

## REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 18<sup>th</sup> FEBURARY 2021

### SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, Aberdeenshire Year to Date Performance Report April – September 2020

#### 1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 *The main purpose of this report is to advise members how the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service is performing against key performance measures and associated targets, as set out in the Aberdeenshire Fire and Rescue Plan 2017-20 approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.*

#### 2 Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 2.1 *Acknowledge and discuss the attached performance report relating to year to date performance for 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30 September 2020 for the Aberdeenshire area of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.***

#### 3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 The Police and Fire (Reform) Scotland Act 2012 places a duty on the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) to prepare a local fire and rescue plan for the local authority area. This can be summarised as follows:

- The SFRS must prepare a local fire and rescue plan for each local authority area.
  - The SFRS must submit a local fire and rescue plan for approval to the local authority for the area to which the plan relates.
  - The SFRS must give to a local authority such information or reports relating to the carrying out of the Service's functions in the local authority's area as the authority may reasonably request.
  - The Local Senior Officer for each local authority area for the purpose of carrying out on behalf of the Service delegated functions including:
    - i. the preparation and review of the local fire and rescue plan
    - ii. the provision of information to the local authority
    - iii. the receiving of feedback from the local authority
    - iv. The SFRS's functions relating to its duty to participate in Community Planning.
  - monitor and provide feedback to SFRS on the manner in which it carries out its functions;
  - Provide feedback by reference to any local fire and rescue plan in force in its area.
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## 4 Discussion

- 4.1 This report provides an overview of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Services performance in the Aberdeenshire area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The report provides the opportunity for members to maintain scrutiny of significant fire and rescue activities, in order to achieve good outcomes for the residents of Aberdeenshire.

## 5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 5.1 The Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan supports the Local Authorities priorities with a key focus on the Health and Wellbeing of people throughout Aberdeenshire, providing early intervention and education in relation to improving community safety outcomes and protecting our environment and economy through both prevention and protection measures and operational response.

<b><i>Pillar</i></b>	<b><i>Priority</i></b>
<i>Our People</i>	<i>Education Health &amp; Wellbeing</i>
<i>Our Environment</i>	<i>Infrastructure Resilient Communities</i>
<i>Our Economy</i>	<i>Economy &amp; Enterprise Estate Modernisation</i>

- 5.2 The Aberdeenshire Local Fire and Rescue Plan also supports other key strategic priorities including:

- Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.
- Locality Plans
- Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Children’s Services Plan

- 5.3 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation is agreed.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>
Financial		<b>X</b>	
Staffing		<b>X</b>	
Equalities	[EIA attached as Appendix xx]	<b>X</b>	
Fairer Scotland Duty	[EIA attached as Appendix xx]	<b>X</b>	
Town Centre First	[TCFP impact assessment attached as Appendix xx]	<b>X</b>	
Sustainability		<b>X</b>	

Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	
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- 5.4 An equality impact assessment is not required because the reason for this report is to advise members on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Aberdeenshire and it does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics.

## 6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 The Committee is able to consider/comment on this item in terms of Section D.1.1 of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to matters concerning the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service.

### Ritchie Johnson, Director of Business Services

Report prepared by David Meldrum, Group Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**List of Appendices** – Appendix 1 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Aberdeenshire Year to Date Performance Report 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.



## YEAR TO DATE MONITORING REPORT

*Covering the activities and performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2017-2020*



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

**Year to Date 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

**Aberdeenshire**  
COUNCIL



## **ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT**

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report 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 differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the SFRS. This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the year-to-date performance monitoring report for the SFR's, this report covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The report sets out the performance and activities in support of the six priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2017-2020, namely:

- Priority 1 – Unintentional Harm and Home Safety
- Priority 2 – Non-Fire Emergencies
- Priority 3 – Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 4 – Non- Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 5 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 6 – Emergency Response and Community Resilience

As well as supporting the six priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire, this monitoring report shows how SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership as set out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan for Aberdeenshire.

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in the Aberdeenshire area, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.




The Communities Committee agreed the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2017-2020 on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.















## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of year to date performance against headline indicators and annual targets. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

### Year-to-Date Legend

	Below headline target
	Less than 10% above headline target
	More than 10% above headline target

Key Performance Indicator	April to September				RAG STATUS
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	
 All Accidental Dwelling Fires	72	78	82	69	
 All Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties & (Fatalities)	11 (0)	7 (0)	13 (1)	7 (0)	
 Special Service All	207	197	271	212	
 All Deliberate Fires	118	155	149	148	
 Non- Domestic Fires	48	55	38	49	
 UFAS	333	379	337	278	

## **PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

Of the 6 Priority areas, the following performance should be noted for the year to date 2020/21:

### **Accidental Dwelling Fires and Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties**

The statistics against the key performance indicators show that we are at a four-year low for Accidental Dwelling Fires. In relation to Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties we are below the three-year rolling average and it is pleasing to note that there have been no Accidental Dwelling Fire Fatalities during this period.

### **Special Service All**

Special Service Calls have reduced compared to the three-year average, the categories of Special Service with the highest number of calls was RTC's and Effecting Entry with crews attending 56 and 38 respectively during this reporting period.

Compared to the 3-year rolling average RTC's have reduced considerably and are at a four-year low, this is largely due to fewer vehicle journeys as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

### **Deliberate Fires**

Deliberate Fires have increased slightly compared to the three-year rolling average with deliberate secondary fires (refuse / grassland / scrub) contributing to the bulk of the calls (103 out of 148).

### **Non- Domestic Fires**

Non- Domestic Fires have increased slightly when compared with the three-year rolling average with 49 incidents covering a variety of premise types.

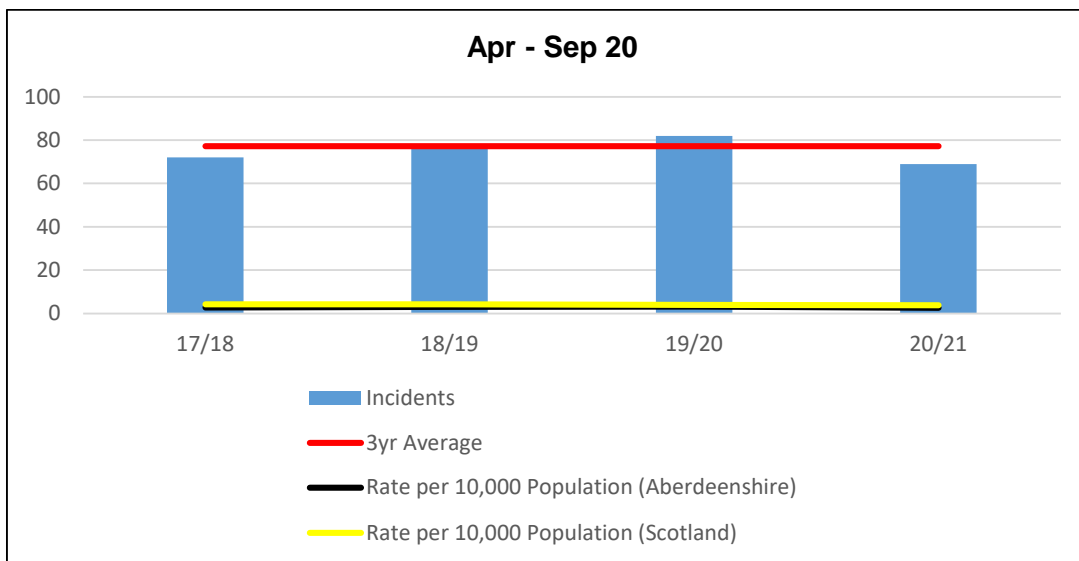
We continue to work with owners and occupiers through our Fire Safety Enforcement Programme and Post Fire Audits to reduce the number of Non-Domestic Fires.

### **False Alarm – UFAS**

UFAS incidents have decreased when compared to the three-year rolling average and are at a four-year low.

**PRIORITY 1 – UNINTENTIONAL HARM & HOME SAFETY**

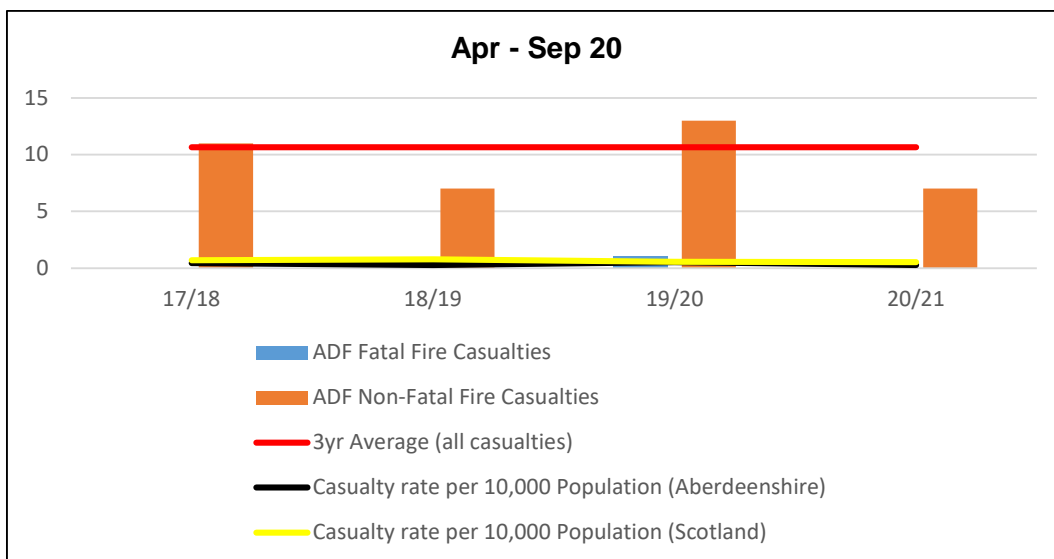
**Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)**



**Table 1: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>ADF's</b>	72	78	82	69	<b>Green</b>

**ADF Fatal Casualties & ADF Non-Fatal Casualties**



**Table 2: Year to Date (April to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>ADF Fatal Casualties</b>	0	0	1	0	<b>Green</b>
<b>ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</b>	11	7	13	7	<b>Green</b>

### **Indicator Description**

The largest single type of primary fire in Aberdeenshire is accidental fires in the home and their prevention is a key focus of the Service's community safety activity.

Our aim is to reduce the rate of ADF's by keeping these incidents below the three-year average for 2020/21.

The reduction of fire casualties is clearly linked to our priority "Unintentional Harm and Home Safety". The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of our preventative and early intervention activities carried out by SFRS in the Aberdeenshire area. Significant contributory factors associated with the number of fire casualties and fatalities include, lifestyle, independent living strategies, smoking, consumption of alcohol and prescribed and non-prescribed drugs, Individual capacity and vulnerability, and ageing demographics.

#### ADF Fatal Casualties

This indicator counts those people for whom fire has been clearly identified as the cause of death, even if they die some-time after the actual fire. Those who die at, or after, the fire but where fire is **not** identified as the cause of death are not included in these figures.

Our aim is to have **Zero ADF Fatal Casualties**, in Aberdeenshire

#### ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

This Indicator counts all types of non-fatal fire injury in the home, including precautionary checks.

Our aim is to reduce the risk of injury from fire in the home by keeping fire injuries below the three-year average.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- Promoting and undertaking Home Safety Visits to those deemed most vulnerable and at risk from fire and/or harm.
- Working with our partners in Aberdeenshire to share information where risks within the home have been identified and to provide solutions to reduce risk and protect those from harm.
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified.

### Performance Management

Year to date there have been 69 ADF's which is a four-year low for the area. Taken that there has been an increase in the number of people at home for longer periods of time due to the COVID-19 restrictions this is a positive indicator that Home Fire Safety messages are effective and we will continue working on these to develop them further for the future.

It is pleasing to note that there have been no ADF Fatal Casualties during this period.

There have been 7 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties year to date, which has remained static compared to the three-year rolling average.

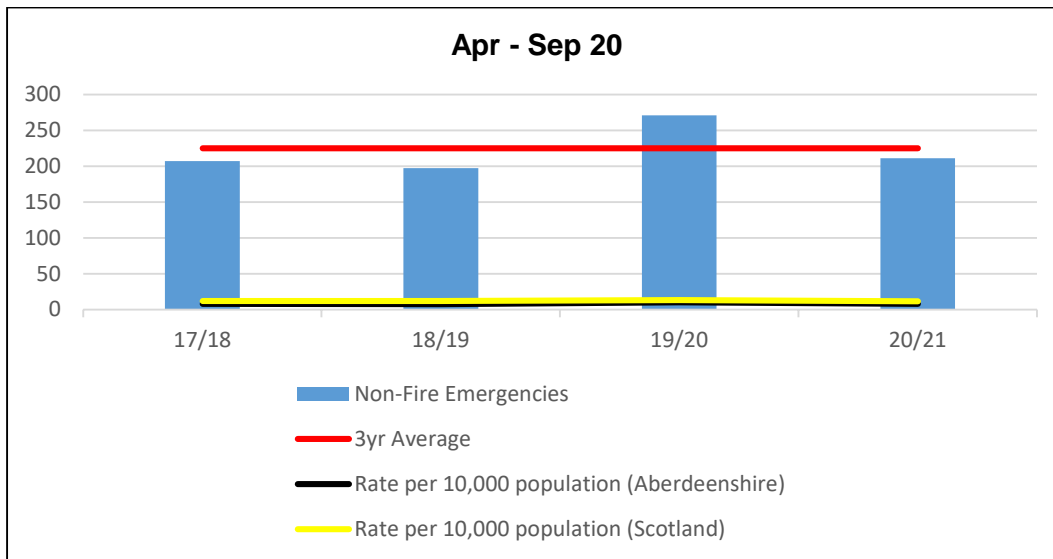
Home Fire Safety Visits remain a key focus in our community safety activity to reduce accidental dwelling fires and casualties resulting from these. We continue to explore and develop partnerships throughout the area to identify those most vulnerable and/or at risk from fire and/or harm in the home. Through our contribution to the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership and the Community Planning Partnership collectively we have raised awareness of our referral process and promote a better understanding of fire risk in the home. The figures presented below show the number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) delivered year-to-date compared to the same period in 2019/20:

	2019 / 20	2020 / 21
High	365	113
Medium	298	26
Low	328	14
Total (Target)	991	153

The delivery of HFSV's to date has reduced significantly compared to the same period for last year and this is down to restrictions that were put in place surrounding Covid-19. The SFRS focus remains on the delivery of high risk and very high risk HFSV's during the ongoing pandemic, and these are being carried out by both our Community Action Team as well as operational front-line-staff. We continue to monitor emerging risk and will adjust our delivery strategy in line with Scottish Government guidance, to protect both the public and our staff.

## PRIORITY 2 – NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES

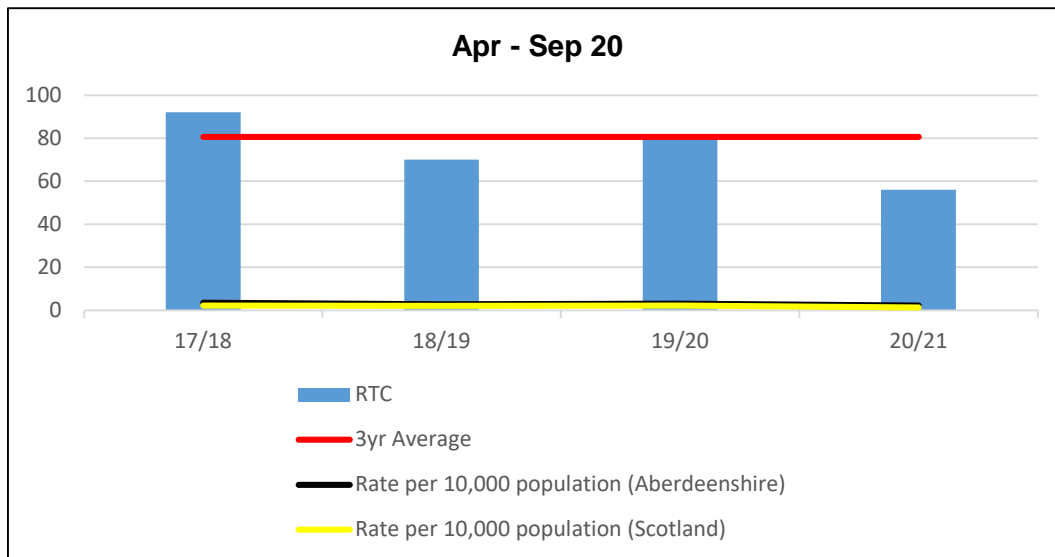
### NON-FIRE EMERGENCIES



**Table 3: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>Non-Fire Emergencies</b>	207	197	271	<b>212</b>	<b>Green</b>

### Road Traffic Collisions



**Table 4: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>Road Traffic Collisions</b>	92	70	80	<b>56</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Fatal RTC Casualties</b>	4	1	4	<b>2</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>Non-Fatal RTC Casualties</b>	72	79	49	<b>29</b>	<b>Green</b>

**Indicator Description:**

A core part of SFRS activity locally is responding to Non-Fire Emergencies such as road traffic collisions (RTCs), other rescue situations and flooding. Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the most modern equipment for extracting people in rescue situations and administering first aid to casualties. As well as our operational response we are actively involved in preventing accidents from occurring through our work with the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Hub and Public Protection Partnership.

**We will achieve it by:**

- Continuing to contribute to Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership initiatives such as Crash Live and Safe Drive Stay Alive.
- Supporting the priorities of the North East of Scotland Road Casualty Reduction Strategy.
- Contributing to the development of local flood action plans and supporting local community initiatives.
- Contributing to the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership.
- The delivery of a co-response model to medical emergencies in key evidence based locations.
- Staff development and allocation to meet local and national need.

### **Performance Management:**

When compared against the three-year rolling average calls to Non-Fire Emergencies have decreased from 225 to 212 incidents (6% decrease).

The most common form of Non-Fire Emergencies attended by the service are Road Traffic Collisions, as shown in table 4 indicators for RTC's are all showing a positive direction of travel when compared against the three-year rolling average with particularly good progress being made against the number of RTC's (four-year low) and the number of Non-Fatal RTC Casualties which are also at a four-year low.

The four other most common types of Non-Fire Emergencies that occurred over this period were Effecting Entry (38), Animal Rescues (27), Assisting other agencies (21) and Flooding (19).

We continue working with partners through the Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships to reduce the number of casualties on our roads as this is the area where most of our Non-Fire Emergencies activity is. In addition, we are working with partner agencies to share knowledge and experience when dealing with Non-Fire Emergencies.

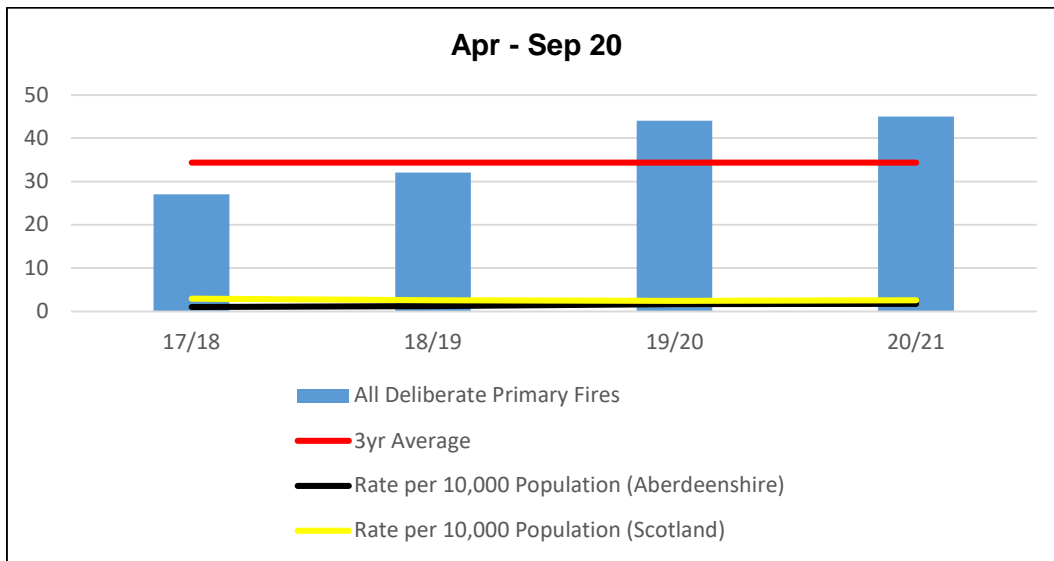
Prevention is a key role of the SFRS locally and this extends to our expansion in the role of reducing unintentional harm and the identification of a wide range of risks. We continue to promote road safety through our local plans and our involvement with Road Safety Groups at both a Strategic and Operational level, unfortunately due to Covid-19 restrictions this year's Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative had to be cancelled and we're currently working with colleagues in Community Safety and Education to deliver an alternative initiative.

Of particular note during the reporting period was during August 2020 (starting 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2020). This had been a particularly challenging time that started with severe weather causing many weather related incidents across Aberdeenshire. During this time we attended multiple incidents and performed a number of rescues and offered significant support to members of our communities in arduous conditions. Unfortunately, as we were returning to a reduced level of activity we were then required to respond and deal with the tragic rail incident near Stonehaven. This was a significant incident that required extensive resources from SFRS, all other emergency responders and key partners over a protracted period.



## PRIORITY 3 – DELIBERATE FIRES

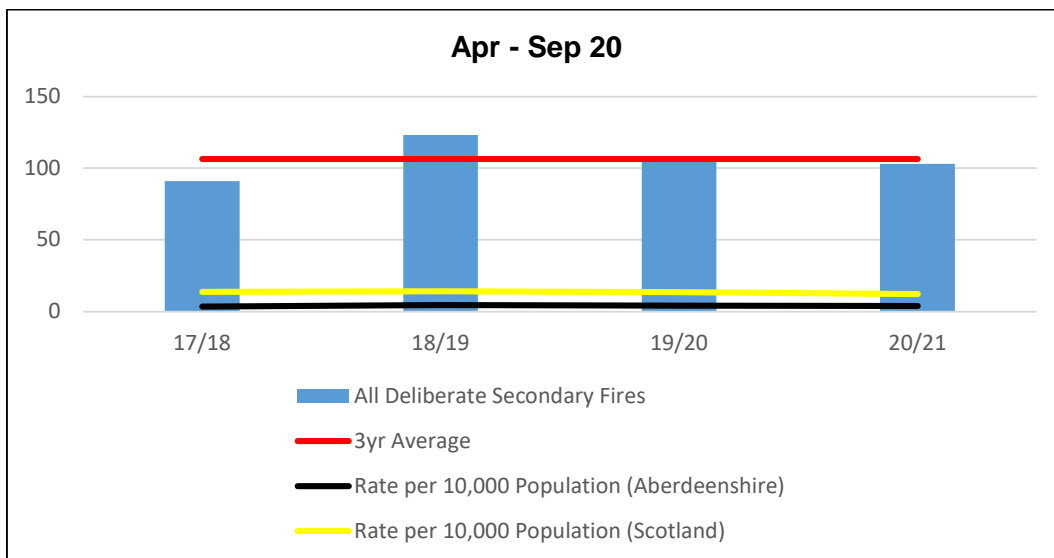
### DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES



**Table 5: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>Deliberate Primary Fires</b>	27	32	44	45	<b>RED</b>

### Deliberate Secondary Fires



**Table 6: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>Deliberate Secondary Fires</b>	91	123	105	103	<b>Green</b>

### **Indicator Description**

Deliberate fire setting accounts for a significant number of operational incidents within Aberdeenshire and takes various forms. Whilst a small proportion involves occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as secondary fires (grass, bushes, refuse etc.). In Aberdeenshire evidence reflects that deliberate fires can be closely linked with anti-social behavior. Youth engagement has been identified as an opportunity for the SFRS to become more proactive in and work is in progress to further develop youth engagement activities such as Fire-Setters Intervention Programme, Fire Skills and a Youth Volunteer Scheme.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- Delivery of thematic and multi-agency action plans tailored to meet local need.
- Continuing to utilise recognised SFRS Firesetters and diversionary programmes.
- Increasing community fire safety education in targeted areas where the majority of deliberate fires occur.
- Continuing to work with our partners to develop joint risk reduction strategies to further mitigate the impact of deliberate fires and the economic and social cost to the community.

### **Performance Management**

Results for this indicator show that we are above the three-year rolling average for deliberate primary fires and below the three-year rolling average for deliberate secondary fires.

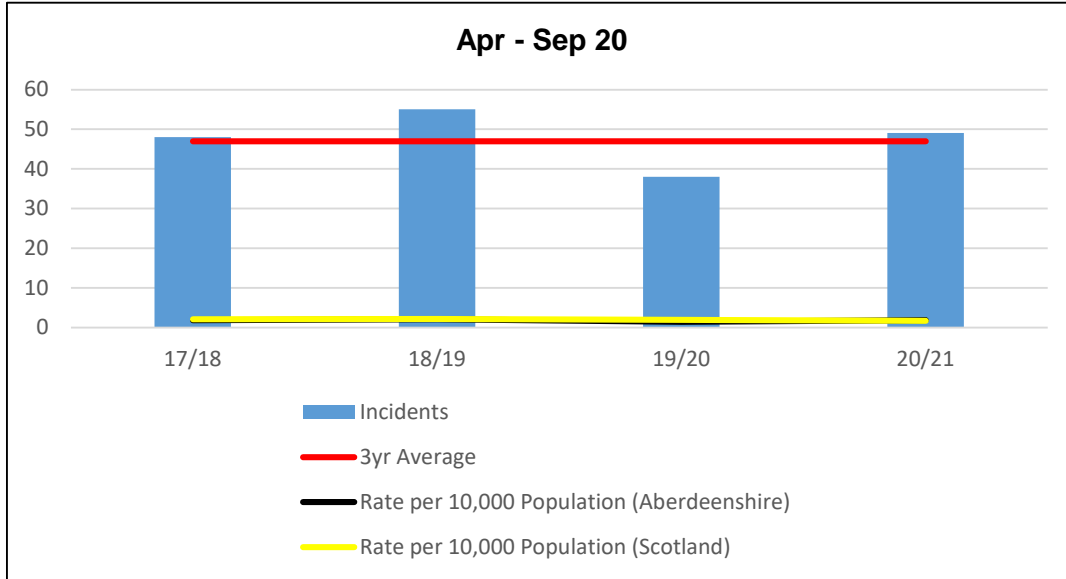
During this reporting period 103 of the 148 (70%) of deliberate fires that occurred were secondary fires, these are fires involving grassland and refuse. The remaining 45 fires were primary fires and these included 15 fires involving woodland and crops, 6 fires at HMP Grampian, 3 caravan fires and 2 Dwelling House Fires.

Partnership working is key to reducing Deliberate Fires and we continue to work with partners through the Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships to reduce the number of deliberate fires in the area.

Youth engagement remains a priority in our efforts to reduce deliberate firesetting, due to Covid-19 restrictions during this period our youth engagement activity has been restricted to social and traditional media, however we look forward to re-energising and further developing our youth engagement when restrictions are lifted.

**PRIORITY 4 – NON-DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY**

**NON-DOMESTIC FIRES**



**Table 7: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
<b>Non-Domestic Fires</b>	48	55	38	<b>49</b>	<b>Amber</b>

### **Indicator Description**

This priority concentrates on the reduction of fires occurring within buildings that are non-domestic premises.

Again working in partnership is key to reducing this type of incident and we work with building occupiers and owners through our Legislative Fire Safety Enforcement Officers to reduce fires in non-domestic properties. Every fire that occurs in a relevant premise is followed up by a post-fire audit. These audits are carried out by our dedicated fire safety enforcement team.

### **We will achieve it by:**

- Continuing the fire safety audit programme for high risk premises.
- Engaging with the business community to highlight their responsibilities for compliance with fire legislation.
- Identifying trends in building types and conducting thematic fire safety audits

### **Performance Management**

In relation to this priority we have seen a small increase in the number of incidents from 47 to 49 (4% increase) when compared with the three-year rolling average.

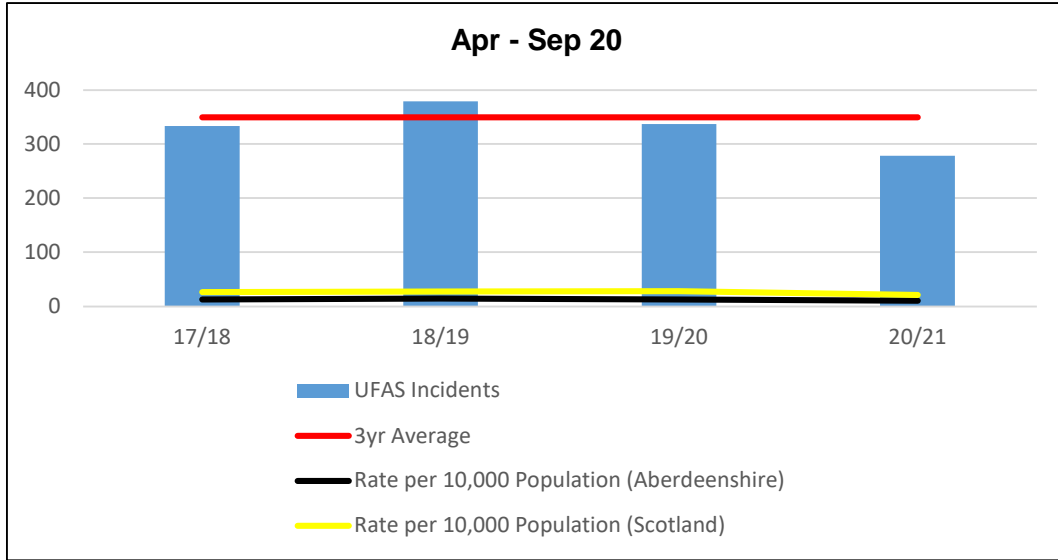
Of the 49 incidents that occurred 8 were in a manufacturing mill, 6 at HMP Grampian, 5 Garden Sheds, 3 Private Garages and 3 in Sheltered Housing Accommodation. The remaining incidents were isolated incidents over a wide range of premises type.

Out of the 49 incidents 17 of them required no firefighting action other than removing the item from the heat source and providing safety advice.

Our dedicated Fire Safety Enforcement Officers continue to audit relevant premises that fall within the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to ensure compliance with their statutory responsibilities. These officers engage with duty holders of relevant premises and provide advice and guidance on how to prevent both accidental and deliberate fires in non-domestic buildings.

**PRIORITY 5 – UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS**

**Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals**



**Table 8: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance**

	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	YTD
<b>Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</b>	333	379	337	<b>278</b>	<b>Green</b>

### Indicator Description

Automatic Fire alarms (AFA) are fundamental to providing early warning from fire, giving people the chance to evacuate safely. However, to be effective, they must be properly installed and maintained, and a good fire safety management regime must be in place by the duty holder, so they do not activate when there is no fire.

Every Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) from an AFA has an impact in terms of unnecessary blue light journeys, redirecting SFRS resources away from other activities such as community safety work and causing considerable disruption to businesses.

Our aim is to improve fire safety management and awareness, by reducing the number of attendances to unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) from automatic systems in non-domestic buildings during 2019/20.

### We will achieve it by

- Identifying premises with high UFAS activity levels to determine if they comply with the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and have appropriate fire safety management procedures in place
- Engaging with owners and occupiers to provide necessary support, advice and guidance for developing suitable action plans for UFAS reduction.
- Robust call management and implementation of service policy for UFAS reduction.
- Educating our frontline emergency response staff to identify problems, support responsible persons and provide feedback to our fire safety enforcement department.

### Performance Management

In relation to this priority we have seen a decrease from 350 to 278 (21% decrease) in the number of incidents compared to the three-year rolling average. This is a four-year low for this incident type and we will continue working to reduce this further.

The table below lists the top five property types for UFAS call calls during April to September.

Property Type	No. of UFAS
Nursing / Care Homes	28
Offices	24
Hotels	17
Hospital	15
Food and Drink Processing	15

Our operational crews continue to investigate the cause of every UFAS incident and provide advice and guidance on each and every occasion.

Fire safety enforcement officers are monitoring premises which are approaching the prescribed intervention stages within our UFAS reduction policy with the aim of reducing UFAS calls before they reach these stages. In addition, an appliance reduction matrix has been developed which will reduce the number of appliances mobilised on “blue light journeys” to low risk non-sleeping risk premises.

## PRIORITY 6 – EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### Description

The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities and to make certain that they receive the best possible service. It is essential that our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond to incidents which, by their very nature, can be varied in both type and complexity.

The SFRS has a duty to prepare for and respond to major emergencies. The scope of such preparations may include responding to adverse weather events, natural disasters, pandemics, chemical incidents or major transport incidents. The threat of terrorism also compels the SFRS to ensure it can respond alongside other partner agencies should such an event occur.

It is essential that we have enough staff with the right skills in the right place at the right time to deliver our services when communities need them.

### We will achieve it by

- Ensuring our staff are developed and equipment is fit for purpose to meet our current and future risk profile.
- Ensuring all known local risk information is obtained, communicated and tested.
- Working locally with partner organisations to ensure effective emergency response plans are developed for identified local risks.

### Activity

During this period we developed policies and procedures to ensure that our staff remained safe and available to respond to emergencies during the Covid-19 pandemic. Throughout this period availability of staff and appliances remained good and appropriate contingency measures were established for resilience.

We continued to delivered our training programme to operational firefighter's with a focus on the core skills of Incident Command, Extrication, Compartment Fire Behaviour Training, Knots and Lines, HAZMAT and Driving, as well as ensuring training/testing preparedness to deal with specific risks according to each station profile.

We continue our work with partners in the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership to ensure a co-ordinated response both specifically to the Covid-19 pandemic and wider community resilience throughout Aberdeenshire. During this period we responded to the tragic rail incident just south of Stonehaven and worked with partners in both the response and recovery phases of the incident.

In relation to Covid-19 as well as working with partners on the LRP Sub-group we contributed to the work of the Grampian Humanitarian Assistance Hub to support communities throughout Aberdeenshire.