



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Aberdeen City LSO Area

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT – ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES

1 Recommendations

The Aberdeen Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to the reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 A key priority within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen is Reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Aberdeen Public Protection Committee information on this priority in relation to our performance on the reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires and how we intend to deliver against this priority in the future.
- 2.3 The Scottish Fire & Rescue Service has a statutory duty to promote fire safety, and in particular provide information about the steps that can be taken to prevent fire.
- 2.4 As a result of our community activities by local Fire Fighters and Community Action Team there has been a downward trend in the number of fires in the home.



Year-To-Date Totals with Three-Year Average Trend Comparisons

Figures nationally show that Accidental Dwelling Fires have reduced by 7% compared with figures over the last three years. Aberdeen City has seen a positive reduction of 19% over the same period of time.

In addition to this the overall severity of fires is down as can be seen in the table below. The severity of fires can be directly linked to Smoke alarm ownership, as the sooner the fire is detected the quicker intervention can be carried out therefore directly affecting the severity.

Aberdeen City Local Authority Area ADF Totals by Severity Category

Year-To-Date Totals

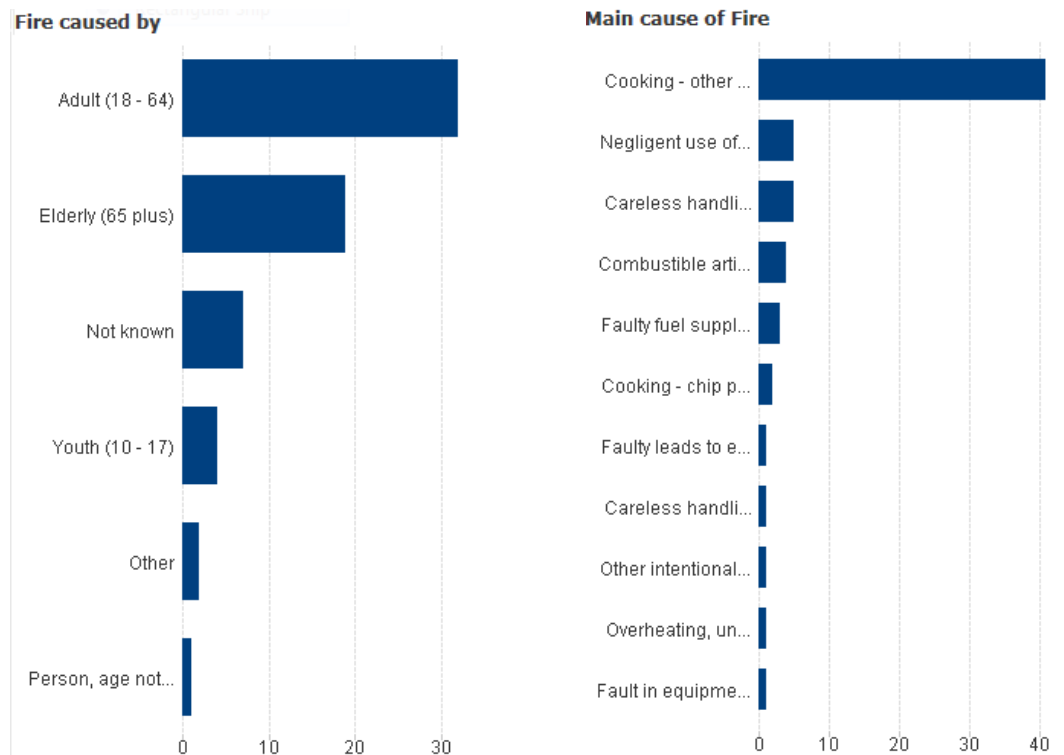
PI	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Prev 3Yr-Ave	Percent Diff	Trend
ADF Low Severity	39	41	35	32	38	-16	▼
ADF Medium Severity	44	22	34	27	33	-18	▼
ADF High Severity	2	3	2	1	2	-50	—
Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)	85	66	71	60	74	-19	▼

3 Local Plan & Priorities

- 3.1 Local activities are guided by our local Fire & Rescue Plan for Aberdeen City which links in with Aberdeen City's Local Outcome Improvement Plan.
"Aberdeen a place where all people can prosper"
- 3.2 Our plan details our priorities and reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires sits with our priority for 'Domestic Safety and Wellbeing'.
- 3.3 Domestic Safety and Wellbeing focuses on reducing unintentional harm in the home environment which includes accidental dwelling fires. In addition to the personal trauma from a fire in the home there is an impact for a wide range of public services.
- 3.4 Working with our partners in Aberdeen we have identified vulnerable groups and individuals at risk of harm. By working with our partners and sharing information we reduced risks in the community by direct intervention or indirectly through partner liaison.
- 3.5 Our aim is to reduce the likelihood of unintentional harm by improving safety in the home and preventing 'Accidental Dwelling Fires'.

4 Targeted Approach

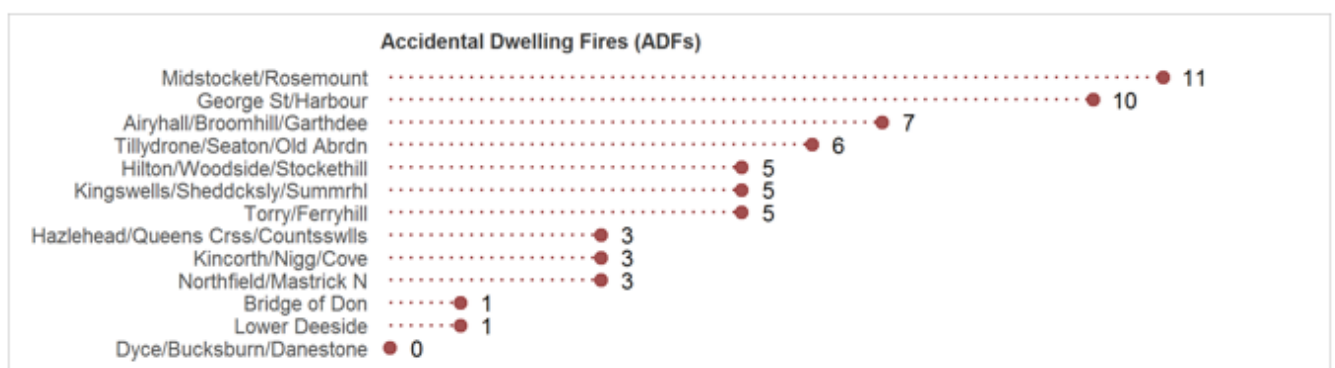
- 4.1 The promotion and delivery of free 'Home Fire Safety Visits' will remain a key focus for SFRS across Aberdeen
- 4.2 Through partnership working with our community partners we will apply a 'Targeted Approach' by prioritising those members of our community who are most at risk from fire or harm in the home.



2018-19 Q1 analysis for 'accidental dwelling fires'

Analysis shows us trends in our communities that guide our activities. By focusing our engagement activities to the right people and in the right areas of our community we can have a positive impact on reducing 'accidental dwelling fires'.

Accidental Dwelling Fires, Non-Domestic Fires and Secondary Fires



5 Partners & Our Activities

5.1 We undertake partnership working at all levels which allows us to streamline the sharing of resources, expertise, information and data. This allows a more co-ordinated and considered service for the end user, reduced duplication and a reduction in associated costs.

5.2 We play an active part on local groups delivering our fire safety message and referral process for 'Free Home Fire Safety Visits' to the partner's service users via:

- Alcohol and Drug Partnership
 - Adult Protection Committee
 - NHS Fire Safety Management
 - Void Property Group
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- Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership:
Lalo produces daily fire stats and attends the Hub with other agencies to report incidents of note. Any tasks generated for the fire service are completed by the Community Action Team
 - Case Conferences / Professional Meetings:
SFRS are invited by mental health, social work, housing and drug & alcohol agencies to case conferences that usually involve adult protection cases. This would relate to items like hoarding, mental health, substance misuse and wilful fire setting.
 - Fire setter intervention:
Community Action Team members are trained as Fire Setter Advisors. Intervention work is undertaken following referral from one of our community partners.
 - Fresher's – new student move-ins:
The Community Action Team and operational crews engage with students at Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University with fire safety information and leaflets. This is an annual event.
 - Job Centre Engagement:
The Community Action Team attend the Job Centre and offer those seeking employment and support.
 - Cook Safe and Carry On Cooking:
Targeted at the over 60's and particularly dementia sufferers the initiative takes place in sheltered accommodation blocks across Aberdeen. Practical demonstrations are undertaken on preparing food and cooking food using a microwave oven. Hazards in the kitchen, including cooking (over heating food) and electrical appliances are discussed along with methods of controlling the risks. Issues particular to dementia sufferers are also included. A free HFSV is offered to the attendees at the end of the visit.

- Syrian Refugees engagement:
Fire Safety in the home talks and complete a HFSV – working closely with interpreters and a Support Worker (Workers Education Association Scotland) in conjunction with Aberdeen City Council (ACC).
- VOID Property Group:
Engaging with VOID property group members regarding unsecure derelict buildings within the City.
- General Fire Safety in the home talks / engagement sessions:
Foster Carers Group through Integrated Child and Family Services (ACC)
North East Sensory Services (NESS)
Macular Society
Church Groups
Care Homes – staff & residents
Criminal Justice Woman’s Group
Day patients and their carers who are receiving mobility treatment (City Hospital)
- Bon Accord Care Engagement / pilot:
Pilot the new support/care plans for carers – still in early stages.
Bon Accord staff fire safety awareness training due to start in Sept/Oct/Nov 2018.
Pilot to commence end of year in targeted areas of City.
- Fire Related Anti-Social Behaviour (FRASB) Talks / Initiatives:
Targeted talks aimed at schools who have had issues with fire setting and general ASB within their school or area.
Hazlehead, Cults and Kincorth Academies previously given talks.
Recent communication with School Based Police Officer (SBO) regarding FRASB talks to pupils at St Machar Academy following fire raising within school.
Recent Multi-agency engagement (SFRRS, Police, ACC Environmental Services) undertaken in Torry following increase in wilful fires (Community Hub Task generated – 4 youths charged). ACC agreed to uplift waste/rubbish around wheelie bins and streets of concern every Friday afternoon. On the first weekend trialled there were ‘zero’ wilful fires reported in Torry, with a continual downward trend since.

6 Outcomes

- 6.1 Improved support for the safety and wellbeing of our communities
- 6.2 Reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires
- 6.3 Reduction in the number of casualties resulting from accidental dwelling fires
- 6.4 Reduction in social and economic costs