



Service Delivery Area – North

Aberdeen City Local Fire and Rescue Plan

Local Performance Report (April 2017 to March 2018)

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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 12 months of the reporting year from April 2017 to March 2018 inclusively.

Our current 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 12 months is one of a continuing reducing fire risk profile in Aberdeen over the long term.

We have noted a reduction in a number of our key priority areas most notably the reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires and overall Fire Casualties.

Whilst responses to, and attendance at Unwanted Fire Alarms Signals (UFAS) remain at a high level we will continue to focus on seeking to reduce this type of activity.

Sixteen new full time trainee firefighters joined their local stations in April 2017 following an intensive 14 week initial training course.

Our local firefighters continue to ensure they are effective, efficient and safe when carrying out their duties at emergency incidents and this is internally audited via our operational assurance processes.

We are progressing very well in implementing enhanced response capability within specialist skill areas at Altens Fire Station and Central Fire Station. Initial training for our planned Rope Rescue Team based at Altens Fire Station is scheduled to be completed in May 2018. Swift water rescue training courses for staff based at Central Fire Station have been completed and we are in the final stages of preparation prior to this resource being available for deployment.

Over the last 12 months alongside our local Community Planning Partners we have continued to actively participate in the development of the City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan and are currently fully involved in community engagement related to locality planning.

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 provides 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 dependency and lifestyle 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
- Health and Safety
- 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 1st 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 be called upon to deal with 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, Police Scotland, Special Operations Response Team, 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.

Health and Safety – We continue to see a positive increase in the number of reported near-misses and view this as a positive trend and indicative of a strong H&S culture. This reporting allows us to proactively respond to an event that didn't cause harm and consider any additional measures to avoid an actual H&S event. Against a backdrop of responding to a total of 4001 operational calls over the 12 month period accidents resulting in injuries to operational staff remain extremely low. Four such incidents occurred during the 12 month period. In these cases we provide full support to the individuals and work alongside Health and safety colleagues to ensure investigation and remedial actions are carried out as quickly as possible. We are pleased to report that none of the injuries sustained were of a serious or life changing nature.

One "Act of violence" affecting operational personnel was recorded during the reporting period. This took the form of verbal abuse from a member of the public during an incident. Police Scotland attended and apprehended the perpetrator.

Local Managers review health safety incidents on a daily basis as a means to identify trends and opportunities for reducing risk. With a local action plan aiming to reduce accidents involving low speed vehicle manoeuvring that, although reducing in numbers over the reporting period, continues to be a desired area of improvement.

Availability of Operational Information – Operational crews are 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 engines 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. A new national approach to Operational intelligence is being rolled out across the country with new tablet devices provided to all appliances which will allow access to a wide array of information at the incident ground.

Appliances, Equipment and Specialist Resources –Central fire station staff are undertaking training with a new aerial rescue platform (ALP). This new appliance will be stationed at central fire station to provide a replacement for the current high reach aerial appliance. This station has also taken delivery of new water rescue equipment and resources including a trailer mounted rescue boat with a dedicated response vehicle. This will be mobilised to water rescue incidents such as flooding.

The initial training and development for the introduction of a Rope Rescue resource which will be based at Altens Fire Station has been completed at Portlethen Training Centre. A programme of continuation station based training will be carried out over the next 12 months in addition to enhanced training for Six members of staff that will becoming rope rescue supervisors.

The installation of a new training block North Anderson Drive fire station is nearing completion. This block will allow firefighters from across the City to train in a variety of techniques from traditional firefighting to rope rescue and represents a significant investment by the SFRS into the maintenance of skills for firefighters in the local area.

An event to formally open the new facility is being planned and will be publicised in due course.

New firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is being rolled out across the country, and the personnel in Aberdeen City are scheduled to receive their PPE in April/May 2018. This new PPE is another significant investment by the SFRS and provides the very latest technology in PPE to the firefighters in Scotland, again underlining our commitment to Firefighter safety.

Wholetime resources based in Aberdeen continue to be well supported by our retained (RDS) colleagues based at Dyce Fire Station. The line manger appointed following a previous retirement continuous to support our retained staff based at Dyce. Managers are focused on maintaining staffing levels through the national recruitment programme to ensure the operational resilience of this resource. Retained staff by nature have primary employment out with the service and we rightly recognise the dedication and commitment of the personnel who provide this vital service.

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 were internally audited. The information gathered from these audits has been used to confirm good practice and implement improvement. The audit process is continuous and will begin again starting in spring 2018.

LPI 02 - Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires

LPI Assessment:

Over the reporting period, there has been a reduction in the overall number of Accidental Dwelling Fires. This has seen an overall fall of 59 incidents comparable to the previous year.

We have identified that a significant number (84%) of these fires did not spread beyond the item that was first ignited.

The notable reduction in incidents is welcome and the trend continues to be positive.

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

Situational Analysis:

Although the last 12 months has seen an encouraging reduction we would wish to highlight that the longer term trend in the numbers of Accidental Dwelling House fires also continues to indicate a steady overall reduction.

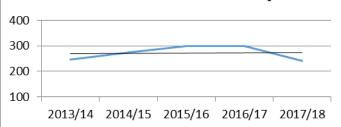
We continue to observe a trend in dwelling fires which have self-extinguished prior to the arrival of firefighters and requiring no action other than ensuring that the scene is safe, investigating the cause and providing reassurance to occupants.

During this reporting period 55% of dwelling fires had self-extinguished resulting in minimal impact for householders. Of the remaining incidents only 9% required the use of a fire hose to extinguish the fire.

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 continue to on engaging with key local partners to continue to increase referrals for our free HFSV service

All Accidental Dwelling Fires - Aberdeen City



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 currently averages 2 per year.

Sadly, over the past 12 months there has been 3 fire fatalities in Aberdeen City.

The number of overall fire casualties has reduced over the reporting year from 40 to 34 persons.

There has been a corresponding reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fire casualties from 28 to 18 persons.

Situational Analysis:

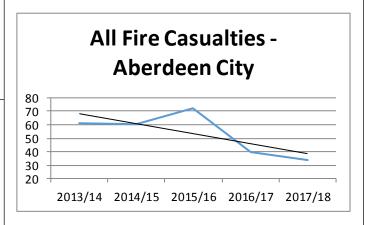
Analysis of casualty data indicated that a high proportion of casualties (47%) received minor injuries which were treated at the scene and did not require the person to go to hospital.

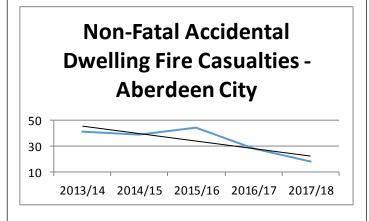
The Service will continue to aspire for zero fire deaths. Unfortunately, during the reporting period the number of fire casualties increased by 1 compared to the previous year. Case Studies are carried out involving key partners following all fatal fire deaths. These case studies are used to identify the circumstances surrounding the fire and highlight any actions that can be taken to prevent any re-occurrence.

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 are continuing to explore the potential wider contribution that local firefighters can make to support a safer home environment in Aberdeen.

We continue to work on establishing a joint collaboration with our local NHS colleagues where we have developed a referral process for healthcare professionals to use for individuals 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 over the last 12 months.

A total of 355 fires were started deliberately compared to 346 previous year.

The longer term trend continues to indicate a reduction i.e. an overall 15% reduction in these types of fires has occurred over the last 5 years.

The number of deliberately started dwelling house fires has continued to decrease. Over the last 12 months a total of 35 dwelling house fires were started deliberately compared to 50 incidents last year.

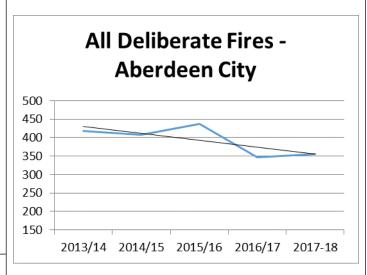
Situational Analysis:

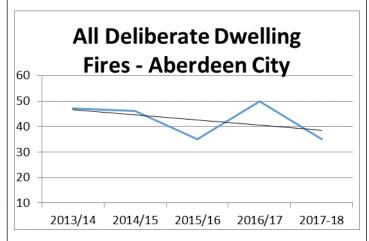
It is encouraging to note the longer trend of decreasing number of deliberate dwelling fires.

We believe this is reflective of our well established local partnership working especially with Aberdeen City Council and Police Scotland has contributed 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 e.g. our recent Autumn Thematic campaign focuses on deliberate fires involving wheelie bins and bonfires.





LPI 04 - Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting

Situational Analysis:

We have seen a reduction in the number of deliberate vehicle fires. The sharing of information with partners using forums such as the Community Safety Hub has enabled immediate action to be taken on any emerging increases in 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.

We have experienced an increase in the number of deliberate secondary fires over the reporting period. However, there continues to be a downward term in these types of incident

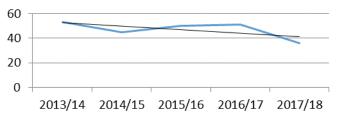
We will continually to monitor these incidents, sharing information with partners and continuing to engage with local communities.

Over the last 12 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.

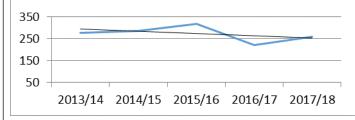
We have also carried out Community Safety Engagement with selected young persons who have become involved in deliberate fire setting in order to prevent escalation.

This includes engaging with young persons who are at risk of deliberate fire setting in identified neighbourhoods and taking part in diversionary activities that seek to minimise and avoid a wide range of ASB events.

All Deliberate Vehicle Fires - Aberdeen City



All Deliberate Secondary Fires - Aberdeen City



LPI 05 - Reduction of Fires in Non Domestic Property

LPI Assessment:

During the last 12 months we have seen a very modest 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 108 to 96 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.

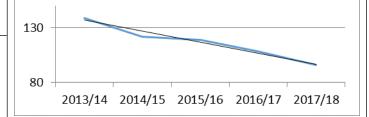
A partnership approach is taken by the Service to maintain focus on this incident type and we continue to work with our partners to ensure void properties are as 'secure' as possible to reduce the opportunity for wilful fireraising.

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.

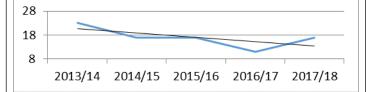
We also continue to engage with local businesses by offering goodwill re-assurance visits to neighbouring buildings adjoining or nearby to the building affected by the fire.

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

Non-Domestic Fires -Aberdeen City



All Deliberate Other Building Fires - Aberdeen City



LPI 06 - Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

LPI Assessment:

Over the last 12 months we have recorded slight reduction in the overall number of All False Alarms. Notably there has been a reduction of 123 calls due to Equipment Failure.

We have however recorded an increase in the number of False Alarm Malicious calls in the 12 months of this reporting year. 25% of these calls originated from the same premises. Measures have been taken to reduce these calls and we continue to work with the occupiers.

Using our rating system, the average increase over a 5-year period has been determined as over 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.

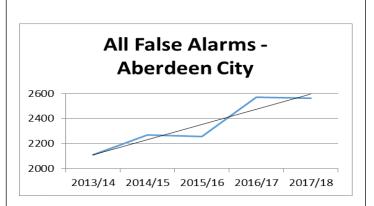
A trial is currently underway which will reduce the number of fire appliances mobilised to nonsleeping/low risk premises which are generating a proportionally high number of UFAS calls.

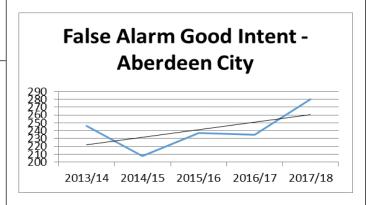
We continue to engage with the responsible person at UFAS incidents to give advice how to prevent further calls.

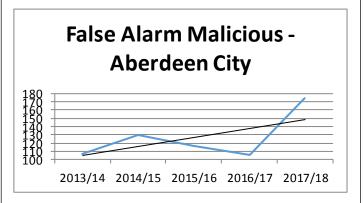
Additionally our Fire Safety Enforcement (FSE) Officers who have enhanced knowledge of fire alarm systems engage with duty holders of premises which generate unacceptably high numbers of calls.

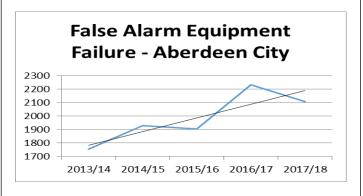
Engagement with duty holders continues to be positive and has resulted in a greater awareness of their responsibility for the management of automatic fire alarm systems within their premises.

Nevertheless we accept that there has been an overall rise in UFAS calls and we will continue to make efforts to reduce UFAS calls over the next 6 months and beyond.









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".
Fatalities Dwelling Fires	Fire fatalities include any fatal casualty which is the direct or indirect result of injuries caused by a fire incident. Even if the fatal 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.