

For Noting, Implementation and Endorsement

EAST AYRSHIRE

COMMUNITY PLANNING JOINT OFFICERS' GROUP: 23 FEBRUARY 2010

STRATHCLYDE FIRE AND RESCUE – FATAL INCIDENT ANALYSIS REPORT 2008/09

Report by Head of Community Safety (East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire)
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Joint Officers' Group of the publication of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Fatal Incident Analysis Report 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND TO FATAL INCIDENT ANALYSIS REPORT

- 2.1 The Fatal Incident Analysis report is published by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on an annual basis and provides a detailed analysis in relation to fatal incidents attended by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue for the previous fiscal year.
- 2.2 The information contained within the Fatal Incident Analysis Report supports Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Community Safety Strategy by the provision of statistical information to support decision making processes at service and local level. The collation of information relating to fire fatalities supports the process of identifying those persons who are at the highest risk from fire and can be used to promote joint agency working to seek proactive intervention initiatives.
- 2.3 The principal focus of the report is on fire related fatalities and profiles all fatal fire incidents. Summary details are also contained within the report in respect of other fatal incidents attended by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

3. REPORT SUMMARY – SERVICE PERSPECTIVE

- 3.1 Twenty-seven fire fatalities occurred within the service area during the fiscal year 2008/09, a reduction of 8 from the previous year. Accidental fires accounted for 20 of these fatalities, with 6 fatalities arising from deliberate actions. The cause of fire relating to 1 fatality has been determined as inconclusive. Investigations carried out by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Incident Research & Investigation Section have determined that 18 of these fatalities were classified as preventable¹. In addition to these fatalities a total of 816 fire related injuries were recorded for the same period.
- 3.2 The majority of fire fatalities arising during this review period were female, accounting for 14 out of the 27 persons killed. Persons over the age of 50 accounted for the highest number of fatalities across the age groups. As in previous years, the winter months account for more than half of all fatalities.

¹ Preventable fire deaths are defined as "fires in which SFR intervention may have contributed towards the prevention of that death"

3.3 In studying the 18 preventable fatalities, a number of factors were identified that were deemed to be contributory on these occasions. The main contributory factors which increase a persons risk from fire are:

- Smoking
- Alcohol
- Living alone
- Lack of mobility
- Elderly/infirm

3.4 The most common living environment in which fatalities arose during 2008/09 was within flat type accommodation (Tenements, 4 in a block and multi storey). Further analysis of the potential effectiveness of domestic sprinklers concluded that the fitting of domestic sprinklers would have had a major impact on the reduction of these fire fatalities.

3.5 Strathclyde Fire and Rescue also attended a range of non-fire related incidents, which resulted in 92 fatalities being recorded. Forty-nine of these fatalities occurred at road traffic collision, 7 at water related incidents with the remaining 36 at other incidents². In terms of injuries, 1,157 persons were injured resulting from road traffic collisions with a further 397 due to water related and other incidents.

4. REPORT SUMMARY – EAST AYRSHIRE PERSPECTIVE

4.1 Within East Ayrshire during the period under review, there were 127 dwelling fires, of which three quarters were classified as accidental. Two fire fatalities occurred, both within the domestic environment, which is in line with the 5-year average for the local authority area. A total of 13 persons were injured by fire, the lowest total over the past 5 years. The most common cause of fire was attributed to cooking appliances.

4.2 In terms of non-fire related incidents across East Ayrshire, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue attended a range of incidents that resulted in 6 road traffic collision and 2 other fatalities occurring. A total of 88 non-fire related injuries were recorded for the same period with 71 attributed to road traffic collisions.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Joint Officers' Group is requested to:

- i) note the content of the report;
- ii) acknowledge the findings of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Fatal Incident Analysis Report 2008/09; and
- iii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Jim Scott
Head of Community Safety – East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire
Strathclyde Fire and Rescue
10 February 2010

² Table 25 – Fatal Incident Analysis 2008 – 2009



Strathclyde Fire & Rescue



Fatal Incident Analysis 2008/09



Foreword - Chief Officer



This report provides an overview of activity during 2008/2009; a year during which 27 people died as a result of fire in the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue (SFR) area. Although this is a significant reduction from the previous year (35), more has to be done to continue this downward trend. Once again, fire has targeted those in our communities who suffer poor health, are older or live alone. We must continue to ensure that support and assistance is made available to these particular groups.

Last Year, I was commissioned by Fergus Ewing, Minister for Community Safety, to investigate the reasons why Scotland appears to have a disproportionate incidence of fire deaths and casualties.

In this respect I established the Scottish Community Fire Safety Study Group, made up of colleagues from SFR and Scottish Government.

The group reported its findings to the Minister for Community Safety via the Ministerial Advisory Group in June 2009 and the final report entitled "Scotland Together" was published in November 2009.

During the period of this report the UK has experienced a significant recession. This economic downturn has brought with it unique challenges for all public services, including Fire and Rescue. These include challenging the way we traditionally deliver services and maximising opportunities presented by working together.

SFR must make best use of existing resources through targeting risk groups in partnership with other key agencies, to deliver effective services.

Our Community Safety Strategy 2009 - 2011 sets out a number of key actions that will ensure the organisation continues to develop the range of policies and protocols to enhance community safety. In addition, SFR will contribute fully through the Chief Fire Officers Association (Scotland) to make a full contribution to draft national guidance relating to community safety partnerships and anti-social behaviour.

I am confident that, with the continued support and dedication of all staff, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue will continue to save life and mitigate the effects of emergency incidents, making our communities safer places to live, work and visit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "B. P. Sweeney".

Brian P. Sweeney QFSM, D.Univ, MA
Chief Officer, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue



Foreword - Convener



As Convener of the Board of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, I am fully committed to reducing fire deaths and injuries and to supporting the effective delivery of front-line services to make our communities safer. In addition, my role as Vice-Convener of the Scottish Fire Conveners Forum enables me to work closely with CoSLA, The Scottish Government and other key stakeholders at a national level, to promote the interests of Fire and Rescue Services and reduce the impact of fire and other emergencies.

In terms of SFR, all Board members make a full contribution to the administration of the organisation and participate fully in driving forward the range of important issues to ensure we continue to deliver first-class levels of service across west central Scotland.

This report confirms the importance of gathering and sharing meaningful data, working together with other agencies and evaluating fire safety campaigns to ensure their effectiveness. To this end, a range of useful information is provided, that will be used in the consideration of future projects and initiatives and as such I commend the report to you.

Brian Wallace

Councillor Brian Wallace
Convener of the Board of
Strathclyde Fire & Rescue



Introduction

Welcome to SFRs Fatal Incident Analysis for the fiscal year 2008-2009.

SFR's Community Safety Strategy 2009 - 2011 has been produced to set direction and drive service improvements across the organisation. The strategy is a vehicle for achieving the Community Safety elements of the Integrated Risk Management Plan and thereby supporting SFR in achieving the vision of making our communities safe places to live work and visit.

The information contained within this report supports the strategy and contains statistical information, which can be used to inform decision-making at service and local area level. In addition, the report provides a useful resource for partners who may use the findings as a means to shape their own actions and interventions.

The nature of fire is such that it often proves difficult to accurately target resources. However, by compiling comprehensive statistical data and benchmarking activity against previous years, this report identifies patterns and trends. This supports the creation of action plans to deliver excellent local services. The collation of information relating to fatalities highlights the need to identify persons who are at the highest risk from fire. This information can be used to promote joint agency working through such initiatives as the Single Shared Assessment.

Primarily the Incident Research & Investigation Section (IRIS) supplies the data contained in the report. It is supplemented by information centrally from SFRs data services section and locally, through operational intelligence gathering.

making our communities safe places to live, work and visit



Fire Fatalities 2008-09

This section provides a comprehensive analysis of the 27 fire fatalities that occurred within the SFR service area during the fiscal year 2008-09. There has been a 23% decrease compared to the previous year's figure of 35. The figures are benchmarked against the 2007-08 figures in the adjacent table.

Fatality statistics have historically been recorded in two categories i.e. 'Deliberate' and 'Accidental'.

SFR has identified that all future initiatives should be directly targeted towards preventable fire deaths, hence the need to classify accordingly:

Preventable fire deaths are defined as:

'Fires in which SFR intervention may have contributed towards the prevention of that death'

Non-preventable fire deaths are defined as:

'Fires in which SFR could not have foreseen, or contributed towards, the prevention of that death'.

In this report there were 18 preventable deaths and 9 non preventable.

Table 1: **ACCIDENTAL/DELIBERATE**

Sex	All fire fatalities by gender		Accidental fire fatalities by gender		% of accidental fire fatalities by gender		Deliberate fire fatalities by gender		% of deliberate fire fatalities by gender	
	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08
MALE	13	23	11	16	55%	60%	2	7	33%	100%
FEMALE	14	12	9	11	45%	40%	4	0	67%	0%
TOTAL	27	35	20	27			6	7		

The circumstances surrounding one of the 27 fatalities has resulted in the cause being determined as inconclusive.

Of the 6 deliberate fire fatalities in 2008/2009, 4 were started deliberately by the person who died as a result of the fire. Of the remaining 2 fatalities, it is confirmed that 1 incident resulted in a conviction whilst the other prosecution is currently ongoing. Both these legal proceedings involve a charge of wilful fire raising.

Table 2: **NON PREVENTABLE/PREVENTABLE**

Sex	Preventable fire fatalities by gender		% of preventable fire fatalities by gender		Non-preventable fire fatalities by gender		% of non-preventable fire fatalities by gender	
	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08
MALE	8	12	44%	55%	5	11	56%	83%
FEMALE	10	10	56%	45%	4	2	44%	17%
TOTAL	18	22			9	13		

The average number of fatalities within the SFR service area between 1998 – 2008 is 40. Although the number of fatalities varies year on year, there has been a general downward trend over recent years.

Table 3: ALL FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 BY MONTH -

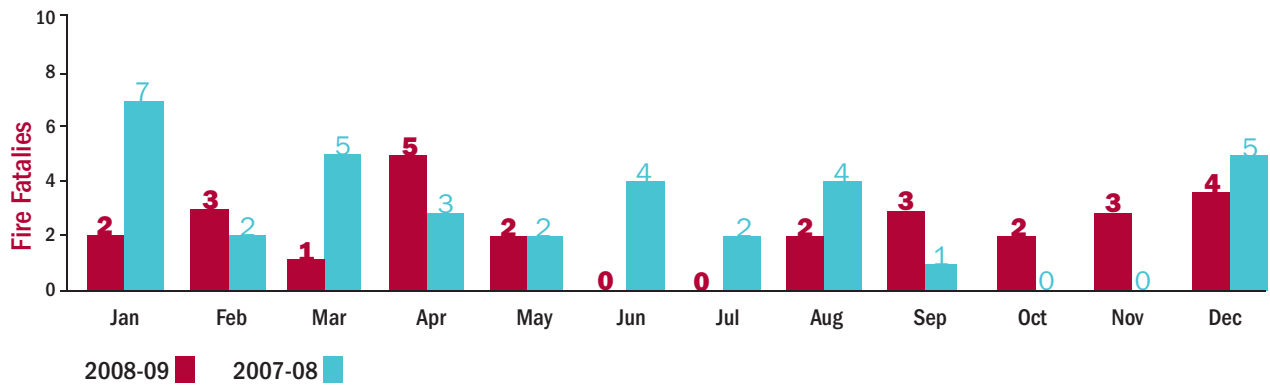
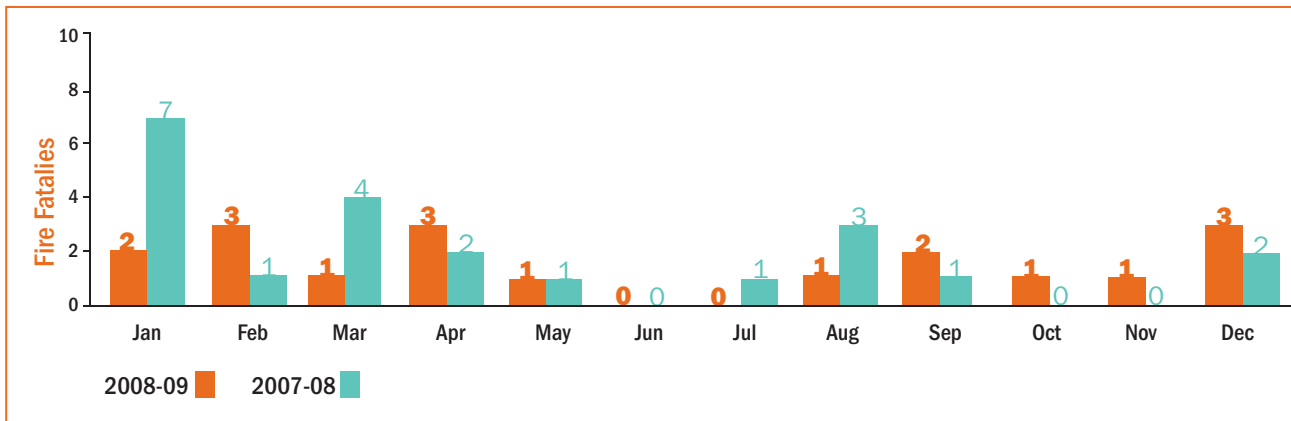


Table 4: PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 BY MONTH



As in previous years, the winter months account for more than half of all fatalities.



Table 5: ALL FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 **BY DAY OF WEEK**

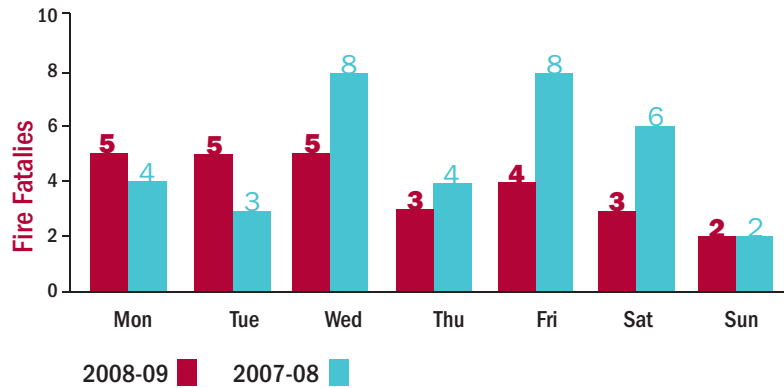
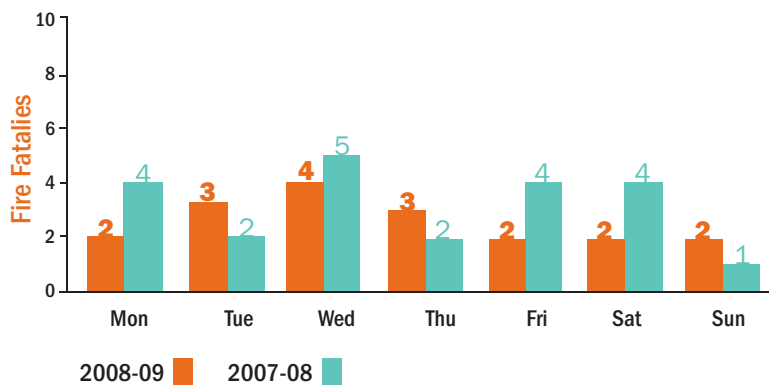


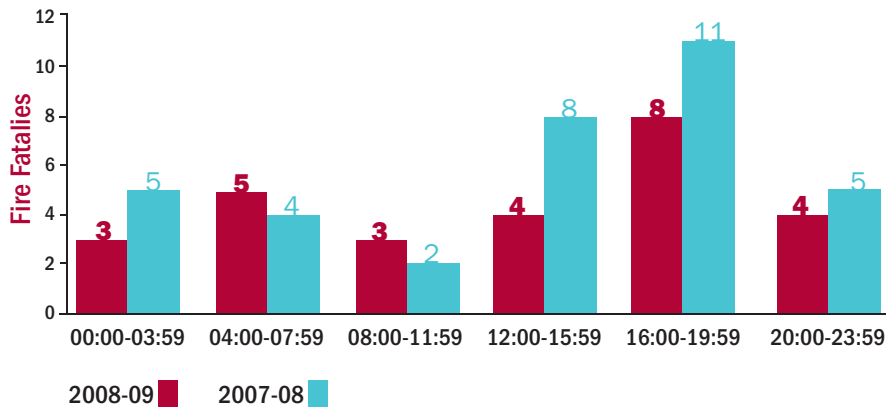
Table 6: PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 **BY DAY OF WEEK**



The spread of fatalities by day of the week was unusually even, as previous years figures show that most fatalities occur at the weekend.



Table 7: ALL FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 BY TIME OF DAY



The majority of fatal fires occurred between 16:00 hrs and 20:00 hrs; this differs from previous years where the majority occurred between 00:00 hrs and 04:00 hrs.

Table 8: PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 BY TIME OF DAY

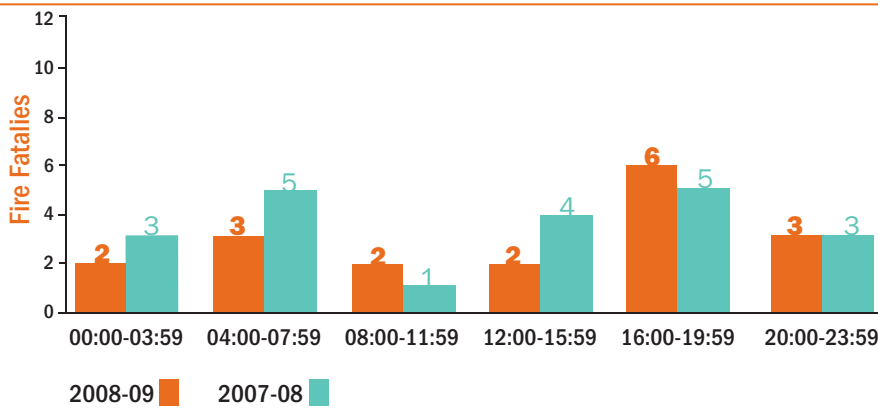


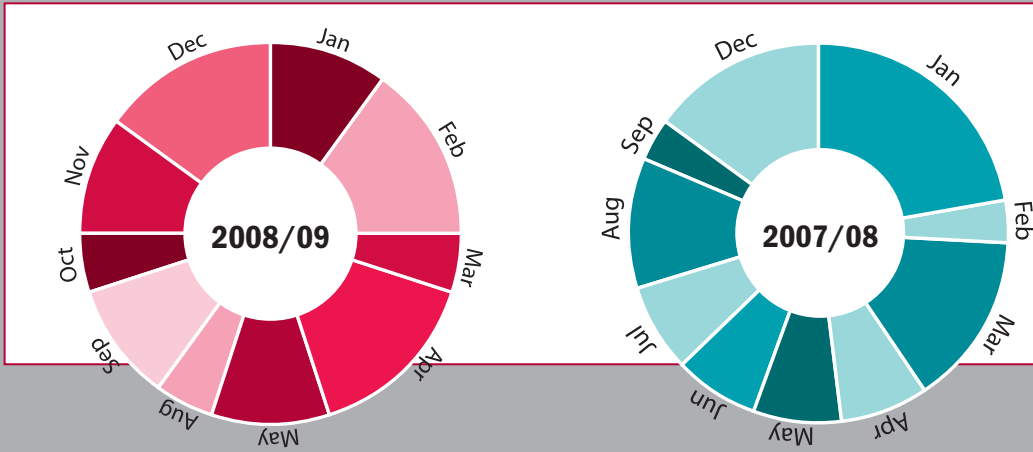
Table 9: FIRE FATALITIES 2008-2009 BY GENDER AND AGE

Age	Preventable		Non-Preventable	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
0-9	0	0	0	0
10-19	0	0	1	0
20-29	0	0	1	0
30-39	1	0	0	1
40-49	1	4	1	1
50-59	2	2	2	1
60-69	2	1	0	1
70-79	2	2	0	0
80+	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	8	10	5	4

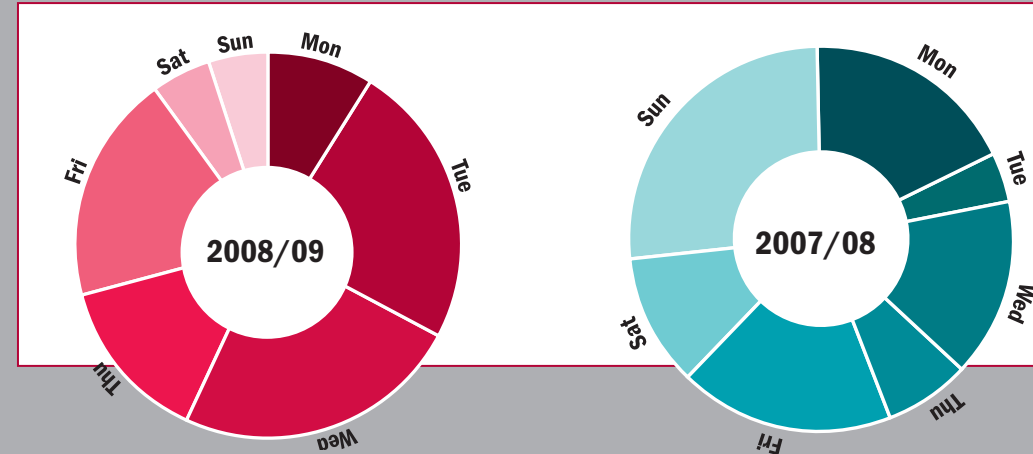
Table 10: FIRE FATALITIES 2007-2008 BY GENDER AND AGE

Age	Preventable		Non-Preventable	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
0-9	0	0	0	0
10-19	0	0	0	0
20-29	0	0	2	0
30-39	0	0	0	0
40-49	3	1	2	1
50-59	3	3	1	0
60-69	3	1	3	0
70-79	3	3	1	1
80+	0	2	2	0
TOTAL	12	10	11	2

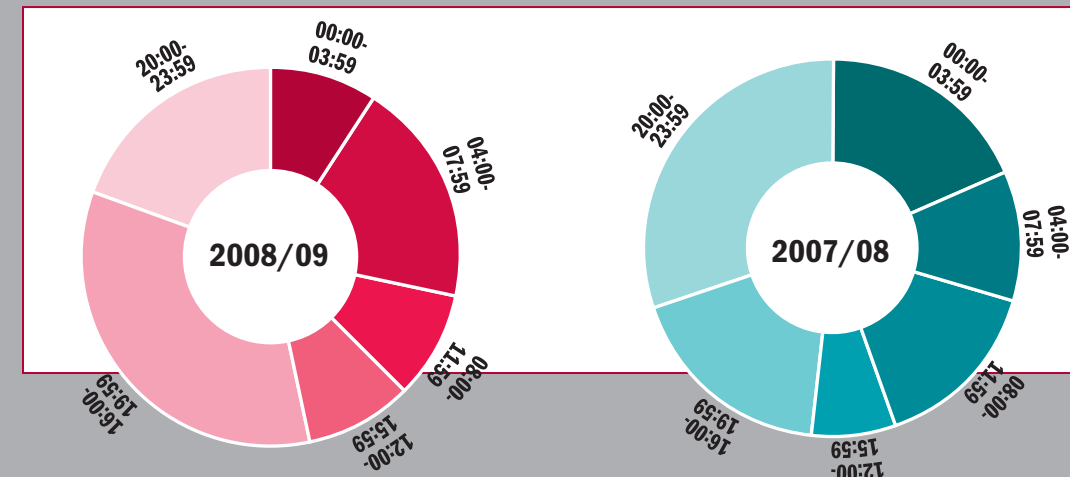
% BREAKDOWN OF PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES BY MONTH



% BREAKDOWN OF PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES BY THE DAY OF WEEK



% BREAKDOWN OF PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES BY THE TIME OF DAY





Contributory Factors 2008/09

A full list of the factors which increase a person's risk of fire are listed below together with the number of times they had an impact on the 18 preventable fire deaths.

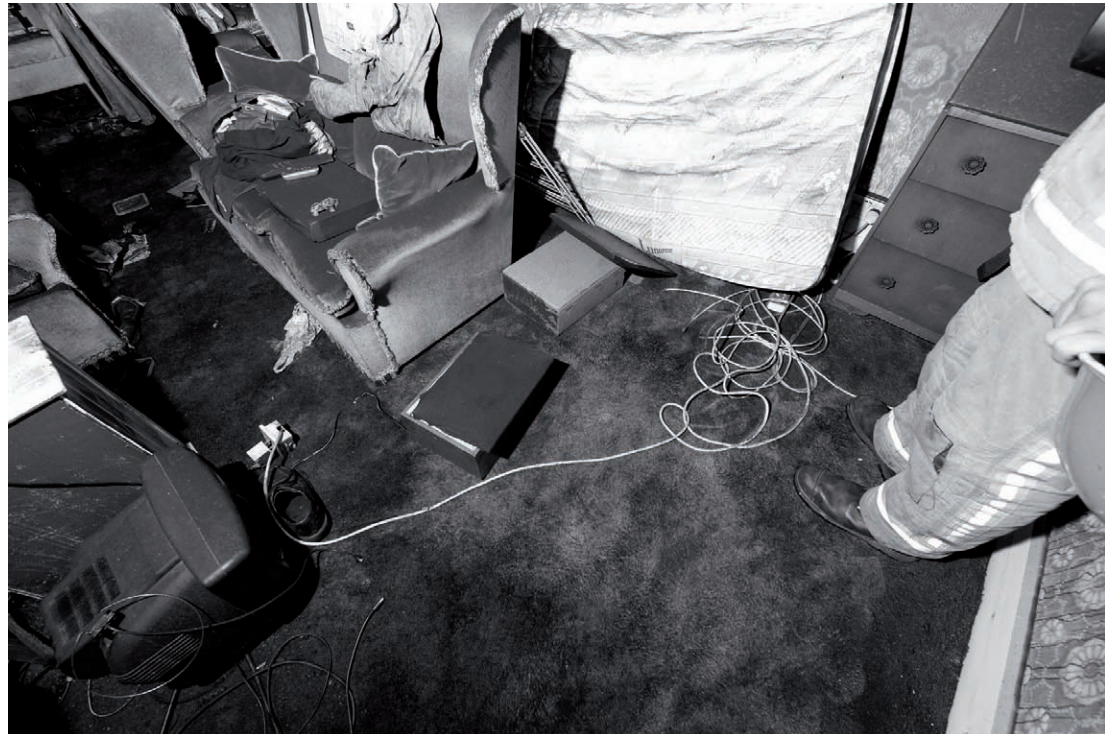
Table 11:
Preventable Fatality Contributory Factors

Living Alone	13
Alcohol	9
Mobility	13
Older People/Infirm	9
Learning Difficulties	2
Prescription Medication	9
Physical Impairment	2
Drug Abuse	1
Smoking	13

As in previous years we see a similar pattern of contributory factors where living alone, mobility, alcohol and the other factors combine to make those particular members of the public most at risk from fire. SFR are fully aware of the need to address these issues. We will continue to work with other agencies to identify and engage with those at highest risk in order to provide them with appropriate protection from fire.

It should be noted that the age groups providing the highest concentration of fire fatalities are males in their 50's and females in their 40's.

SFR considers those most at risk from fire and, in this regard defines this group as in need of support in order that they may live safer lives.



PREVENTABLE FIRE FATALITIES BY PROPERTY TYPE

Table 12: PROPERTY TYPE 2008-09

Detached house	0
Semi-detached house	3
Terraced house	3
Flat (Tenement)	4
Flat (4 in block)	4
Flat (Multi Storey)	3
Flat (other)	1
Total	18

Table 13: PROPERTY TYPE 2007-08

Detached house	0
Semi-detached house	2
Terraced house	4
Flat (Tenement)	7
Flat (4 in block)	3
Flat (Multi Storey)	3
Flat (other)	3
Total	22

Table 14: LOCAL AUTHORITY BREAKDOWN OF DWELLING HOUSE FIRES

Area	All Fatalities		Preventable Fatalities	
	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08
Argyll & Bute	0	1	0	0
City of Glasgow	4	21	4	15
East Ayrshire	2	3	2	2
East Dunbartonshire	1	0	1	0
East Renfrewshire	1	0	0	0
Inverclyde	0	0	0	0
North Ayrshire	2	0	0	0
North Lanarkshire	4	4	3	3
Renfrewshire	3	2	2	1
South Ayrshire	4	0	3	0
South Lanarkshire	1	2	0	1
West Dunbartonshire	5	2	3	0
TOTAL	27	35	18	22

Predominantly, fire fatalities occurred within wholetime station areas (23), with the remainder (4) occurring in retained station areas.

Table 15: **LOCATION OF FIRE AND FATALITY 2008-09**

	Fire Location	Fatality Location	Fatality in room of origin
Bathroom	0	2	0
Bedroom	10	11	8
Hallway	1	1	0
Kitchen	8	8	6
Living/Lounge	7	3	3
Other	1	2	1
TOTAL	27	27	18

Table 16:
**IF SPRINKLERS HAD BEEN FITTED
COULD FATALITY HAVE BEEN PREVENTED**

	2008/09	2007/08
Most Likely	3	5
Possibly	15	17
Unlikely	0	0
Most Unlikely	0	0
Not Applicable	9	13
TOTAL	27	35

It can be seen that the fitting of domestic sprinklers would have a major impact on the reduction of fire deaths.

Table 17:
**PREVENTABLE FATALITIES AND
CAUSES OF FIRE**

	2008/09	2007/08
Candle	0	0
Cooking appliance	4	7
Electrical distribution	0	2
Electrical (other appliance)	0	1
Smoker's materials	14	11
Other	0	1
TOTAL	18	22



Table 18:
PREVENTABLE FATALITIES WITHIN DWELLINGS -
SMOKE ALARM FITTED

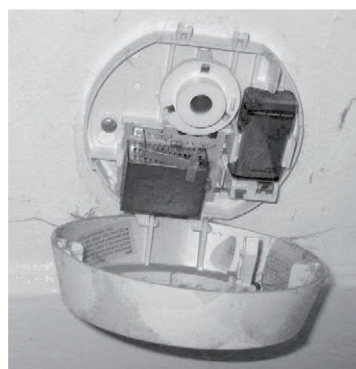
	2008/09	2007/08
Installed	17	18
Not installed	1	3
Unknown	0	0
Not Applicable	0	0
RAISED ALARM		
Yes	5	5
No	7	5
Not Known	5	8
Not Applicable	1	3

Of the 18 fatalities, 17 had smoke detection fitted, although it is only known to have raised the alarm on 5 occasions. This is disappointing as it would appear that smoke detection is being fitted but not being maintained, e.g. defective detector or battery removed.

It should also be considered that there were 10 occasions where smoke detection may have been fully functional. However the effects of alcohol and other contributing factors may have prevented the occupier from responding to the alarm.

Table 19:
REASON FOR ALARM NOT FUNCTIONING

	2008/09	2007/08
Battery removed	3	3
Flat battery	2	1
Defective detector	1	0
Detector removed	0	0
Not Known	1	0
Other	7	1



Costings and Environmental Impact

The tragic impact following a loss of life is, of course, immeasurable; however there is a financial impact to society which may be calculated.

SFR applies the calculation provided within the economic cost of fire¹ and in this regard the following calculations are made.

The figures used to quantify a fire death, state the financial impact of each death as £1,546,688¹. This means the cost to society for the 27 members of our communities who lost their lives as a result of fires in 2008/09 across SFRs area is £41,760,576.

There were a total of 716 casualties as a result of fire during the fiscal year 2008/09. The impact to society of these casualties, £44,019 for a serious

fire casualty and £574 for a minor casualty, is over £18,000,000.

In addition to the financial cost, every fire incident has an environmental impact and SFR is fully committed to adopting its Environmental Policy which includes reducing the impact of firefighting techniques.

Fires release quantities of Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere, SFR is sighted on this and is working to reduce the occurrence of fires through its demand reduction strategies. This proactive approach to reducing demand on our service will have a positive impact on environmental protection.

An extract from SFR's Environmental Policy & Strategy is given below:

“SFR has chosen to lead by example by implementing an Environmental Policy with realistic and measurable objectives, which consider the whole life cycle of goods, services and materials. As a responsible organisation there are clear moral, legal and financial reasons why an Environmental Policy and associated initiatives should be pursued wherever possible, within the confines of practicality and affordability.”

‘The implementation of the environmental strategy will assist in safeguarding the health and safety of all staff, whilst promoting continuous improvement and contributing to the protection of the environment.’”

¹ Communities and Local Government: Economic Cost of Fire (2004)



Other Fatalities 2008-09

Although fires account for a significant number of fatalities attended by SFR, we also respond to a wide range of other incidents in which fatalities occur.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

SFR has attended an average of 41 fatal Road Traffic Collisions (2005 - 2009).

WATER INCIDENTS

SFR has attended an average of 9 water related fatalities (2005 - 2009).

OTHER

This category refers to all other fatalities i.e. building collapse, exposure to toxic substances etc.

SFR has attended an average of 19 fatal incidents in this category (2005 - 2009).



Table 20: FATAL INCIDENT OVERVIEW 2008-09

Fiscal Year 2008-09	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTALS
RTC	3	3	3	6	5	5	1	3	7	5	4	4	49
WATER	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	7
OTHER	1	7	6	4	1	1	0	3	3	2	7	1	36

Table 21: FATAL INCIDENT OVERVIEW 2007-08

Fiscal Year 2007-08	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTALS
RTC	3	3	3	1	7	4	7	3	4	8	4	3	50
WATER	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	14
OTHER	2	1	1	1	0	5	1	2	2	1	1	0	17

SFR will continue to assist partner agencies through our education programmes in an effort to reduce the numbers killed and seriously injured on our roads. Our commitment is demonstrated by our contribution and joint working with Strathclyde Police and Road Safety Scotland together with our membership of various road safety groups such as the 'West of Scotland Road Safety Forum'. (See Page 28)

Table 22: **BREAKDOWN OF RTCs BY UNITARY AUTHORITY**

Area	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTALS
Argyll & Bute	1	1 1		1		1	1 1	1	3 1	1	1 1	1	10 6
City of Glasgow	1			1		1	1	1		1	1		5 2
East Ayrshire	1			2	3				1		1	2 2	6 6
East Dunbartonshire		1	1										2 0
East Renfrewshire	1				1								0 2
Inverclyde	1												0 1
North Ayrshire					1		1	1	1 1		1		3 3
North Lanarkshire		1 2			2 1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4 10
Renfrewshire				1	1	1		1	1	1 2			4 4
South Ayrshire			1		2	1		1	1		1 1		3 5
South Lanarkshire			2 2	2	1	2 2	2		1	4 3		1	12 10
West Dunbartonshire	1												0 1
TOTALS PER MONTH	3 3	3 3	3 3	6 1	5 7	5 4	1 7	3 3	7 4	5 8	4 4	4 3	49 50

2008-09
 2007-08



WATER

7 people lost their lives in water incidents attended by SFR in 2008/09 compared to 14 in 2007/08. This identifies a 50% reduction. The Strathclyde area has an abundance of both inland and tidal water courses, and this can pose challenges in regard to the Service's emergency response. Although significant reductions have been made SFR will continue to strive to reduce the figure further.

Table 23: **BREAKDOWN OF WATER FATALITIES** BY UNITARY AUTHORITY

Area	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTALS
Argyll & Bute						1						4	4 1
City of Glasgow					1		2					1	2 2
East Ayrshire					1								0 1
East Dunbartonshire													0 0
East Renfrewshire													0 0
Inverclyde													0 0
North Ayrshire								1					0 1
North Lanarkshire			1										0 1
Renfrewshire													0 0
South Ayrshire			1	1				1					0 3
South Lanarkshire											1		1 0
West Dunbartonshire		1			1				3				0 5
TOTALS PER MONTH	0 0	0 1	0 2	0 1	1 2	0 1	0 2	0 2	0 3	0 0	1 0	5 0	7 14

2008-09
 2007-08



OTHER

SFR attends a diverse number of incidents which result in fatalities or at which a fatality has occurred, and the Service has been requested to provide a humanitarian service. These include body recovery and the opening of lockfast premises. Table 24 provides a summary of the number of incidents of this nature.

Table 24: **BREAKDOWN OF OTHER FATAL INCIDENTS** BY UNITARY AUTHORITY

Area	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTALS
Argyll & Bute	1			1						1			1 2
City of Glasgow	1	1		1 1		1	1	1 1	1		1		6 4
East Ayrshire				1					1				2 0
East Dunbartonshire		3											3 0
East Renfrewshire													0 0
Inverclyde	1	1		1		1							2 2
North Ayrshire			1										1 0
North Lanarkshire			2					1	1	1	2	1	8 0
Renfrewshire			1					1					2 0
South Ayrshire		2			1								3 0
South Lanarkshire		1	1 1			3		1	2	1 1	2 1		5 9
West Dunbartonshire			1								2		3 0
TOTALS PER MONTH	1 2	7 1	6 1	4 1	1 0	1 4	0 1	3 2	3 2	2 2	7 1	1 0	36 17

2008-09

2007-08

Table 25: **CATEGORIES OF OTHER FATAL INCIDENTS**

CATEGORY OF OTHER	NUMBER
Rail Incident	1
Recover Body from Domestic Premises	20
Trench Collapse	1
Industrial Accident	2
Recover Body from Vehicle	2
Fallen from Height	3
Recover Body Outdoors	5
Recover Body from Hull of Ship	2
TOTAL	36

INJURIES

A total of 2370 casualties were recorded at incidents attended by SFR in the year 2008-09. The injuries sustained can vary from burns, scalds to physical injury or precautionary check-ups.

TABLE 26: **BREAKDOWN OF OTHER CASUALTIES** BY UNITARY AUTHORITY

Area	Fire	Other & Water	RTC	TOTALS
Argyll & Bute	18	15	116	149
City of Glasgow	289	130	242	661
East Ayrshire	13	17	71	101
East Dunbartonshire	11	17	33	61
East Renfrewshire	111	17	44	172
Inverclyde	40	14	27	81
North Ayrshire	35	28	67	130
North Lanarkshire	120	47	185	352
Renfrewshire	44	31	78	153
South Ayrshire	27	23	43	93
South Lanarkshire	74	41	228	343
West Dunbartonshire	34	17	23	74
TOTALS	816	397	1157	2370



STRATHCLYDE FIRE & I



Economic Downturn and Fire

In order to understand the possible correlation between fire and the economic downturn, SFR has conducted a study over 3 years of deliberate fires to determine the effect the current financial situation is having on activity.

At the time of publication, it would seem the economic downturn has had no major effect on deliberate fires within commercial premises in the SFR area. The figures are reproduced below and show a fall in fires within commercial premises over 3 years, but an increase in derelict and deliberate dwelling fires. The figures relating to this are closely monitored and are reviewed by the Community Safety Directorate Management Team on a monthly basis.

Fires in Derelict Premises:

April-March 06/07 - 665	→ Three-year average - 672
April-March 07/08 - 642	
April-March 08/09 - 708	

Fires in derelict premises have increased by 66 (10%) compared to the same period last year. They are also 36 (5%) above the 3 year average.

Deliberate Fires in Commercial Premises:

April-March 06/07 - 134	→ Three-year average - 114
April-March 07/08 - 109	
April-March 08/09 - 100	

Deliberate fires within commercial premises have decreased steadily over the past three years. They have dropped by 9 (8%) in comparison to the same period last year. They are also 14 (13%) under the 3 year average.

There would at this time appear to be no correlation between the economic downturn and commercial fires within SFR Service Area. This will be monitored with future trends reported.

Deliberate Dwelling Fires:

April-March 06/07 - 677	→ Three-year average - 641
April-March 07/08 - 619	
April-March 08/09 - 627	

Deliberate dwelling fires have increased by 8 (1%) compared to the same period last year. They are also 14 (2%) under the 3 year average.

Accidental Dwelling Fires:

April-March 06/07 - 2516	→ Three-year average - 2496
April-March 07/08 - 2505	
April-March 08/09 - 2467	

Accidental dwelling fires have also reduced dramatically by 38 (2%) in comparison to the previous year and 29 (1%) below the 3 year average.

Community Safety Overview

Incident Research & Investigation Section (IRIS)

IRIS has seen a number of significant developments in the past year. Most notably we have relocated and now share new premises with all other sections of the Community Safety Directorate.

Fire Investigation

IRIS investigates and reports on the most serious fire incidents including all fatalities. Over the past year the section has attended 212 incidents, this was an increase of 14% over the previous year. The section has been involved in the investigation of high profile incidents over the past year ranging from financial losses to deliberate fires resulting in fatalities.

Although the Section routinely attends multi-agency investigations, they have more recently had the opportunity to utilise their joint protocol with SFR's Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) Team. The USAR team are able to create a safe working environment which enables investigations to be carried out in otherwise unsafe structures.

In the last year the Section was involved with the Chief Fire Officers Association (Scotland) (CFOAS), by organising a national Fire and Forensics Conference, which attracted delegates from all over the United Kingdom. The Conference, which was hosted by SFR, had a range of notable guest speakers who stimulated discussion on a range of fire and forensic related subjects.

SFR also organised and facilitated an Explosion Awareness seminar on behalf of CFOAS. This event was attended by delegates from all over Scotland and had the internationally renowned expert on explosives, Jack Malooly, as the speaker for the day. Both events were very successful and raised awareness within the forensic community.

The section has developed a number of Fire Investigation training packages. The packages include Fire Investigation familiarisation modules, which are currently being delivered to firefighters and Watch Officers within the station environment.

The sessions provide the student with a greater understanding of the role and work carried out by the section. Input is also provided on inter agency protocols and standard operating procedures, which assist our firefighters with scene preservation.

During 2009, SFR entered into agreement with Fife Fire & Rescue to provide fire investigation awareness training. These courses were provided to nominated Watch Officers and were well received by the recipients.

IRIS has developed an 'in house' one-week training course. The course includes external inputs from Strathclyde Police, Forensic Pathology Department, Scottish Police Services Authority (SPSA), as well as SFR's Legal and Health and Safety Sections. It culminates in a 'live burn', which the delegates have to investigate thus consolidating their learning input. The course has been delivered to eight Watch Commanders who have expressed an interest in joining IRIS.

The section continues to promote personal development with a Fire Investigation Officer successfully attending the Advanced Origin and Cause training course run by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) in the USA. This is the third member of the section to be fortunate enough to have attended one of the ATF's training courses, which are normally reserved for US personnel.

Demand Reduction

A newly formed demand reduction team deals with all aspects of demand reduction for SFR:-

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

The Directorate is seeking ways to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) within the business community through the development of cohesive policies and liaison with all relevant internal and external stakeholders. It is estimated that UFAS cost the Service £2,000 per mobilisation amounting to £30 million+ per annum². The average costs to a business amounts to £848 in lost revenue per actuation.

Fire Related Crime and Anti Social Behaviour

Fire crime and fire related antisocial behaviour includes:-

- **Fire setting**
- **Hydrant vandalism and misuse**
- **Malicious/Hoax emergency calls**
- **Deliberate actuation of fire warning systems**
- **Acts of violence**

Deliberate fire setting and fire vandalism are mainly concentrated within high-density urban areas having significant levels of social deprivation. Although neighbourhood fire setting can be part of the cycle of violence and intimidation within communities, youth fire setting is mainly opportunistic. Whilst for safety reasons the sale to young people of cigarettes, alcohol, fireworks and solvents or glues etc. is subject to controls there are no age restrictions on the purchase of matches or cigarette lighters.

To complement existing education, advice and youth diversion work, the focus is now on assisting partners identify offenders and challenge fire offending and fire related antisocial behaviour within communities. This is being achieved with assistance from fire crews who are able to make enquiries about who has been committing fire offences and feed this information direct to partner agencies to action. In a recent inter agency pilot project involving SFR, Crimestoppers and Glasgow Community and Safety Services, householders were asked to report fire related anti social behaviour anonymously via Crimestoppers. This resulted in a dramatic decrease in this type of incident. This offender-focused approach has resulted in several prosecutions and assisted in the reduction of operational activity.

Table 27: **BREAKDOWN OF GLASGOW FIRE SETTING AND FIRE RELATED ASB**

Glasgow Fire Setting and Fire related ASB	July/August 2008	July/August 2007	July/August 2006
Deliberate Primary Fires	151	155	191
Deliberate Secondary Fires	639	737	1028
Malicious False Alarms	137	202	172
Hydrant Misuse/Vandalism	170	264	989
Total	1097	1358	2380

² Communities and Local Government: Economic Cost of Fire (2004)

Road Safety

SFR has continued to show its commitment to the road safety agenda through a programme of education.

SFR continues to provide the Cut it Out road safety programme which is targeted at those who have just learned, or who are just about to learn to drive. SFR have, to date engaged over 50,000 people with regards to road safety. In the year 2008-2009 in excess of 17,000 people received road safety input from SFR.

SFR will undertake a systematic approach for collating and researching RTC data, to allow robust measures to be put in place for the dissemination of information in order to drive and inform road safety strategy and initiatives.

Information is gathered on the techniques used and time taken to extricate a casualty, the trauma care by SFR and the intervention by medical teams. This is then analysed and used to improve management and performance at future incidents through the training of personnel. A better understanding of each attending organisations' role and responsibilities can also be promoted through awareness and analyses of this data.

The compatibility of procedures used by the different agencies and their success or otherwise will also be closely analysed. By fine-tuning the combined response, the community benefits from a more efficient and effective service delivery at RTCs.



Community Engagement – Let’s Work Together

Introduction to community safety engagement

SFRs community safety engagement activity is wide-ranging and designed around the principles of working together with a range of public, private and voluntary sector partner agencies.

Community safety engagement can be considered as a sequence of planned events that are delivered through partnership activity or core duties, as shown in the following diagram:



Internal influences include core duties such as home fire safety visits and providing safety information to community groups. External influences include partnership working such as tasking and co-ordinating to reduce fire related anti-social behaviour in pursuance of single outcome agreement targets.

Background

SFR has been delivering community safety services for many years. This activity increased widely in line with an organisational restructure in 2005. Our “command” areas were aligned with local

authority boundaries and increased from four to ten, each with an area commander in charge to set strategic direction. Under leadership from Chief Officer Sweeney, there was a clear mandate from our Board and Corporate Management Team to develop and enhance community safety and partnership working. At this time there was a further important development; the introduction of station commanders. These officers have supervisory responsibility for their community fire station and are uniquely placed to develop partnership working at the locality level.

Continuous improvement

We seek to continually improve the services we deliver. Evidence of the effectiveness of our community safety engagement approach is found in the statistics contained in this report; these indicate a general downward trend across the range of incidents. Since our re-structure, participation in partnerships has improved and work continues to build effective professional relationships with elected members and other representatives from key agencies. At the same time it is vitally important to provide our staff with relevant learning and development packages to ensure there is clarity of purpose and that personnel can make a meaningful contribution to community planning and partnership working at all levels. This work is ongoing.

Fundamental issues to consider

SFRs approach is based on gathering data and developing accurate intelligence that will result in community activities being evidence based and outcome focused. Across all 12 local authority areas there is a move towards adopting a tasking and co-ordinating approach; examining statistics and hot spots and shaping service delivery around these. SFR seeks to participate fully in this process and has developed strategic and tactical assessments to inform service delivery. Our local efforts are supported by national guidance such as the Scottish Community Fire Safety Study report.

Other crucial issues include engaging with the public and seeking their views around community safety services. To this end we are working closely with a local authority community engagement officer to examine current practices and propose how these might be improved.

Challenges around engaging with hard to reach groups continue and we are working closely with a range of partners in this regard.

Some new developments

Our community safety strategy 2009 – 2011 has introduced a number of new and exciting developments.

Community engagement unit

We have created a community safety engagement unit to design a rolling programme of consistent and generic fire safety themes, to be delivered across the year (for example, development of a grass fire reduction campaign for spring / summer).

Youth engagement team

We have a pro-active youth engagement team, which includes a seconded primary school teacher. Their remit is to manage and further develop the range of youth programmes currently underway. In addition, they are responsible for reviewing SFRs schools programme in line with our corporate vision of creating a multi-agency safety package to be delivered in line with the curriculum for excellence.

Partnership unit

A comprehensive partnership unit has been introduced, staffed by a number of agencies including Glasgow Housing Association, Strathclyde Police, the Voluntary Sector and NHS. We need to continue to drive down incidents and reduce fire related anti-social behaviour such as firefighter attacks and secondary fires. The partnership unit will provide invaluable guidance and assistance to make this possible.

Fire fatality case studies

SFR conduct a multi-agency case review for all fatal fires. Through this process, relevant information is gathered and the opportunity is taken to consider what can be learned and what preventative action would be required in future.

Home Fire Safety Visit Review

We have commenced a comprehensive review of our home fire safety visit procedures, to help build on initial successes and to increase the number of visits carried out in at risk from fire households. To assist with this process we have seconded a representative from Glasgow Housing Association to provide specialist advice and information relating to housing association procedures and protocols.

Conclusion

Community fire safety is an integral part of local single outcome agreements and community plans and senior officers participate in tasking and co-ordinating processes at the local authority level. This contribution is realised on a daily basis as our firefighters engage directly with local people through a variety of activities including attendance at emergency incidents, home fire safety visits and delivering safety information and advice to community groups

A copy of the Strategy is available on the SFR website - www.strathclydefire.org

Enforcement

The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 and Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are now in their third year following implementation. The initial progress of introducing the changes has continued with the introduction of new supporting policies, procedures and guidance taking cognisance of agreed standards from CFOA(S). Work is ongoing to achieve a standardised approach and agreed interpretation with partners including Local Authority Licensing Sections, the Care Commission and BUPA. This work has resulted in the introduction of several seminars, dealing with relevant and intriguing issues, which were universally well received by internal and external stakeholders alike.

A new database was commissioned and launched by SFR, allowing more accurate statistical information to be drawn from work enforcement officers are carrying out across the Service. This will allow accurate and timely interrogation of data. As

the number of premises being audited has grown, so has the number of occasions that formal action has been required. To support this increase in formal action and maintain consistent standards, liaison with the Service's Legal Department has been improved, through the provision of a dedicated officer.

SFR's Enforcement Officers have been busy over the past year in respect of inspections and audits. An overview of this activity, benchmarked against the previous two years is also provided: ↪

Table 28

	2008/09	2007/08	2006/07
Number of audits carried out in non-domestic premises	2063	1695	183
Number of Prohibition Notices served	14	9	0
Number of Enforcement Notices served	50	10	2
Number of Prosecutions currently being pursued	3	N/A	N/A
Number of Qualified Community Safety Officers attending University to attain professional qualifications	20	17	16
Number of Community Safety Officers	70	N/A	N/A

Audit- official inspection by an enforcement officer to check the management and structure of the building in order to determine the level of management.

Enforcement Notice- where, having audited the premises, the Fire and Rescue Service considers duties imposed by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 are not being met, and imposes requirements to bring the premises up to an acceptable standard.

Prohibition Notice- where, having inspected the premises (but not necessarily auditing in order to save time), the Fire and Rescue Service considers that the conditions within the premises are of such a serious nature that use of the premises ought to be prohibited or restricted.

Fire Engineering

The fire engineering section is involved with the design process of large, innovative and complex building proposals that do not follow the normal building methodology. The section assesses these proposals to ensure that the design still offers the occupants a safe environment in the event of fire or other emergency situations. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) modelling plays a large part in the work carried out in assessing building design. It is also used in the investigation of fires where fire incidents are modelled to assist IRIS in the fire investigation process by assessing building performance and fire dynamics during the incident.

The section also acts as a research and development department and continually assesses new building standards and design methodology. This ensures that the public within our area and throughout Scotland have safe buildings to occupy. We do this by carrying out live fire testing, computer modelling and offering advice and recommendations to local authorities, public bodies and other Fire and Rescue Services. The section is involved in educational and academic delivery by undertaking presentations and lecturing at universities and other professional and non-professional seminars and events.





FOR YOUR FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT **FREEPHONE 0800 0731 999**
OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION

