

east ayrshire strategic assessment

STRATHCLYDE
FIRE & RESCUE

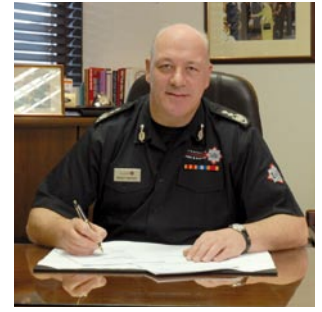


2008



making our communities safe places to live, work and visit

foreword



On behalf of the Board of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and its Service, I am both pleased and proud to deliver this fire and rescue Strategic Assessment for the East Ayrshire authority area. It is the intention that this assessment will inform internal resource allocation and service planning whilst also assisting our community planning partners to identify opportunities for joint working towards common objectives.

The Scottish Government is placing enhanced commitment on outcome based priorities and activities through strategic analysis and single outcome agreements with local authorities. We recognise the benefits of such focus and aim to be proactive in working with partners towards the achievement of national strategic objectives through single outcome agreements. This strategic assessment is intended to support local authorities' community improvement and development plans by describing Strathclyde Fire & Rescue activities and highlighting areas where we might more actively contribute to partnership working initiatives.

This assessment provides our community planning partners with analysis of current and emerging trends in fire and rescue service activities with particular emphasis on those that have the greatest impact on community safety, many of which are closely linked with social issues that are being addressed by our partners organisations' respective planning processes. .

This document provides an analytical picture of our emergency response service activity that, in the first instance, will inform strategic decisions on the allocation and targeting of resources towards areas where they will deliver the greatest benefit in terms of community risk reduction and ensure that resources are used effectively.

We also undertake to provide additional support for local level planning and development in the form of detailed Tactical Assessments that can be tailored to the needs of individual partnership forums. Together, Strategic and Tactical Assessments will support the internal Strathclyde Fire & Rescue planning processes used to produce our Integrated Risk Management Plan and service plans at both corporate and local levels.

I commend this document to you in the hope that it will prove to be of assistance in developing an integrated approach towards the achievement of your Community Planning objectives within your local authority area.

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

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strategic direction

The Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 places a statutory duty on local authorities, fire and police authorities to work in partnership with other public services to improve services to the community by delivering customer-focused outcomes. In doing so, authorities must also deliver Best Value and equality. For fire and rescue services, 'working together' has tended to concentrate on activities that relate to the Strategic Objective to make communities safer and stronger, through targeted community safety activity.

Primary legislation, the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005, requires Fire & Rescue Authorities to make provision for principal and ancillary functions in the areas of firefighting, fire safety prevention and education, enforcement of fire safety legislation, fire investigation and rescue from road traffic accidents, and other hazardous situations.

Whilst operating within the overall framework for Scottish local government described above, specific priorities are also set for fire and rescue services through the Scottish Fire and Rescue Framework document that sets out Government expectations for the eight Scottish fire and rescue services.

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Priorities

Fire is an obvious threat to public safety in that it causes death or injury and directly destroys property, with consequential costs to individuals and society in terms of care and rebuilding / reinstatement. Fire may have wider economic impacts where businesses are affected in that rebuilding costs are greater and may impact on their ability to continue trading.

Whilst the primary objective of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is to minimise economic and social impacts, reduce risk and improve community safety in relation to fire, the service also aims to reduce risk of death and injury from other causes such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) or incidents involving inland waterways.

Reducing the number of occasions that our emergency services are required is key to delivering our vision of: -

'Making our communities safe places, to live, work and visit'

The allocation of appropriate resources into each service area is critical to the organisation's effectiveness and the Board of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue faces the difficult task of determining how resources will be divided between incident response services and risk reduction activities.

This determination is informed by the Integrated Risk Management Planning process, which provides a mechanism for assessing community risk and identifying where investment is likely to deliver maximum benefit. Outcomes of the planning process are documented in a three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan and associated Annual Action Plans.

Seven Corporate Priorities help to focus service initiatives and activities on the delivery of objectives and targets stated in Strathclyde Fire & Rescue's Vision 2015 document (available from http://www.strathclydefire.org/pdfs/ppr/Vision_2015_A5.pdf). The Priorities, listed on the next page, maintain a focus on risk reduction whilst ensuring compliance with statutory obligations upon the service.

- *Actively identifying, assessing and reducing risk within communities.*
- *Minimising the effects of fire and other emergencies.*
- *Effectively administering Fire Safety Legislation.*
- *Achieving fairness and equality in the treatment of all staff and service users.*
- *Promoting Health Safety and Welfare.*
- *Communicating with stakeholders to inform and seek opinion.*
- *Making the best use of all resources.*

The Priorities are consistent with those of the Scottish Government and, we believe, the majority of those applied by other public sector organisations within the Strathclyde area. Such areas of similarity offer opportunities to explore collaboration and partnership working towards the delivery of community benefit.

Through the power to advance well-being, available to local authorities and joint boards, there is also scope to explore innovative joint working initiatives that provide services not usually associated with fire and rescue service functions.

Local Priorities

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is a core participant within local authority Community Planning Partnerships and many of their associated thematic groups, particularly Community Safety Partnerships, throughout each of the 10 SFR Areas. Dependent on local needs and priorities, SFR is also an active contributor within other joint working initiatives such as Community Health Partnerships, Alcohol and Drug Action Teams and Crime Prevention Partnerships.

Whilst being aligned with national priorities, our Corporate Vision and Priorities have also been shaped by local needs. They translate into specific actions and targets via our Integrated Risk Management Plan and are delivered by our Area and Station level Service Plans which focus on local area based priorities.

Local planning and priority setting is a two-way process with our partner agencies and accommodates both SFR involvement in, for example, Road Safety Action Plans and local Health Improvement Plans and our partners' involvement in the achievements of our objectives such as the delivery of fire safety messages to communities.

We recognise that our local authority partners are developing Single Outcome Agreements through which they commit to the achievement of specific actions that help deliver National Objectives. The fire and rescue service recognises the role and contribution that we can make in assisting this process and improving our communities.

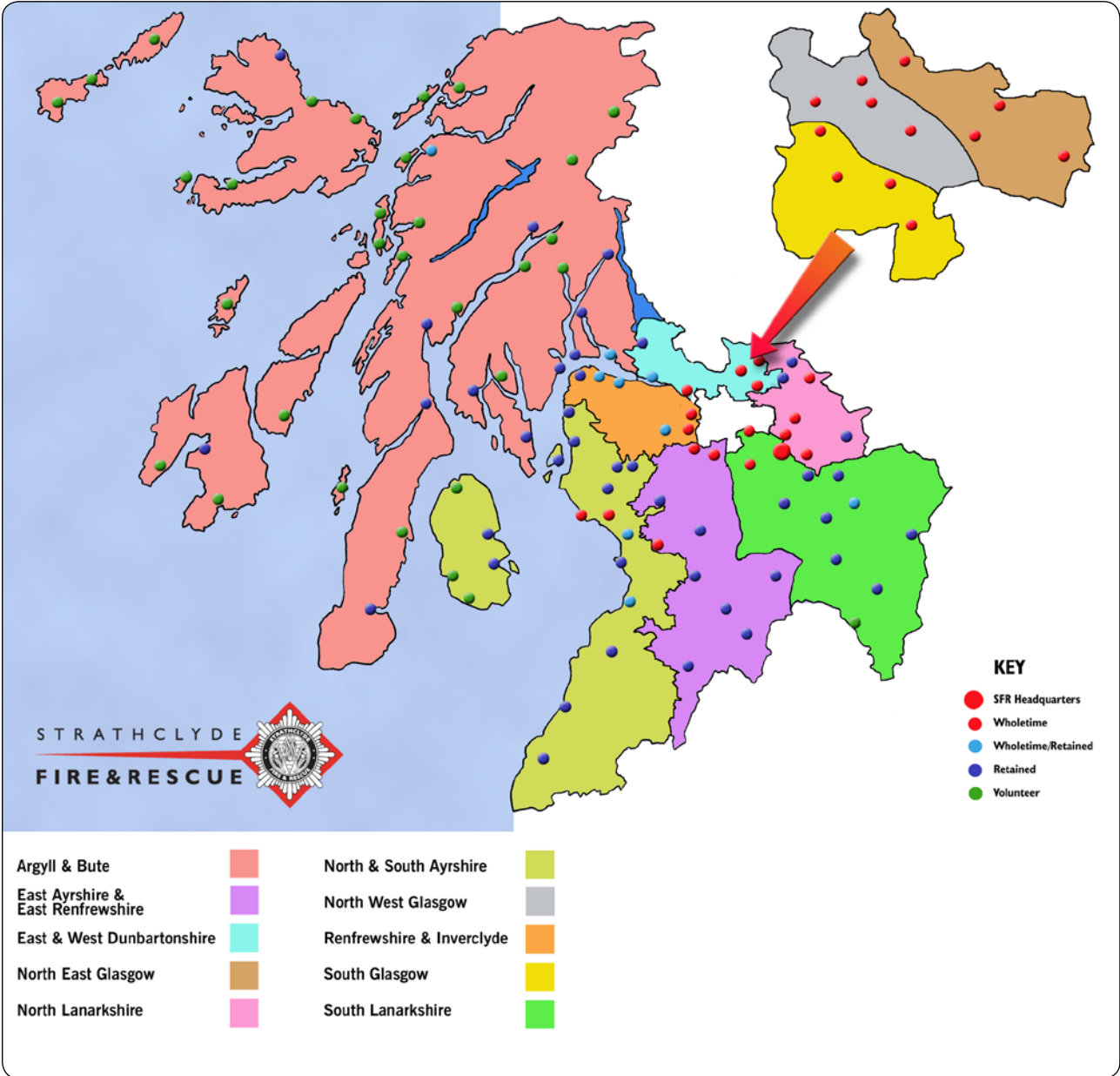
It is hoped that this document provides partner agencies an opportunity to identify where issues affecting SFR link to their own. Those relating to social inclusion, safety and anti-social behaviour are clear examples where there is already a high level of inter-agency co-operation. Much of the information contained in this assessment relates to our activity in relation to areas of operational activity, such as fire injuries or deliberate fires.

There will, however, be additional areas where partner organisations might work more closely and, when considering this document, it should be borne in mind that Strathclyde Fire & Rescue has some 3,500 staff, dispersed across the whole Strathclyde area in our 113 fire stations and Service and Area Headquarters. Where possible we strive to make our material and human resources available to communities ranging from those in remote rural areas and islands to city and town centre locations.

strathclyde fire & rescue - area

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue Service covers twelve constituent Local Authorities, with an area of 13,625sq km - 17.5% of Scotland- and delivers services to a population of 2.4 million, approximately 46% of Scotland's total population, through the 10 Area commands shown in the following map.

The population is dispersed across a wide geographical area, ranging from remote rural communities, to highly populated towns and Scotland's largest city, Glasgow. The area includes 23 inhabited islands and has a substantial coastline. This geographic diversity poses many challenges for SFR.



east ayrshire - fire & rescue profile

Profile

East Ayrshire covers an area of 490 square miles, from Lugton in the north to Loch Doon in the South. It has a population of approximately 120,000 in a mixture of urban, rural, and isolated communities.

Kilmarnock is the main town, with a population of 44,000. The rest of the population live in smaller communities ranging from a few hundred people to 9,000 in Cumnock.

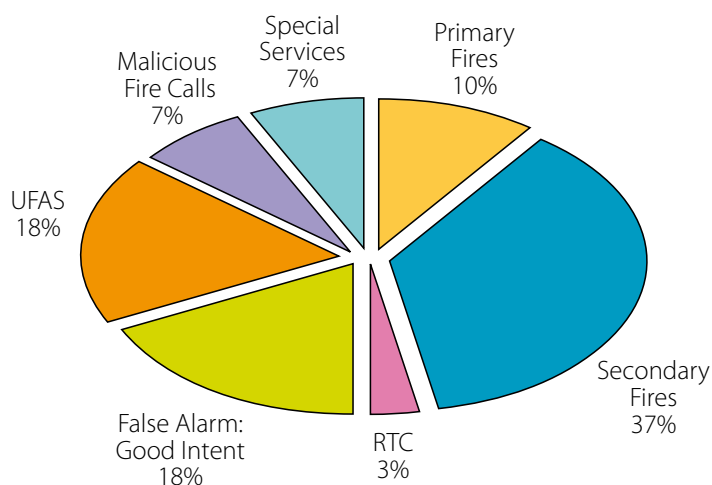
In terms of fire risk, the area has one major hospital at Crosshouse near Kilmarnock, a number of whisky storage and distribution facilities, and numerous mill buildings dating back to the 1800s located primarily in the Irvine valley towns of Darvel and Newmilns.

East Ayrshire authority allocation to funding of Strathclyde Fire & Rescue (2007/08): £6,621,000



SFR Resources located within East Ayrshire		Area Commander Frank Waters Area Office: East Ayrshire & East Renfrewshire Area Headquarters 187 Glaisnock Street Cumnock KA18 1JX Telephone: 01290 427610
1	Wholetime Station	
7	Retained Stations	
11	Appliances	
1	Major Incident Unit	
171	Operational staff	
11	Support staff	

Incident Analysis 2007



The greatest activity came from attendance at fires involving rubbish, grassland, derelict vehicles and derelict buildings. These accounted for some 37% of all incidents attended.

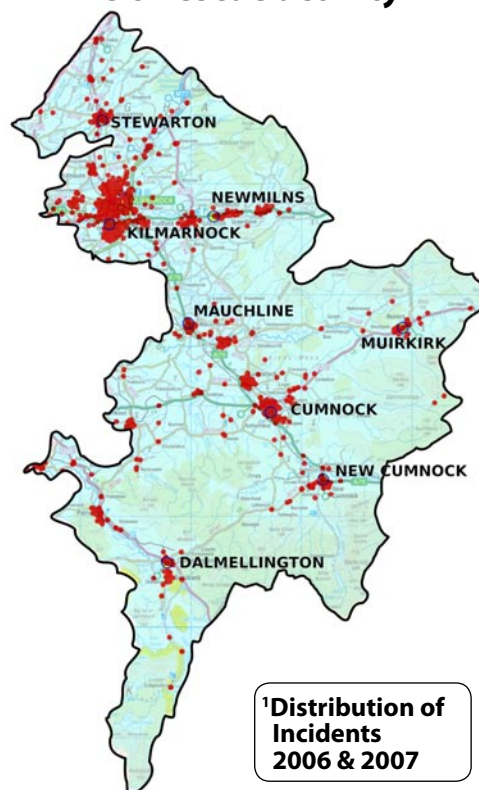
During the Calendar year 2007 Stations within East Ayrshire attended over 2,900 incidents. 10% of these calls were to fires involving property resulting in 28 casualties and no fatalities.

10% of all calls were to non-fire emergencies covering situations such as road traffic collisions, flooding or trapped persons.

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue routinely deals with a wide range of incidents requiring the attendance of emergency response resources, which include those shown in the table below. Analysis is based on completed annual years of data for 2006 & 2007.

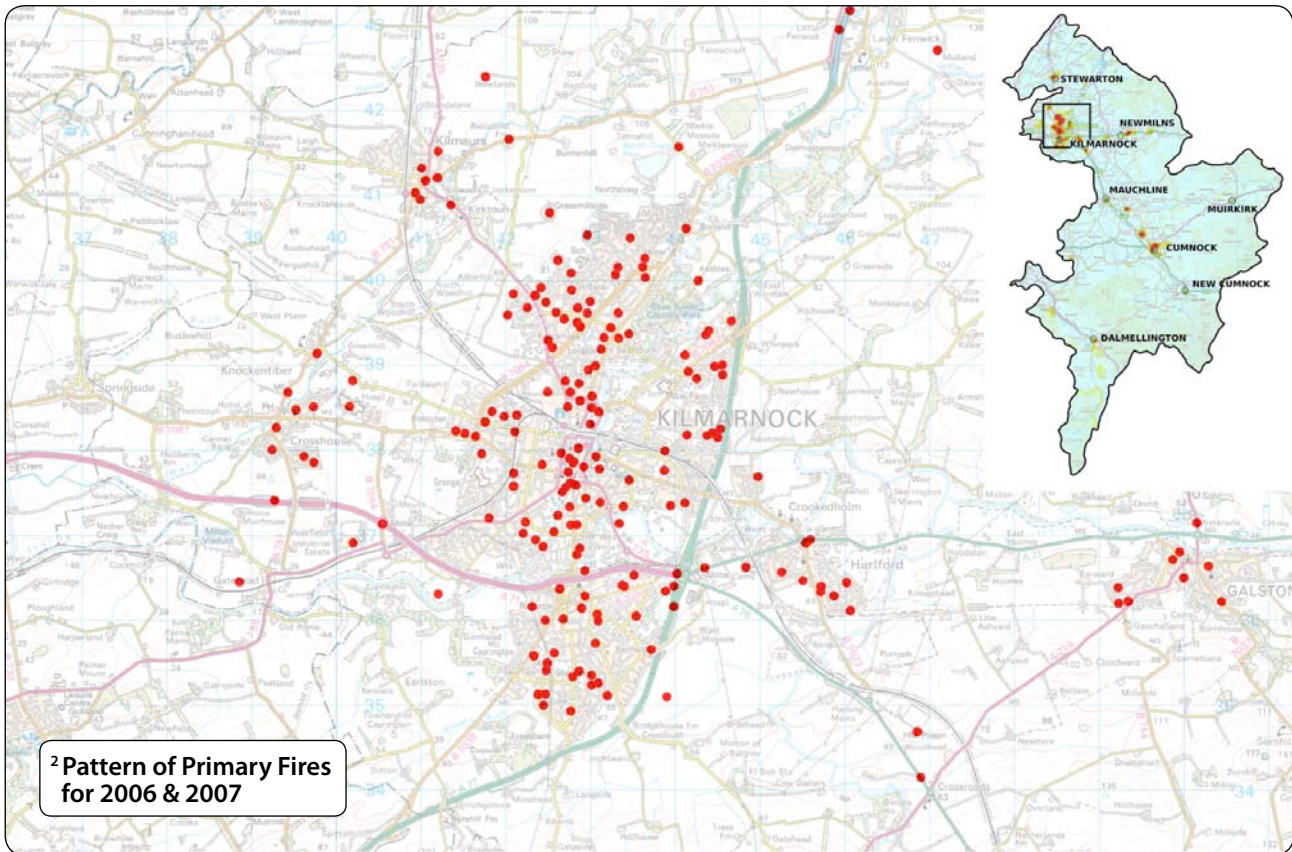
Incident Type	2006	2007	Description
Primary fires	290	289	Fires involving property
Secondary fires	1284	1117	Rubbish, grass, derelict property
RTC	95	77	Road traffic collisions
Special Services (other than RTC)	171	199	Non-fire related rescue work such as, rescue from water, persons trapped, and dealing with hazardous materials
Unwanted fire alarm signals	397	521	Calls due to faulty or poorly maintained fire alarm systems
Malicious fire calls	180	193	Deliberately causing a false alarm of fire. eg hoax calls or malicious setting off of fire alarms
False alarms good intent	541	509	A person or fire alarm system reports a fire, believing it to be genuine.
Total	2958	2905	

East Ayrshire - fire & rescue activity



Primary Fires

Primary Fires across Strathclyde fell by 489 during 2007, which equated to a reduction of 7% over 2006. East Ayrshire (as per table) reduced by 1 incident on the previous year.

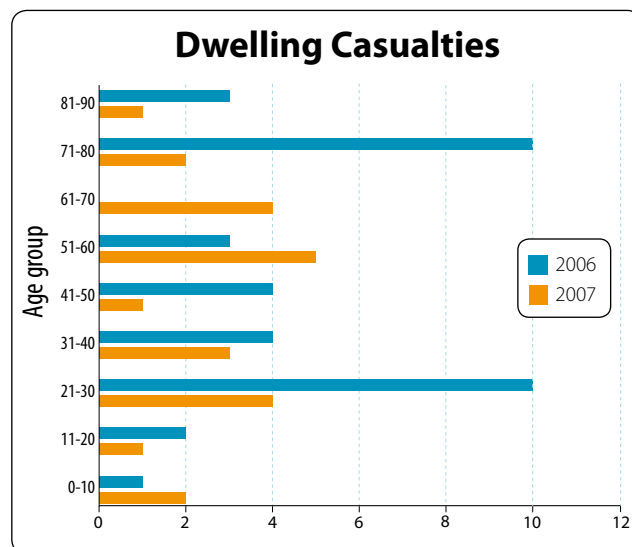
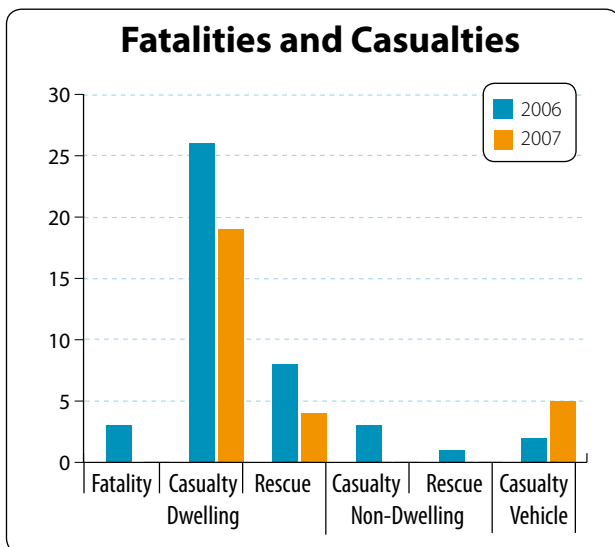


Strathclyde Councils	Total	2006	2007	Strathclyde Councils	Total	2006	2007
City of Glasgow	4956	2638	2318	East Ayrshire	579	290	289
North Lanarkshire	1901	976	925	Inverclyde	576	323	253
South Lanarkshire	1512	751	761	South Ayrshire	433	227	206
Renfrewshire	1081	556	525	East Dunbartonshire	371	189	182
West Dunbartonshire	790	385	405	East Renfrewshire	349	175	174
North Ayrshire	695	359	336	Argyll & Bute	344	169	175

Fatalities & Casualties

Fatalities & casualties showed a marked decrease, with no fatalities within East Ayrshire fatalities due to fire in 2007 while in 2006 there were 2 'accidental' & 1 'deliberate' fire related fatalities. Casualties (including rescues) in 2007 dropped by 22% from 31 to 24 casualties with 19 of these reported as 'dwelling' casualties and the other 5 related to 'vehicle' casualties.

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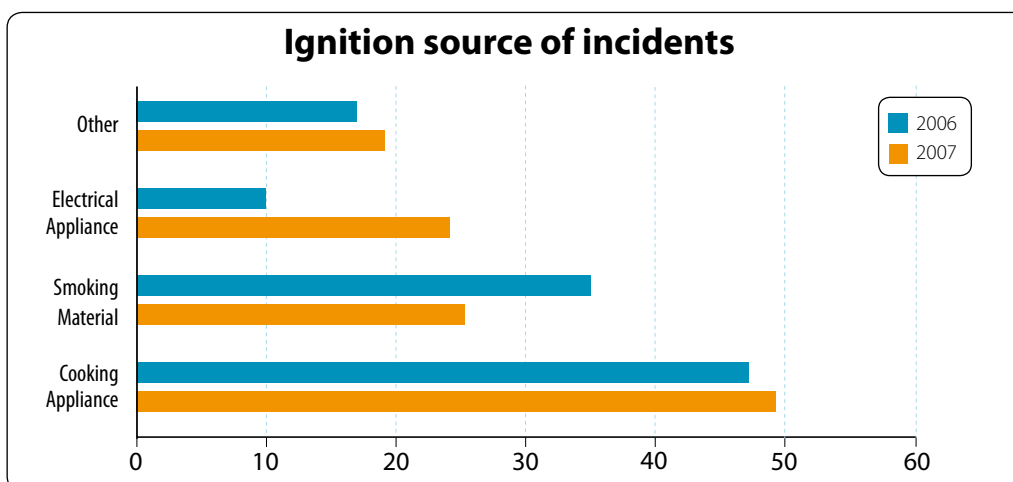
The age group of casualties (shown above) involved in 'dwelling fire' incidents during 2007 has been fairly evenly distributed, as opposed to 2006 which appears to highlight a fluctuation when considering those aged 21 to 30 and 71 to 80.

Due to the level of investigation carried out by both fire and police services where a fire fatality occurs, it is possible to state that around one-third of the 26 persons who died within all of Strathclyde as a result of fire during 2007 had consumed alcohol. In these cases, the presence of alcohol may have affected their ability to detect the fire, react and escape from the building.

Domestic Fires

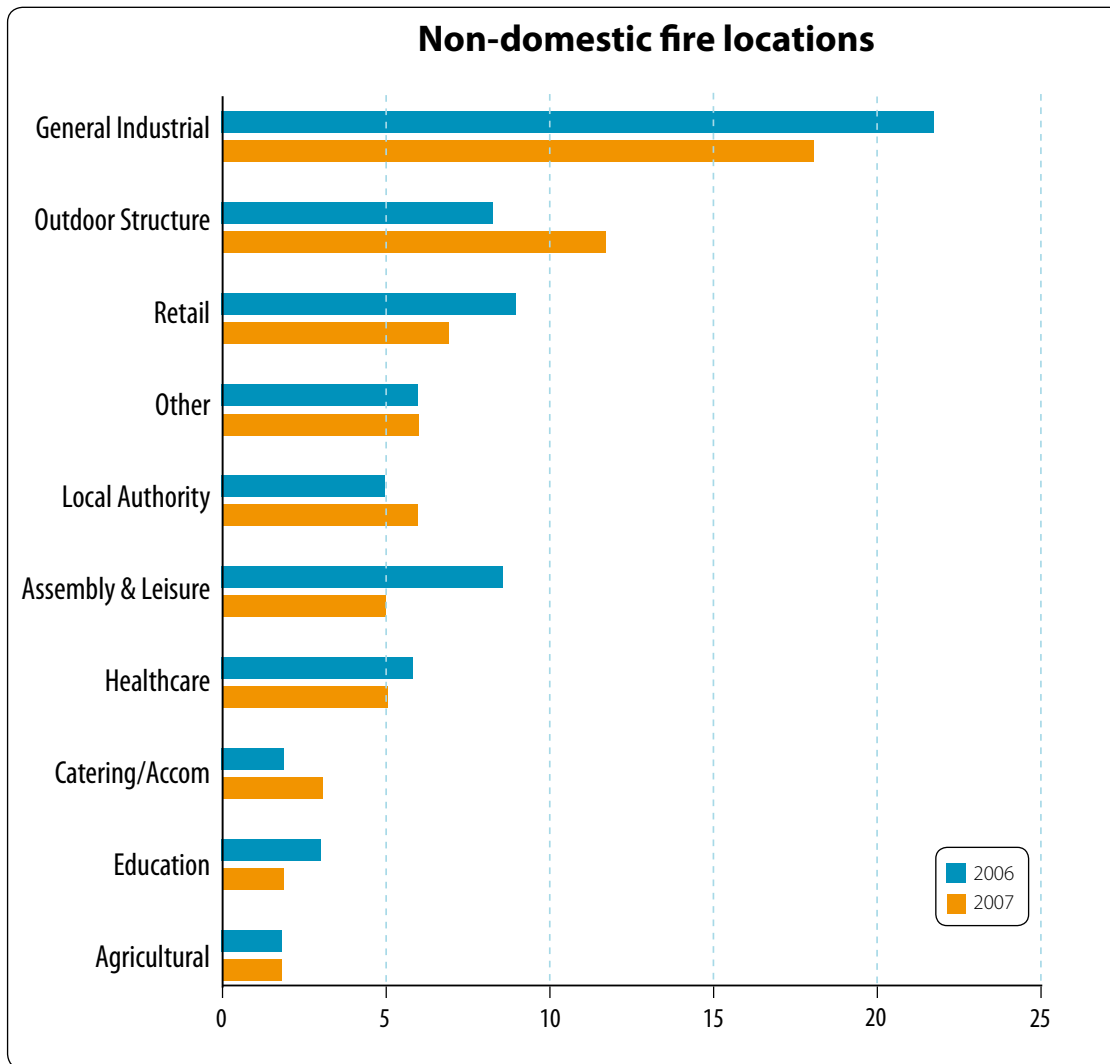
Domestic Fires have increased slightly over the last 3-years which equated to a 7% rise in 2007 to 117 incidents. The main area of concern lies with the use of cooking appliances whereby 49 incidents occurred during 2007 equating to 42% of all domestic incidents.

The 2nd most significant cause of Domestic Fires has traditionally been reported as 'smoking materials', though for 2007 incidents reported have fallen by 29% to 25 incidents.



Non-domestic fires

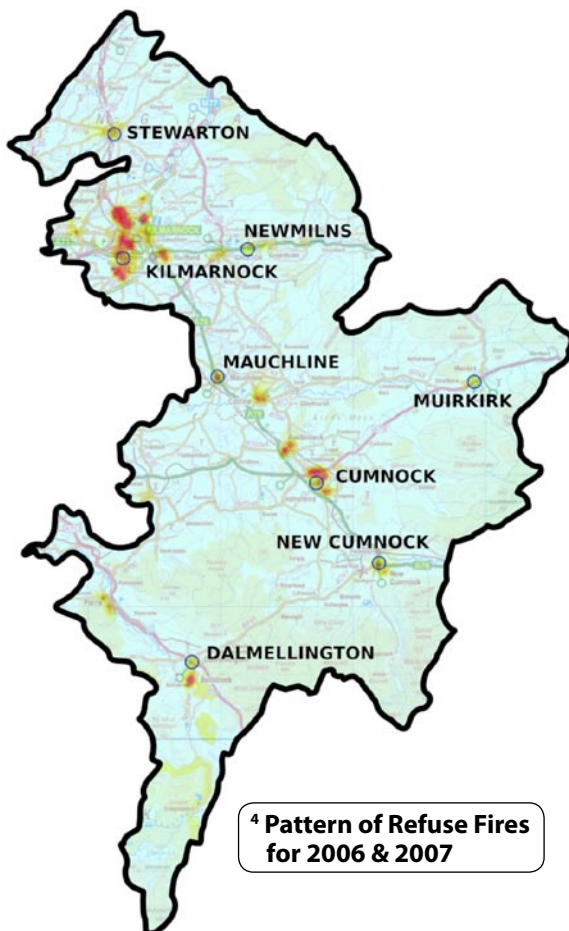
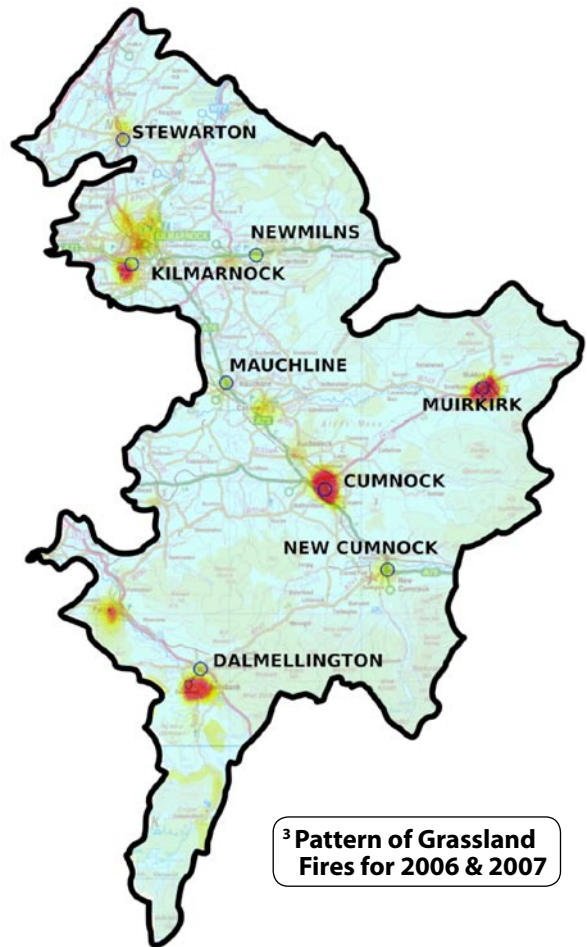
Non-domestic fires take into account outdoor structures and other properties such as shops, workplaces, hospitals etc. The number of occurrences of this nature fell by only 6 incidents to 65.



Anti Social Behaviour

Fire-related anti-social behaviour within Strathclyde Fire & Rescue takes four main forms; secondary fires, malicious false alarms, open hydrant occurrences and acts of violence.

SFR believe that there may a link between the consumption of alcohol and the types of anti-social behaviour incidents encountered by our staff. SFR is keen to work with all relevant agencies to identify contributory factors and to develop initiatives that reduce the level of anti-social behaviour within communities.



Secondary Fires

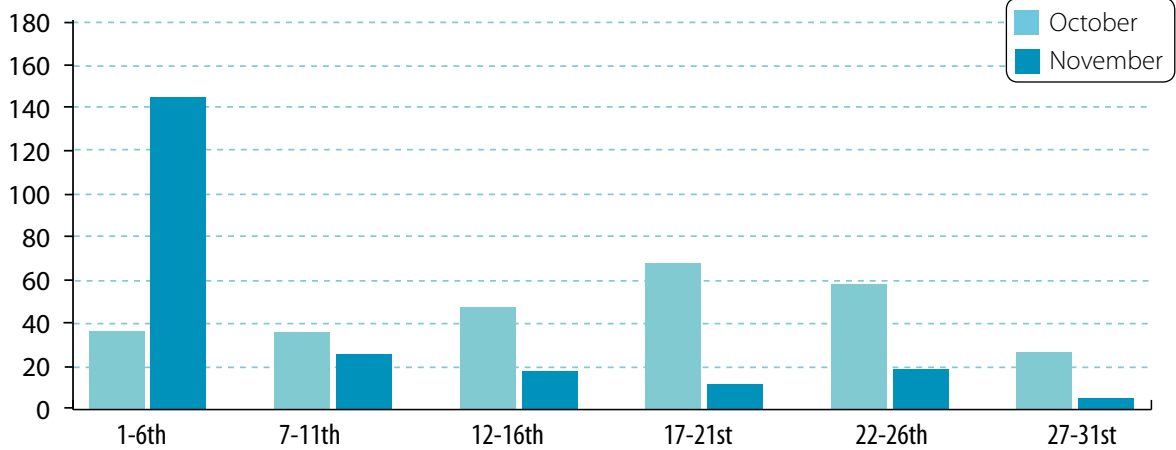
Secondary fires are reportable fires that were not primary fires, did not involve casualties or rescues and were attended by 4 or fewer appliances. The main secondary fire categories (of which there are 6 in total) affecting East Ayrshire have been 'Refuse/ Container' incidents and 'Heath/Railway' incidents, combined they have accounted for 94% of all secondary fires within the local authority area over the last 2 years.

East Ayrshire Refuse/Container incidents were down 9% by the end of 2007 to 809 incidents but unfortunately all (with the exception of 10) were reported as "deliberate" incidents. Incidents in the months of October and November were also at their highest for the last 3 consecutive years.

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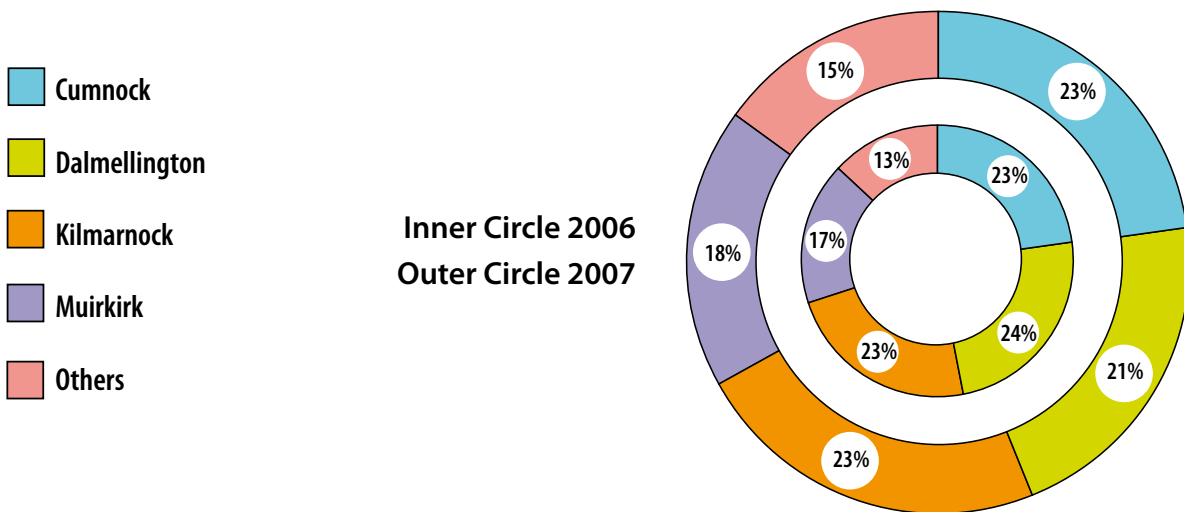
Combined Incidents 2006-07

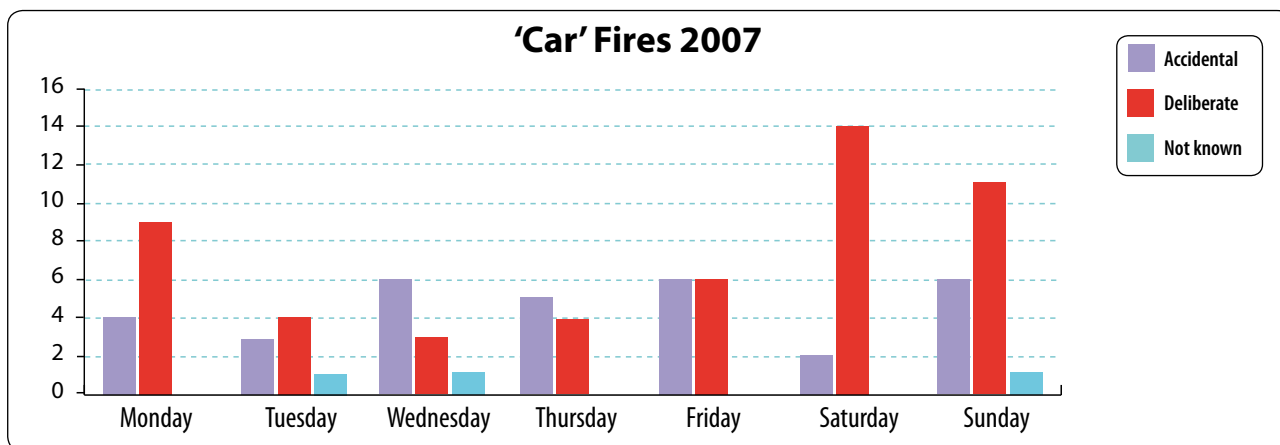


Bonfire night continues to be a period of high risk with incidents between 1st & 6th November 2007 accounting for 65% of all November incidents over the last 2 years.

'Grass/Heath/Railway' incidents have been the 2nd principal issue of antisocial behaviour within East Ayrshire accounting for 21% of all incidents during 2007 but analysis of the incidents shows us that over 93% of these incidents were recorded through only 4 of the local authority fire stations. The inner circle on the chart below represents 2006 and the outer circle 2007.

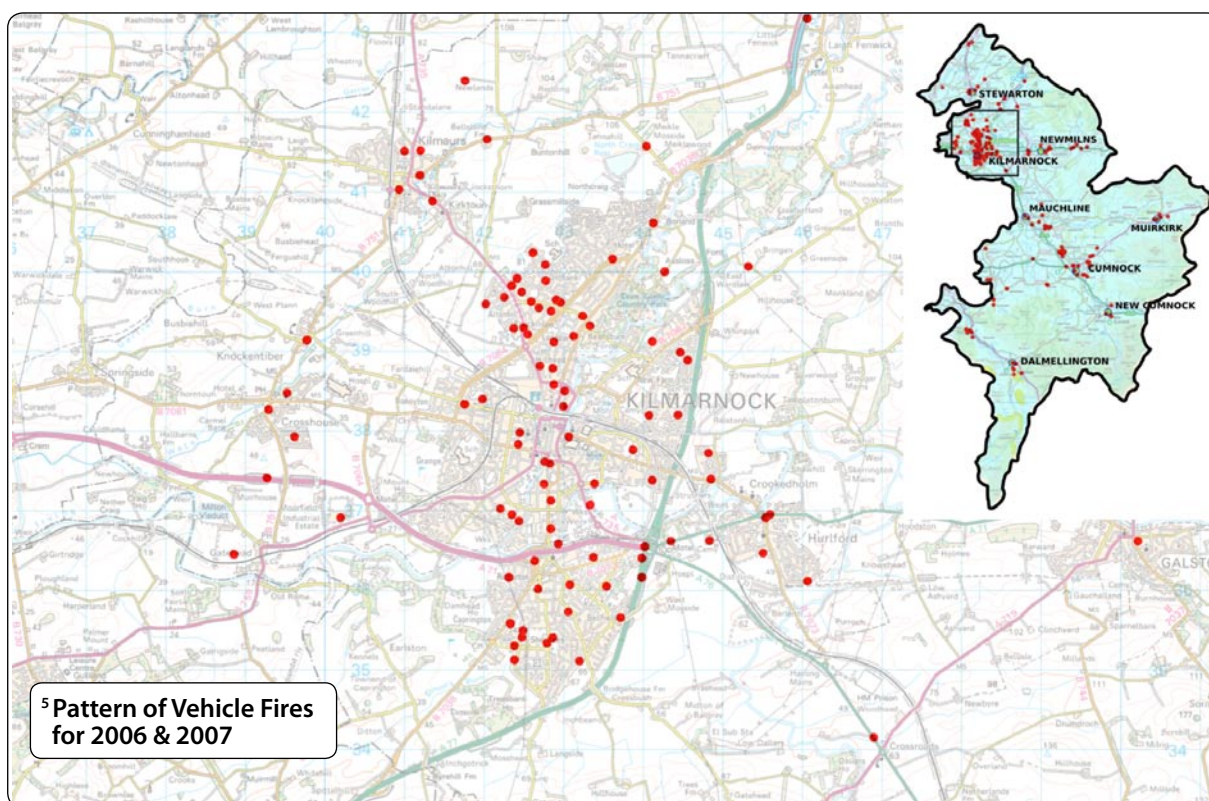
Grass/Heath/Railway





Vehicle Fires

Of the 107 'Vehicle' fires that occurred within East ayrshire in 2007, 80% (86) were specifically 'Car' related.



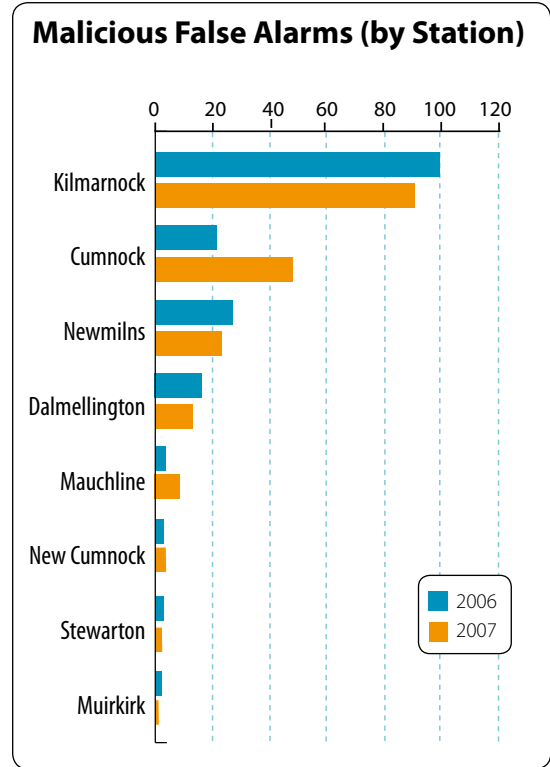
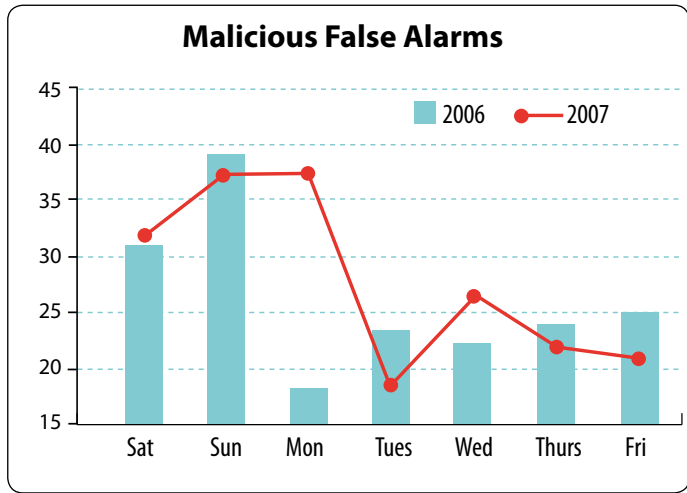
The graph (top centre) shows that the bulk of 'deliberate' incidents were reported on weekends, those that were reported on the Monday were all between 00:00 & 03:00.

5 casualties resulted from 3 'accidental' vehicle fires in 2007 and all were recorded on Sundays. The previous year 2 casualties were reported from one incident which occurred on a Saturday.

Derelict Vehicle incidents are another classification of Secondary fires but there is a significant link to the 'deliberate' vehicle fires mentioned above. 20 incidents of 'derelict vehicle' fires were reported during 2007 with half again occurring on weekends.

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Malicious Fire Calls



Malicious Fire Calls are another category of ‘antisocial behaviour’ encountered by the Fire & Rescue Service and over the last 2-years have predominantly occurred through weekends. Further analysis shows that these weekend calls are reported more within residential areas and are sporadic. However, during the week, calls are more concentrated in and around educational buildings.

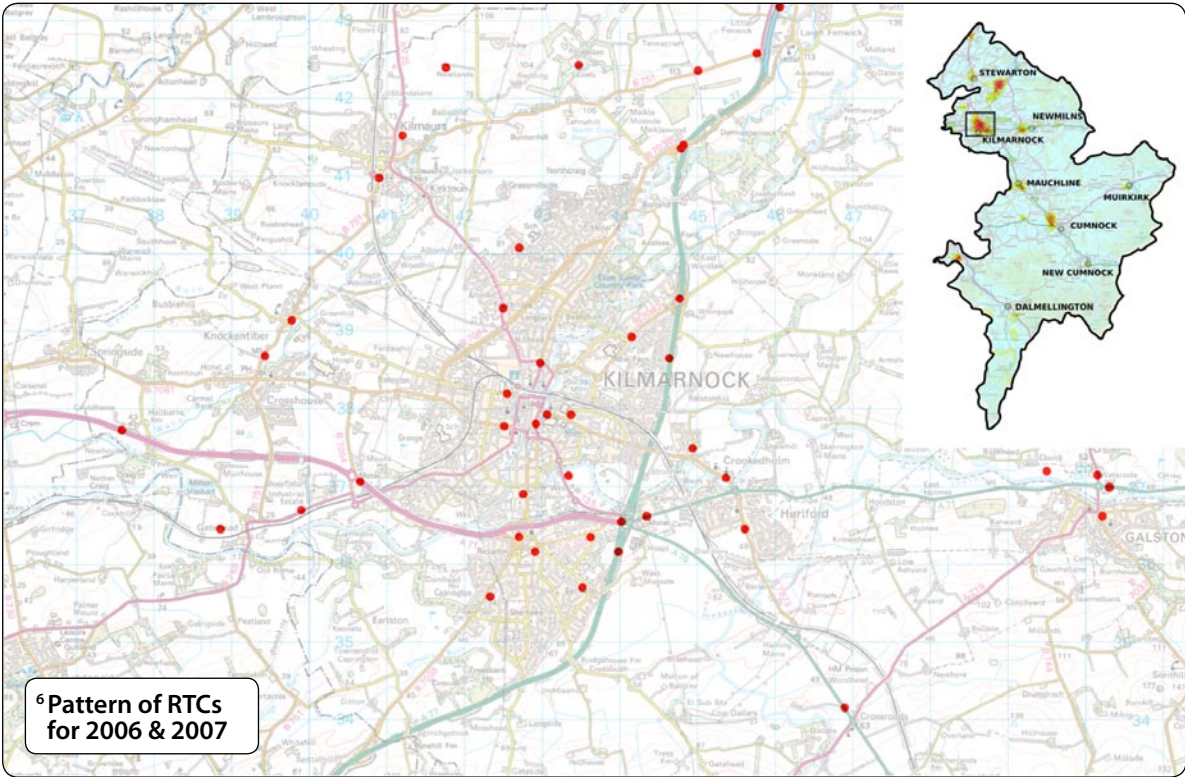
Summoning an appliance to attend a false incident may be viewed as a joke or it may also be used as a way to instigate acts of violence towards the service. Strathclyde Fire & Rescue takes the issue of malicious false alarms extremely seriously and has adopted a call challenging policy that is enforced if the call is suspected to be false.

Acts of Violence

When firefighters are attacked attending an incident, the most common methods of attack are stones and other implements being thrown at them. In 9 of the 15 incidents recorded in East Ayrshire from 2006 to 2007, it was stated that there was potential damage to both persons (firefighters) and vehicles (appliances). This highlights how necessary it is for all attacks to be reported, as it can never be anticipated how such an attack could escalate.

Station	2006	2007
Dalmellington	1	4
Cumnock	1	3
Kilmarnock	4	
Mauchline		1
Newmilns		1

Road Traffic Collisions Fatalities & Casualties



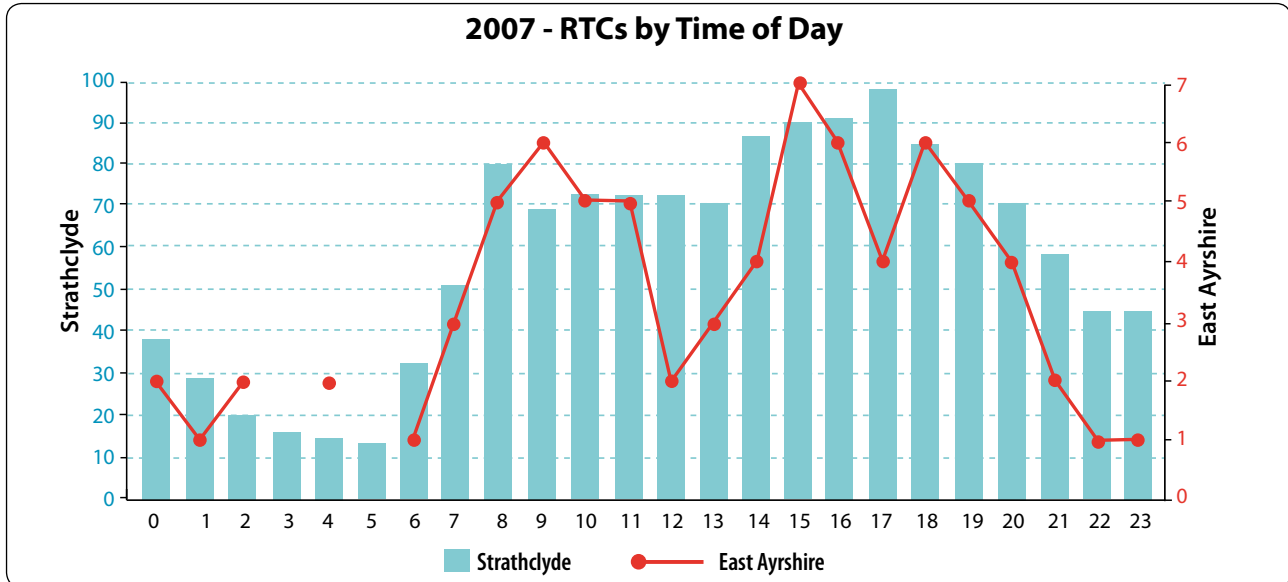
Fatalities as a result of RTCs remained static during 2007 with 6 recorded and all from mid-June to the 31st of August. 4 of the fatalities were aged between 17 and 20. During 2006 1 incident had no age details of persons involved and is reflected in the table below.

Age group	2006		2007	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
17 – 20			2	2
21 – 30	1			
31 – 40	1			1
41 – 50	2			
51 – 60	1			
61+			1	
Unknown	1			

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RTCs Summary

Road traffic collisions in East Ayrshire fell from 95 incidents in 2006 to 77 during 2007 accounting for 6% of the total for Strathclyde.



The table above shows the ‘time of day’ of all incidents during 2007 throughout Strathclyde and East Ayrshire. East Ayrshire does appear to follow the ‘time of occurrence’ pattern of Strathclyde with the exception of 2 peak traffic times, those being midday and 5pm. Though Strathclyde Fire & Rescue attend a considerable number of RTCs, this is not indicative of the true figure throughout East Ayrshire as a whole since SFR tends only to be called to those where persons are trapped or there has been a fuel spillage.

Whilst the number of incidents where ‘Services Not Required’ has increased consistently over the last 2 years, the number of incidents where victims are trapped and there is a requirement to make a vehicle safe has decreased slightly from 2006. Total Incidents peaked during June with 11 incidents, 6 of these occurred within 7 days (21st – 28th). These may have been linked to adverse weather condition with reports⁶ showing that ‘misty conditions’ and ‘persistent rain’ were relatively constant throughout. The breakdown of RTC incidents attended in East Ayrshire is as follows:

	2006	2007
Make Safe	59	53
Persons Trapped	28	18
Services Not Required	8	6
TOTAL	95	77

The consumption of alcohol may also influence the frequency and severity of Road Traffic Collisions but corroborating information is not readily available. SFR is, therefore, collaborating with other services to collect and share information in an effort to improve the quality and reliability of RTC analysis.

⁶ http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/ukweather/year_review/reviews/june2007_review_scotland.shtml

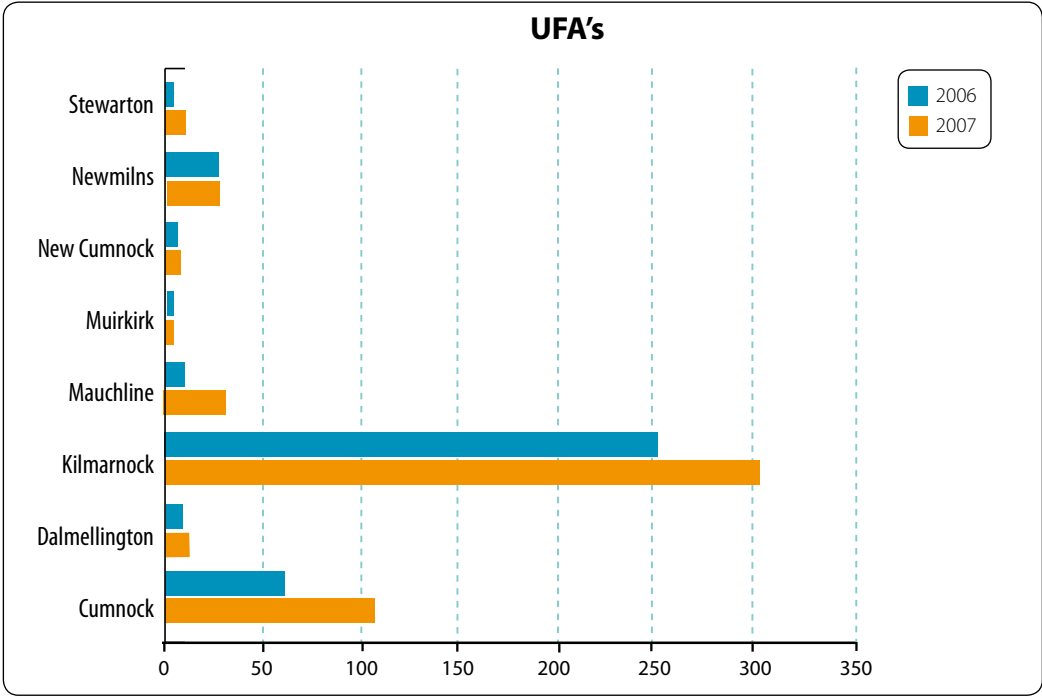
Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Incidents classed as an 'Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal' are those involving properties where automatic fire detection and alarm systems are installed and where the system has operated for a reason other than the outbreak of fire. Such reasons include, equipment faults, or incorrect positioning of detector heads.

During 2007 18% of all incidents responded to by East Ayrshire stations were of this specific nature and at station level Cumnock and Kilmarnock have had the highest level of UFAS over the last 2 years, accounting for 80% of all UFAS within East Ayrshire throughout 2006 and 2007.

Although the number of calls continues to grow as a result of increases in the number of automatic fire detection systems being installed, the rate of increase is expected to slow as a result of reduction strategies being implemented by Strathclyde Fire & Rescue.



False Alarms calls made with Good Intent

'False alarms good intent' occur where a person or fire alarm system reports a fire, believing it to be genuine. In East Ayrshire they account for 11% of turnouts over the last 2 years.

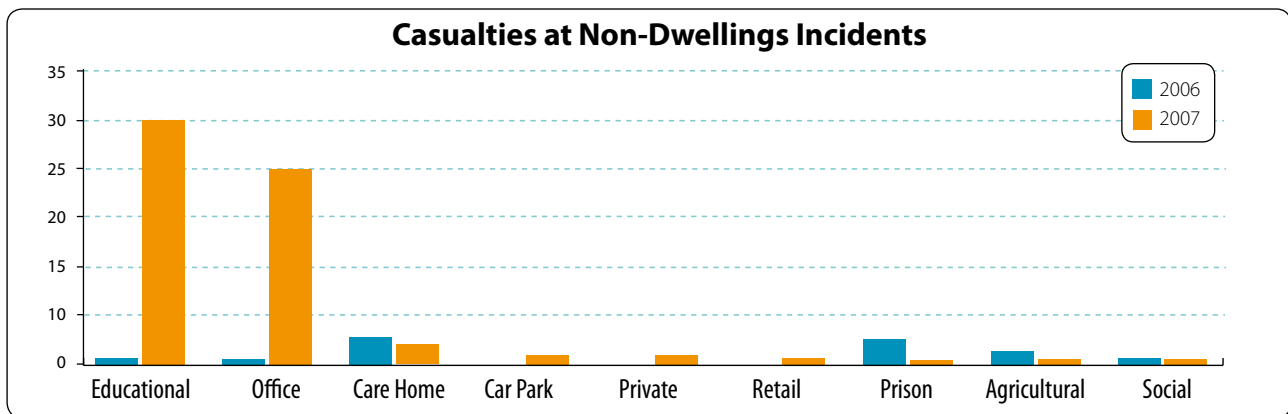
Such calls are not discouraged, as there are usually sufficient grounds for suspecting that a fire has occurred. The fire and rescue service would prefer to receive early notice of a potential fire to allow effective intervention on those occasions when our services are required.

Special Services (Other than RTC)

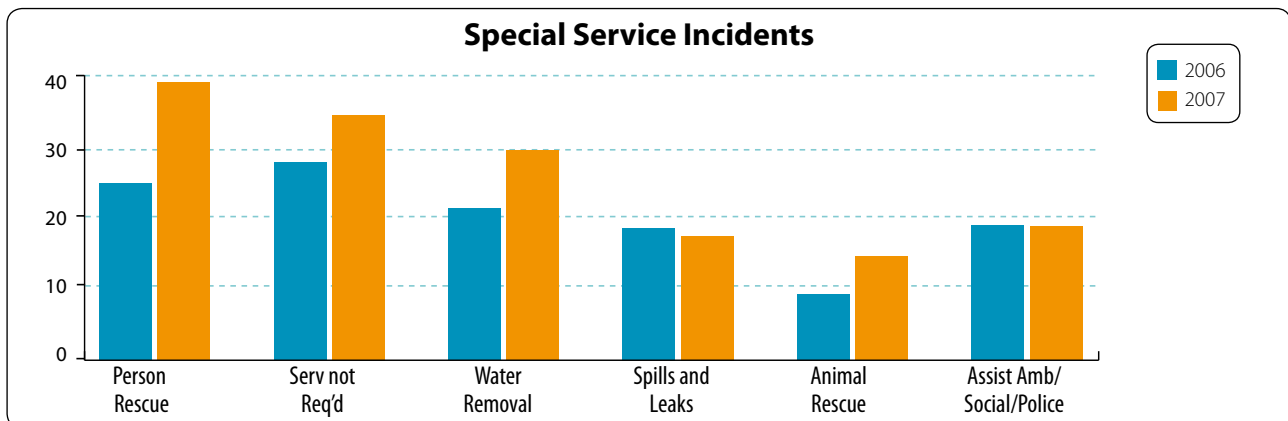
Special service incidents are broken down into emergency and non-emergency incidents. Emergency incidents are classified as where there may be a threat to life or property whilst non-emergency refers to incidents where there is no such risk and in the last 2 calendar years there has only been 1 non-emergency incident reported.

Special Service incidents (other than RTC incidents) rose by 16% in 2007 to 199 incidents but these figures were affected by an increase in attendance at Crosshouse Hospital to 'stand-by' in case of landing difficulties when persons are transferred to hospital by helicopter (an increase of 100% to 12) this service is an example of how the fire and rescue service works in partnership with the NHS and services providing air ambulance facilities (Royal Navy, RAF or police).

Special Service incidents which occurred within 'Non-Dwelling' locations led to the substantial increase of casualties within East Ayrshire for 2007 when the evacuation of Kilmarnock College was ordered following a reported 'spills & leaks' incident involving chemicals. A second incident 2 weeks later at an office building which was also classed as 'chemical' related (later recorded as a gas leak), required the building to be evacuated and recorded 25 casualties. Of the 54 incidents that had 'cause' stated as 'accidental' or 'deliberate', exactly 50% of these were recorded as 'deliberate'.



The graph below highlights the 6 main incident types that have required the services of fire & rescue within East Ayrshire during 2006 & 2007.



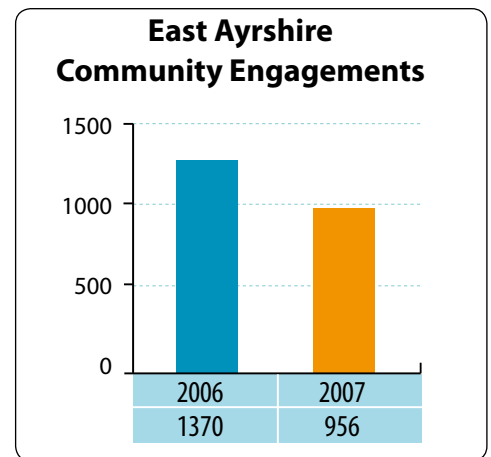
Also highlighted in the graph above, there was a 25% increase to 35 of incidents where SFR were mobilised but on arrival services were not required.

community safety

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue (SFR) is actively involved in Community Safety both at local and national level. Strategies primarily focus on demand reduction campaigns and initiatives with a view to preventing fires and instances of anti-social behaviour. A key element of our strategy is focusing attention on proactive education and raising awareness amongst the most vulnerable people within the community, which aims to reduce the prevalence and severity of fire related incidents and other emergencies. SFR believe that achievement of this aim requires the development of effective initiatives that shift the emphasis of its activities from reactive intervention services to proactive prevention work.

The following paragraphs illustrate the types of community engagement work undertaken across Strathclyde, and are likely to be available within your local authority area. Through such activities, our staff come into contact with a wide range of people from all sections of society.

SFR staff undertake considerable community engagements throughout each year, meeting the community at a range of sites, including their home, and educational buildings. The graph shows that SFR performed 956 community engagements within East Ayrshire in 2007.

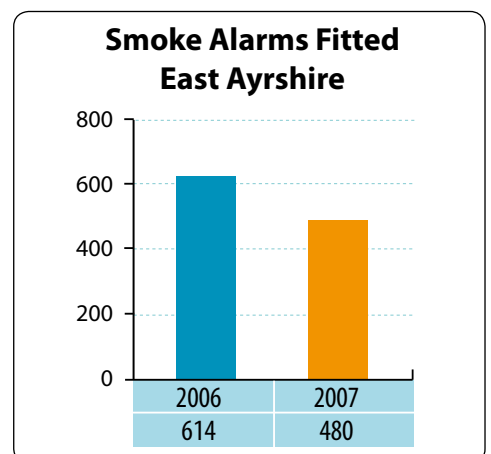
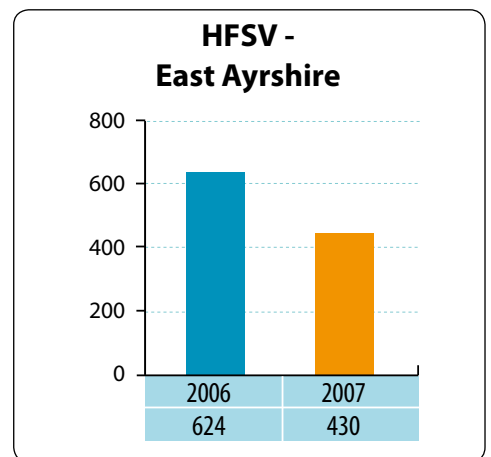


Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV)

SFR are proactively involved in providing a free programme of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) to all members of our communities. A HFSV includes the provision and fitting of a 10 year battery operated long-life smoke detector where appropriate. Key partner organisations including Social Work Departments and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Teams are already involved in this activity in several Local Authority areas.

A total of 21,577 HFSVs have now been carried out across the Strathclyde area in 2006 and 2007, meeting with over 45,000 occupants and installing over 21,000 smoke alarms. In 2007, visits to homes, classified as high risk, made up 12% of all households visited. SFR will continue to explore partnership opportunities, which will allow more HFSV's to be targeted towards, and conducted within, the high-risk category.

SFR has allocated one full time member of staff to the management of HFSV request calls (Freephone 0800 0731 999), emails and text messages. A variety of HFSV promotional material is available for distribution by SFR and/or our partners.



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

False alarm calls initiated by automatic fire warning systems place an extensive demand on the service and SFR is taking positive steps to reduce these incidents. Policy, procedure and guidance documents are in place to assist personnel in instigating the engagement process required to assist in driving down the number of preventable fire calls and the needless 'blue light' journeys associated with incidents of this type. Our aim is to conduct meaningful engagement through collaboration with local business partners however, enforcement measures are available where improvement is not achieved.

Road Traffic Collisions

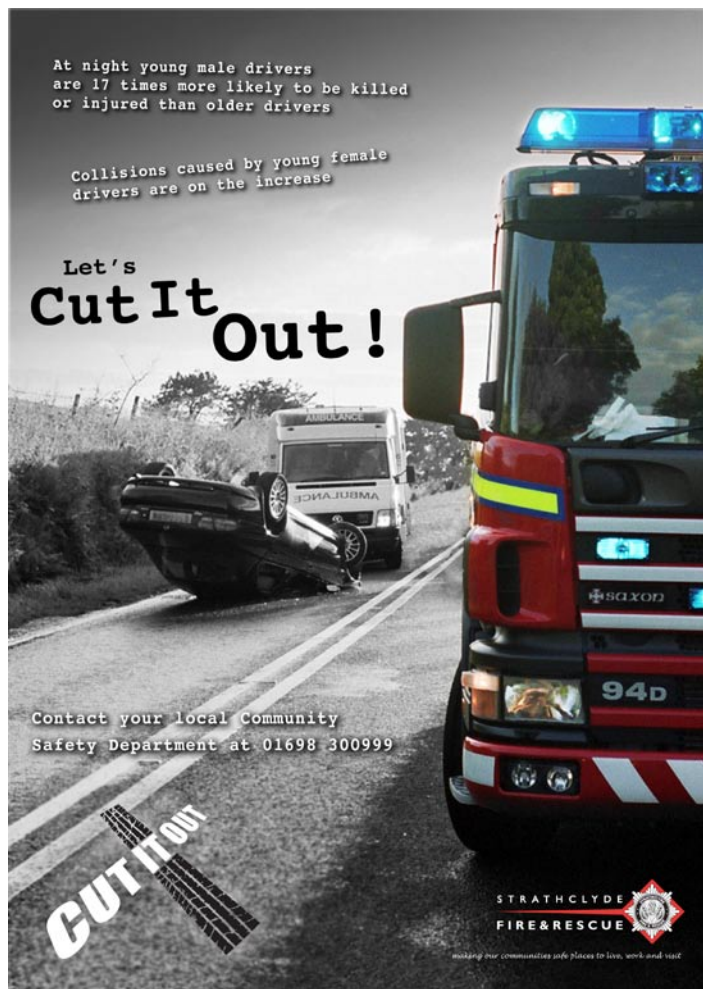
SFR is working towards the development and delivery of road safety education, intervention and response policies in collaboration with Local Authorities, Education, Strathclyde Police, RoSPA and Road Safety Scotland. Such joint working takes full account of Road Policing Strategy and Road Safety Scotland's business plan. It includes the following initiative.

'Cut It Out'

An interactive educational programme aimed primarily at 17 - 25 year olds using multi media tools and practical methods to provide road safety education. Delivered over two school periods (1 hour 30 mins) the programme is endorsed by Education Authorities and Road Safety Practitioners.

The objective of the 'Cut it Out' programme is to raise awareness, among new and potential drivers and passengers of the reality of an RTC. It also aims to develop their understanding of speed and other forms of irresponsible driving. To date 80 members of SFR staff have been specially trained to facilitate the programme.

The 'Cut it Out' programme was designed to be delivered by Firefighters, Police and Ambulance personnel, therefore increasing capacity and targeting the maximum numbers of young people.



Anti-Social Behaviour

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Framework sets out an expectation that the service will use its resources, skills and influence to set an example to young people and encourage standards of good citizenship. This is unlikely to change when a revised Framework document is issued in 2009, in fact it is more likely this expectation will become more directly linked to the National Objectives for Local Authorities.

Fire related anti-social behaviour disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups and socially deprived areas, where opportunistic fire setting and fire-related anti-social behaviour accounts for almost two thirds of all emergency fire responses.

SFR is constantly striving to drive down the number of incidents associated with anti-social behaviour and is now proactively working with Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Police, Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and Community Wardens to reduce the effects of anti-social behaviour incidents including:

- *Fire setting and fire vandalism*
- *Malicious Calls*
- *Malicious activation of fire detection and warning systems*
- *Attacks or hostility towards fire crews*
- *Misuse or damage to fire hydrants*
- *Unsafe driving*

In 2007 operational attendance to “non accidental fires” represented over 70% of all fires attended by FRS staff in Scotland. Almost three quarters of all fire attendances in Scotland are a direct result of preventable crime and anti-social behaviour.

In response to the high levels of fire setting, fire and rescue services now provide Fire Setter Advisor Schemes for children and young people who have developed a fascination with fire or who have been actively involved in fire setting and other anti-social behaviour. A Structured Anti-social behaviour Fire Education (SAFE) programme has been developed for use in all Local Authority areas.

S.A.F.E.

The Structured Anti-social behaviour Fire Education programme seeks to provide an intervention service for people who are involved in Fire & Rescue Service related anti social behavior, this may include attacks on crews, deliberate setting fires, hydrant abuse or malicious fire calls.

Working with the Scottish Fire Service College we are developing a network of trained staff to positively engage with people and provide an educational process that enables the person to explore their actions and understand the potential consequences. This intervention work can be carried out by SFR alone or as part of a multi agency problem solving approach.

Early indications are that this can have a significant effect on changing the behaviour and attitudes of people towards fire and the Fire & Rescue Service.

Schools Programmes

SFR have developed a suite of interactive education packs specifically designed for a number of age groups within the educational system, ranging from pre - school to school leavers. In order to assist in the educational element of the packages a seconded post for a full time teacher was authorised and began in 2007, this post will remain for a period of 12 months with a further 12 month option available. The teacher appointed has assisted in the development of the education packages to ensure they meet not only the needs of SFR in terms of fire safety education but also those of the school curriculum in terms of the wider community safety agenda.



Promoting and developing positive behaviour in young people

SFR are involved in several initiatives which are specifically targeted at promoting and developing behaviour in young people, including the following:

Community Safety Fire Appliance

Funded by monies made available from the Youth Work Year Of Action Grant Schemes - Youth Work Facilities Improvement Fund, this converted Fire Appliance will provide support for the delivery of programmes to engage with young people. Utilising interactive technology this high tech appliance consists of a converted cab area to allow for simulated 'ride-along', large screen displays and an outdoor projector while maintaining one side of the vehicle as a working fire appliance for practical learning sessions.

SFR have developed this appliance, the first of its kind in the UK, and will evaluate the organisational demand, use and value of the appliance prior to assessing future service requirements.

Firereach Coreskills

Utilising a range of standard fire & rescue training drills this programme is delivered in 3 ways:

- *Extended courses which run in excess of 20 hrs*
- *Short course which run for less than 20 hrs*
- *Day courses which run for either a morning, afternoon or full day*

This programme is delivered in fire stations across Strathclyde in conjunction with partners who work directly with young people such as Youth Services or Education Departments. The key purpose being to challenge the young people both physically and mentally, build their coreskills such as working with others and self esteem, and to create a positive image of the Fire & Rescue Service.

In 2007-08 over 1,100 young people took part, this number is expected to rise to 1,500 in 08-09.



Local Education & Awareness

SFR are involved in several initiatives which are specifically targeted at delivering education and awareness within the community. These initiatives have been developed by local SFR staff in partnership with various agencies and are available for development in your Local Authority area.

'Young Firefighters'

This uniformed youth provision within SFR meets 1 night per week and provides a training programme based on Firefighting drills. Currently 2 Young Firefighter Units operate, one in East Ayrshire and one in West Dunbartonshire. There are 20 places in each unit and both had a waiting list during 2007–08. Two new units are proposed for 2008-09 in Argyll & Bute, one based in Campbeltown and the other on the island of Gigha. While the unit in Campbeltown will operate on the same principles as the existing unit a bespoke provision will be developed in conjunction with partners for the island of Gigha.

Fire Cadets

The Fire Cadet Modern Apprenticeship Programme is a partnership initiative with Glasgow City Council with additional support from the Scottish Government. The project provides workplace-based training and self-development opportunity for 16-19 year olds using SFR as the work place over a period of two years. Participants have the unique opportunity to gain valuable work experience within the Fire Service, its community planning partners and the local community whilst working towards a nationally recognised SVQ level 3 in Direct Training and Support. The overall aims of the project are:

- *To provide young people with universal employability skill through a structured training programme*
- *Enhance relationship between the Fire and Rescue Service and young people using peer education*
- *To encourage the Cadets to investigate a career within SFR and partner agencies*

Mobile Football Pitches

Mobile Football Pitches are used to promote young people's access to sports and physical activity and, act as diversionary schemes, which aim to reduce antisocial behaviour related issues. The facilities are targeted at areas using incident data identifying activity hotspots. SFR work in partnership with many partners including the Police and leisure services to deliver this service to actively engage with young people.

Operation Reclaim

Operation Reclaim is a Strathclyde Police led diversionary activity for young people in Glasgow. SFR and other partners worked to support and enhance this programme. Operation Reclaim focuses on integrating young refugees and asylum seekers with youths from within the community and reclaiming public spaces for the use of young people. Diversionary activities, are delivered by qualified instructors, including dance lessons, basketball and football. This allows participants to learn new skills and develop enhanced relationships with service providers including the Police, Fire Service and coaching staff.

School Children – Experiential Learning

SFR are core partners in local Community Safety Experiential Learning programmes, including NL Kidz in North Lanarkshire, Danger Detectives in East Ayrshire, Safe Kids in Inverclyde and Crucial Crew in South Lanarkshire. These initiatives target all Primary 7 pupils within the local authority area to develop personal safety, home safety and life skills. These initiatives are run in partnership with agencies including the Police, British Transport Police, Trading Standards, NHS, Alcohol and Drug Teams, Local Authorities and Scottish Power.

Pass Plus

In order to promote safe driving and improved driving skills SFR work in partnership with many Community Safety Partnerships to promote the Pass Plus Scheme. This partnership project markets the pass plus scheme, and reimburses Pass Plus students with their course fees, in order to enhance the uptake rate for Pass Plus driving courses.

Radio Ramadhan

Radio Ramadhan is the largest short-term radio station, in Scotland. The radio Station is 'on air' throughout the period of Ramadhan and targets the Muslim Community, education facilities and business premises. SFR work in partnership with Radio Ramadhan to deliver safety messages, which meet the needs of the target population, in languages that are appropriate.



The Big World

The Big World programme utilises an experiential learning approach, providing safety information to 6th year school pupils, at the time of their life when they may be moving out of the family home, going to university or starting in employment. The one day programme focuses on fire safety issues, personal safety, domestic violence, drug and alcohol, knife crime and racial and sectarian matters. Strathclyde Fire & Rescue work in partnership with Strathclyde Police and other local service providers to deliver this programme throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute and many other areas.

SFR capability

Local, regional and Scottish Resilience

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is classified as a Primary Responder for the purposes of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Act requires the preparation of a Community Risk Register. The purpose of the Community Risk Register is to inform communities of a range of potentially disruptive events that responder agencies have considered and to confirm their state of preparedness to deal with the occurrence of such emergencies and for achieving a swift return to normality. The Register provides the basis for the responder agencies to develop, implement and confirm emergency plans.

An 'emergency' is defined in the Act as 'an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK, the environment of a place in the UK, or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK'.

The inclusion of a particular risk in the Community Risk Register should not be taken to indicate an expectation that the risk will be realised as risk Assessments are made on a worst case scenario basis and applied to identified hazards or threats within the Strathclyde area.

The Strathclyde Emergencies Coordinating Group

A co-ordinated approach to planning for potential civil emergencies within the Strathclyde area is maintained via the Strathclyde Emergencies Co-ordinating Group in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and associated guidance

New Dimensions

There are six aspects of New Dimension:- Mass Decontamination, Urban Search and Rescue and Water are Operational capabilities, Command and Control, Operational Logistics and Long-term Capability Management are Enabling capabilities. The Water aspect covers, High Volume Pumping, Water Rescue and Water Safety.

The New Dimension project is funded by the Government and has provided equipment for Mass Decontamination (MDU) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and an All Scottish fire and rescue services have been supplied with Mass Decontamination and Urban Search and Rescue equipment.

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is well equipped to deal with the more unusual and larger events that could have massive impact on any of the communities in Strathclyde with 3 Major Incident



Units (MIU), based within Strathclyde. These units are able to, interchangeably, carry Mass Decontamination or Urban Search and Rescue equipment.

Strathclyde is also equipped with a High Volume Pumping (HVP) Unit, which is capable of pumping water up to 3Km. The Unit will be used for moving large volumes of water from flooding or for firefighting purposes.

Personnel trained in Urban Search and Rescue techniques are available within Strathclyde Fire & Rescue and we are rapidly increasing the numbers through our Technical Rescue Training Centre. This facility also provides training in rescue from Road Traffic Collisions.

The New Dimension programme is embedded within Scotland’s multi agency emergency management arrangements being delivered and coordinated within a national Scottish Emergency Co-ordination Committee (SECC) and local Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) structure.

The 12 local authorities within our area benefit from full alignment of Strathclyde Strategic Co-ordination Group, Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire & Rescue.

In parallel with the National Co-ordination Centre (NCC), Scotland has established a Scottish Co-ordination Centre (SCC) arrangement managed by Strathclyde Fire & Rescue. The SCC will support a range of specialist services and functions, in addition to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) capabilities as follows:-

Specialist Service	Resources
Urban Search and Rescue	Five Major Rescue Units, five USAR Pod units
Mass Decontamination	Eight MD4 units
Detection, Identification and Monitoring	Four units
High Volume Pumps	Four units
Environmental Protection	Eight POD units
Working at Height	Three specialist teams
Flood Support	Ten Level 2 water rescue boat units
Wildfire	Resourcing allocation work in progress

Water rescue capability

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue is equipped, in terms of trained personnel and specialised equipment, to undertake work involving rescue from non-tidal waterways. Facilities are strategically located around the Strathclyde area at Ayr, Knightswood, Motherwell, Renfrew and Polmadie fire stations. This rescue capability is available to attend incidents in any of the 12 local authority areas.

Maritime incident response

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue has a declared resource for dealing with offshore emergency incidents. The Maritime Incidents Response Group supports maritime resilience by delivering a formal approach to dealing with incidents of fire, chemical release and industrial accidents on vessels/structures ‘at sea’, This facility, based at Greenock fire station, is provided as part of a partnership between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and 15 coastal Fire & Rescue Services around the UK.

Incident, Research and Investigation Section (IRIS)

SFR provides a central Incident Research & Investigation Section, which deals with Fire Investigation, Road Safety, Road Traffic Collision Research and Deliberate Fire-raising Reduction.

The Section is equipped with a Fire Investigation Unit which allows the investigation role to be carried out anywhere within the Strathclyde area.



Technical Support

SFR maintains a specialised emergency response, in the form of a Technical Support Team, for dealing with incidents involving hazardous materials. The team includes professional chemists from Glasgow Scientific Services (Scientific Advisors) who maintain 24-hour availability to assist incident managers by providing advice and guidance on how situations such as spillages might be rendered safe or how other incidents involving hazardous materials can be resolved without endangering the public or emergency service staff.

The Scientific Advisors are supported by a highly trained team of Group Commanders who work closely with the Scientific Advisor by assisting with testing and analysis of materials and converting technical advice received into practical actions that can be applied by Incident Commanders.

A specialised Technical Support Unit is available to the Team wherever it may be required within the Strathclyde area. This unit provides mobile laboratory facilities along with an array of sophisticated sampling, testing and control equipment.

Community Safety Enforcement

Since 2006 SFR has been the enforcing authority for the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 Part 3 which replaced the 1971 Fire Precautions Act and numerous pieces of legislation that existed previously.

Fire certificates are no longer issued as the responsibility for complying with the Fire Safety Regulations rests with the 'duty holder' who may be an owner, occupier or any person who has control of any part of the premises. If there is more than one responsible person they must all take reasonable steps to work with each other.

Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 applies to almost all premises (except domestic) and covers nearly every type of building and structure and, requires that duty holders must carry out a fire risk assessment that focuses on the safety of persons in the event of fire.

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue currently holds records for 32,785 premises that are subject to the provisions of the Act. This total comprises: -

Hospitals	80
Care homes	972
Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	3,020
Hotels	1,068
Other sleeping accommodation	1,696
Schools	598
Licensed premises	2,746
Shops	8,899
Other premises open to public	2,123
Factories or warehouses	2,837
Offices	8,654
Other workplaces	79
Other premises	13
Total	32,785

[Figures for year to 31st March 2007]

Premises such as those providing sleeping accommodation are routinely inspected to ensure that they are compliant with legislation and statutory guidance.

Since the legislative change took effect from 2007, a great deal of risk assessment work needs to be undertaken to develop a prioritised inspection programme tailored to risk level.

Given the large number of properties that are likely to be inspected each year, fire and rescue staff will have a great deal of contact with members of the business community.

Such contact may offer scope to act on behalf of other local public services.

Local Presence

We have a presence in twelve local authority areas and our staff are in constant contact with citizens through activities that include;

- Home Fire Safety Visits
- Community Safety Education talks, lectures, demonstrations, etc.
- Fire safety awareness training
- Youth engagement initiatives
- Recruitment campaigns
- Attendance at emergency incidents
- Familiarisation visits to high risk premises
- Fire Safety enforcement inspections and visits
- Goodwill fire safety inspections
- Fire station open days
- Community Safety roadshows

We would be hopeful of opportunities for collaborative or joint working to be identified from the above information.

performance monitoring

A range of performance measures are routinely produced for internal management purposes. These include indicators that monitor operational activity, particularly activities for which risk reduction targets have been set.

Standard quarterly reports of SFR activity are available to Community Planning Partnerships to allow local monitoring and comparison against local SFR targets or any set by partnerships. As of April 2008, our ability to break down reports is confined to fire station or SFR Area level. However, during the course of 2008-09, our reporting mechanisms will be developed further to allow the generation of reports by council area and, ultimately, by electoral ward.

In addition to standard reports, it should be possible to produce bespoke reports to partnerships that focus on specific local priorities.

Standard indicators available for reporting, according to local priorities will include: -

- *The number of fire incidents resulting in casualties/fatalities.*
- *The number of fatal and non-fatal fire casualties in dwellings*
- *The number of primary fires (fires involving property) – as a total and by type*
- *The number of secondary fires (fires other than property fires) – as a total and by type*
- *The number of accidental dwelling fires*
- *The number of deliberate primary and secondary fires*
- *The number of RTC incidents attended*
- *The number of extrications and casualties at RTC incidents*
- *The number of Home Fire Safety Visits carried out*
- *The number of recorded acts of violence or hostility towards employees*
- *The number of hoax/malicious calls received*
- *The number of unwanted Fire Signals from automatic fire detection and warning systems.*
- *The Number Incidents where Domestic Smoke Alarms actuated, failed to actuate or where no detector was fitted*
- *Unauthorised use of fire hydrants.*