



**Chief
Fire
Officers
Association
Scotland**

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY ASSESSMENT (CFSA)

2010

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Community Safety	1
National Outcomes	1
Current Picture	2
Breakdown of Operational Demand (Charts 1 & 2)	3
Operational Demand	4
Strategic Outcomes	4
Table 1: Summary of Operational Demand Over Five Years	5
Table 2: Community Fire Safety Risk Assessment Matrix	5
Demand Reduction Priorities	6
Thematic Issues	6
Areas of Concern	6
Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships	6
Alcohol and Addiction	7
Antisocial Behaviour	7
Breakdown of Secondary Fires	9
Deliberate Fires	10
Deliberate Primary Fires	11
Automatic Fire Detection and Warning Systems	12
Accidental Fires in the Home	13
Fire Fatalities and Casualties	14
Fire in Industrial and Commercial Properties	15
Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)	16
Young People	16
Hostility towards Fire and Rescue Personnel	16
Public Perception of Fire Safety	16
Media Advertising Activities (don't give fire a home)	17
Emerging Trends	17
Summary	18
Total number of fires	19
Total number of incidents	20
Conclusions	21
Reference	22

INTRODUCTION

This Community Fire Safety Assessment (CFSA) of Fire and Rescue Service operational demand has been produced by CFOAS to inform the work of the NCSSG and complement existing Community Safety 'strategic assessments' produced by Local Authorities, ACPOS and other organisations. It is based upon established 'strategic assessment principles' used by partner agencies and services, providing an analysis of operational information to support data led decision making and deployment of Community Safety resources. A review of the previous five years statistical fire data has been undertaken as part of the assessment process that confirms current national Community Fire Safety priorities and informs the development of future community fire safety policy, media strategies and action plans.

Community Safety

Community Safety is about ensuring people are safe from crime, disorder and danger, free from injury and harm and communities are socially cohesive, tolerant and resilient, able to take responsibility for their own safety and well-being and ensure the safety and well being of others.

Fire and Rescue Services across Scotland are working closely with Local Authority Community Safety Partnerships, Health Boards, Social Services and the Scottish Police Service to ensure the health, safety and welfare of communities and are also cooperating with social housing providers and local authorities to contribute to neighbourhood management and environmental improvement strategies.

National Outcomes

The Scottish Government and COSLA have set

out 15 national outcomes linked to local authority Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs). Many but not all Local Authorities have relevant fire related performance monitoring targets included within SOAs.

Typically these include performance indicators such as:-

- The number of fires in the home
- The number of fire casualties (dwellings)
- The number of deliberate fires (primary and secondary)
- The number of fires in industrial and commercial premises (including public buildings)

Since fires and other emergencies are usually caused by or involve people, for comparison purposes performance indicators are often also recorded as rates per population.

Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland have a responsibility to work with others to contribute towards the following national outcomes:

National outcome 9 –

We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.

National outcome 6 –

We live longer, healthier lives.

National outcome 11 –

We have strong, resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

National outcome 15 –

Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs

.....

Fire and Rescue Service are also expected to make a contribution to reducing antisocial behaviour and incivility as part of the National Antisocial Behaviour Framework – Promoting Positive Outcomes. There is no requirement at present for Local Authorities to consult Chief Fire Officers when preparing or reviewing Antisocial Behaviour Strategies and consequently not all contain sufficient information about levels of deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour.

Current Picture

Due to underlying health and social issues, the 32 constituent local authorities comprising the area covered by Scottish Fire and Rescue Services account for a disproportionately high percentage of fire and fire related antisocial behaviour in comparison to other areas of the UK. Given that the geography of Scotland is a diverse mix of urban, rural and island communities with concentrations of industrial and commercial enterprises, a complex transport infrastructure and unpredictable weather patterns. Operational demand is high and the range of activity undertaken extensive.

Within the last few years there have been significant efforts by the Scottish Government and partner agencies to collectively tackle a broad range of community safety issues aimed at improving public safety and wellbeing. These include the introduction of new legislation, investment in policing, measures to reduce crime and tackle antisocial behaviour, manage neighbourhoods, improve health, reduce alcohol and drug misuse and improve safety on our roads and in the home.

Local authorities, public services and other organisations are beginning to make a significant

impact on improving the safety of the public through collaborative working, information sharing and evidence based resource deployment. Effective central planning and prioritising of community safety, together with joint problem solving and action planning at local level has been instrumental in controlling operational demand. However, in the longer term sustainable improvement in community safety can only be achieved by working in collaboration with others to address the underlying causes such as social deprivation, worklessness, health inequalities, addiction and social housing conditions.

Chart 1: Breakdown of operational demand for Scotland 2005/6 – 2009/10

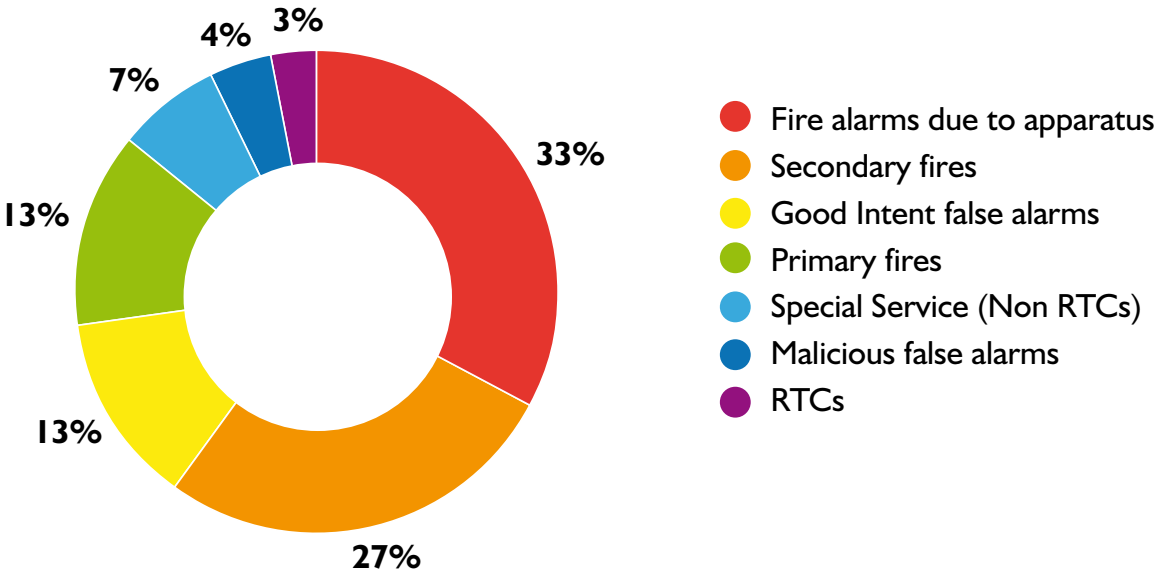
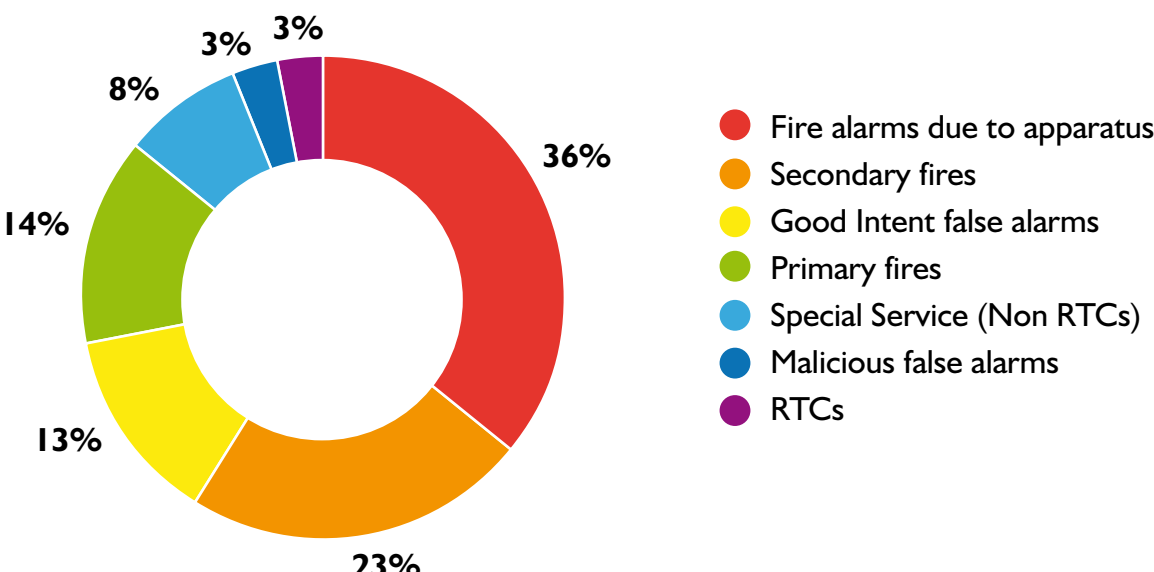


Chart 2: Breakdown of operational demand for Scotland 2009/10



Operational Demand

The CFSA reports on levels of operational demand over a rolling five year period, to determine operational trends and provide contextual information about societal and other factors that affect or influence service demand. A simple 'risk assessment matrix' has been used to focus upon key issues and determine community fire safety priorities.

Patterns of operational activity are unequal and uneven across Scotland therefore reference should be made to individual Fire and Rescue Service, Integrated Risk Management Plans, Strategic Assessments and operational fire data to determine localised community fire safety priorities and action plans.

However a number of general assumptions can be made and shared problems can be identified and addressed by reviewing national fire data and analysing information and operational intelligence from various sources.

With the exception of high risk or special premises, fire demand is usually concentrated in and around the most deprived areas or neighbourhoods within both rural and urban areas. As a generalisation fire and fire vandalism is caused by people therefore population should be factored into fire statistical data, to measure and monitor incident rates per local authority and or Fire and Rescue Service area. This has the benefit of more directly comparing levels of service demand and allows resources to be targeted within areas of highest demand where the needs of the community are greatest.

In future years the overall population is expected to increase (the proportion of older persons will increase and proportion of younger persons will reduce) this will have a proportionate effect upon service wide and local operational demand.

Currently there is a downward trend in rates of deliberate fire setting; fire related antisocial behaviour and accidental fires in homes which has reduced the overall number of fires attended by Fire and Rescue Services. Fire in commercial premises (which had decreased over time) has increased over the past twelve months.

Fire alarms due to apparatus have decreased slightly by 2.2% in 2009/10 against the rising trend in previous years. However as more premises (commercial and residential) are being provided with automatic fire detection and warning systems, managing the response to non-fire unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) will become increasingly problematic.

Strategic Outcomes

- **A reduction in the overall number of fires attended**
- **a significant reduction in deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour**
- **a reduction in fire casualties and fatalities**
- **a reduction in the number of fires in the home**
- **a reduction in primary fires**
- **a reduction in fire alarms due to apparatus (UFAS)**

Table 1: Summary of Operational Demand Over Five Years

Incident Type	Total	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 -2010
Fire alarms due to apparatus	174,887	32678	33858	35056	37063	36232
Secondary fires	142,947	31554	32397	30385	25651	22960
False alarms Good Intent	69,730	14900	15168	14594	12277	12791
Primary fires	70,648	15125	14757	13618	13174	13974
Special Service (Non-RTC's)	37,236	6495	7197	7584	7447*	8513
Malicious false alarms	22,493	5629	5255	4783	3895	2931
RTC's	16,154	3256	3231	3510	3231*	2926
Total	534,095	109,637	111,863	109,530	102,738	100,327

* Five year average used due to unavailability of relevant 2008/9 special service data

Table 2: Community Fire Safety Risk Assessment Matrix

2009/10 Community Safety Assessment - Demand Reduction Matrix							
Incident Type	Frequency (Probability)	% of demand	Severity (Impact)	Average cost	Total Cost (£ M)	Score	Rank
Fire related ASB*	5497	4.3%	4	2,080	11,433,760	21988	-
Deliberate Fires	25495	20.2%	5	-	151,930,000	127475	1
Del Primary	4050	3.2%	7	26,500	107,325,000	28350	-
Del Secondary	21445	17.0%	3	2,080	44,605,600	64335	-
Fire Alarms due to apparatus	36232	28.6%	2	2,080	75,362,560	72464	2
False Alarm Good Intent	12791	10.1%	1	2,080	26,605,280	12791	-
Fires in Dwellings	6551	5.2%	9	25,500	167,050,500	58959	3
Fires in Ind/Com	2966	2.3%	9	35,000	103,810,000	26694	4
SS (Non RTCs)	8513	6.7%	2	2,080	17,707,040	17026	-
SS RTCs	2926	2.3%	6	2,080	6,086,080	17556	-

*Fire related antisocial behaviour excluding deliberate fire setting

The Community Fire Safety Risk Assessment Matrix has assessed and ranked operational fire demand in terms of frequency (probability) and severity (impact) to identify the following corporate community safety priorities for Fire and Rescue Services.

.....

Demand Reduction Priorities (by probability and impact)

- Deliberate fire setting
- Fire alarms due to apparatus (UFAS)
- Accidental fires in the home
- Fires in industrial, commercial and public buildings*

** Ranked to take account of the potential for multi loss of life and large social, economic and environmental risk resulting from fires in industrial, commercial and public buildings. Whilst also taking account of the requirement to effectively discharge statutory fire prevention and enforcement responsibilities under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.*

Thematic Issues

The following cross cutting multi agency issues have been assessed as having an impact upon service demand and other activities of Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

- Working with young people
- Antisocial behaviour and incivility
- Alcohol and addiction
- Ageing population (health and inequality)
- Severe weather events

In addition to the above, equality issues and operational data require to be monitored and assessed to ensure compliance with the Scottish Public Sector Equality Duty.

Areas of concern include:

- The high volume of deliberate fires (primary and secondary)
- The high volume of unwanted fire alarm signals
- The increasing cost of fire in industrial and commercial premises

There is also need to further review new and emerging resilience issues, particularly the prevention and response options to national or local emergencies arising from, terrorism, natural disaster and severe weather.

Community Planning and Community Safety Partnerships

The safety of communities is reflected in the level of operational demand and is influenced by the ongoing economic situation, health, education, housing and climate change. The need to effectively control crime and antisocial behaviour, whilst providing value for money, will continue to influence the broader community safety agenda. In future, external funding and central support for community safety and or thematic issues may become restricted or increasingly difficult to access. As central funding reduces pan local authority service delivery and inter agency information sharing, collaboration and partnership working will become a necessity and developing mutually beneficial 'commercial partnerships' may become increasingly important.

Alcohol and Addiction

A significant number of accidental fires in dwellings across Scottish Fire and Rescue Service areas are due to carelessness, negligence or an inability to rationally respond to a developing fire situation, as a direct result of alcohol or drug use. Alcohol consumption in particular is responsible for a large number of fire and fire casualties in the home and often the underlying cause of fire related antisocial behaviour. It is clear that if alcohol and addiction problems can be addressed community fire safety will improve and there would be a corresponding reduction in operational demand. There is a strong case for continuing to promote the **‘don’t fuel fire with alcohol’** media message and if possible further develop links with health, social services, alcohol and addiction services to better target and support at risk groups and individuals. In particular referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits to high risk **‘hard to reach’ ‘hard to influence’** groups and individuals can be generated through improved collaboration with health, housing, social services and voluntary organisations. The high number of fires where consumption of alcohol is a contributory factor is evidence of the need to increase public awareness that consuming even a moderate amount of alcohol increases the probability of fire in the home.

Antisocial Behaviour

Opportunity exists for Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland to contribute to meeting the aims and objectives of the National Antisocial Behaviour Framework – ‘Promoting Positive Outcomes’ and ensure that deliberate fire setting and fire related data is fed into Local Authority/Police ASB Strategies and Plans.

In particular there is a need to improve collaboration and information sharing with Police,

Community Warden Services and Neighbourhood Management Teams to ensure relevant fire data is included within tactical assessments and local action plans.

Fire related antisocial behaviour comprises of:-

- Deliberate fire setting
- Malicious false alarms (hoax calls and deliberate actuation of fire warning systems)
- Acts of violence
- Misuse of fire hydrants

Many urban and some semi rural areas have a significant problem with deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour. Overall the level of fire related incivility is high in comparison to elsewhere in the UK and a very high proportion of deliberate fire setting involves refuse or rubbish in containers or combustible waste fly tipped on open ground. In many trading estates and retail areas there is evidence that businesses are failing to manage their legal responsibility for the keeping, collection and disposal of trade waste. The number of fires involving refuse, commercial waste and fly tipped material is directly influenced by the effectiveness of local authority waste management provisions and enforcement arrangements. In areas badly affected by recession and or places undergoing housing regeneration, fire in derelict or unoccupied housing and commercial property continues to be a problem.

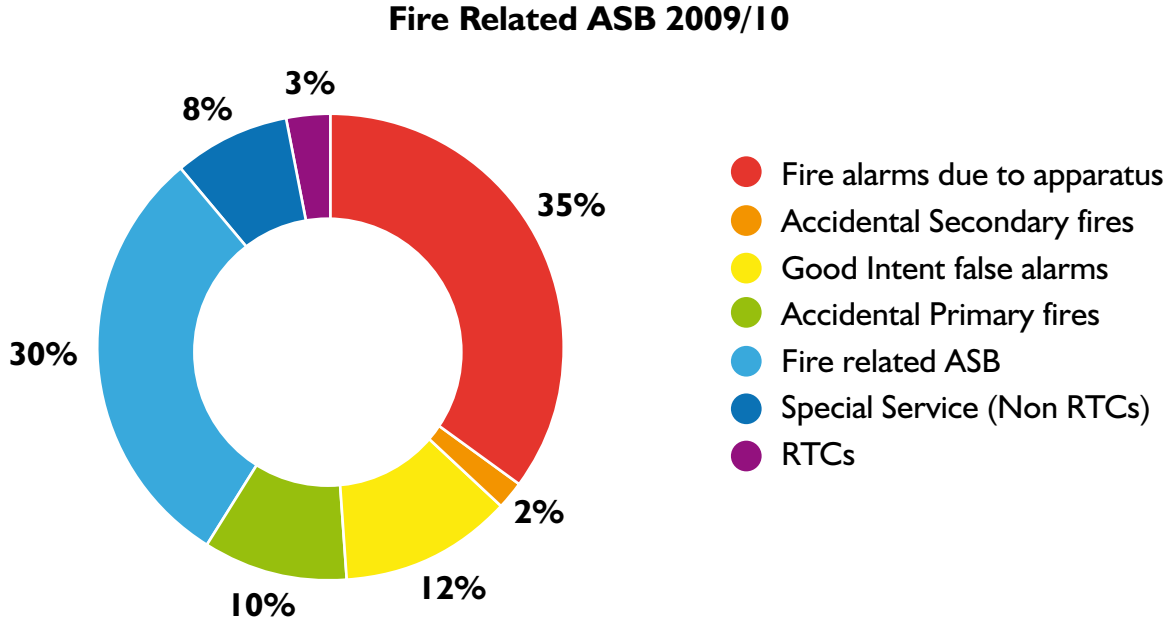
Fire related antisocial behaviour increases at weekends and school holiday periods. It peaks during warm dry weather and also during the bonfire and firework period. Recent multi agency prevention and intervention activities have sought to raise public awareness and minimise levels of deliberate fire setting; the success of which is reflected in the operational data tables. However,

more needs to be done to ensure that levels of fire setting and fire related ASB are reflected in Local Authority ASB Strategies and Action Plans.

In general antisocial behaviour has declined in the past few years with Police and partner agencies proactively identifying shared problems and targeting problem areas through tasking and co-ordination processes. Increased prevention and intervention work has undoubtedly played a

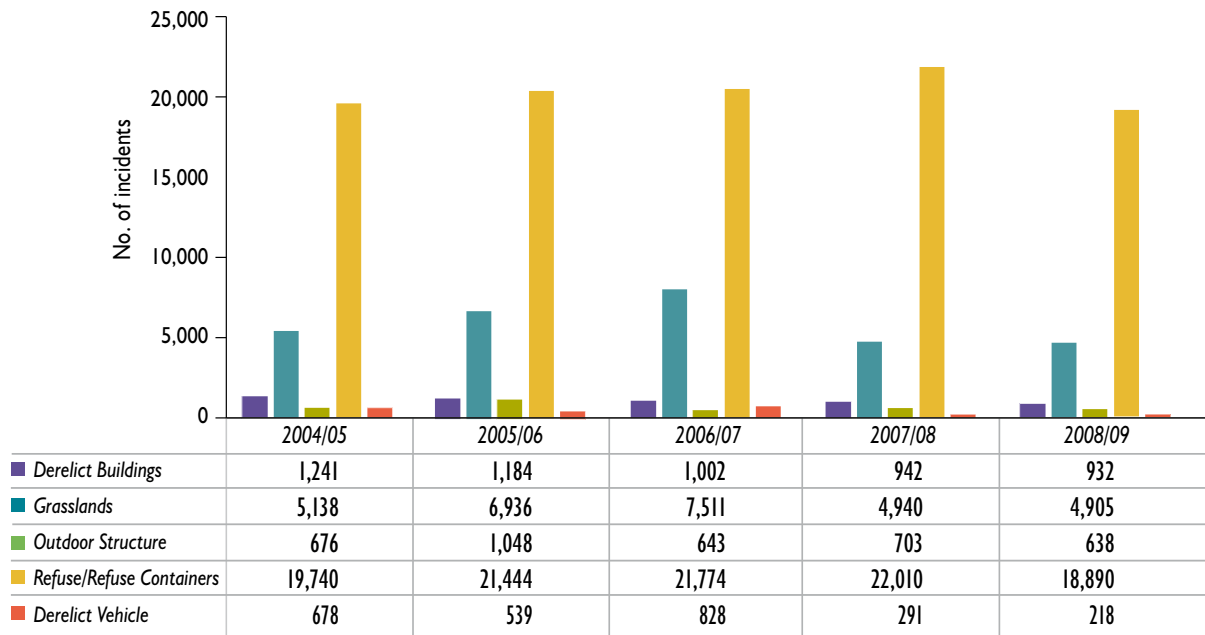
considerable part in the reduction of fire related antisocial behaviour. However as previously noted, levels of outdoor antisocial behaviour generally reduce during prolonged wet weather and increase during prolonged warm dry weather. Overall there is some concern that current lower levels of fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour may not be sustainable as community safety services retrench.

Chart 3: Operational Demand showing the percentage of incidents due to deliberate fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour.



Fire related antisocial behaviour (including deliberate fire setting) accounts for 30% of operational demand, when added to Fire alarms due to apparatus (35%) and Good intent false alarms (12%) these three categories account for 77% of all operational attendances. Accidental primary (10%) and accidental secondary fires (2%) combined account for only 12% of operational demand.

Graph I: Breakdown of Secondary Fires



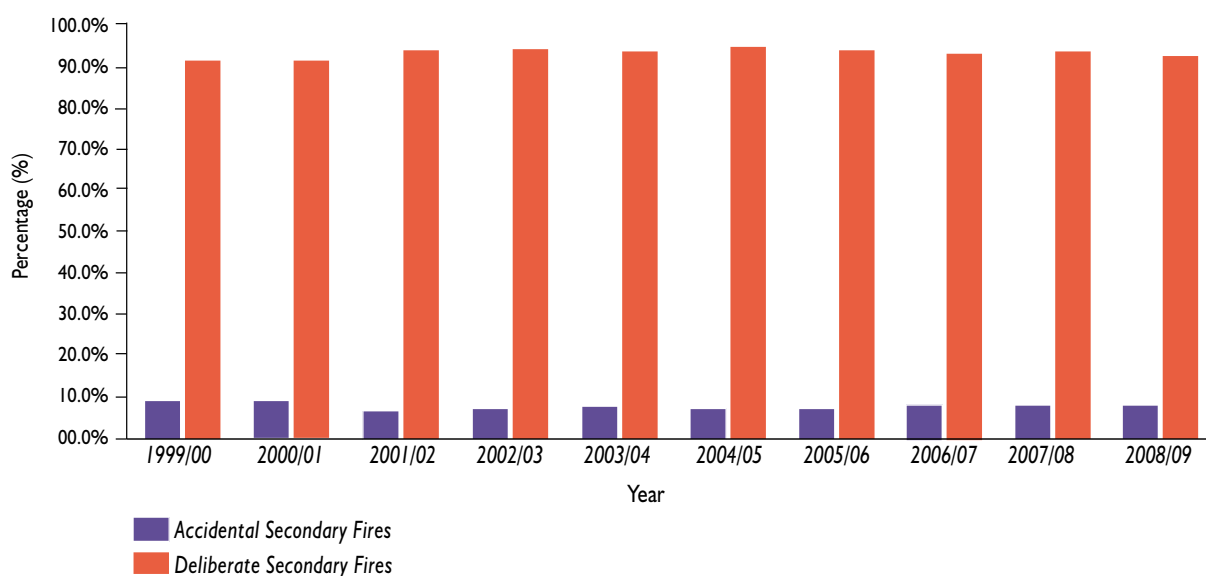
Although seasonal grass, heath and woodland fires are an ongoing problem in many areas, refuse and refuse containers are responsible for the vast majority of secondary fires across Scotland. The number of these types of incident have decreased by 4.3% from 19,740 in 2004/05 to 18,890 in 2008/09 representing a 9.1% reduction on the 5 year average of 20,772. It is clear from the data that rubbish and refuse fires are a particular problem for Fire and Rescue Services.

Deliberate Fires

Deliberate fires include all secondary and primary fires where the cause is recorded as non accidental. This accounts for over 25,495 fire incidents per year based on the five year average and although significant reductions have been achieved, deliberate fires represent a very substantial proportion of operational demand.

Around 66% or two thirds of all fires attended are due to the activities of deliberate fire setters. Hence the reason work has been undertaken to improve information exchange and collaboration with Police and Local Authorities to ensure that they are aware of the activities of fire setters and locations or neighbourhoods where fire setting is prevalent.

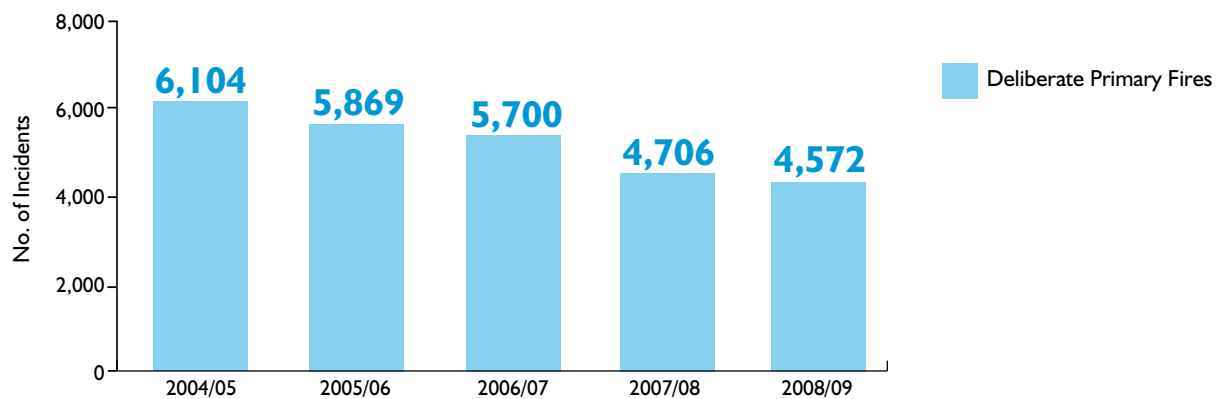
Graph 2: Secondary fires by motive/cause



Approximately 93% of all secondary fires in Scotland are a result of deliberate ignition and in some localities/neighbourhoods suffering a high incidence of crime and ASB, deliberate fire setting accounts for up to 97% of all secondary fires. In order to effectively manage levels of secondary fires it is apparent that Fire and Rescue Services, Local Authorities and Police need to work better in partnership to reduce deliberate fire setting.

Deliberate fires (primary and secondary) account for over 25% of operational demand. When added to other types of antisocial behaviour such as misuse of fire hydrants; hoax fire calls; deliberate actuation of fire warning systems and hostility towards fire crews, fire related antisocial behaviour accounts for over three quarters of avoidable operational demand and associated cost.

Graph 3: Deliberate Primary Fires



Deliberate primary fires in Scotland have decreased from a total of 6104 in 2004/05 to 4572 in 2008/09 a 25.1% reduction. A 15.2% reduction on the 5 year average of 5390.

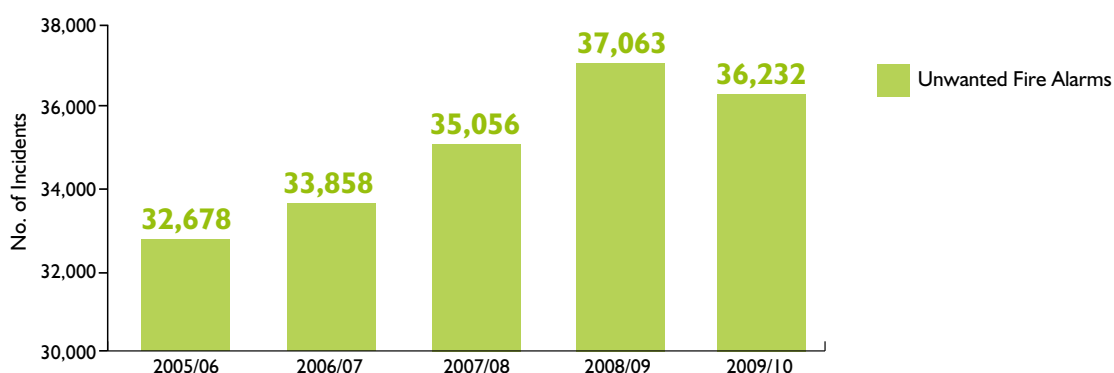
Automatic Fire Detection and Warning Systems

Despite ongoing efforts to manage unwanted fire alarm signals (UFAS) there continues to be an unacceptable level of alarms emanating from automatic fire detection systems for reasons other than fire. As the number of residential and commercial premises provided with automatic fire alarm systems and telecare monitoring systems is expected to increase over time, new procedures

and management systems will require to be adopted to minimise unwanted fire alarm signals and control the operational response to non fire actuations.

UFAS account for 36% of operational fire demand and this volume is such that it represents a significant avoidable cost to Fire and Rescue Services.

Graph 4: Fire alarms due to apparatus (UFAS)



UFAS have increased by 9.8% from a total of 32,678 in 2005/06 to 36,232 in 2009/10. This represents an increase of 3.5% on the 5 year average of 34,977. However the provisional statistical data for 2009/10 indicates that for the first time in five years the upward trend in UFAS has been reversed.

Accidental Fires in the Home

The majority of fires in the home involve social housing much of which is flatted accommodation and often results in multi casualties.

The cost and consequences to Local Authorities and other housing providers resulting from fire damage, reinstatement and re-housing is substantial particularly in the case of flatted accommodation where fire, smoke spread and fire fighting activities can affect several properties. More needs to be done to highlight the consequences of fire in the home, prevent loss of life, property damage and safeguard the significant investment in housing stock across Scotland.

Opportunity exists for Fire and Rescue Services to contribute to the development of future housing policy and planning.

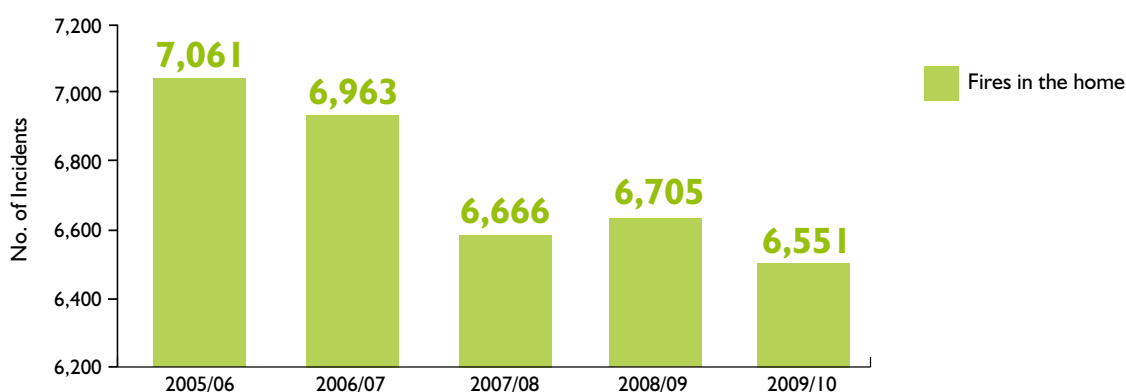
Fire fatalities in 2010 have reduced from 64 the previous year to 59 which is slightly below the five year average of 60. The numbers of fire casualties have shown a significant reduction in 2010 from 1,648 the previous year to 1,195 in 2010.

Persons are living longer often alone, many with addictions, limiting long term illness, mental health problems and or cognitive impairment making them more at risk of fire and more at risk of becoming a fire casualty.

Overall the number of fires in the home continues to reduce as a result of the provision of public education and advice and better targeting of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV).

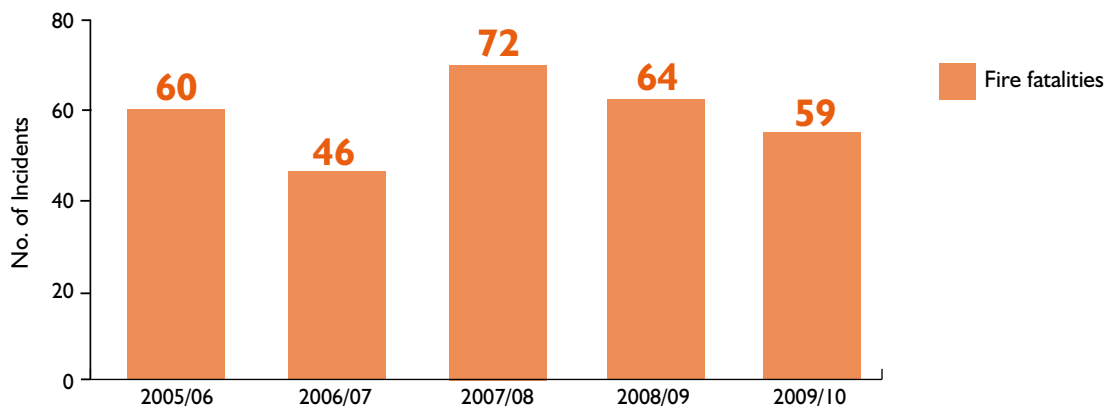
Despite a reducing trend the number of house fires, fire casualties and fatalities per 10,000 population remains high in comparison to elsewhere in the UK.

Graph 5: Fires in the home (domestic dwellings) 2006 - 2010



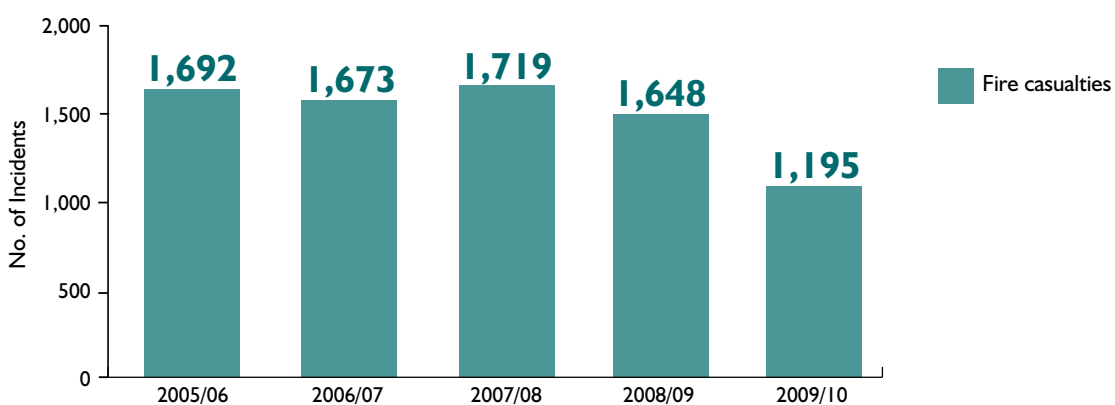
Fires in the home have decreased by 7.2% from a total of 7,061 in 2005/06 to 6,551 in 2009/10. A 3.5% reduction on the 5 year average of 6,789.

Graph 6: Fire Fatalities 2006 - 2010



Fire fatalities have decreased by 1.7% from a total of 60 in 2005/06 to 59 in 2009/10, this represents a slight reduction of 1.7% on the 5 year average of 60.

Graph 7: Fire Casualties 2006 - 2010



Fire casualties have decreased by 29.4% from a total of 1,692 in 2005/06 to 1,195 in 2009/10. A 24.6% reduction on the 5 year average of 1,585.

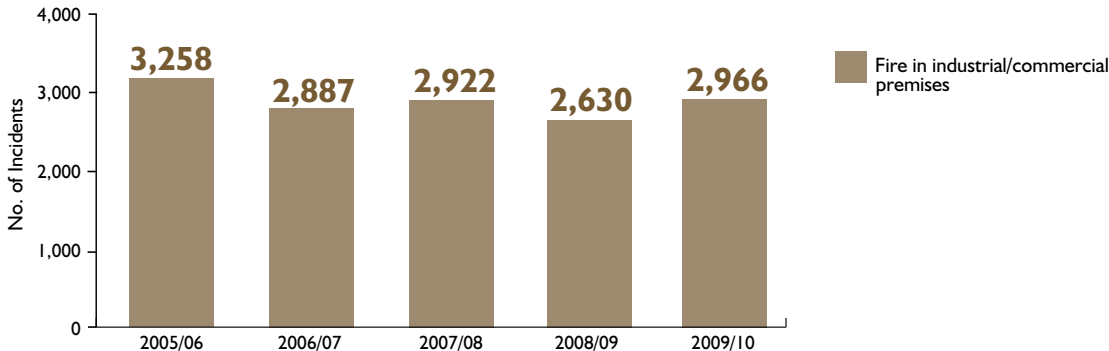
Fire in Industrial and Commercial Properties

The revision of primary fire safety legislation in 2005 has not brought about a substantial or sustainable reduction in the cost of fire in industrial and commercial buildings. Consistently high fire losses, together with an increase in fire in buildings (other than dwellings) in 2009/10 may be evidence that not all employers have fully embraced the principles of risk assessment and self compliance. It may also indicate that Fire and Rescue Service enforcement arrangements could be improved or better targeted at high risk occupancies.

Often in times of economic recession spending on fire safety provisions and training is reduced and also there is an increase in the number of fires in commercial businesses where the cause is recorded as deliberate and this may partially explain the 12.8% increase in 2009/10 when compared with 2008/9.

There remains a high probability of serious fire and multiple life loss within commercial, industrial and public buildings exacerbated by high risk industrial processes and consequent risk of industrial accident.

Graph 8: Fires in industrial and commercial premises (non domestic properties) 2006-2010



Fires in industrial and commercial premises have decreased by 9% from 3,258 in 2004/5 to 2,966 in 2009/10 which is a 1.1% increase on the 5 year average of 2,933.

The increase in fires in industrial and commercial properties in 2009/10 is of concern as it is against the trend of an overall reduction in the number of fires attended by FRSs.

Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Although RTCs often (but not always) involve casualties and fatalities together with deployment of specialist resources, it should be noted that RTCs accounted for 3% of operational attendances in 2009/10. Although attendance costs and the risk to life arising from RTCs are high, in comparison with other emergency Fire and Rescue Service attendances the overall operational demand is relatively low.

Young People

Despite the apparent success of school safety education, youth engagement and enforcement work, the majority of antisocial behaviour (but not all) is carried out by children and young people. Many young persons are seemingly unconcerned about the consequences of their actions either to themselves or others. Levels of enforcement and prosecution are relatively low in comparison to the number of fire offences being committed and reported. Steps have been taken recently to encourage fire crews and members of the public to proactively report fire setting and other fire related antisocial activities and this has had some benefits to people in the neighbourhoods worst affected. There are many excellent examples of Fire and Rescue Service involvement in youth diversion and youth development work across Scotland.

Hostility Towards Fire and Rescue Personnel

Reported acts of hostility or violence against fire and rescue personnel are at very low levels as a result of legislation, a less tolerant approach to unacceptable behaviour and the improving relationship between fire crews and young people. Currently there are 200-300 recorded per year by Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland and the overall trend is downward.

Public Perception of Fire Safety

The public have a heightened media awareness of crime and antisocial behaviour which is often disproportionate to the actual level of risk. Paradoxically they have much less concern about fire, road safety or accidental injury where statistically the risk of injury is relatively high. When compared to more affluent communities the public within areas of social deprivation (SIMD) have a relatively high tolerance level to youth fire setting and fire related antisocial behaviour much of which goes unreported. Media and marketing efforts are required to encourage a change in attitude towards both accidental fire and deliberate fire setting particularly within deprived communities. The partnership with 'Scotland Crimestoppers' together with media messages about fire setting are aimed at raising awareness of the consequences of fire vandalism. However more needs to be done to support and encourage individuals and householders take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others within their neighbourhood.

Media Advertising Activities (don't give fire a home)

It is vitally important that national TV and media advertising continues to be provided to raise public awareness of the risk of fire in the home and support local Fire and Rescue Service prevention and intervention efforts. In particular there is a need to increase the number of repeat screenings of existing core fire safety messages at peak viewing times. The **'don't give fire a home'** online suite of public fire safety information and advice requires to be supported and given more prominence. To ensure the public continue to have access to a range of relevant fire safety educational information and resources as part of a coherent Scottish Government Fire Safety Public Information Strategy.

If the current reduction in service demand is to be sustained or improved effective promotion of **'core fire safety messages'** is essential to inform and influence the general public and businesses. These should be linked to demand reduction priorities and key themes. In general safety messages should be short, simple to understand and action and also repeated frequently enough in various media and advertising formats (including social media) to effectively influence the behaviour of the target group or individuals. Local and national radio is often used to cost effectively promote fire safety. However social research has identified television as the main influence and source of information for low income households and persons in receipt of state benefits, who are most likely to have a fire in the home.

Emerging Trends

There is evidence of a sustainable reduction in total operational demand over the preceding five years, reducing organisational response and societal costs (Graph 10).

Although difficult to quantify deliberate and accidental fires contribute to the atmospheric release of harmful combustion gases and particulates. Further reducing the number of fires would therefore result in the reduction in carbon emissions and other climate change gases and also improve local air quality. Thereby contributing to national and local health and environmental strategies, plans and targets.

In general the population is ageing with people living longer and remaining within their own home. The number of individuals suffering from long term limiting illness, addiction or infirmity is increasing and eventually this will have some effect upon the number of fires and fire casualties in the home. Much is being done in conjunction with Housing Providers, Social Services, Health and Addiction Services to identify and support those most at risk from harm within communities.

'Fire does not discriminate' is an often used phrase and whilst there is no data or operational intelligence to suggest that culture, ethnicity or religious differences make people more or less at risk from fire the possibility should not be discounted. More detailed community fire safety information requires to be gathered in respect of cultural diversity. In reviewing gender it is apparent that single males often (but not always) living alone are more at risk from fire than the general population. This is assumed to be related to lifestyle, health and social circumstances.

Using operational data and information from partner agencies, together with 'Experian Mosaic' software the characteristics and lifestyles of individuals and groups most at risk from fire have been identified as; low income families and individuals in receipt of various 'state benefits' and local authority support or assistance. This has informed the development of risk assessment guidance in respect of Home Fire Safety Visits and also informed community safety media and marketing activities. Should the ongoing economic situation mean that levels of unemployment and worklessness substantially increase then a corresponding increase in the number of people living chaotic lifestyles and therefore at high risk from fire should be expected.

The combination of an aging population together with health, social and economic inequalities may result in an increase in the number of fires in dwellings and a consequent increase in fire casualties.

Should the economic downturn continue to effect individuals and businesses there may also be an increase in fire related insurance claims, fire crime and vandalism.

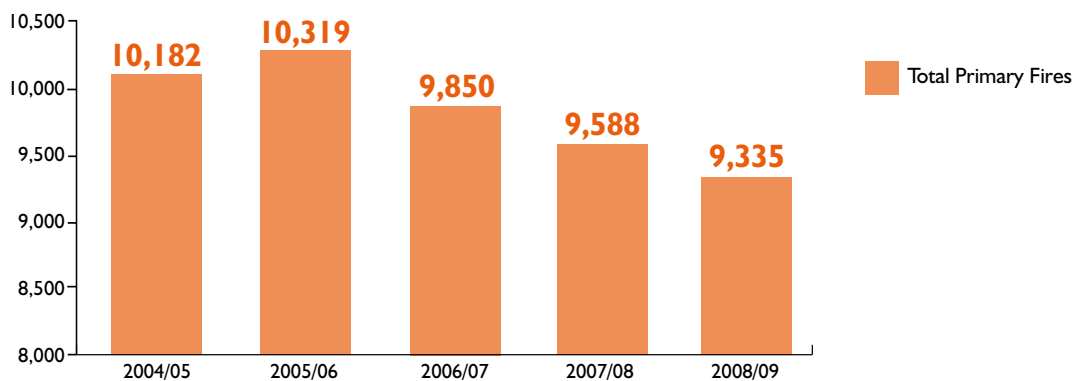
There is scope and opportunity for CFOAS and individual Fire and Rescue Services to contribute to the development of cross cutting national policies and strategies such as climate change, alcohol and addiction reduction, antisocial behaviour and neighbourhood management strategies and future housing policy. This would ensure that fire and fire safety issues are taken into account and where relevant embedded within a range of national future policy and planning proposals.

Summary

Operational demand across key indicators has reduced incrementally over the past four years and as a consequence the public have never been safer from fire or less likely to be the victim of fire related crime and antisocial behaviour. There can be no complacency however as some incidence rates remain high and considerable scope exists to achieve further reductions in the volume of operational demand, particularly in respect of deliberate fire setting and unwanted fire signals. There will be a diminishing scale of return and the current financial climate together with demographic and societal changes may make it difficult in the future to sustain reductions or achieve further improvements in service provision.

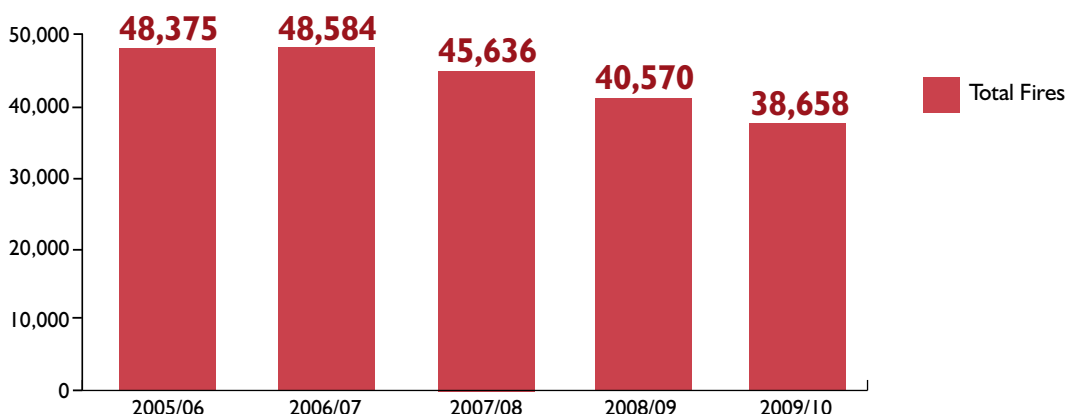
Further improving the safety of communities in ways that are cost effective and sustainable will require improved collaborative working and the development of strategic alliances between key partner organisations, services and agencies.

Graph 9: Total primary fires 2005 - 2009



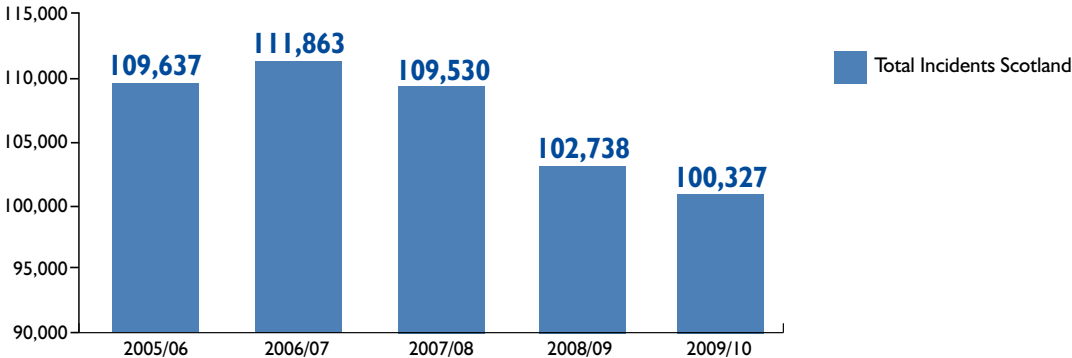
The total number of primary fires in Scotland have decreased by 8.3% from 10,182 in 2004/05 to 9,335 in 2008/09. This represents a 5.3% reduction on the 5 year average of 9,855.

Graph 10: Total fires 2006 - 2010



Total number of fires in Scotland have decreased by 20.1% from a total of 48,375 in 2005/06 to 38,658 in 2009/10. This represents a 12.9% reduction on the 5 year average of 44,365.

Graph 11: Total incidents Scotland 2006 - 2010



The number of emergency incidents attended by Fire and Rescue Services in Scotland have decreased by 8.5% from a total of 109,637 in 2005/06 to 100,327 in 2009/10. Representing a 6.1% reduction on the 5 year average of 106,819.

Conclusions

The challenge now is to learn from the projects, initiatives and multi agency work that has been undertaken and fully embed new procedures and good practice being developed, into core operational and multi agency working practices. In some cases this represents a fundamental cultural change in addition to procedural, structural or organisational changes within FRSs, local authorities and partner organisations.

The service must also take into account the likely impact of both an ageing and increasing population upon service demand and service delivery and plan accordingly.

There is need to improve partnership working with local authority environmental services to reduce fire setting opportunities by improving waste management practices and ensure that the effects of fire are factored into environmental strategies. Given that there has been a slight increase in the number of fires in buildings (other than dwellings) a more proactive audit and inspection regime should be considered, to ensure employers are making suitable and sufficient arrangements to manage the risk of fire.

Whilst there is no clear evidence base to conclude that fire safety service demand, patterns or trends differ significantly in relation to cultural, gender or religious issues. There is scope to improve data collection, monitoring and review to ensure any existing or emerging community safety equality or diversity issues can be identified and actioned.

Accidental fires in the home predominantly occur in social housing within areas of social deprivation, affecting families or individuals in receipt of state benefits due to lack of employment, age, ill health or disability.

There is a need to further develop the current national fire safety media strategy and to encourage positive behavioural change. Media advertising and promotion should concentrate upon a small number of key fire safety themes, exposing the target audience to frequent, often repeated core messages using a variety of media formats.

From the analysis of operational data and contextual information it is clear the evidence led multi agency approach to targeting, managing and responding to the fire safety needs of communities, families and individuals most at risk, is producing significant benefits. However much more needs to be done to consolidate and mainstream good practice and ensure that partnerships being fostered at strategic level result in improved inter services collaboration and service delivery at local level.

As access to central funding to support the delivery of community safety is likely to become problematic in the future, an increasing reliance may need to be placed upon the development of business partnerships.

This strategic assessment provides the opportunity to revise or amend outcome based corporate community safety targets, to better reflect the progress being made and take account of current and future demand reduction issues.

The CFSA has identified community safety priorities together with thematic issues that most affect service demand and service delivery. Concentrating upon these priorities will; simplify the management and delivery of community fire safety; make better use of finite resources and provide better value for money by targeting people and communities most in need and or who would benefit most.

Reference

Fire Statistics Scotland Statistical Bulletin 2008-09 (2010 provisional figures)



.....

.....