

# SPOTLIGHT ON DELIBERATE FIRES IN INVERCLYDE

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



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**FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide local authority partners with details of deliberate fire incidents for 2018/19 that the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) attended within Inverclyde.

The report will break down deliberate fires into sub-categories. A description of each sub-category will be provided along with a narrative to explain each chart and the figures within. All charts will cover the past 3 years, with one chart presenting yearly figures and the other quarterly data.

Each sub category will also contain an overview for engagement activities carried out relating to that specific indicator.

This will provide evidence based information to define SFRS' current position within Inverclyde relating to deliberate fires.

## Incidents Review 2018/19

In 2018/19, the SFRS attended a total of 521 fires in Inverclyde, a decrease of 3% (16 incidents) compared to 2017/18.

The number of primary fires in 2018/19 decreased by 17% per cent to 156 compared to the previous year. Secondary fires increased from 348 to 461 (35%).

In 2018/19 there were 4 fatal casualties from fires in Inverclyde, an increase of 4 on the 2017/18 figure of zero.

There were 27 non-fatal fire casualties in 2018/19. This is an increase of 17% compared to 2017/18 when there were 23 casualties.

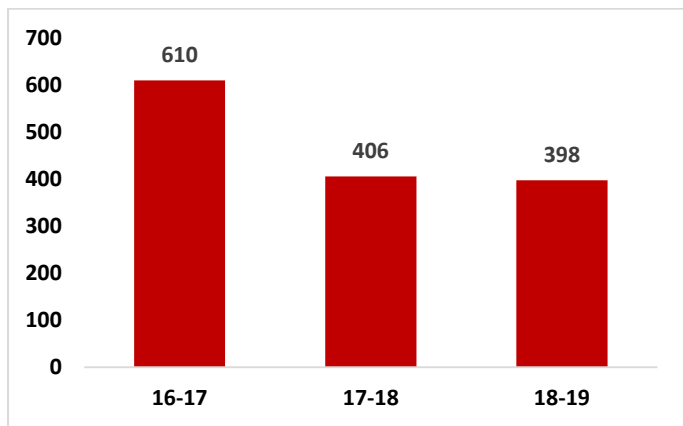
There was a total of 225 non-fire incidents attended by the SFRS in 2018/19 in Inverclyde, a decrease of 9% from 2017/18 (247 incidents).

In 2018/19, SFRS attended 841 false alarms, including non-fire false alarms, accounting for 53% of all incidents attended in Inverclyde, more than any other incident type. There were 46 more false alarms attended in 2018/19 than in 2017/18, which is a 6% increase.

### Incident Breakdown 2018/19:

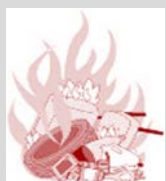
Deliberate Fires -	398
Accidental Fires -	133
Fatal and Non-Fatal Fire Casualties -	31
Non-Domestic Fires -	23
Special Services -	225
RTC Casualties -	24
False Alarms -	841

## All Deliberate Fires – Yearly



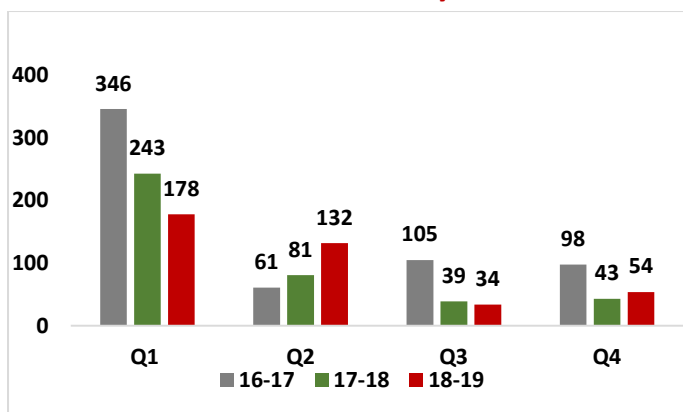
In 2018/19 SFRRS attended a total of 398 deliberate fires across Inverclyde. Compared to the previous year (2017/18), that is a decrease of 8 incidents. Looking over the 3-year period from 2016/17 there has been a significant downward trend of 35% (212 incidents).

*A deliberate fire is a fire started deliberately such as suspected willful fire-raising and some fires started by children\*, psychiatric patients, suicides and attempted suicides.*



*\*If a child under the age of nine years old starts a fire then this should be classed as accidental unless there is evidence to suggest otherwise.*

## All Deliberate Fires – Quarterly

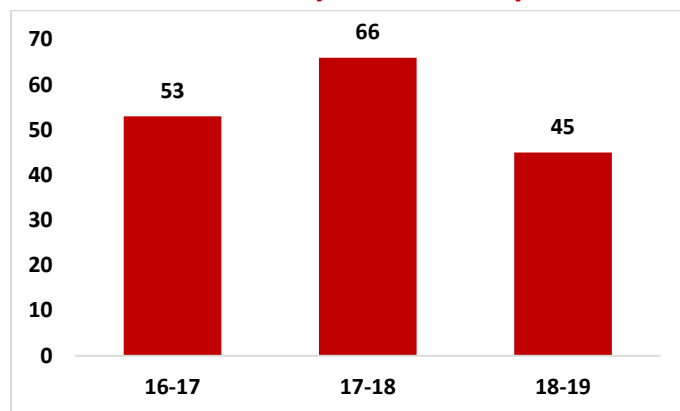


The quarterly breakdown is equally positive with the only concern occurring in Q2. Last year Q2 period had a significant dry weather spell around July which is reflected in the 63% increase of incidents around that quarter. This was not only evident in Inverclyde but also in East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (ERRI) Area with a 61% increase. The West Service Delivery Area of the SFRRS showed an increase of 46% with the Scottish Service

showing a 40% increase relating to deliberate fires when compared to Q2 of 2017/18.

Inverclyde data shows over 100 of these incidents in Q2 were in the month of July and related to grass fires between 16:00 and 22:00. This also links in with school holidays. During August and September there were only 27 deliberate fire incidents.

## All Deliberate Primary Fires – Yearly

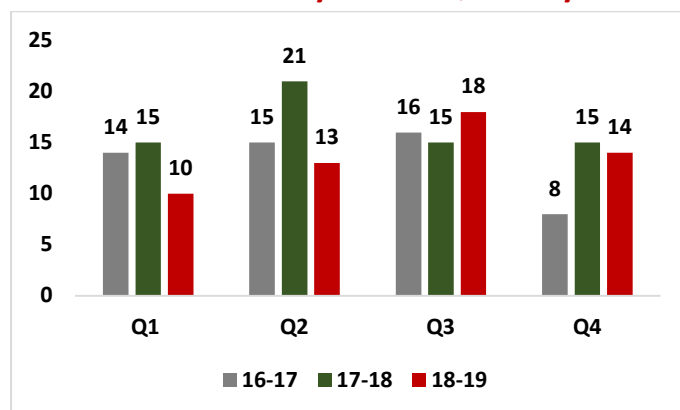


A positive decline in deliberate primary fires for 2018/19 with a reduction of 32% compared to 2017/18.

*Primary Fires - includes all fires in buildings, vehicles and most outdoor structures or any fire involving casualties, rescues or fires attended by five or more appliances. For example; buildings, caravans, non-derelict vehicles, outdoor storage (plant and machinery) other outdoor structures (post-boxes, tunnels, bridges, etc.).*

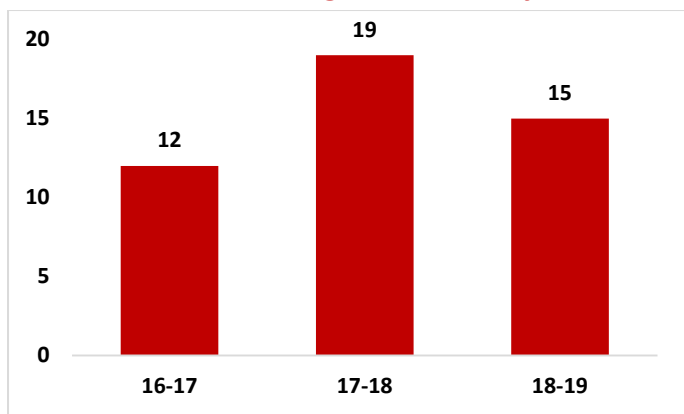


## All Deliberate Primary Fires – Quarterly



A steady decline across all quarters except for Q3 which shows a slight increase from the previous year.

### All Deliberate Dwelling Fires – Yearly

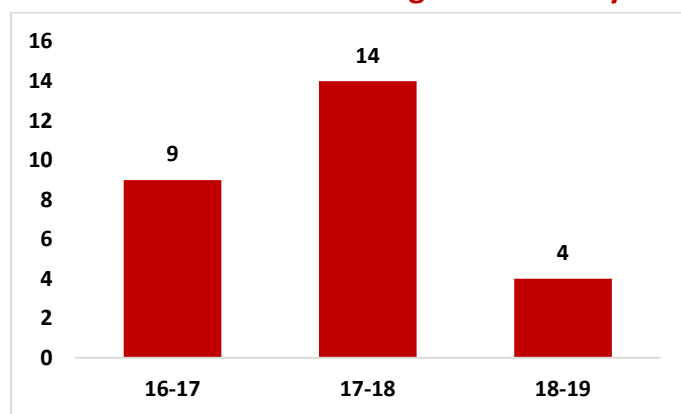


Deliberate dwelling fires show a decrease in incidents from 2017/18 figures. A 21% reduction across this indicator for 2018/19 reporting period.

*'Dwelling' means a property that is a place of residence i.e. occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions. Includes non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans*



### All Deliberate Other Building Fires – Yearly

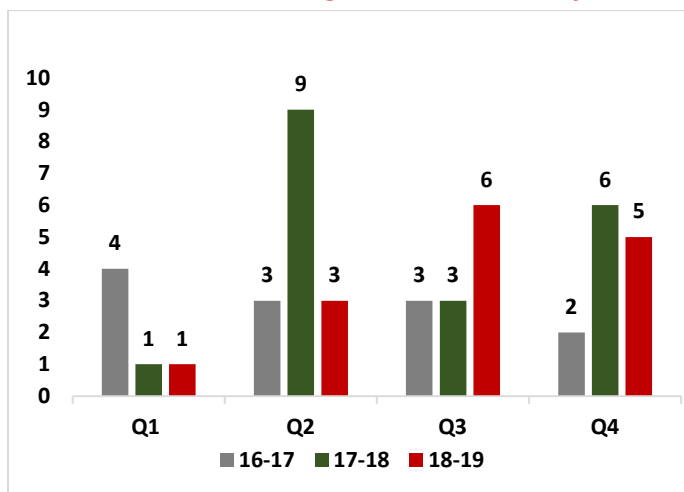


A significant reduction of 10 incidents from 2017/18 to 2018/19 and the lowest data over the past 3 years. Incidents attended related to prisons, private garage/greenhouse and a shop.

*Other buildings fires are fires in other residential or non-residential buildings. Other (institutional) residential buildings include properties such as hostels/hotels/B&Bs, nursing/care homes, student halls of residence etc. Non-residential buildings include properties such as offices, shops, factories, warehouses, restaurants, public buildings, religious buildings etc.*

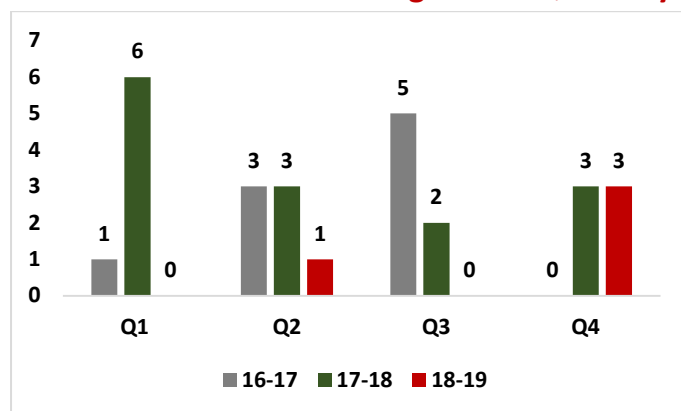


### All Deliberate Dwelling Fires – Quarterly



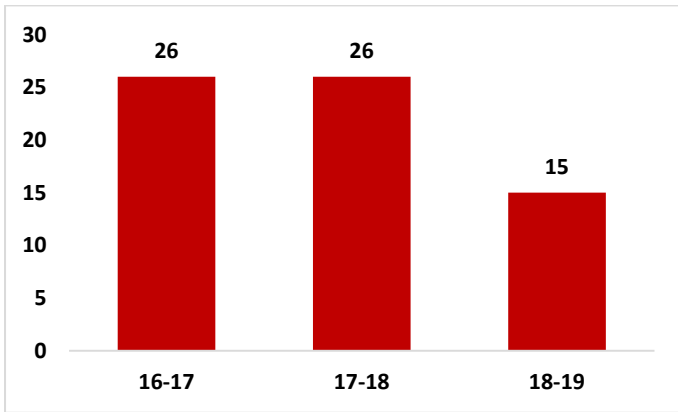
Low figures across Q1, Q2 and Q4 with an increase in Q3. There is no evidence that shows any reason for the increase in Q3, all incidents involved were within tenement properties there was no other common theme from the 6 incidents.

### All Deliberate Other Building Fires – Quarterly



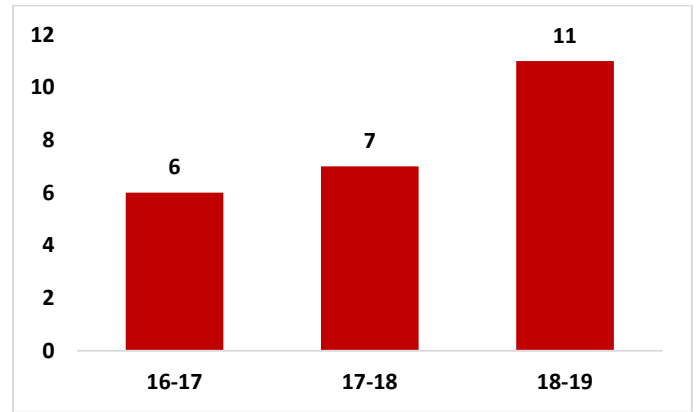
Significant decrease across 3 of the 4 quarters with one of the quarters equalling last year's incidents.

### All Deliberate Vehicle Fires – Yearly



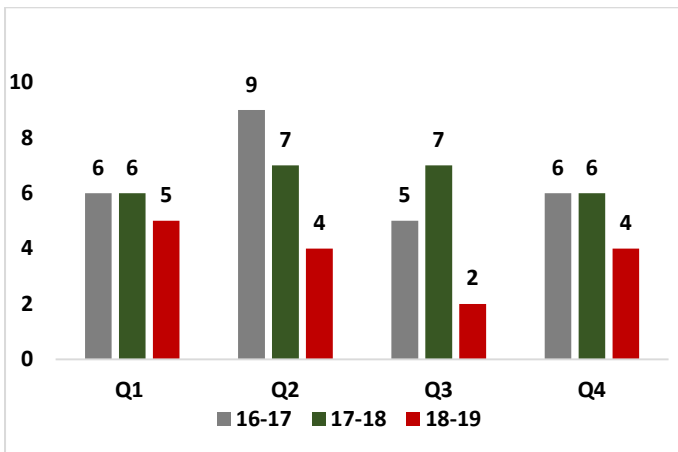
Vehicle incidents showing a further decrease from the previous year, a 42% reduction from 2017/18 incidents. All incidents person who caused the fire was suspected under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

### All Deliberate ‘Other’ Primary Fires – Yearly



A 57% increase from 2017/18 figures which has almost doubled since 2016/17. Incidents peak around May, June, July time, which was a particularly dry weather period during 2018/19. Incidents were predominately outdoor structures and grass.

### All Deliberate Vehicle Fires – Quarterly

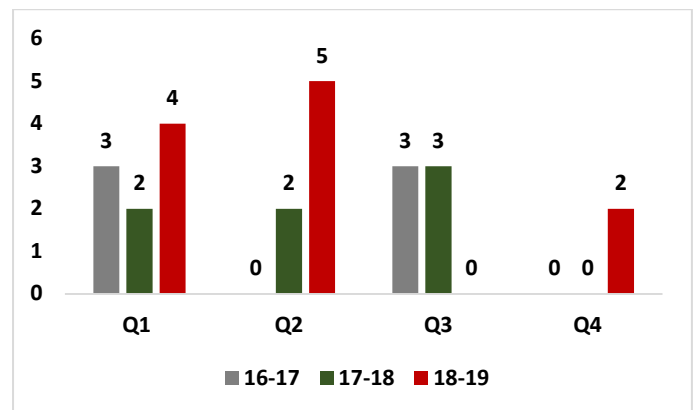


Low figures throughout all quarters for 2018/19.

*Other Primary Fires are all primary fires included in the following categories: Aircraft, outdoor, boat, outdoor structure, rail vehicles.*

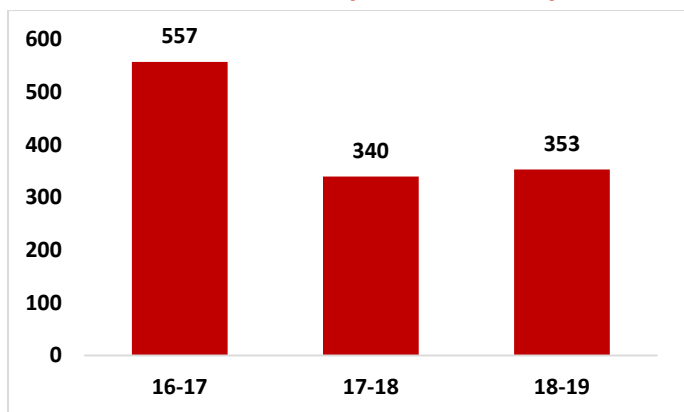


### All Deliberate ‘Other’ Primary Fires – Quarterly



Increase across all quarters except for Q3, 8 of the 11 incidents related to outdoor structures. Most incidents occurred between May-July 2018.

### All Deliberate Secondary Fires – Yearly



Figures across the yearly data set have increased slightly, however, as can be seen from the incident numbers in the quarterly data table below, it also should be set against high activity figures in Q1 which significantly decreased over the next three quarters.

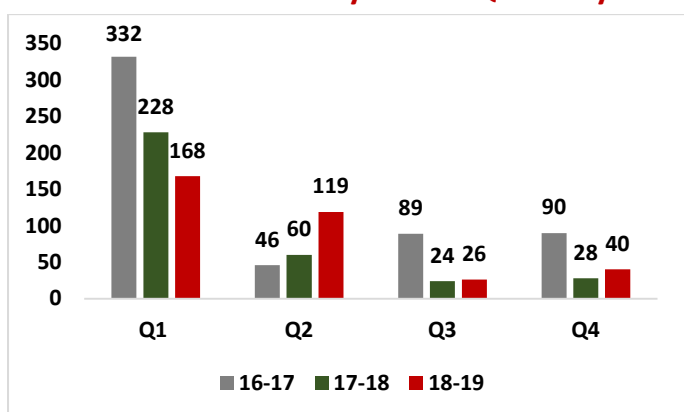
*Secondary Fire – An incident that did not occur at a Primary location, was not a chimney fire in an occupied building, did not involve casualties*



*(otherwise categorised as a Primary incident) and was attended by four or fewer appliances (otherwise categorised as a Primary incident). For*

*example; single derelict buildings, grassland, hedges, railway embankments, single trees, straw, stubble, outdoor structures (lamp-posts, traffic signs, playground furniture, scaffolding), refuse and refuse containers, derelict vehicles (no registered owner).*

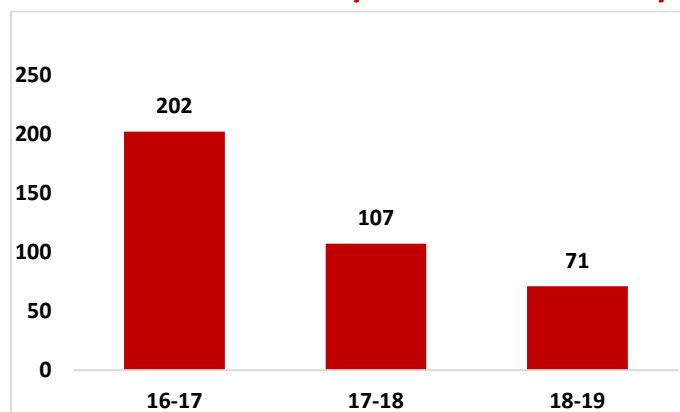
### All Deliberate Secondary Fires – Quarterly



An increase across 3 of the quarters with a significant rise around Q2. The incidents within Q2 occurred predominately in July 2018 and were grass related (over 100 incidents). It is a similar picture for Q4 with 30

incidents occurring in March 2019 (drier weather period than usual for the time of year) more than half of these incidents were grass related.

### All Deliberate Secondary Refuse Fires – Yearly

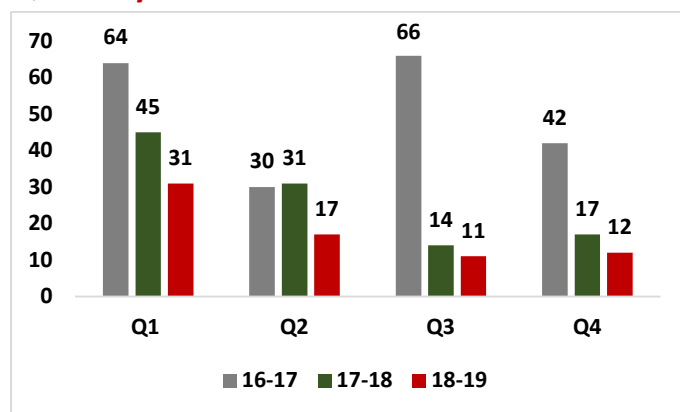


With an increase in deliberate fires it is encouraging to see that refuse incidents within Inverclyde have been reduced for the reporting period. A reduction of 34% for 2018/19 compared to the previous year and a 65% reduction from 2016/17.

*Refuse, refuse container Includes loose rubbish, dust bin, 'wheelie bin', skip, bonfire/refuse burning out of control, fires at Primary locations involving solely incendiary devices or inflammable liquids.*

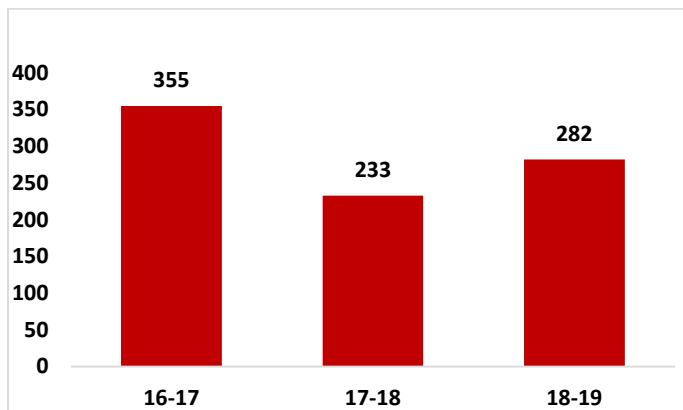


### All Deliberate Secondary Refuse Fires – Quarterly



A consistent downward trend across all quarters compared to 2017/18 reporting period.

## All Deliberate Secondary 'Other' Fires – Yearly



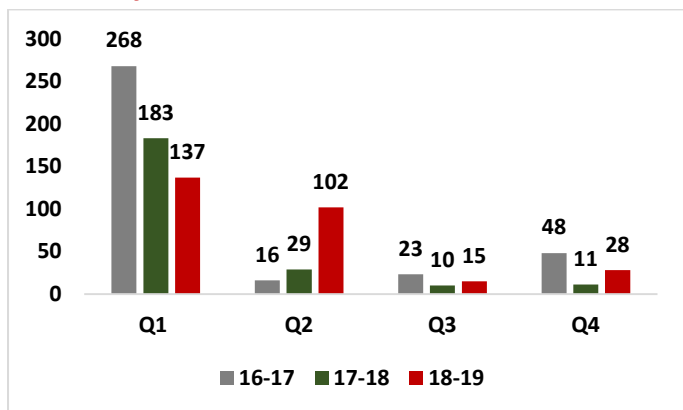
2018/19 shows an increase of 21% for deliberate secondary 'other' fires. 239 of these incidents were grass related with over 150 incidents occurring in May and July 2018.

*Other Secondary Fires are all secondary fires excluding*



*refuse and chimney fires. For example, Grassland/ Heath/Scrub, other outdoor structures, other outdoor equipment, paths, etc.*

## All Deliberate Secondary 'Other' Fires – Quarterly



Although the chart above shows an increase in Q2, Q3 and Q4, the most notable increase is within Q2. 90 incidents occurred during July 2018 with 81 of them being grass fires. Similar to other categories throughout this report that have shown substantial increases, this appears to transpire as a result of drier weather during school holidays.

## Engagement and Future Focus

Although this spotlight report has focused on Deliberate Fires within Inverclyde for the fiscal year 18-19, SFRS target deliberate fire setting on an ongoing basis.

As we move through 2019, national Prevention & Protection (P&P) staff, front line Operational staff and your local SFRS Community Action Team (CAT) along with partners will focus on driving down demand across Inverclyde.

This drive to reduce demand will include Fire and rescue personnel identifying areas of increased activity, emerging trends and working in partnership with agencies across Inverclyde to find ways to deliver better outcomes for the communities we serve.

This engagement will also include SFRS staff working through Thematic Action Plans throughout the year covering topics such as Cooking Safety, Wheelie Bins, Fire Related Anti-social behaviour, Older/Vulnerable Persons, Bonfire and Festive safety.



Station Manager Mark Meehan is embedded in local partnership groups including CASPER, Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinating Group, Adult Protection services users sub group, the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership and chaired a multi-agency task and co-ordinating group which looked specifically at bonfire safety.

A suite of materials including leaflets, presentations and guidance notes have been produced by the P&P Directorate and are made available to assist with these action plans. This allows Local Managers and CAT staff to engage in a multi-agency approach to preventing deliberate fire setting across Inverclyde each year.



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