



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**

Inverclyde
council

Report to:	Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee
Date of Report:	25th January 2017
Report by:	David Proctor, Local Senior Officer (LSO) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Subject:	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Report
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PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) performance and activities during the Quarter 3 of 2016/17 reporting period.

PERFORMANCE

2. The information provided in this report and attached appendix relates to the specific key performance indicators detailed in the Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017. The SFRS Local Senior Officer will be happy to meet with any Elected Members who wish to discuss specific Ward issues.

A summary of the key performance indicators is detailed below:

- a. The total number of Accidental Dwelling Fires decreased from **27** in the same period in 2015 to **22** in the current reporting period.
- b. The total number of All Non-Fatal Fire Casualties remains the same as in the period in 2015 at **13** in the current reporting period.
- c. The total number of incidents involving Deliberate Fire Raising increased from **68** in the same period in 2015 to **89** in the current reporting period.
- d. The total number of Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings decreased from **10** in the same period in 2015 to **8** in the current reporting period.
- e. The total number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal incidents increased from **79** in the same period in 2015 to **95** in the current reporting period.

- f. The total number of Road Traffic Collisions incidents attended by SFRS which resulted resulting in non-fatal casualties, decreased from **13** in the same period in 2015 to **5** in the current reporting period. The number of recorded casualties decreased from **7** in the same period in 2015 to **6** in the current reporting period

PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS

1. SFRS is committed to working in partnership with Community Planning partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to work together for a safer Scotland. Strengthening our relationship with and working in partnership to add value to our communities is critical to the success of our strategy.

The following activities are illustrative of SFRS arrangements in terms of partnership working and targeted engagement:

- a. The Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) attends community safety/wardens meetings within Inverclyde on a weekly basis and provides statistics of incidents within the Local Authority Area to ensure partners are aware of all fire related anti-social activity. This forum continues to deliver on achieving joint positive initiatives and outcomes.
- b. Direct engagement with the 4 main housing providers to engage front end staff with formal FSET training – targeting partnership links and improving communication in the provision of fire referrals, early notification of ASB / reduction of UFAS calls.
- c. Direct engagement with Specialist Housing providers Riverclyde Homes, Bield Housing, Blackwood Home, Trust Housing and First Port to gain access to the 21 premises providing support to 588 properties. The advantages included:
 - closer working rapport with each association
 - Direct engagement with individual property managers
 - Access to all elderly vulnerable occupants (access level has increased from 8% prior to partner links to upwards of 92% access)
 - In partnership targeting and anticipated reduction of fire risk and UFAS calls
- d. Ongoing links with Inverclyde Hospital – Alcohol/ drug dependency Unit – providing early intervention fire talks to service users undergoing supportive treatment for dependency problems

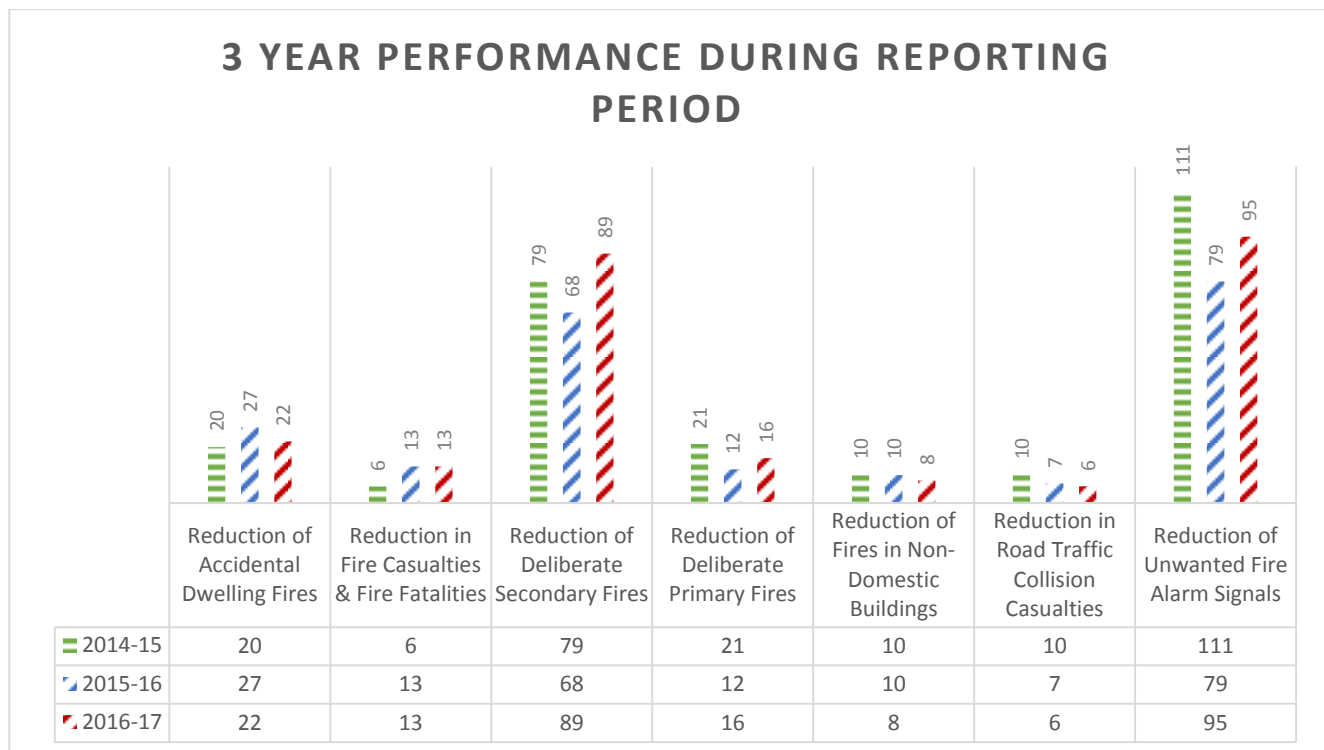
- e. Lead up to 5th November:
- Working in partnership with the wardens and Police Scotland to deliver bonfire safety talks to all Inverclyde secondary schools and youth zones.
 - SFRS crews working with wardens to highlight illegal bonfires within the area and subsequent removal.
 - Raising awareness in partnership of secondary fire hotspots and working with wardens and police Scotland for reduction.
- f. A total of 531 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) was carried out in Inverclyde during the reporting period. These HFSVs are carried out by our operational personnel and Community Action Team (CAT) officers who will conduct these visits jointly with partner agencies where deemed appropriate. Of these HFSVs:
- i. 42 were as a result of high risk referrals from partners to SFRS.
 - ii. 127 were as a result of Post Domestic Incident Responses (PDIR). The SFRS conducts a PDIR at all domestic dwelling incidents (includes fire alarm actuations and special services). This involves positive engagement with the occupier(s) of the affected property and neighbouring properties by SFRS personnel. Fire safety advice and support are provided; where required SFRS provide and fit 10 year battery powered smoke detectors

RECOMMENDATIONS

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee members are asked to note the contents of this report and the attached appendix.

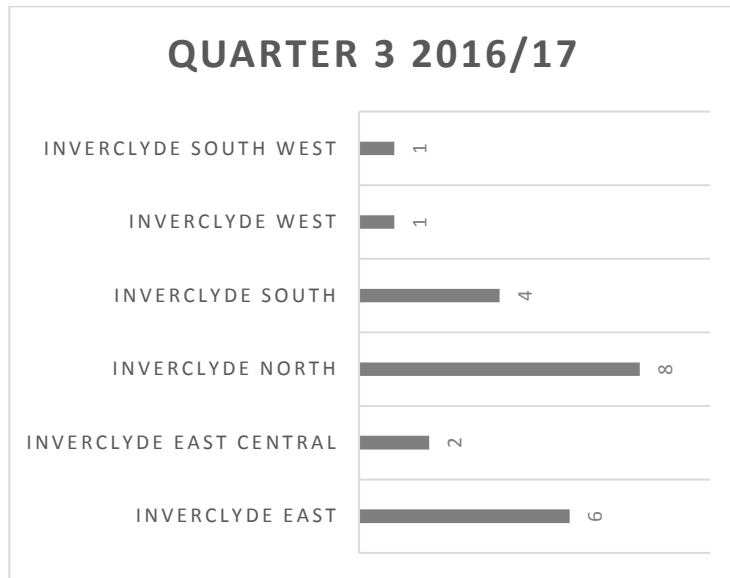
The graph below provides a comparative overview of the activity levels within the reporting period over the last 3 years.

1. THREE YEAR PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



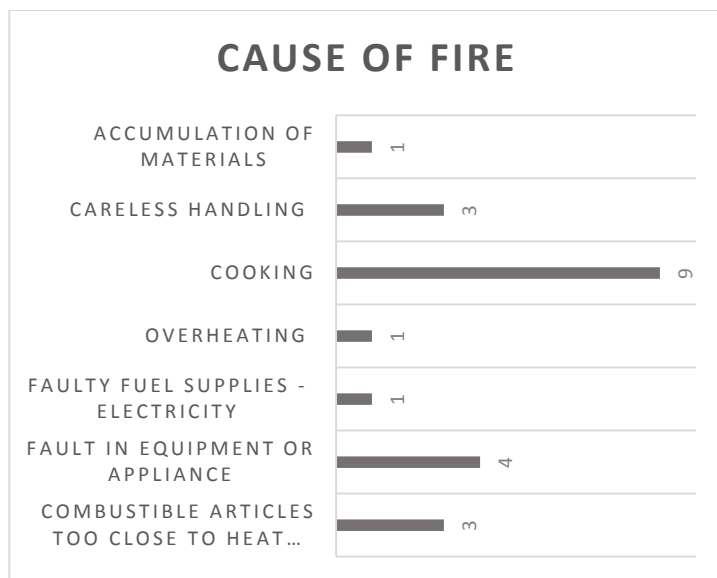
2. REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES

2.1. Incidents by Ward



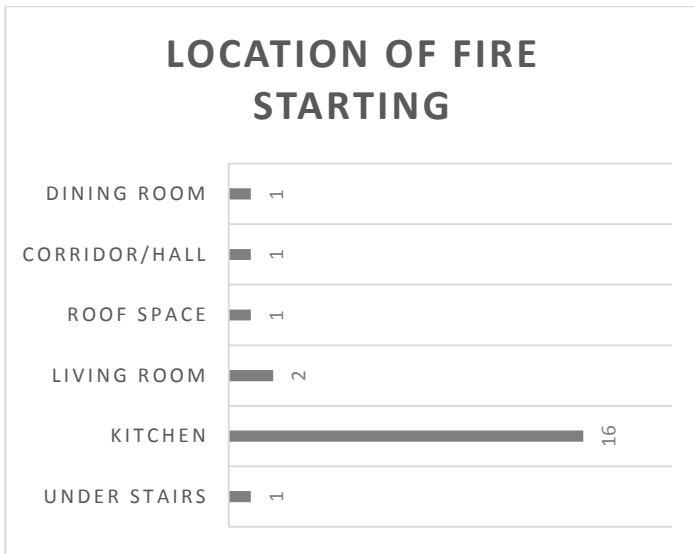
The slightly higher levels of activity in wards North, South and East is a direct correlation to the number of residents and homes within each locality.

2.2. Cause of Fire



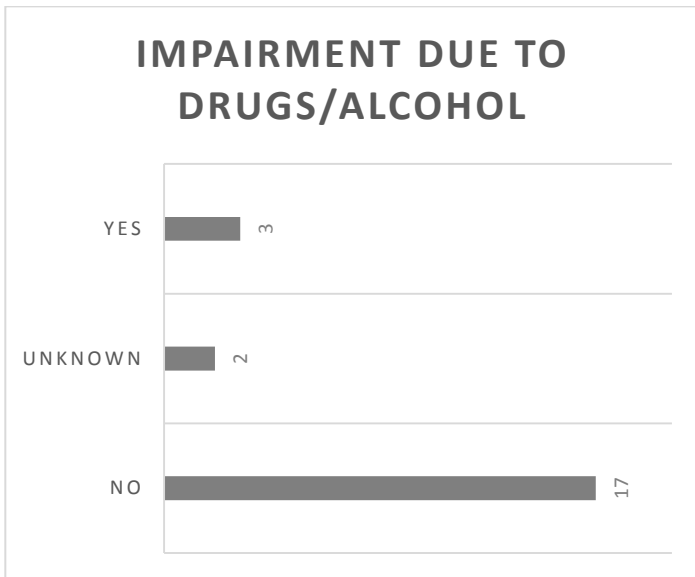
As is evident from graph 2.2 cooking remains the most significant cause of accidental dwelling fires in Inverclyde. However further analysis of the information has shown that the majority of the incidents are small in nature and require no action by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The increase in detectors within homes has provided early warning and intervention.

2.3. Location of Fire



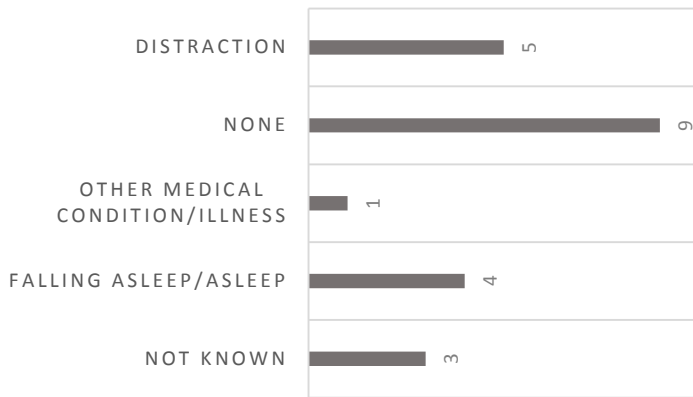
The information within this graph links directly to the 2.2 where cooking was identified as the most common cause of fire. SFRS provides information on safe cooking at each incident they attend of this nature and provide additional safety guidance at the Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV)

2.4. Human Factors



Of the 22 incident we attend 17 were not influenced by drugs or alcohol. However distraction still has a bearing on accidental fires and this is a hard factor to resolve.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO FIRE STARTING



Distraction includes conditions such as alcohol/ drug (prescribed or other) use, mental health, capability and individuals dealing with other matters and forgetting that they have left something cooking.]

3. REDUCTION OF FIRE CASUALTIES

3.1. Casualties by Ward

There was 13 recorded casualty during the reporting period. 4 in Inverclyde North, 4 in Inverclyde South, 3 in Inverclyde East, 1 in Inverclyde East Central and 1 in Inverclyde.

3.2. Casualties by Age and Gender

7 of the casualties were male with majority being in the 30 to 49 age group category. 6 of the casualties were females with the majority in the 40 to 49 age group category. Inverclyde's fire casualty profile is not reflective of the Scottish profile. Over the past two years there has been a growing trend of older females being the most at risk of harm from fire.

3.3. Extent of Harm

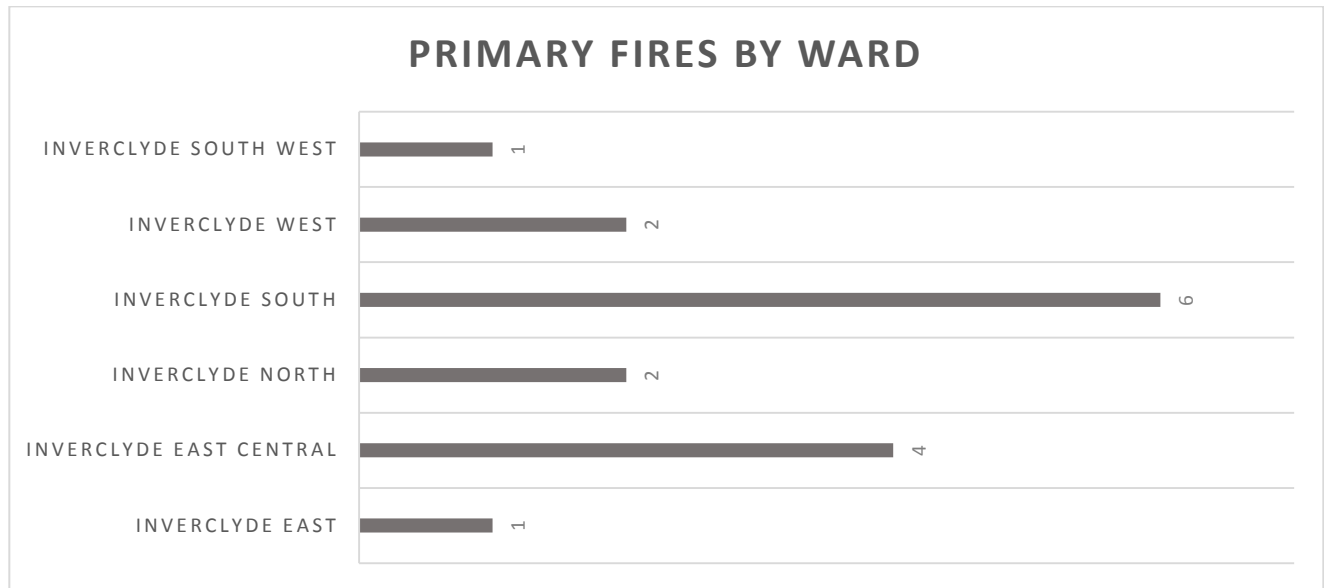
The majority of the incidents resulted in slight injury or requirement for a precautionary check at hospital. The positive impact of early warning of fire provided by either standalone or linked smoke alarms is evident in terms of the reduction in the number of severe dwelling fires and the associated level of fire related injuries compared to 10 years ago.

4. REDUCTION OF DELIBERATE FIRE SETTING

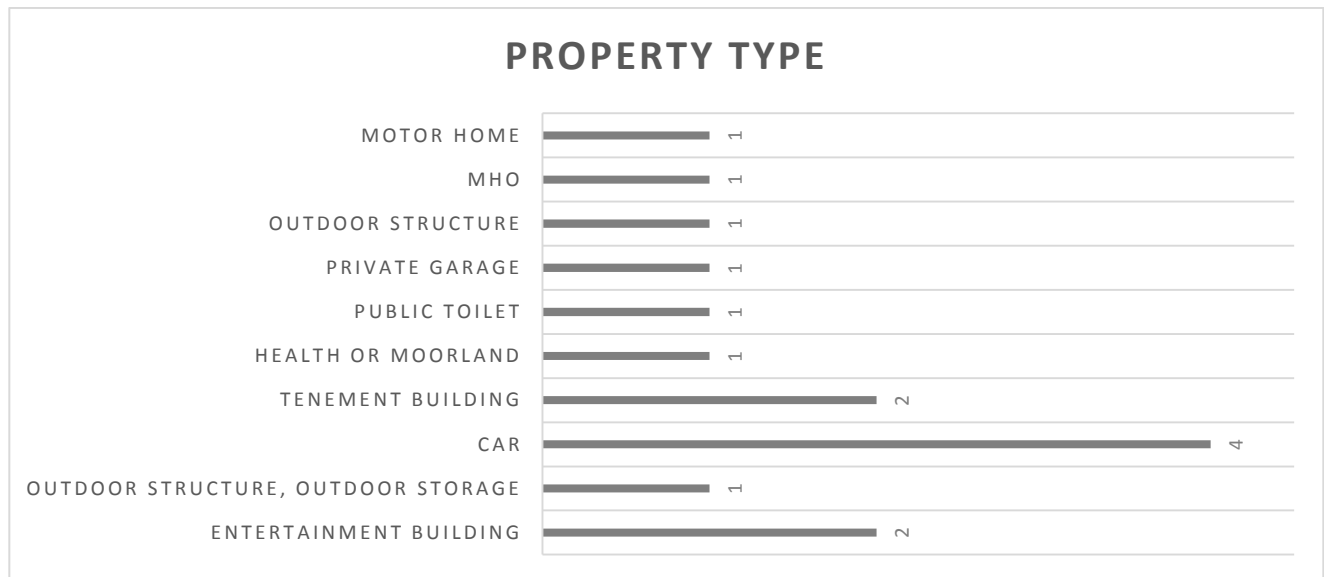
4.1. Primary Fires

Primary fires are classed as those involving property which has a specific private or commercial value; and generally relates to building, structures or vehicle fires. During the third quarter of the 2016/17 reporting period there were a total of 16 deliberate primary fires; this was a slight increase when compared to the same period in 2015/16 when there were also 12 deliberate primary fires.

4.1.1. Incidents by Ward



4.1.2. Property Types



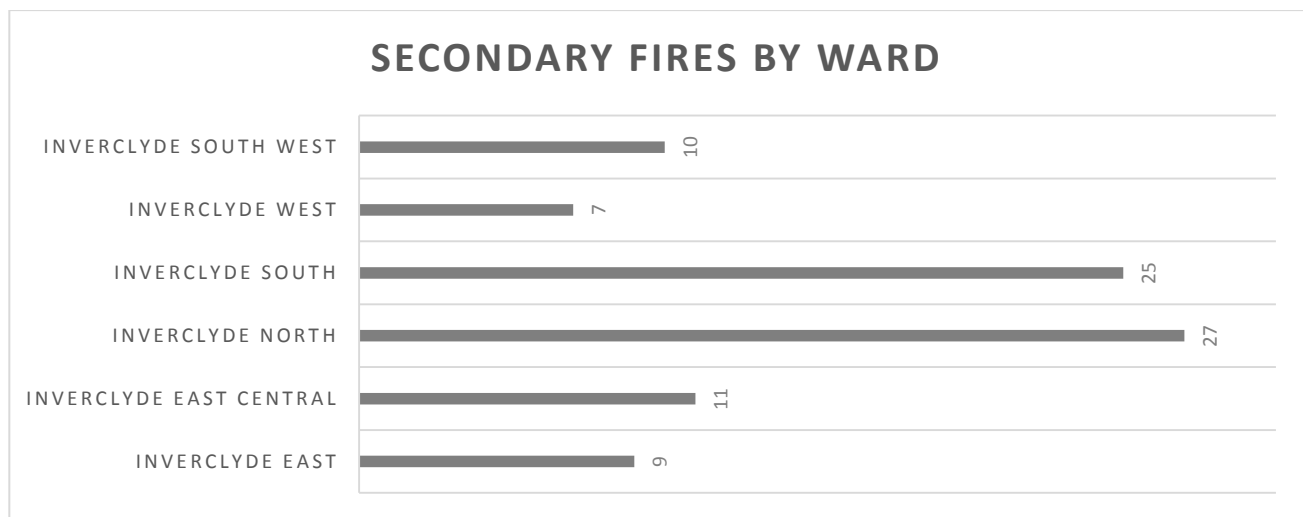
Deliberate fire setting is a criminal offence and SFRS will request Police Scotland to attend suspected deliberate primary fires when deemed appropriate. The SFRS Local Area Liaison Officer attends regular meetings within Inverclyde to provide fire activity overviews for action as appropriate.

SFRS officers will also complete Community Intelligent Reports at incidents where deliberate fire setting occurs; these are passed to Police Scotland where relevant information is gathered and used to support further investigation.

4.2. Secondary Fires

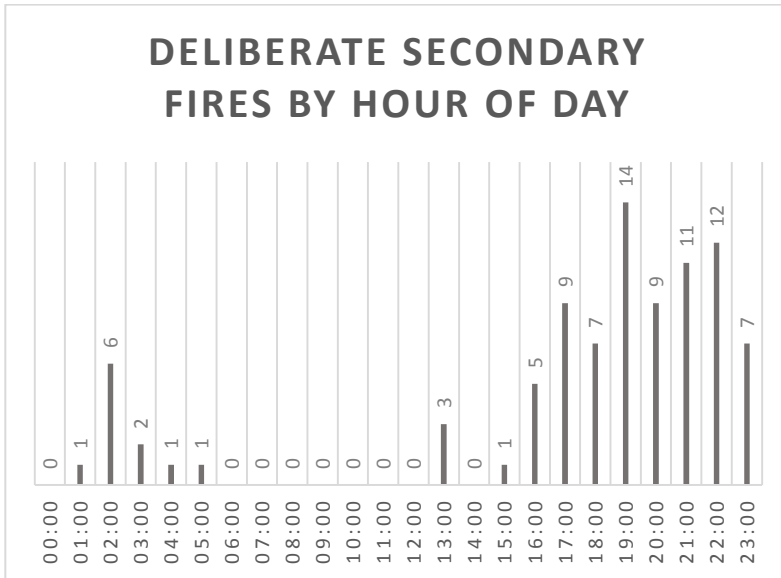
Secondary fires are classed as those involving derelict property (structures or vehicles), refuse, grassland and scrubland. During the third quarter of the 2016/17 reporting period there were a total of 89 deliberate secondary fires; this is an increase when compared to the same period in 2015/16 when there were 68 deliberate secondary fires. 16 of the fires relates to the period around Guy Fawkes Night.

4.2.1. Incidents by Ward



SFRS works closely with our partners to provide appropriate engagement, education and intervention approaches. Schools in areas identified as having higher fire incidents are targeted and the CAT officers actively engage with the pupils to educate them on the dangers and subsequences of wilful fire setting.

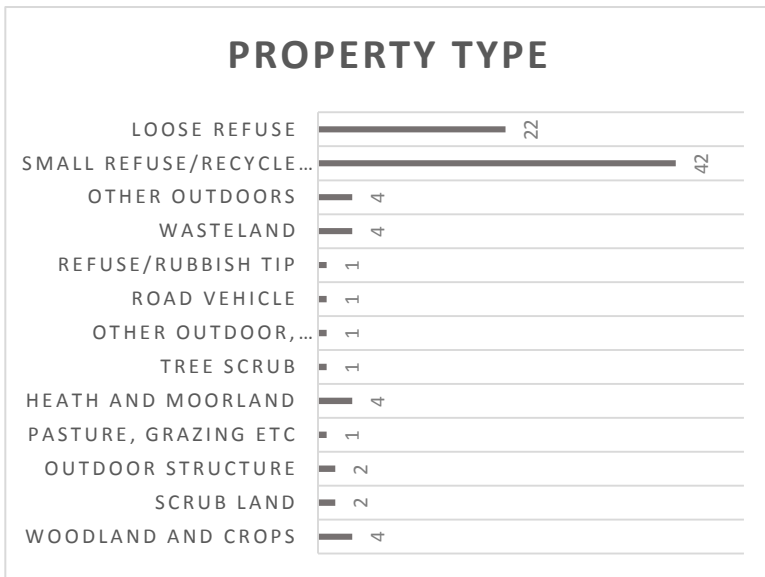
Time of Day



Graph 4.2.2. shows it is evident the vast majority of fires occurred between 15:00hrs to 23:00hrs; this pattern leads us to believe the majority of these fires have been started by school age young people who outwith these times will either be in bed or at school.

The Schools programme addresses wilful fire setting and educates young people on the impact of available front line emergency resources attending secondary fires and not being available for life threatening emergencies.

4.2.2. Property Type



Small refuse and recycling containers (wheelie bins fires) accounted for the majority of deliberate secondary fires in Inverclyde. Work has been on-going with Police Scotland and the Wardens service to identify specific area of activity through sharing of information. This has resulted in an increased presence in the areas identified. The high level of loose refuse fires was linked to bonfires during and surrounding the 5th of November.

5. REDUCTION OF FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES

This category includes commercial premises, private lockups/ garages and other structures. These incidents are included in the Deliberate Primary Fires referred to in section 3.1.

5.1. Incident by Ward

There were a total of 8 recorded fires in non-domestic premises during the reporting period in 3 Wards:

- Inverclyde South (4)
- Inverclyde North (3)
- Inverclyde East central (1)

5.2. Property Types

The types of properties included in the 8 incidents are detailed below

Retail Shop – Small fire in kitchen

Public Toilet – fire in roof material

Public Toilet – rubbish fire within room

Warehouse – small electrical fire in toilet

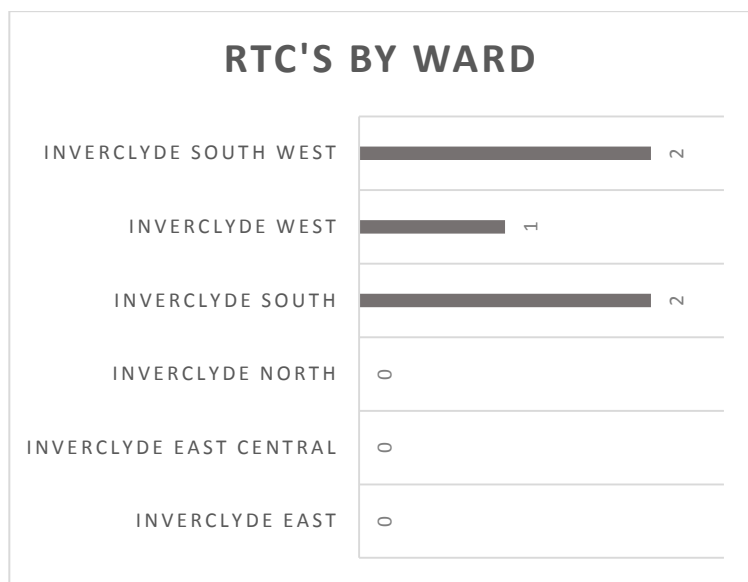
Commercial Garage – rubbish fire in refuse store

Place of entertainment (3) small fire in kitchen

All fires in non-domestic premises which are classed as relevant premises under The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 will be subject to a post fire audit. These are conducted by specialist Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) who will carry out a full inspection of the premises and all paperwork required under the Act; where deficiencies in fire safety management arrangements are identified the 'duty holder' will be issued with a notice as appropriate

6. REDUCTION OF CASUALTIES IN NON FIRE EMERGENCIES

6.1. Road Traffic Collision Incidents by Ward



There were a total of 5 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC) which SFRS attended in the reporting period; this will no reflect the numbers attended by Police Scotland which will potentially be higher. This is due to the fact SFRS only attends incidents of this nature when requested to assist in extrication of casualties or to make the scene safe.

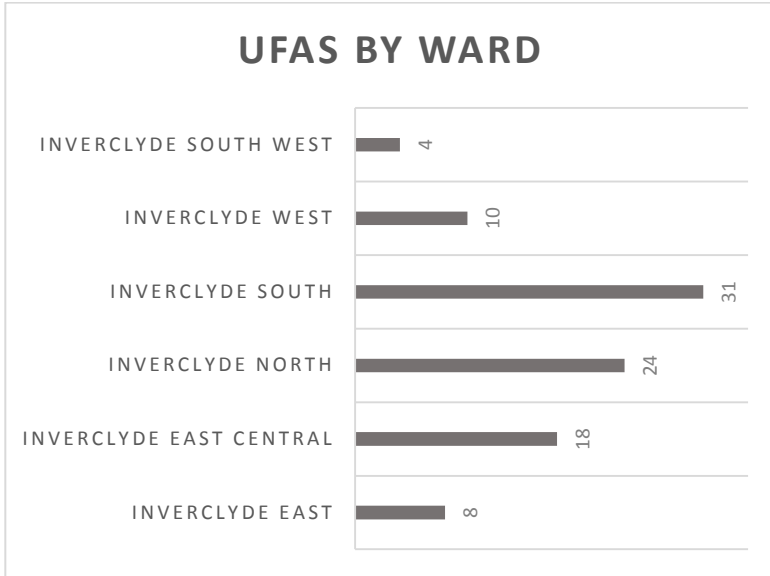
6.2. Road Traffic Casualties (RTC) by Ward

There were 6 RTC related casualties recorded by SFRS in the wards highlighted in 6.1. Two had serious injuries, two had slight injuries and two went to hospital for precautionary check only. There were no fatalities within this reporting period.

7. REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

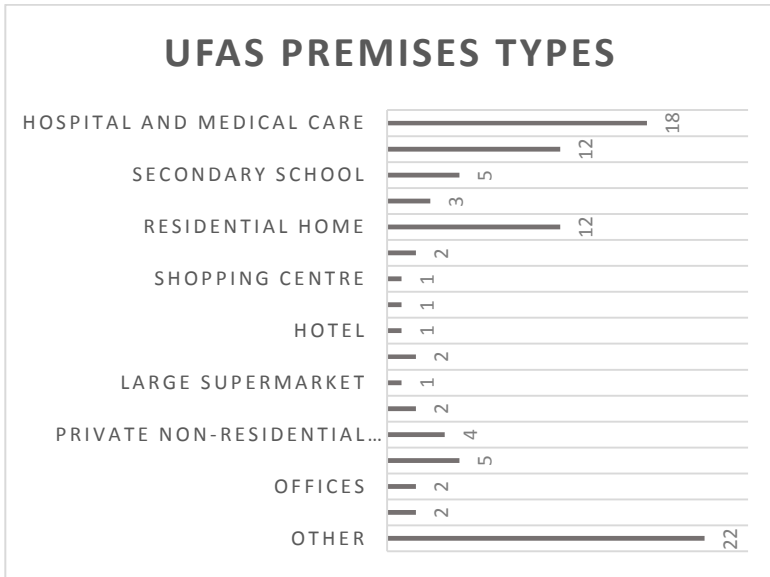
SFRS attends a range of false alarm incidents which include system faults, accidental actuation of fire alarm, malicious calls and good intent calls. SFRS is focused on reducing the associated road risk posed by 'blue light' journeys linked to our attendance at Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. There is a national policy in place which ensures we are adopting a standardised approach to positively engage and educate duty holders at premises which have fire alarm system actuations which are not due to an actual fire.

7.1. Incident by Ward



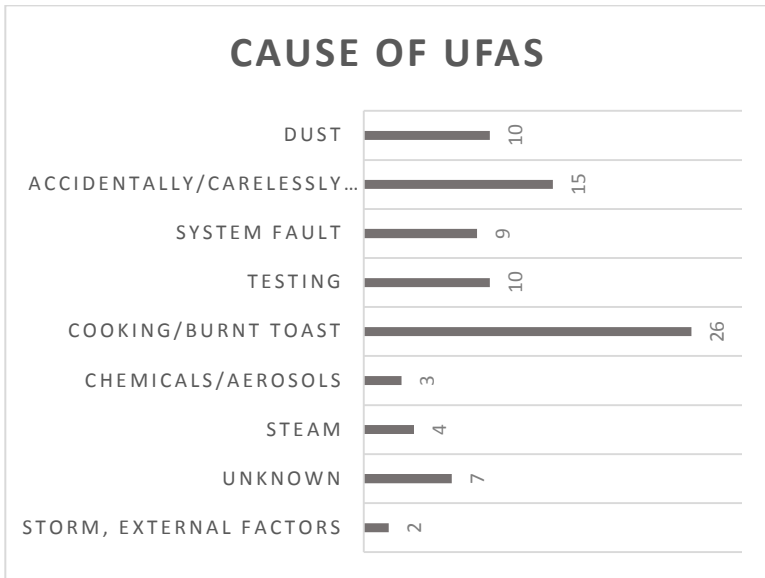
South and North Wards have the highest number 54 of Unwanted Fire Alarm Actuations (UFAS); Majority of these incidents occurred at Educational or Hospital facilities. This is confirmed in the following graph on property types.

7.2. Property Types



From the graph it is evident that Hospitals and Medical care facilities within Inverclyde accounted for a total of 18 UFAS incidents during the reporting period. Repeat attendances were to the following premises: The figure of 22 in 'other' is made up of small commercial businesses e.g. shops, factories, garages and eating establishments.

7.3. Cause of Actuation



The SFRS works closely with all relevant premises where UFAS occur. Where the number of actuations are above acceptable standards the FSEO team will carry out a fire safety audit to identify deficiencies in the management of alarm system and actuations; where deemed necessary notice of fire safety deficiency will be issued.