

REPORT TO COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 9th December 2021

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE, ABERDEENSHIRE PERFORMANCE REPORT 1ST APRIL 2021 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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 2021-24 approved at the meeting of the Communities Committee on 18th February 2021.*

2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 ***Acknowledge and discuss the attached performance report relating to performance from 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021 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.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 This report provides an overview of the Scottish Fire & Rescue Services performance in the Aberdeenshire area for the period 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021. The report provides the opportunity for members to maintain scrutiny of significant fire and rescue activities, 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.

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

- 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.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		x	
Staffing		x	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	[IIA attached as Appendix xx]	x	

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing	[IIA attached as Appendix xx]	x	
Climate Change and Sustainability	[IIA attached as Appendix xx]	x	
Health and Wellbeing	[IIA attached as Appendix xx]	x	
Town Centre First	[IIA attached as Appendix xx]	x	

5.4 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. The purpose of this report is to advise members of on the performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in Aberdeenshire and it does not have a differential impact.

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
12th November 2021

List of Appendices – Appendix 1 - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Aberdeenshire Performance Report 1st April 2021 – 30th September 2021.



YEAR TO DATE MONITORING REPORT

Covering the activities and performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2021-2024



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Year to Date 1st April – 30th September 2021

**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 1st April – 30th September 2021. The report sets out the performance and activities in support of the six priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeenshire 2021-2024, namely:

- Priority 1 – Unintentional Harm and Home Safety
- Priority 2 – Non-Fire Emergencies
- Priority 3 – Deliberate Fire Setting
- Priority 4 – Non- Domestic Fire Safety including Accidental and Secondary Fires
- 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 2021-2024 on 18th February 2021.

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	1 st April 2021 to 30 th September 2021				RAG STATUS
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	
 All Accidental Dwelling Fires	78	82	70	65	
 All Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties & (Fatalities)	7 (0)	13 (1)	7 (0)	3 (0)	
 Non-Fire Emergencies	197	271	212	252	
 All Deliberate Fires	155	149	149	170	
 Non- Domestic Fires including Accidental Other, Primary and Secondary Fires	55 15 89	38 16 39	49 26 89	53 22 69	
 UFAs	377	338	278	318	

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 6 Priority areas, the following performance should be noted for the year to date 2021/22:

Accidental Dwelling Fires and Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

The statistics against the key performance indicators show that there has been a decrease in the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires and these are currently at a four year low. In relation to Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties and Fatalities these are also below the three-year rolling average.

Special Service All

Special Service Calls have increased compared to the three-year average, the categories of Special Service with the highest number of calls were RTC's and Effecting Entry with crews attending 73 and 60 respectively during this reporting period.

Compared to the 3-year rolling average RTC's have increased and this is largely due to the number of RTC's occurring during the same period last year seeing a large reduction which we believe is due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Deliberate Fires

Deliberate Fires have increased compared to the three-year rolling average with deliberate secondary fires (refuse / grassland / scrub) contributing to the bulk of the calls (118 out of 170).

Non- Domestic Fires

Non- Domestic Fires have increased when compared with the three-year rolling average with 53 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, we continue to work with owners and occupiers of buildings to reduce these further and are currently carrying out a national review on how we respond to UFAS Incidents.

PRIORITY 1 – UNINTENTIONAL HARM & HOME SAFETY

Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

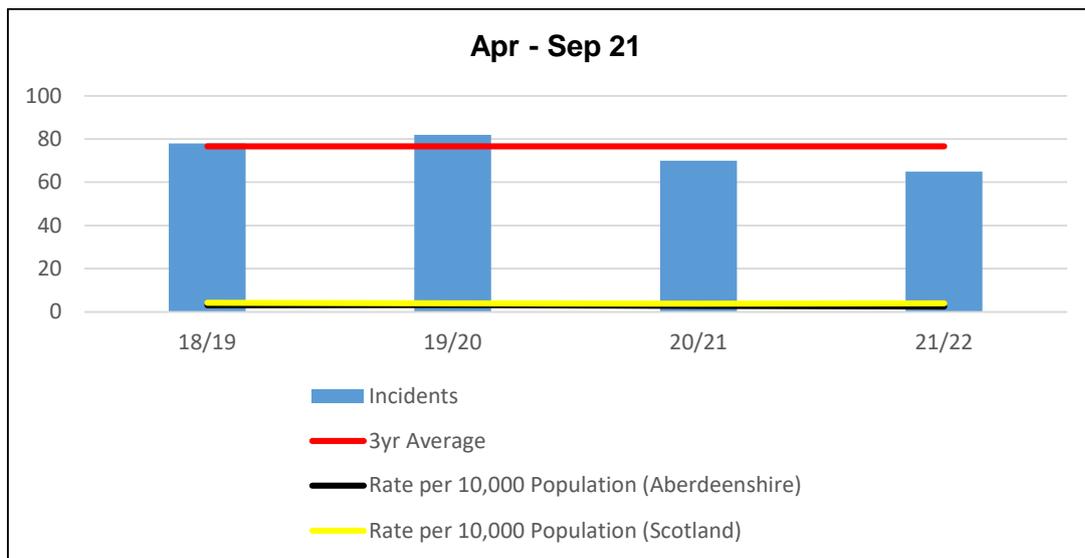


Table 1: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
ADF's	78	82	70	65	Green

ADF Fatal Casualties & ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

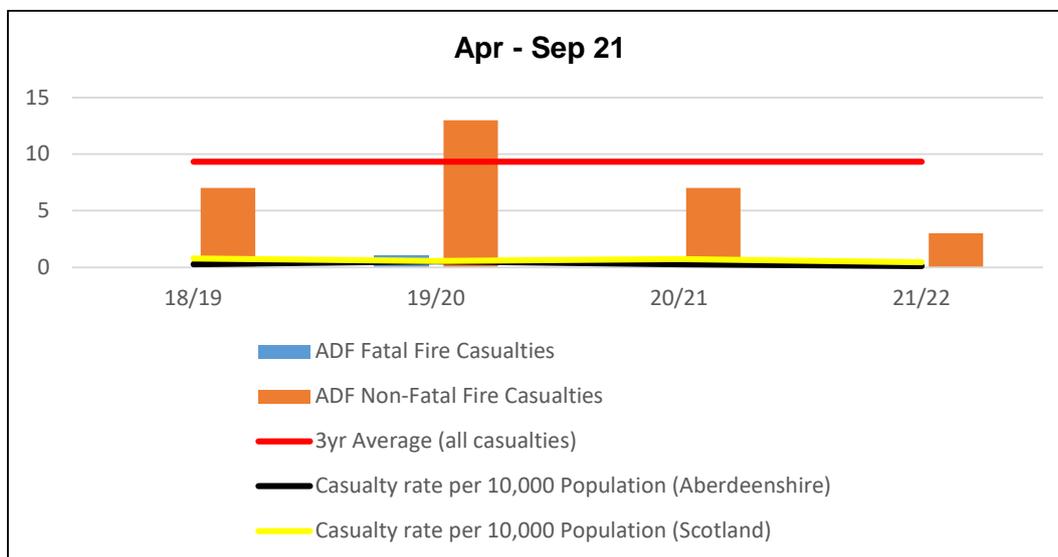


Table 2: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
ADF Fatal Casualties	0	1	0	0	Green
ADF Non-Fatal Casualties	7	13	7	3	Green

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 2021/22.

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.
- Providing an additional focus on cooking related fires which have accounted for 48% of Accidental Dwelling Fires in Aberdeenshire in the last 5 years.
- 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

During this reporting period there were 65 ADF's which is a four-year low but never the less we remain committed to reducing these further and working with partners and communities to deliver Home Fire Safety Visits to those at highest risk from fire.

The area remain committed to reducing the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires and during this period the Service have increased publicity around how to prevent this type of incident using both traditional and social media.

We have continued to deliver HFSV's to those most at risk from fire where appropriate safety measures have been put in place and our Community Safety Action Team have been providing advice in relation to reducing Accidental Dwelling Fires and the consequences of these over the telephone where we've been unable to deliver physical vist due to the restrictions.

It is pleasing to report that there has been no fatalities as a result of Accidental Dwelling Fires during this period and we continue to work in a partnership approach to prevent all casualties and fatalities as a result of this type of incident.

During this reporting period there were 3 Non-Fatal Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties which is a reduction compared to the three-year-rolling average and a four-year-low. This demonstrates that our Community Safety Engagement Activity in this area is having an impact and we will continue to delvelop this further to reduce the number of casualties.

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 for the previous year

	2020 / 21	2021 / 22
High	114	323
Medium	26	163
Low	14	90
Total (Target)	154	567

The delivery of HFSV's has increased compared to the same period for last year and this is down to safe systems of work been developed and restrictions around Covid-19 easing. 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

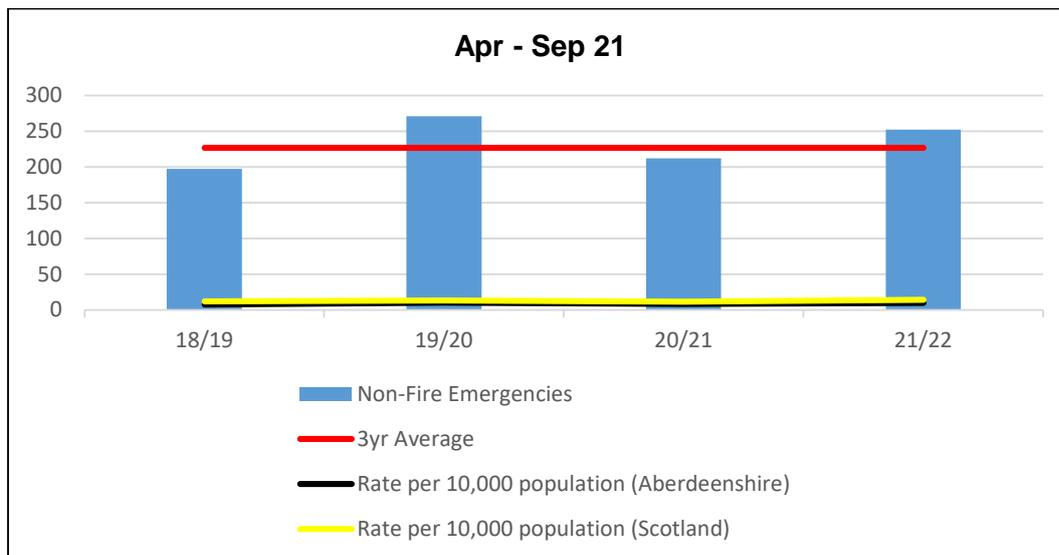


Table 3: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
Non-Fire Emergencies	197	271	212	252	Red

Road Traffic Collisions

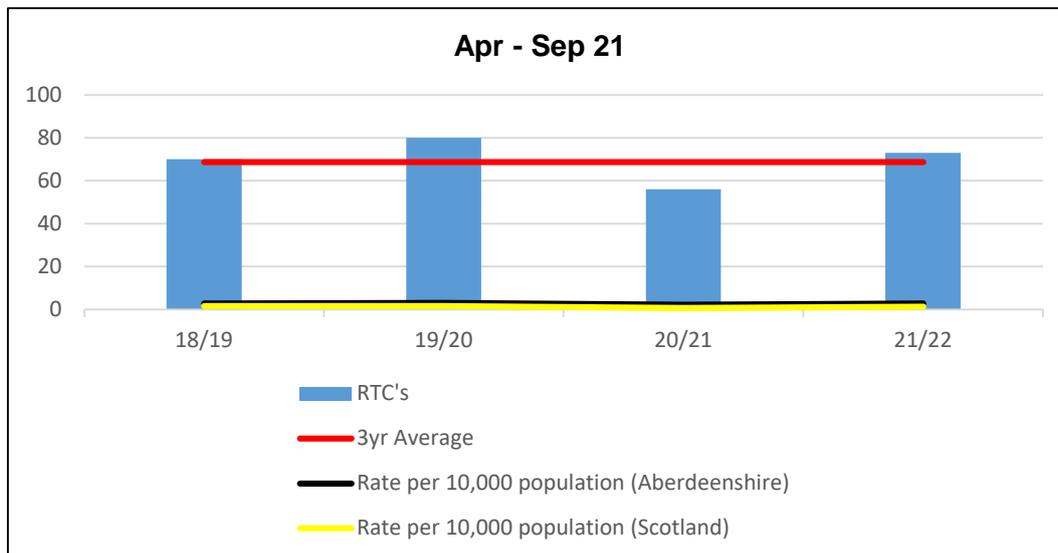


Table 4: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
Road Traffic Collisions	70	80	56	73	Red
Fatal RTC Casualties	1	4	2	2	Green
Non-Fatal RTC Casualties	79	49	29	58	Amber

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 increased this is not unexpected and is a reflection of the expanding role of the SFRS.

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 that both the number of RTC's and the number of Non-fatal casualties resulting from RTC's has increased, we believe this is largely due to the restrictions that were in place last year resulting in fewer journeys on our roads. The number of Fatal casualties resulting from RTC's remains below the three-year average. We will continue working towards this priority working in partnership with communities and our partners in Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships to drive down the number of RTC's and Fatalities and Casualties resulting from these.

Due to the pandemic Safe Drive Stay Alive could not be delivered this year but we continue to work with partners in the Community Safety Partnership to provide an alternative to this in 2022. We are actively working with partners to look at how to best deliver a programme addressing education and advice to young people in preparation for becoming drivers. We are also looking to progress our initiatives for commuter drivers as and when the lifting of restrictions allows.

The four other most common types of Non-Fire Emergencies that occurred over this period were Effecting Entry (60), Assisting other Agencies (26), Flooding (18) and Medical Incident First Responder (13).

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 working with partners through the Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships to make Aberdeenshire a safer place to live in, work in and visit and lead on the Reducing Unintentional Harm priority in the Community Safety Partnerships Strategy.

PRIORITY 3 – DELIBERATE FIRES

DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES

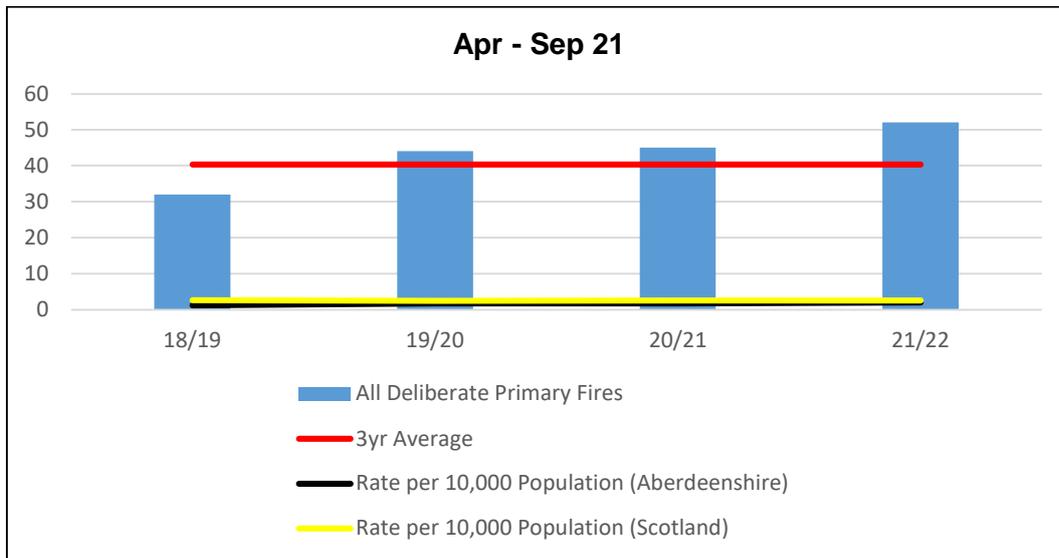


Table 5: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	YTD
Deliberate Primary Fires	32	44	45	52	RED

Deliberate Secondary Fires

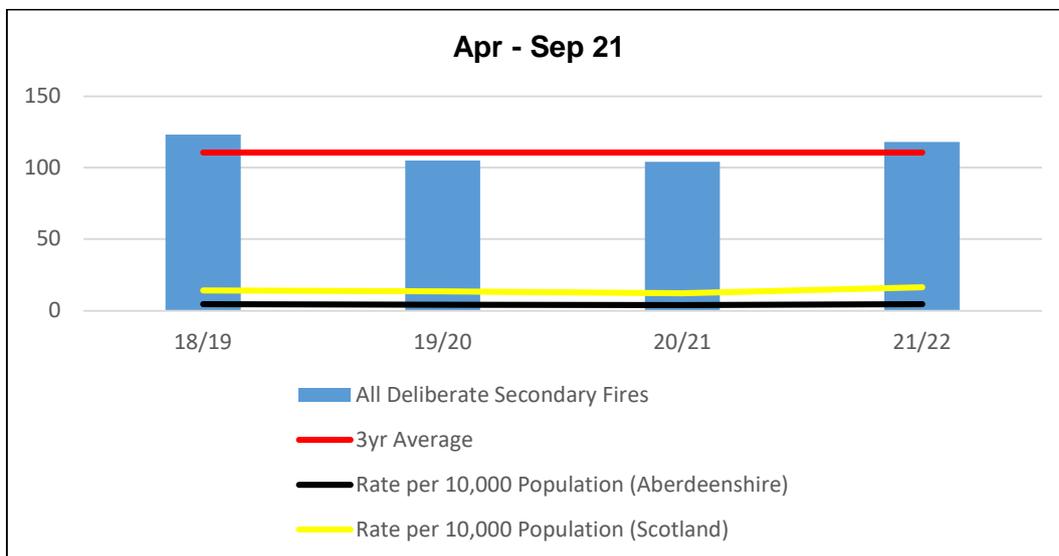


Table 6: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
Deliberate Secondary Fires	123	105	104	118	Amber

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 both deliberate primary and secondary fires.

During this reporting period 118 of the 170 (69%) of deliberate fires that occurred were secondary fires, these are fires involving grassland and refuse. The remaining 52 fires were primary fires and these included 23 fires involving crops and woodland, 6 vehicle fires, 5 Dwelling house fires and 4 fires involving outdoor structures.

Within Aberdeenshire we are currently working with multi-agency partners to address an issue with deliberate fire setting at one particular location in the Formartine area, during this reporting period we have responded to 27 deliberate fires at this location and work is ongoing both with partners to address this and with the local community to provide reassurance.

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, activity in this area has been somewhat restricted due to Covid-19, however we worked with Life Live Aberdeenshire and participated in the Summer Camps to provide Fire Safety advice in relation to deliberate fires.

We have an established Fire Skills Programme that has been successfully run at Peterhead in partnership with the Peterdean and Fraserdean initiatives and although we haven't been able to deliver this during the pandemic we are actively looking to reinvigorate this early 2022.

We have secured funding to establish a Youth Volunteer Scheme in Peterhead again due to the restrictions as a result of the pandemic this has not been fully implemented, we are making progress with it and have recruited adult volunteers and are looking to recruit youths into the programme early in 2022.

PRIORITY 4 – NON-DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY

NON-DOMESTIC FIRES

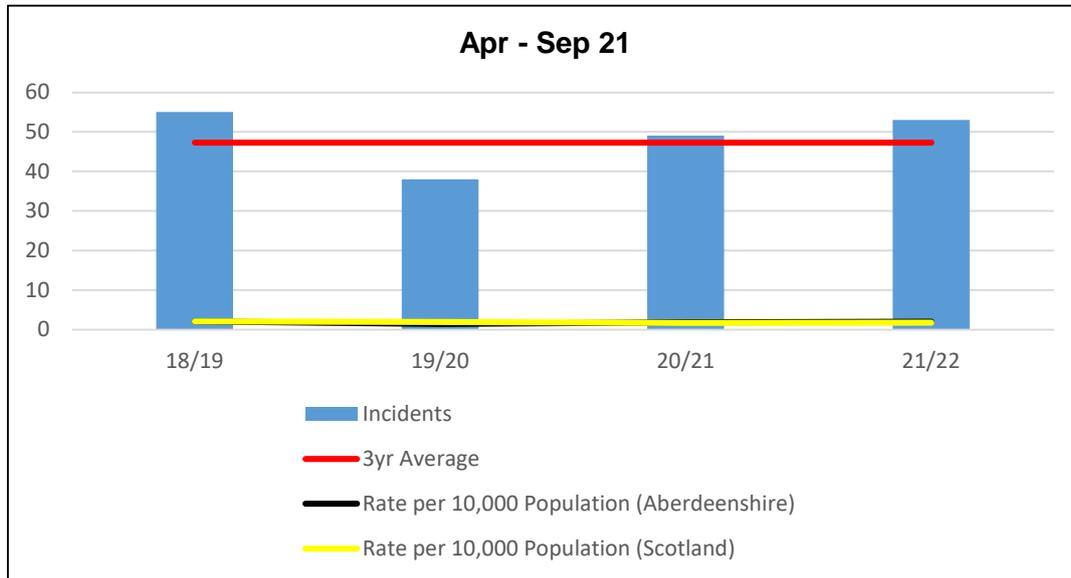


Table 7: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/2	YTD
Non-Domestic Fires	55	38	49	53	Red

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

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/2	YTD
Accidental 'Other' Primary Fires	15	16	26	22	Red
Accidental 'Other' Secondary Fires	89	39	89	69	Green

Indicator Description

This priority concentrates on the reduction of fires occurring within buildings that are non-domestic premises. It also provides focus on the reduction of accidental 'other' primary and secondary fires which include agricultural land, forestry and moorland fires which pose a risk to Aberdeenshire.

Partnership working is key to reducing these types 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 time that a fire does occur in a non-domestic building our Fire Safety Enforcement Team carry out a post fire audit.

We continue to work with land and forestry owners throughout Aberdeenshire to progress risk reduction activities and a partnership approach to dealing with Wildfires.

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
- Contribution and engagement with recognised national and local wildfire groups

Performance Management

In relation to this priority we have seen an increase in non-domestic fires from 47 to 53 when compared against the three-year rolling average.

Of the 53 incidents that occurred 6 involved a Agricultural Barn, 4 involved a Nursing Home, 4 at HMP Grampian, 3 Retail Shops, 3 involving Public toilets and 3 involving Non-Residential Private Garages. The remaining incidents were isolated incidents over a wide range of premises type.

Out of the 53 incidents the damage was contained to under 5 Square Meters on 34 occasions.

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.

In relation to Accidental 'Other' Fires we continue to work with Landowners to reduce these through the promotion of outdoor safety advice and working with Ranger services in Aberdeenshire to educate people using our outdoor spaces for leisure.

PRIORITY 5 – UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

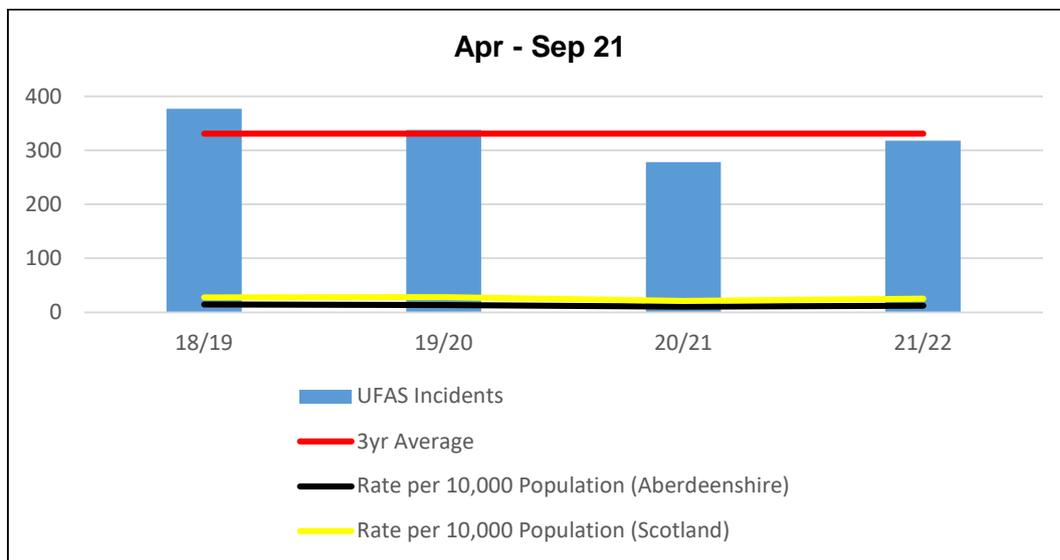


Table 8: Year to Date (Apr to Sep) Performance

	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	YTD
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	377	338	278	318	Green

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 2021/22.

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 331 to 318 in the number of incidents compared to the three-year rolling average. Although this is welcome we will continue to focus on this area to drive further improvement.

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	24
Warehouses	21
Hotels	20
Offices	19
Hospitals	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 reporting period we have continued to deliver our training programme to operational firefighter's to ensure that skills are maintained to deal with the risks faced throughout Aberdeenshire. Restrictions due to Covid remain in place and safe systems of work have been implemented to maximise the safety of staff and limit the spread of Covid while undertaking training activities.

We continue to gather operational intelligence throughout Aberdeenshire to ensure that crews have up to date information on risks and response plans to deal with these effectively. The easing of restrictions has allowed staff to physically visit premises to review and update our Operational risk information and response plans.

We continue to contribute to the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and have been involved in both the Covid response and wider Local Resilience Partnership activity. We are currently in the planning phase for the annual COMAH exercise at St Fergus and are supporting Community Testing for Covid through providing access to Fire Service facilities for Community Testing.