



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 5

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 28 May 2024.

Performance against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan.

Report by Scott Gibson, Local Senior Officer.

1. Overview

- 1.1. All matters concerning the scrutiny of and engagement with the Police services and the Fire and Rescue Services in terms of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and the Fire (Scotland) Act 2025 respectively, fall within the remit of the Police and Fire Sub-committee.
- 1.2. The quarterly performance report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, reflects the performance outcomes outlined within the Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan, and provides performance information for the period 1 January to 31 March 2024.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Sub-committee:
 - i. Scrutinise the statistical performance of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services, Orkney Islands area, for the period 1 January to 31 March 2024, detailed in the Quarterly Performance Report, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, in order to obtain assurance that progress is being made against the objectives.

For Further Information please contact:

David McGroarty, Group Commander for Orkney, Telephone 07961572722, Email david.mcgroarty@firescotland.gov.uk

Implications of Report

1. **Financial:** None arising directly from this report.
2. **Legal:** None arising directly from this report.
3. **Corporate Governance:** Not applicable.
4. **Human Resources:** Not applicable.
5. **Equalities:** Not applicable.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** Not applicable.
7. **Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
 - Growing our economy.
 - Strengthening our Communities.
 - Developing our Infrastructure.
 - Transforming our Council.
8. **Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
 - Cost of Living.
 - Sustainable Development.
 - Local Equality.
9. **Environmental and Climate Risk:** Not applicable.
10. **Risk:** Not applicable.
11. **Procurement:** Not applicable.
12. **Health and Safety:** Not applicable.
13. **Property and Assets:** Not applicable.
14. **Information Technology:** Not applicable.
15. **Cost of Living:** Not applicable.

List of Background Papers

Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney.

Appendix

Appendix 1: Quarterly Performance Report for the period 1 January to 31 March 2024.



ORKNEY PERFORMANCE REPORT

Covering the activities and performance in support of the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Quarter Four: 2023/24

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

ABOUT THE STATISTICS IN THIS REPORT

The activity totals and other statistics quoted in this report are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review.

Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be differences in the period totals quoted in our reports after original publication which result from revisions or additions to the data on our systems.

From 2015-16 onwards responsibility for the publication of end-year statistical data transferred from the Scottish Government to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). This change of responsibility does not change the status of the figures quoted in this and other SFRS reports reported to the Committee.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Performance Summary	6
Performance Highlights	7
Priority 1 – Promoting Personal Safety and Wellbeing	8
HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)	8
HI 2 – ADF Fatal Casualties	8
HI 3 – ADF Non-Fatal Casualties (including precautionary check-ups)	8
HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits	10
Referrals to Partner Agencies	10
Priority 2 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety	11
HI 5 – Non-Domestic Fires	11
HI 6 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits	11
Priority 3 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals	12
HI 7 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)	12
UFAS Premises Type	12
Priority 4 – Operational Resilience and Preparedness	14
Station Establishment and Availability	15
Appendix 1: Community Engagement	16
Seasonal Community Safety Calendar 2024	18

This page is intentionally blank

INTRODUCTION

The 3-monthly monitoring report covers the SFRS's performance and activities in support of the four priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney, namely:

- Priority 1 – Promoting Personal Safety and Wellbeing
- Priority 2 – Non-Domestic Fire Safety
- Priority 3 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
- Priority 4 – Emergency Response Preparedness and Community Resilience










As well as supporting the four priorities in the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney, this monitoring report shows how SFRS activities and performance contribute to the wider priorities of the Orkney Council Community Planning Partnership (CPP), as set out in the Orkney Community Plan.

The figures in this report are provisional, to provide the Committee with the SFRS's direction of travel in the Orkney area, in terms of performance against headline indicators and targets. Most figures will not change; however, members should note that there may be some small variations for some indicators when the final confirmed figures are published by the SFRS.

The Orkney Council Police and Fire Sub-committee agreed the new Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Orkney in 2021, covering the subsequent 3-year period. In support of delivering the priorities in this plan, 9 headline indicators have been set, and form the basis of this performance report.

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

The table below provides a summary of the three-months (1 January – 31 March 2024) activity and year to date (YTD) progress, based on annual targets set against headlines indicators. It aims to provide – at a glance – our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

Q4 : All Incidents Attended – 44		
<p>HI 1 Accidental Dwelling Fires</p>  <p>Q4 – 2 Incidents YTD – 8 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 2 ADF Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>Q4 – 0 YTD – 0</p>	<p>HI 3 ADF Non-Fatal Casualties</p>  <p>Q4 – 1 YTD – 1</p>
<p>HI 4 Home Fire Safety Visits</p>  <p>Q4 – 72 Visits YTD – 206 Visits</p>	<p>HI 5 Non-domestic Building fires</p>  <p>Q4 – 1 Incidents YTD – 4 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 6 Fire Safety Enforcement Audits</p>  <p>Q4 – 14 Audits YTD – 24 Audits</p>
<p>HI 7 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals</p>  <p>Q4 – 5 Incidents YTD – 36 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 8 Road Traffic Collisions (RTC)</p>  <p>Q4 – 0 YTD – 10 Incidents</p>	<p>HI 9 RTC Casualties</p>  <p>Q4 – 0 YTD – 9</p>

Incidents per Ward Area in Q4

Ward	HI 1	HI 2	HI 3	HI 5	HI 7	HI 8	HI 9
East Mainland, South Ronaldsay and Burray	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkwall East	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkwall West and Orphir	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
North Isles (Orkney)	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Stromness and South Isles	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
West Mainland	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Of the 9 headline indicators, the following performance should be noted for quarter four 2023/24:

- There were **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** during quarter four. These incident statistics for Q4 is below the 3 year average for ADFs. The incidents resulted in very limited damage to item ignited. Advice given to residents at time of call.
- There were **0 ADF Fatalities**, and **1 ADF Casualties** during quarter four which has been slightly above the average for the last 3 year Q4 period. Follow up actions and referrals put into place. No significant injury sustained other than precautionary check up from Scottish Ambulance Service.
- There was **1 Non-Domestic Building Fires** during Q4 which is above the 3 year average. No significant damage. This was due to fault in an electrical piece of equipment and resulted in no firefighting action. Advice given at time of incident.
- We responded to **25 False Alarm incidents** with **5** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q4 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures. We continue to work towards reducing UFAS consulting with duty holders on ways to achieve this.
- We have **1 Active Action Plans** in place following audit where our Officers are working with the responsible persons for compliance. 14 Audits completed across the reporting period with no further actions required. We continue to focus on Short Term Let (STL) applications without objections, we have consulted and provided further guidance to additional SLT applications requiring further fire safety measures. All SLT applications pending are within the 28-day consultation time frame.
- Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **72 Home Fire Safety Visits**. The majority targeted the most at risk in our communities. We continue to work with our partners in gaining referrals and engage with our communities to provide education and vital safety information.
- We attended **0 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)** which is below the average. There were **0 RTC Related Fatalities** and **0 RTC Related Injuries**. We continue to support Orkney's Road Safety Strategy through education and engagement.
- Our firefighters continue to train in all aspects of their role to ensure they are operationally prepared for what is required and we have continued where possible to gather information on local risks to assist us in an emergency through our operational intelligence visits.

PRIORITY 1 – PROMOTING PERSONAL SAFETY AND WELLBEING

HI 1 – Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)

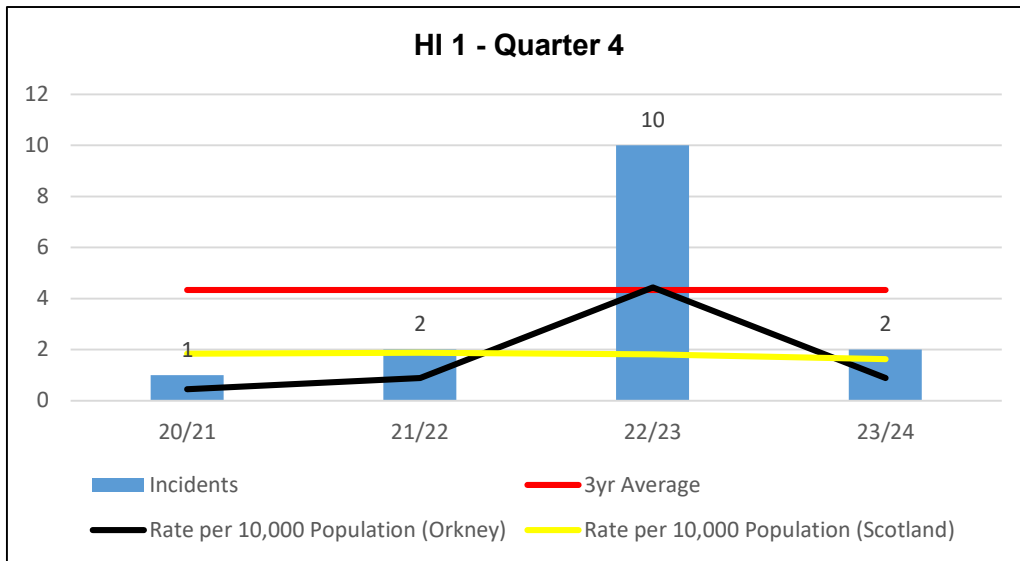


Table 1: 2023/24 Year to Date Performance

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
HI 1: ADF's	4	10	17	8

HI 2 - ADF Fatal Casualties & HI 3 - ADF Non-Fatal Casualties

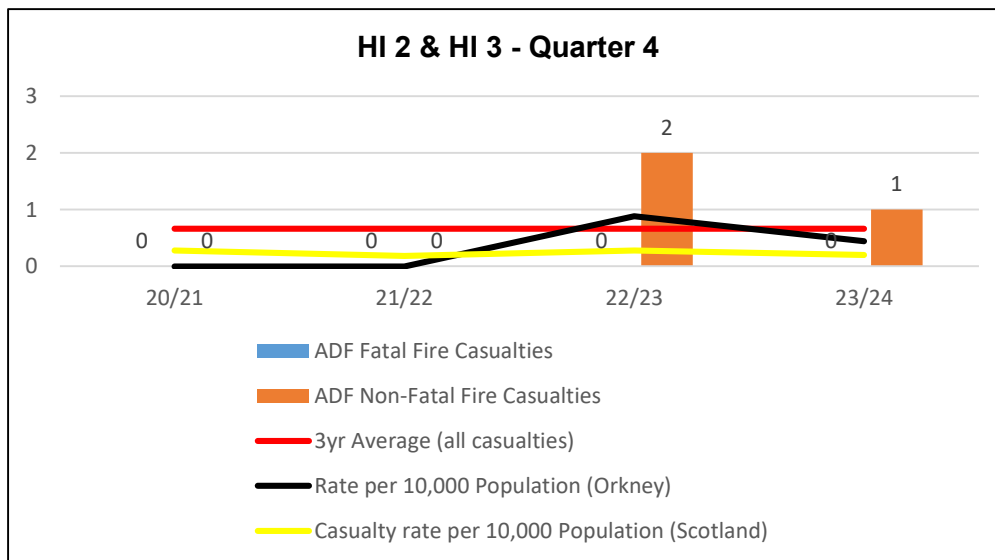


Table 2: 2023/24 Year to Date Performance

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
HI 2: ADF Fatal Casualties	0	0	0	0
HI 3: ADF Non-Fatal Casualties	1	0	3	1

What we aim to Achieve:

- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires.
- Downward trend in the number of accidental dwelling fires casualties and fatalities.

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

There were **0 ADF Fatalities** for this period and year to date.

There were **1 ADF Casualties** which is slightly above the 3-yearly average. However, the overall **2 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF)** is lower than the previous year and below the 3-year average.

All ADF's are followed up with HFSV's and agency referrals where required.

HI 4 – Home Fire Safety Visits

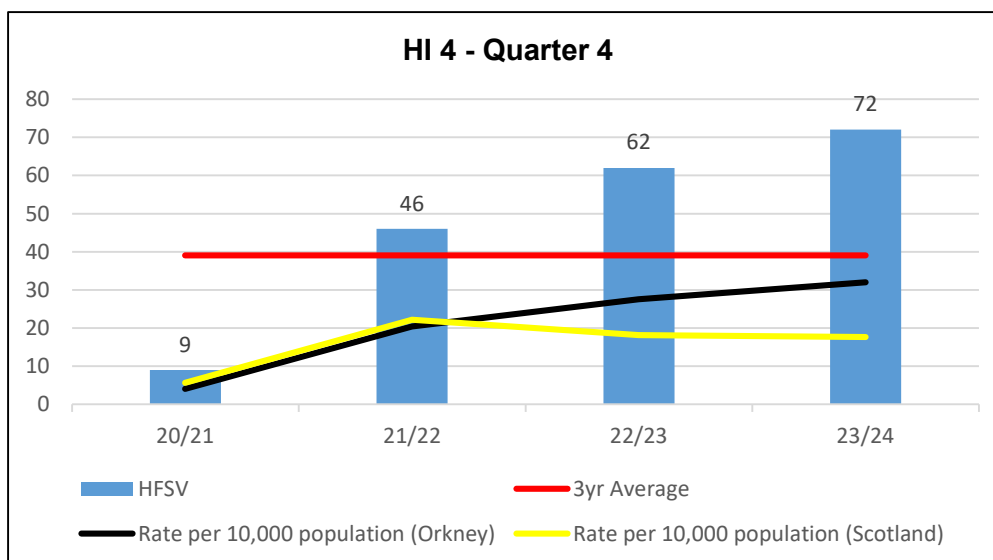


Table 3: 2023/24 Year to Date Performance

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
HI 4: Home Fire Safety Visits	70	209	148	206

What we aim to Achieve

- Reduced societal and economic cost of unintentional harm or injury.
- Improved safety and wellbeing of Orkney residents.
- Support independent living of vulnerable residents within our communities.

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

Our Community Safety Advocates and Station personnel undertook **72 Home Fire Safety Visits..**

Our operational personnel engage with householders at time of incident through our Post Incident Domestic Response procedure offering information and advice as well as the fitment of detection where necessary.

To support our communities, we made **17 referrals to partner agencies and 1 Adult at Risk of Harm referrals** based on the needs of the individuals. Our partner referrals to the are made through Social Services, NHS, Falls Prevention, Telecare, Deaf services, mental wellbeing services and Police Scotland in order to improve on the safety and wellbeing in the domestic setting.

PRIORITY 2 – NON-DOMESTIC FIRE SAFETY

HI 5 – Non-Domestic Building Fires

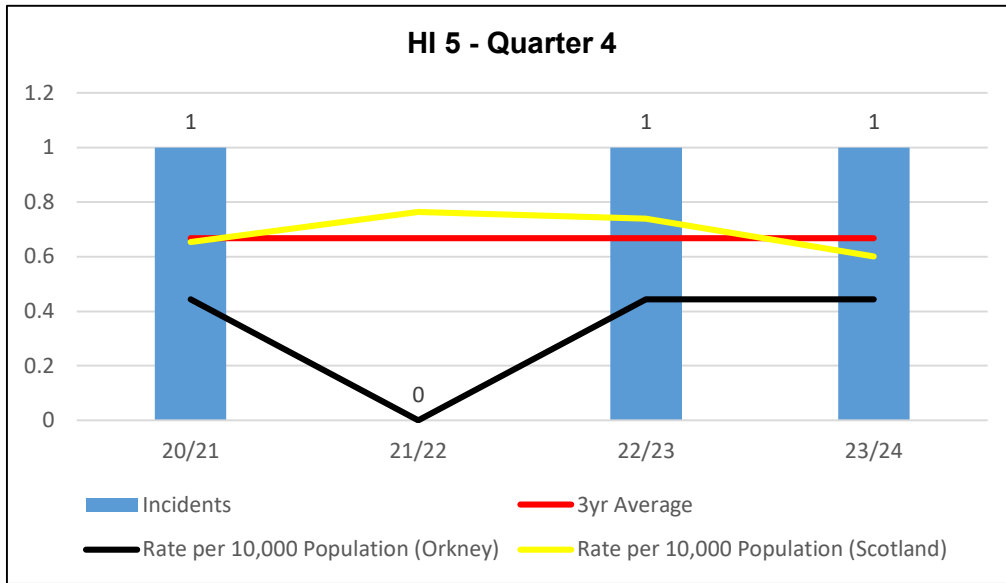


Table 4: 2023/24 Year to Date Performance

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
HI 5: Non-Domestic Building Fires	2	3	8	4

HI 6 – Fire Safety Enforcement Audits - A total of 14 audit was undertaken during Quarter 4.

What we aim to Achieve

- Reduction in the number of non-domestic fires.
- Support for duty holders to understand their duties and responsibilities to comply with fire safety legislation.
- Reducing the social and economic impact of non-domestic fires and supporting business continuity and employment on Orkney.
- Contributing to the protection of our built and natural heritage.

We attended **1 non-domestic building fires** this period which the same as last year and above the average per population.

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

Focus has been placed on Short Term Let applications in order to ensure that we are responding within the agreed 28-day consultation period. Guidance for acceptance is communicated to applicants requiring additional action to make the standard. To date there has been no objections to any SLT applications.

Over this reporting period our Auditing Officers have conducted 14 audits none of which required any further actions. Preparation and planning is in place to audit sleeping risks ahead of the Orkney Island Games 2025. Our enforcement officer is continuing to progress an outstanding action plan.

PRIORITY 3 – UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

HI7 – Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

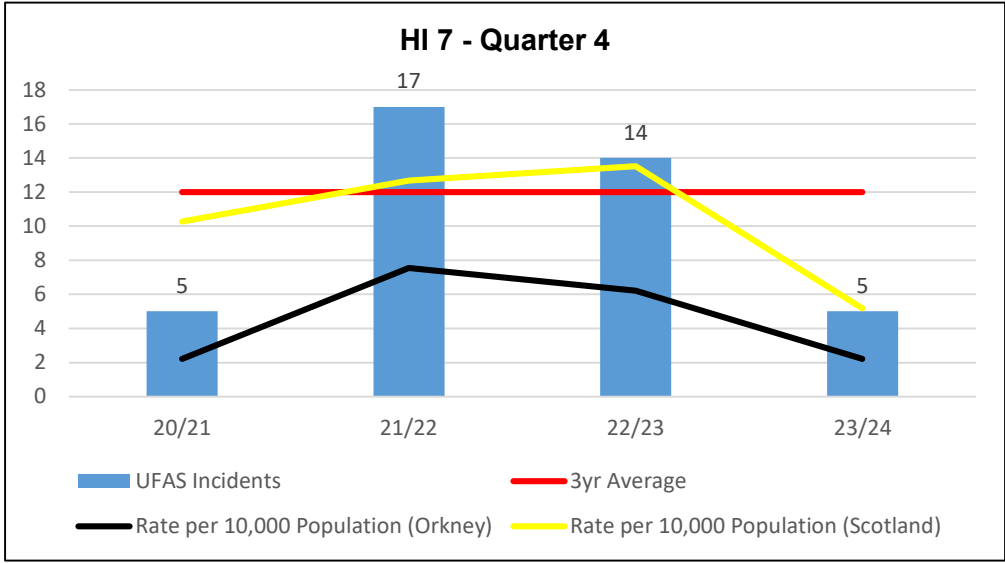


Table 5: 2023/24 Year to Date Performance

	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
HI 7: UFAS Incidents	37	52	56	36

Property Type	Number
Residential Home	3
Hospital	2

What we aim to Achieve:

- Reduction in the number of UFAS incidents across Orkney, particularly amongst the highest offenders.
- Reduction in unnecessary demand on On-Call Firefighters and their primary employers.
- Reduced road risk for SFRS staff and the wider community.
- Release capacity for staff training and community engagement through reduction in UFAS attendance
- Reduced costs to SFRS associated with UFAS response.

We responded to **25 False Alarm incidents** with **5** classed as **Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** during Q4 which is significantly below the average based on the previous 3-year figures.

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

We have continued our engagement with these premises and made recommendations to reduce occurrences.

Orkney has embedded an Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Champion within its management structure. UFAS Champions are part of a network of national Champions that exists across Scotland to support local areas in delivering priorities that balance SFRS national direction against local needs, for reducing UFAS demand.

Our Operations Control centers will actively call challenge Alarm Receiving Centers to determine our response to Automatic Fire Alarm incidents.

The 1st of July has seen the introduction of our updated response to UFAS. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of its implementation and to embrace good practice.

PRIORITY 4 – OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE AND PREPAREDNESS

What we aim to Achieve

- Responding to and resolving operational incidents in a safe, effective and efficient manner that keeps staff, partners, and the public safe
- Contributing to wider safety by focusing on preventing emergencies occurring
- Planning and preparing for response and mitigating the social and economic impact of emergencies upon communities
- Reinforcing local resilience within communities and in Community Fire Stations

What we are doing to improve on this performance:

During this period, we delivered our quarterly training commitment to operational firefighters, whereby we trained and tested their preparedness to deal with a variety of incident types.

Firefighters continue to carry out Operational Intelligence within their station area so that they are aware of the associated risks and hazards, and if required can take effective actions in dealing with incidents at these sites. All this information is continually updated on our tablets carried on frontline appliances thus giving our staff information at the point of need.

In areas of Orkney, we have seen successful recruitment and availability (**10 of our appliances above 90% availability, 3 available over 80% and 1 available over 60% of the time**). However, we recognise that we still face some challenges on our islands where population levels are low or decreasing.

To support our On-Call stations, increase recruitment and provide cover we employ 2 full-time On-Call Watch Commanders to plan and deliver activities to support resilience in the community.

We continue to implement options to increase resilience and flexibility of response in support of the On-Call improvement programme.

- A joint mobilising process whereby two appliances who do not have safe minimum crewing numbers available can meet at an agreed rendezvous point to give them enough crew to safely respond to the incident.
- A formalised process which will allow On-Call staff to undertake paid duties at other stations to increase their staffing levels, undertake prevention activities and thereby increase appliance availability.

Station Establishment and Availability

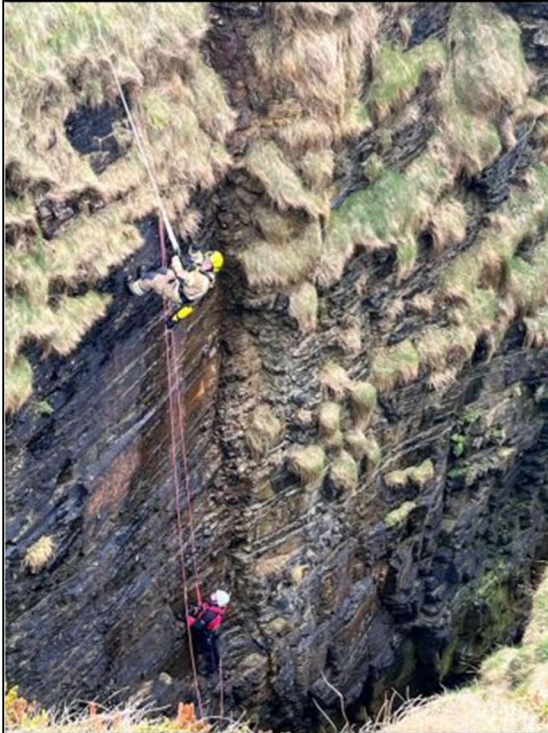
- 14 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 12 Stations

Station	Jan – Mar 24 Availability %	Male	Female	FFs in Development	Totals
Eday	65.02%	4	1	1	5
Hoy	87.67%	5	0	1	5
Kirkwall – 1 st Appliance	99.98%	15	3	3	18
Kirkwall – 2 nd Appliance	98.21%				
North Ronaldsay	97.05%	3	2	1	5
Papa Westray	94.91%	7	0	2	7
Rousay	81.83%	6	0	0	6
Sanday	100%	10	0	2	10
Shapinsay	97.74%	6	1	0	7
St Margaret's Hope	97.53%	8	0	0	8
Stromness – 1 st Appliance	99.95%	17	2	3	19
Stromness – 2 nd Appliance	88.89%				
Stronsay	99.16%	10	1	1	11
Westray	100%	11	0	2	11

- 112 x Station based personnel.
- 2 x Wholetime On-Call Watch Commanders.
- 1 x Wholetime Community Safety Advocate.
- 2 x Station Commanders, 1 x Group Commander, 1 x Area Commander.
- In addition to the above Orkney is remotely supported through the provision of Fire Safety Enforcement, Instructional staff and administrative functions.

APPENDIX 1: COMMUNITY SAFETY ENGAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE EXERCISING

All of our personnel are trained on equipment and safe systems relating to Safe Working at Height (SWAH). Personnel from both Kirkwall and Stromness have embarked on advanced SWAH techniques to enhance our rescue capabilities. This training and provision of equipment is to address the gap in anyone requiring rescue within the urban environment. As we progress, we will continue to work and train with our partners in this discipline to improve upon rescue resilience for Orkney.



Support of the Orkney Road Safety Strategy

Congratulations to Watch Commander Conrad Omand who attained his Road Traffic Collision Instructor's qualification following attendance at one of SFRS national training centres. Conrad hosted his very first Road Traffic Operators course at Stromness enhancing our personnel's awareness and competence in this environment. Conrad, drawing from his mechanical expertise, brings enhanced skills when teaching our personnel about the challenges faced when responding to vehicle collisions highlighting the safety critical approaches to dealing with electrical vehicles.

Planning continues for the delivery of a road safety event to be held in Kirkwall in August of this year. It is our hope that we can involve some of our Fire Skills graduates during this demonstration.

New addition to the Orkney District Office

As part of our commitment to broadening opportunities for our On Call personnel two additional full time Crew Commander posts have been created on Orkney and Shetland. Watch Commander Darren Muir based at Shapinsay Community Fire Station was Orkney's successful candidate and will take up post later in the year. This is an excellent step forward in creating pathways to employment in the Wholetime service, bringing new skills and enhancing resilience. Darren's new role will provide ongoing station based support and will enhance ongoing maintenance of skills.

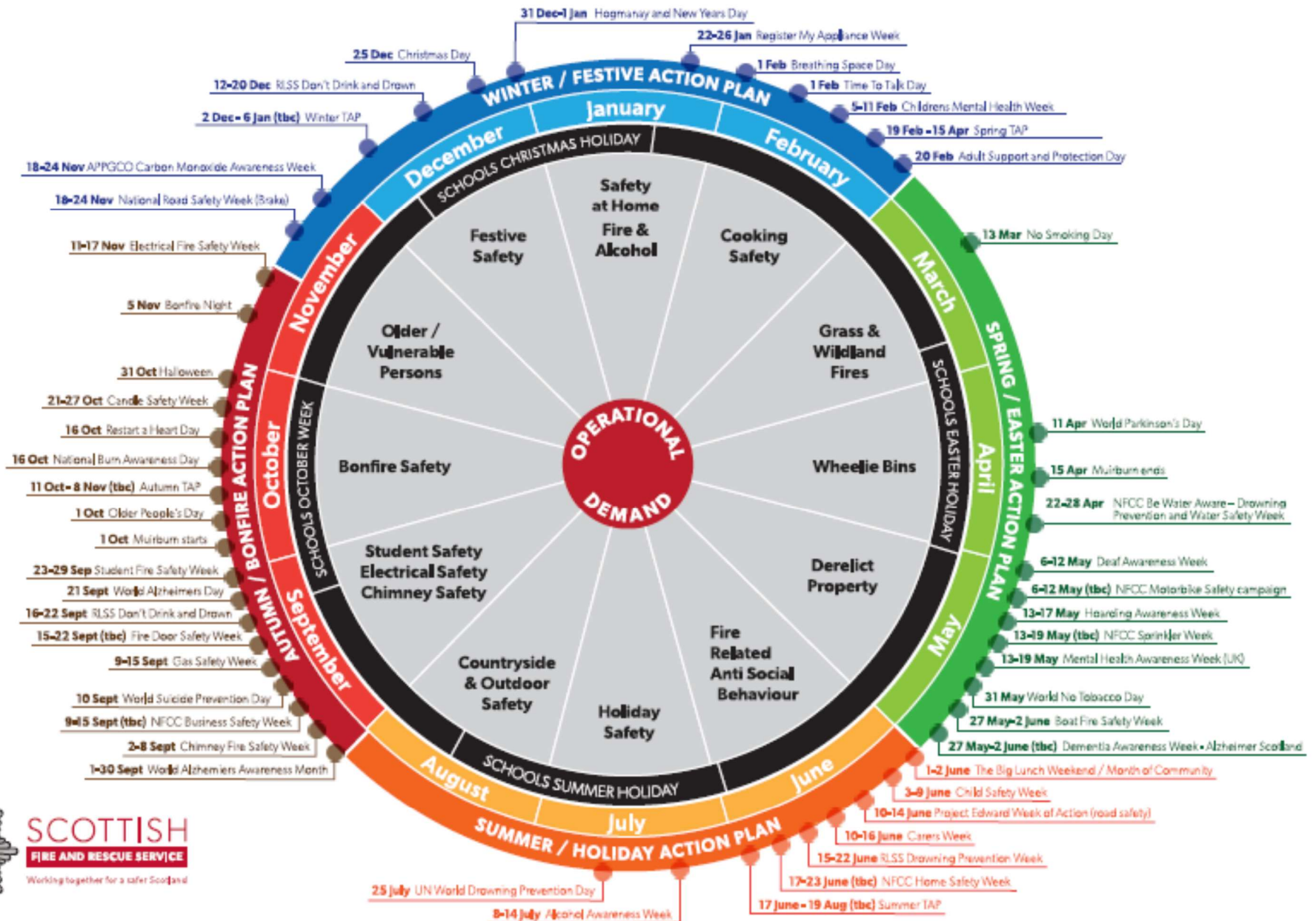
Community Safety

Community Safety Advocate Michael Marcus continues to promote safety within the community contributing to our low attendances at accidental dwelling fires. Michael has been using the last few months to support our station personnel by providing training on all community safety matters including signposting those in need to the vital support services available.

In partnership with Community Learning and Development I was delighted to meet our newest Fire Skills candidates and wish them success over the coming weeks.



Seasonal Community Safety Calendar 2024



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland