, investigating the cause and providing reassurance to occupants.

The targeting of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) to those who may benefit most from our support and advice appears to be successful in influencing householders awareness of the risk of fire in the home

We will continue to focus on our engagement opportunities with some of our key local partners seeking to increase referrals for our free HFSV service. Our aim is to identify and assist those who are considered most vulnerable and therefore may be at greater risk



#### LPI 03 - Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities

#### LPI Assessment:

The 5-year annual average for fire fatalities in dwelling houses in the Aberdeen City area is 2 per year.

Sadly we have to report that one person died as a result of a fire in Aberdeen City during the six month period

19 people were injured as a result of fires in Aberdeen during the six month period which is a welcome reduction from 21 during the previous year.

There has been a reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fire casualties from 15 to 9 persons.

# **Situational Analysis:**

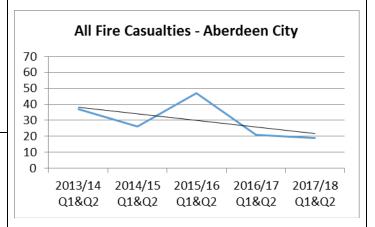
Analysis of casualty data indicated that a high proportion of casualties received minor injuries which were treated at the scene and did not require the person to go to hospital.

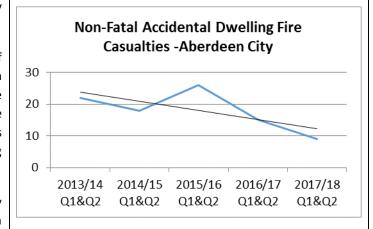
While the number of fire fatalities remains low the Service will continue to support activity aimed at achieving zero fire deaths in Aberdeen.

2017 is the 30 year anniversary of the launch of Fire and Rescue led smoke detector campaigns in Aberdeen. The number of people harmed by fire has dropped significantly over the years. The benefit of early warning in cases of fire is undisputable and is a key element for reducing risk in the community.

Our analysis suggests that the continued delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) has had a positive impact on our local communities i.e. less severe fires in dwellings and reduced harm to the occupants.

We continue to work on our collaboration with partners in order to broaden the cross agency referral process. This process enables other agencies to refer individuals to SFRS who they have assessed may be at risk of suffering a fire in the home.





# LPI 04 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

#### LPI Assessment:

The number of fires started deliberately in Aberdeen has increased slightly during the last 6 months.

During the six month period a total of 185 fires were started deliberately

The longer term trend continues to indicate a reduction i.e. an overall 22% reduction in these types of fires has occurred over the last 5 years.

A high proportion of deliberate fires involve wheelie bins, grass and refuse. These types of fires have accounted for 55 of the deliberately ignited fires during the six month period

Overall these specific types of incidents have reduced by an average of 47% over the last 5 years.

The number of deliberately started dwelling house fires has continued to decrease. Over the last 6 months a total of 17 dwelling house fires were started deliberately compared to 19 incidents during the same period in the previous year.

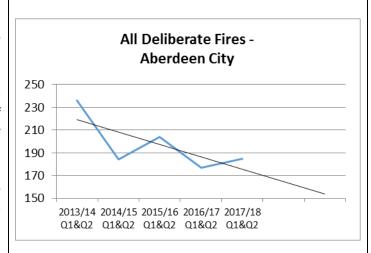
# **Situational Analysis:**

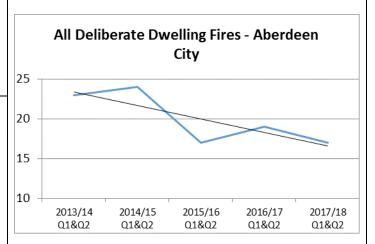
It is encouraging to note the longer trend of decreasing number of deliberate dwelling fires.

We believe this is reflective of our well established local partnership working, especially with Aberdeen City Council and Police Scotland, contributing to this reduction.

Regular inspections of multi-storey blocks of flats are carried out by local firefighters and partnership working arrangements are utilised to deliver any necessary improvements that reduce the risk of deliberate fire setting.

We are also prioritising the reduction of deliberately started fires via our local Thematic Plans to support the aim of an overall reduction of this type of fire risk





# LPI 04 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

# **Situational Analysis:**

There has been a significant reduction in the number of deliberate vehicle fires. A total of 20 fires were reported during the six month period compared to 30 during the same period in the previous year.

We share information on a daily basis with partners at the Community Safety Hub which allows immediate action to be taken on any emerging patterns of incidents of this type.

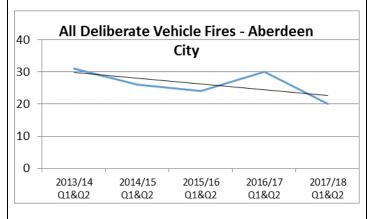
This is part of our overall support and participation in multi-agency Police Scotland led vehicle crime and annoyance operations and safety initiatives.

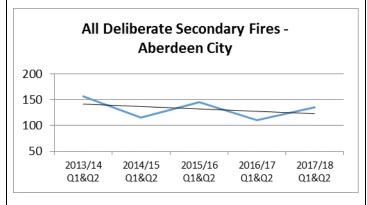
The number of deliberately ignited secondary fires has increased slightly. 135 fires of this nature were reported during the six month period. The overall trend remains positive with a 14% reduction occurring over a 5 year period

We continually monitor these types of incidents, sharing information with partners and continuing to engage with local communities where risk or patterns are identified

Over the last 6 months we have also maintained our engagement with partners, notably with Park Rangers and Police Scotland colleagues, to limit the number of fires within areas of Aberdeen known to have a higher number of secondary fires.

We regularly carry out Community Safety Engagement with selected young persons who have become involved in deliberate fire setting in order to change behaviours and to prevent escalation.





### LPI 05 - Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

#### LPI Assessment:

During the six month period we have seen a significant reduction in the number of Non-Domestic Fires compared to the previous year.

Overall both accidental and deliberate fires of this incident type have reduced from 62 to 40 incidents.

The Service also pro-actively sets a risk based annual programme of Fire Safety (FS) audit visits and we have met our targets for the number of audits carried out by our local Enforcement Officers.

# **Situational Analysis:**

This indicator covers the number of fires in all buildings excluding dwelling houses.

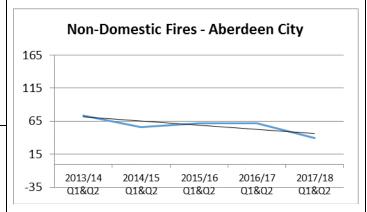
In particular, it includes 'void' (unoccupied) properties, as well as businesses duty-bound to adhere to specific fire safety measures required by legislation.

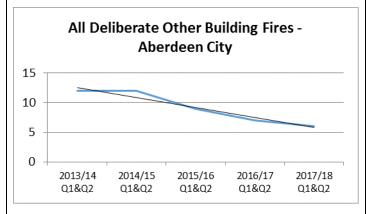
A partnership approach is taken by the Service to maintain focus on this incident type and we continue to work with our partners to ensure void properties are as 'secure' as possible to reduce the opportunity for wilful fireraising.

We have also maintained our approach of actively conducting an audit of every building covered by Fire Safety legislation following a recorded fire (100% compliance) to support duty holders.

We also continue to engage with local businesses by offering goodwill re-assurance visits to neighbouring buildings adjoining or nearby to the building affected by the fire.

This approach continues to be positively welcomed by building owners, managers and responsible persons.





# LPI 06 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

### LPI Assessment:

Over the last 6 months we have recorded an overall decrease in the number of Fire Alarms responses notably in the number of False Alarms caused by equipment failure.

The total number of calls received is 1190 of which 971 were due to system faults

We have recorded an increase in the number of False Alarm Malicious calls which accounted for 85 incidents during this reporting period

Using our rating system, the average increase over a 5-year period has been determined as greater than 10% and subsequently we have designated this outcome as having a Red status.

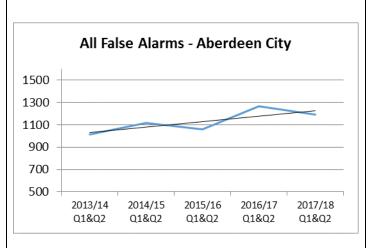
# **Situational Analysis:**

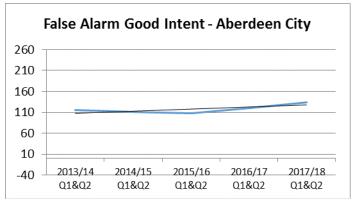
Not all of these types of calls are necessarily unwanted, for example, increasing ownership of domestic smoke alarms does occasionally correlate in a subsequent increase in incidents being deemed as 'false alarm - good intent'.

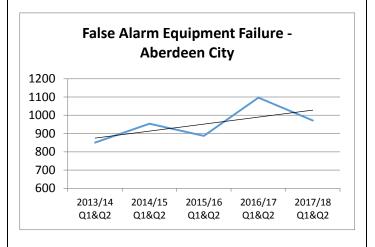
The Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) Policy and Procedure is now fully embedded within Aberdeen City and preparations are underway nationally to complete a further review.

We continue to engage with the responsible person at UFAS incidents to give advice on how to prevent further calls. Our Fire Safety Enforcement Officers who have enhanced knowledge of fire alarm systems engage with duty holders of premises which generate unacceptably high numbers of calls.

We are actively working with partners to address the rising number of malicious activations of alarm systems occurring within City premises. We are acutely aware of the impact these types of calls have for the service and local community.







# **Glossary of Terms**

Risk	Definition
Accidental Dwelling Fires	Accidental: includes fires where the cause was not known or unspecified.  Dwellings: buildings occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. Mobile homes are specifically included in the dwelling count.
Accidents and Near Misses	Accident: An unplanned uncontrolled occurrence that resulted in personal injury or property damage.  Near Miss: Any accident or incident that did not result in property and or equipment damage but had the potential to do so.
Acts of Violence on Firefighters	An incident where there was an attack on SFRS personnel travelling to/from or at the incident.  Any incident, in which an employee is abused, threatened or assaulted by a member of the public in circumstances arising out of the course of his/her employment.
Automatic Fire Alarms	A fire call was initiated by fire alarm; this includes any accidental alert.
Deliberate Dwelling Fires	Includes fires where deliberate ignition is merely suspected, and recorded by the SFRS as "doubtful".
Fire fatality	Fire fatalities include any death caused by the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire. Even if the casualty dies subsequently, any fatality whose cause is attributed to a fire is included.  There are also occasional cases where it transpires subsequently that fire was not the cause of death. For all of these reasons, fatalities data may therefore be subject to revision.

# **Glossary of Terms**

Risk	Definition
Fire Casualties	Within a dwelling house people requiring medical treatment beyond first aid given at the scene of the fire, and those sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor for a check-up or observation (whether or not they actually do).  People sent to hospital or advised to see a doctor as a precaution, having no obvious injury, is recorded as "precautionary check-ups".
Home Fire Safety Visits	The SFRS must have entered the householder premises to make a full home fire safety visit where during this visit or a follow up visit to the premises a smoke or heat alarm was installed or home fire safety advice was provided.
Other Building Fires	Non Domestic property including unoccupied, commercial and retail premises.
Secondary Fires	Outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involve casualties or rescues, property loss or if five or more appliances attend. They include fires in derelict buildings but not chimney fires.
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS)	A UFAS incident may be defined as "an event which has required an operational attendance by the fire and rescue service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system".  A UFAS incident will not have arisen from the occurrence of a genuine fire and as a result they can generally be divided into four categories:  • UFAS, in which a system has responded to:  A fire like phenomenon or environmental influence  Accidental damage  Inappropriate human action  • Equipment false alarms  • Malicious false alarms  • False alarms with good intent
Vehicle Fires	Uncontrolled burning involving a motor vehicle.