

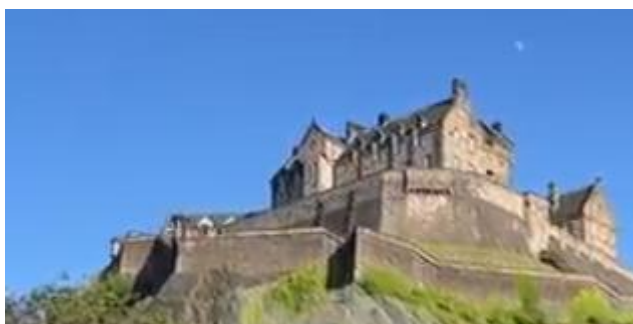
**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



**SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN 2026 - 2029

**CITY OF EDINBURGH
LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA**



EDINBURGH **SCOTTISH**
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland



Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.

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Introduction

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is required under the *Fire (Scotland) Act 2005*, as amended by the *Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012*, to prepare a Local Fire and Rescue Plan for each local authority area in Scotland.

As the Local Senior Officer for the City of Edinburgh, I am pleased to present the SFRS Local Fire and Rescue Plan. This Plan sets out both the national and local operating context for the Service and outlines our priorities for the City of Edinburgh. These priorities have been shaped by an assessment of local risks and community needs and align with the ambitions set out in the Edinburgh Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).

As a statutory consultee, SFRS has worked closely with the Edinburgh Partnership Board (EPB) and the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) in developing the LOIP, while continuing to support Community Planning and locality-based improvement activity across the city. Through these strong partnerships, this Local Fire and Rescue Plan contributes to the delivery of agreed local outcomes for Edinburgh while supporting the national priorities and outcomes set out in the SFRS Strategic Plan 2025–2028.

As Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh is unique in its national and international significance. It is home to diverse communities, a thriving business sector, world-renowned cultural assets, and a vibrant visitor economy. Tourism now extends throughout the year, with increasing numbers of visitors attracted by the city's historic environment, festivals, events, and cultural experiences. This presents significant opportunities for the city while also requiring effective planning and resilient emergency services to support a safe and welcoming environment.

Edinburgh's global reputation is built on the collective efforts of its communities, public services, businesses, and partners. By delivering targeted prevention, proportionate protection and enforcement, effective emergency response, and strong partnership working, SFRS is committed to ensuring Edinburgh remains a safe place to live, work, study, visit, and invest.

The Edinburgh Partnership Board's vision is for Edinburgh to be a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city where poverty and inequality are reduced, and everyone has the opportunity to flourish. SFRS is committed to supporting this vision by continuing to improve community safety, enhancing the wellbeing of those who live, work in, and visit the city, and directing our resources towards addressing the underlying causes and consequences of poverty and inequality.

The risks facing our communities continue to evolve. Climate change, emerging technologies, demographic change, and increasing societal complexity present new and growing challenges for public services. SFRS must remain agile, adaptable, and resilient to meet these changing demands. As the range and complexity of incidents continue to develop, it is essential that our resources are deployed where they are needed most and that our people have the skills, knowledge, and capability to deliver effective prevention, protection, and emergency response.

Through the intelligent use of data and evidence, we will continue to identify and support those most at risk, target our prevention activity, and strengthen our protection and enforcement work where it will have the greatest impact. Working collaboratively with our partners, we will ensure that our approach remains focused on reducing risk, improving resilience, and delivering better outcomes for the communities we serve.

Our local plan details our local priorities that include ensuring that we are operationally resilient and prepared, focusing on domestic and non-domestic fire safety, reducing unintentional harm, mitigating deliberate fire setting and continued focus on reducing unwanted fire alarm signals from premises across the city.

As SFRS continues to evolve, we will play a leading role in public service reform, seeking new opportunities to strengthen collaboration and broaden our contribution to community wellbeing. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan, together with our statutory responsibilities, will provide the framework for building on our strong partnerships across Edinburgh while fostering new relationships that support our mission of *Working Together for a Safer Scotland*.



David Dourley

Area Commander

Local Senior Officer

City of Edinburgh

National Context and Challenges

Scottish Ministers set out their specific expectations for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the [Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2022](#). This Framework provides SFRS with seven strategic priorities and objectives, together with guidance on how the delivery of our functions should contribute to the Scottish Government's Purpose.

The Framework also defines the SFRS purpose as:

'To work in partnership with communities and with others in the public, private and third sectors on prevention, protection and response to improve the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland.'

The SFRS Strategy 2025-28 has been designed to have regard to these national expectations. Set against a complex and evolving backdrop, our Strategy supports delivery of our Purpose, Mission and Vision.

To achieve our ambitions, we have identified five strategic objectives and outcomes. Each objective holds equal value in driving our Strategy forward. As a collective, they define our overall direction and will be central to how we plan our activities and our budget over the next three years.

OBJECTIVE	OUTCOME
Safer Communities through Prevention	Through our work with communities and other organisations, the safety and wellbeing of the people of Scotland improves.
Safe and Effective Response	We are an effective and trusted Fire and Rescue Service where our communities and people are safe.
Investing in our People	Our people feel valued and are supported by a culture that embraces diversity and inclusion, empowerment and accountability.
Improving Performance	Our organisational performance, productivity and resilience continually improves.
Innovation and Investment	We are more innovative and achieve sustained investment in our technology, equipment, estate and fleet, making us more effective and efficient.

This Plan is a statutory Local Fire and Rescue Plan. It sets local direction to meet the strategic objectives and outcomes outlined above; and supports delivery of the SFRS Prevention Strategy. It demonstrates how we will contribute to Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) within the Local Authority area.

National Challenges

Over the next three years, the SFRS will operate within a challenging and rapidly evolving national context. This Local Fire and Rescue Plan is developed against a backdrop of sustained financial pressure, changing community risk, and the need for organisational change to ensure services remain effective, sustainable and focused on prevention.

SFRS continues to face real terms financial constraints despite funding uplifts, with rising costs, inflationary pressures and a substantial backlog in capital investment. Ageing fire stations, fleet and operational systems require modernisation, while the Service must also deliver recurring savings. This national financial environment directly shapes decisions about service delivery models, asset rationalisation and the prioritisation of resources at local level.

Workforce capacity remains a critical national challenge. Recruitment, retention and availability, particularly within the retained duty system are under increasing pressure, especially in rural and remote communities. Supporting staff wellbeing, skills, training and leadership capacity is essential to maintaining safe and reliable emergency response while adapting to new and emerging risks.

The risk profile across Scotland is changing. While accidental dwelling fires continue to decline, demand is increasing from climate related incidents such as flooding, wildfires and extreme weather events. These incidents are often prolonged, complex and resource intensive, requiring increased resilience, specialist capability and effective multiagency coordination. At the same time, demographic change, health inequalities and housing conditions continue to drive vulnerability and risk within communities.

Prevention remains at the core of SFRS's national and local approach. Reducing harm, protecting vulnerable people and building community resilience are central to managing demand and delivering long-term public value. This requires strong collaboration with partners across health, social care, local government and the third sector.

The SFRS Prevention Strategy 2025–2028 sets out a clear ambition to reduce harm, protect firefighters and communities, and manage demand through a universal prevention offer delivered proportionately according to risk, vulnerability and inequality. Local Fire and Rescue Plans are a key mechanism for delivering the Prevention Strategy at local level. They translate national prevention priorities into locally tailored actions, ensuring that community safety engagement, protection and preparedness activity is informed by local risk profiles, partnership intelligence and community need.

In response to some of the challenges we face, SFRS is progressing its Strategic Service Review Programme (SSRP). A priority for the next three-years, SSRP will focus on providing firefighters with modern facilities, fleet and equipment to enhance community and firefighter safety, how and where we deliver our services from, and ensuring our corporate services are as efficient and effective as possible. These changes are necessary to ensure resources are targeted where risk is greatest, while maintaining public confidence and local accountability.

This Local Fire and Rescue Plan translates this national context into local priorities, reflecting the specific risks, needs and characteristics of communities. It sets out how SFRS will work with partners to deliver prevention, protection and response activities in a way that supports safer communities while contributing to the Service's wider strategic aims for Scotland.

By focusing on prevention, collaboration and early intervention, this Plan supports public service reform and delivers better outcomes for our local communities.

Local Context

As the capital of Scotland Edinburgh is a unique city; it is situated on the coast of the Firth of Forth covering an area of 263.73 sq.km. Its positioning within Europe and its worldwide transportation links make Edinburgh a hub for tourism and trade.

The city is famous for the Edinburgh International Festival and the Fringe, the latter being the world's largest annual international arts festival.

The city's historical and cultural attractions have made it the United Kingdom's second most popular tourist destination after London, attracting over one million overseas visitors each year. Historic sites in Edinburgh include Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, the churches of St. Giles, Greyfriars and the Canongate, as well as the extensive Georgian New Town, built in the 18th century.

Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town together are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which has been managed by Edinburgh World Heritage since 1999.

Edinburgh's current population is 530,680 and consists of an increasingly diverse ethnic, cultural and linguistic demographic. The population is rising at a faster rate than the national average and it almost doubles in the summer due to the number of visitors attending the many festivals and events hosted in the city.

Edinburgh's population of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by around 16.9% over the next decade. Although being older is not a specific risk in its own right, it is increased when age is combined with other factors such as living alone and living in poverty.

As a local authority area, Edinburgh is constituted by seventeen multi-member electoral wards covering a range of diverse urban and rural communities.

In terms of community risk, the city has a diverse built environment consisting of traditional and modern commercial and domestic premises, historically and politically significant buildings, an international airport (Scotland's busiest airport), a significant railway infrastructure, an expanding tram network, fuel storage facilities, coastline, inland waterways, complex road infrastructure.

The Summer Festivals attract thousands of visitors from around the world each year, and the city is host to major events including sporting events (rugby, football, ice hockey, Edinburgh marathon), Christmas and New Year celebrations, Royal Week, the Edinburgh Military tattoo and many more.

To support successful delivery of these events and bolster the reputation of the city as well as the SFRS, our Preparedness teams engage with stakeholders at an early stage to ensure that planning arrangements are robust and appropriate to ensure a safe operational response and safe event. Our enforcement teams are proactive to support businesses to comply with legislation. Our operational crews gather operational site-specific information and train for a variety of incident type across a number of suitable and relevant locations.

As one of Europe's most successful cities, Edinburgh has a growing, increasingly diverse population, a strong economy, and some of the best services in Scotland.

However, despite the city's many successes there lies a city of sharp and stubborn contrast. Despite continuous joint efforts, inequality, depravation, social isolation, fuel poverty, homelessness and health inequality are all evident in areas of the city.

To support and address these issues and the many challenges facing our communities, SFRS in Edinburgh will prioritise prevention activity and seek out opportunities to maintain and nurture existing partnerships and establish new partnerships to tackle vulnerability and inequality head on.

To achieve this our personnel are highly trained in community safety engagement and will be supported by our dedicated Community Action Team. From a legislative perspective our specialist fire safety Enforcement Officers will continue to audit the highest risk premises across the city ensure legislative compliance and take enforcement or prohibition actions where necessary.

Our prevention structure is split into two distinct functions.

Community Safety Engagement is led by a Watch Commander in a Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) role. The LALO leads a team of 6 Community Firefighters and Community Safety Advocates. The team engage with communities, community groups to deliver targeted engagement to support the most vulnerable in society. The team also engage with schools and youth groups to promote road safety and reduce unintentional harm and anti-social behaviour.

Fire Safety Enforcement consists of 10 Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) and Auditing Officers (AO) who deliver a targeted risk-based audit programme to ensure legislative compliance within high or very high-risk premises across the city. Where legislative compliance is compromised, this team can enforce or prohibit and instigate any legal proceeding required in relation to non-compliance.

Our 8 Community Fire Stations throughout the city are well resourced and stand ready to respond to emergencies 24/7 365 days a year.

Our resources across the city include -

- 12 Pumping appliances
- 2 dedicated High Reach Appliances
- 1 Heavy Rescue vehicle
- 1 specialist Water Rescue Response vehicle
- 1 specialist Rope Rescue Response vehicle
- 1 Urban Search and Rescue response vehicle
- 1 Detection Identification and Monitoring vehicle
- 1 Prime Mover with Welfare, environmental and Mass decontamination PODs



Performance Scrutiny

Overseeing the performance of the SFRS at local level is the responsibility of City of Edinburgh Councils Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee. Within this structure, the Cultures and Communities Committee is the body responsible for scrutiny of SFRS performance in Edinburgh.

SFRS compiles a specific scrutiny report that provides details of the previous fiscal years' activities. The Local Senior Officer reports to the committee on an annual basis in October of each year and provides an appraisal of the performance across the city against the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) contained within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan.

Furthermore, it is an opportunity for elected members to engage directly with the Local Senior Officer in matters arising on a regional or national basis.

This Local Area Fire and Rescue Plan for Edinburgh contains six Key Priorities that our identified KPIs are measured against and reported on. These are noted below:

Priority 1. Operational Resilience and Preparedness

By ensuring an effective and efficient response across Edinburgh, our crews will be able to reduce the impact of fire and other emergencies on our communities.

Priority 2. Domestic Fire Safety

Promoting domestic fire safety limits the impact of dwelling fires on those living in Edinburgh.

Priority 3. Unintentional Harm and Injury

Unintentional harm and injury can impact individuals' ability to work and have short or long-term impact on wellbeing whether that be physical or psychological.

Priority 4. Deliberate Fire Setting

Deliberate fire setting has a negative impact within communities in terms of property loss, environmental impact and is unwanted antisocial behaviour.

Priority 5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Effective non-domestic fire safety enables the business community to operate in a safe manner mitigating the impact of loss of local services, revenue loss and income for people who rely on employment.

Priority 6. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) impact business continuity and productivity.

Local Priorities

	SFRS Local Area Plan Priorities					
LOIP Outcomes	Priority 1 Resilience & Preparedness	Priority 2 Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 3 Unintentional Harm & Injury	Priority 4 Deliberate fire setting	Priority 5 Non- Domestic Fire Safety	Priority 6 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Outcome 1 Enough money to live	✓				✓	
Outcome 2 Access to work, learning and training opportunities	✓		✓	✓		✓
Outcome 3 A good place to live	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Local Priorities

1. Operational Preparedness and Resilience

Background:

Edinburgh SFRS resources are mobilised to around 10,000 emergency calls per year. To ensure effective, safe response aligned to risk and demand, the SFRS needs to ensure it retains the capability and capacity to plan, prepare and respond to all emergencies.

Our priority is safety for firefighters, the public and our partners. We can support this by continuing to audit and performance measure everything that we do. We are introducing policy and procedure to bolster safety. We are a continuously learning organisation and seek innovative solutions to complex challenges.

Working in partnership at a local and national level, the multi-agency approach requires a joint understanding of risks in order to develop appropriate response plans. Following their development, these plans require to be tested to support a return to normality when a significant event and subsequent disruption arises.

By ensuring an effective and efficient response across Edinburgh, our crews will be able to reduce the impact of fire and other emergencies on our communities. Indirectly this will support economic growth, reductions to property damage, limit the impact on other agencies and support resilient communities. Preparedness affords preplanning and responding to risk through detailed data led analysis that will facilitate matching resource to demand. Effective preplanning will lead to better outcomes for SFRS, our communities and supports LOIP Outcomes 1 and 2 (as detailed within the next section).

We will achieve it by:

- A safe, professional, well-trained and well-equipped workforce.
- Modern resources will be aligned to risk and demand.
- Safer Communities will be bolstered through effective and meaningful Prevention.
- Maintaining existing and establishing new partnership arrangements that support joint understanding of risk and enable data sharing.

Performance Indicators:

- We will continue to identify and assess risk to our communities through Operational Intelligence (OI) gathering and auditing the quality through our OI mechanisms.
- We continue to undertake planned training events to support the acquisition and maintenance of skills to provide the capability to respond to emergency incidents.
- We continuously review our operational responses to incidents to ensure ongoing firefighter safety and to ensure the ongoing protection our communities from harm.
- We are working in partnership to plan, prepare and test our responses to major emergencies.

- We continue to draw upon our experience of multi-agency event planning to ensure that all events within Edinburgh are safe, successful and enjoyable, minimising disruption to the city and maximising public safety.

Local Prevention Activity:

Preparedness:

- Preparedness - We will continue to work in partnership to build intelligence, develop arrangements for planned events, and bolster our equipment, policies and procedures to ensure we retain the ability to support events, operate effectively during unplanned emergencies or disruption, and minimise their occurrence wherever possible.
- Resilience – We will work with partners and resilience professionals, using systems and processes to support the SFRS ability to manage long periods of disruption.
- Risk- Based – We will continue to analyse data to identify current and future risks that will support and influence decision making.
- Safety – We will horizon scan to identify and mitigate future risk that may impact firefighter and community safety.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 3 - A good place to live - *Our communities also need to prepare for and adapt to the challenges of climate change.*
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

2. Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

Fire safety within the home is a key prevention strategy for the SFRS as the consequences of fires within the home can result in a range of impacts on individuals, families, social landlords and communities.

For organisations the requirement to respond, intervene and deal with the aftermath of domestic fires places additional demand on already pressured resources. To reduce this demand, it is essential that approaches to prevention are evidenced based in order to maximise and focus resources to make the biggest impact to safeguard those most at risk of fire.

Analysis of accidental dwelling fire data identifies cooking as the most common cause of fires within the home in Edinburgh and also the most prevalent cause where fire related injuries are sustained by occupants.

Through data analysis, SFRS has established a typical risk profile that helps to identify those most at risk from harm by fire.

Those who are deemed at risk from fire, through referrals from partners, risk ratings, or previous contact, may also have other vulnerabilities and impairments due to age, health or mobility reasons and they may also be receiving support from other partners. The scope therefore exists to work more closely together to protect those most at risk from fire through effective information sharing.

In order to reduce the potential for fires to occur, influencing positive change in occupant behaviours through raising fire safety awareness will be at the forefront of our preventative activities. By promoting the installation of working smoke detection, the means of giving early warning of fire will also contribute to mitigating the severity of fires and fire related injuries within the home. By using assistive technology such as 'Telecare', the opportunity exists to further enhance the safety of those who are at risk from fire. Partners have a key role to play in referring those most vulnerable through effective risk recognition and signposting.

Promoting domestic fire safety and providing sound advice to occupants, limits the negative impact that dwelling fires can have. Our Home Fire Safety programme targets up to 1000 households per quarter and focuses around lifestyle factors and simple steps to keep your home a safe place to live. During our visits, our specialist teams will outline the current smoke detection requirements and where appropriate signpost occupiers to the legislation and other supporting mechanisms.

Continued delivery of this programme supported by wider partnership engagement will support resilient communities and improved outcome. This supports LOIP Outcome 3.

We will achieve it by

- Promoting and undertaking Home Fire Safety Visits to those deemed at risk from fire.
- Working with our partners across Edinburgh to train them in risk recognition, share information where fire risks within the home have been identified and, to provide solutions to protect those who are at risk.
- Focusing engagement activities in those areas where service demand has been identified.
- Supporting the provision of assistive technology within the home to increase occupant safety.
- Maximising information sharing with our partners and using social media platforms to reach those most at risk.

Performance Indicators:

- Reviewing the number of accidental dwelling fires and their severity.
- Analysis of origin and cause data.
- Reviewing the number and the severity of fatal and non-fatal fire related injuries.
- Increasing the presence of working smoke/heat detection within homes affected by fire.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- We will direct resources to individuals and areas most in need to promote and deliver Home Fire Safety advice.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 3 - A good place to live - Our communities also need to prepare for and adapt to the challenges of climate change.
 - We aim to reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires in Edinburgh by 5% per year.
 - Support the safety and well-being of Edinburgh residents.
 - Support the independent living of vulnerable members within our communities.
 - Reduce the social and economic cost of fires and fire related injuries.
 - Reduce demand on the SFRS and its partners.
-
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

3. Unintentional Harm and Injury

Background:

It is not uncommon for those at risk from fire to also be at risk from other injuries within the home, in particular from injuries arising from slips, trips and falls.

Requests to the SFRS to provide assistance directly through a first responder role or to provide support to other agencies are increasing. Analysis of data indicates falls are a common cause of accidental deaths and injuries and account for a significant proportion of admissions to hospital.

Unintentional harm and injury can impact individuals' ability to work and have short or long-term impact on wellbeing whether that be physical or psychological. We seek to reduce unintentional harm through effective partnership working including road safety engagement, water safety initiatives, schools' engagement and engagement with local groups specifically focused on supporting vulnerable individuals.

Our Community Action Teams and operational crews deliver continued focus on vulnerable groups and focus on reducing unintentional harm in the home. Our fire Safety Enforcement teams support legislative compliance away from home and in the workplace and support safe working environments, providing sustainable workplaces to support living well and an ability to earn a living and protect income.

Those persons injured through falls may often be affected by other medical conditions such as dementia. The SFRS has a role to play in contributing to the protection of those at risk from injury and harm within the home.

Through operational attendances and delivery of home fire safety visits, we have the opportunity to identify those at risk and through an assessment of such risk, refer individuals to partner organisations for additional support.

Out with the domestic environment, the SFRS responds to a range of non-fire related emergencies. The most common incident of this type within Edinburgh is attendances at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which result in the majority of non-fire related injuries.

Responding to RTCs is a statutory duty for the SFRS, however a collective approach is required amongst community planning partners to support risk reduction measures. As a partner, the SFRS will support the education of young drivers who are considered to be an 'at risk' group and support other initiatives intended to reduce the instances and impact of RTCs within Edinburgh.

This supports LOIP Outcomes 1,2 and 3.

We will achieve it by:

- Utilising our Home Fire Safety Visit programme to assess for non-fire related risk and refer those deemed at risk from injury and harm to partners to provide additional support.
- Working in partnership to deliver targeted road safety programmes to young drivers.
- Focusing resources where demand has been identified and deliver key safety Messages.

Performance Indicators:

- Reviewing the number of requests for assistance from other agencies and for the provision of medical and first responder support.
- Reviewing the number of attendances at RTCs and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from RTCs.
- Reviewing the number of other non-fire related emergencies and the frequency and severity of injuries arising from these incidents.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Through Safer Homes, our Home Fire Safety programme and Adult and Child Safeguarding we will continue Community Engagement activities across all areas of our work.
- Through our partnership with the Edinburgh Partnership Board and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, we will share data and generate messaging to help keep people safe from unintentional harm.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 3 – A good place to live.
 - Reduce the social and economic cost of unintentional harm and injury.
 - Support vulnerable members within our communities to live independently within their communities.
 - Ensure the safety and well-being of those living, working and visiting Edinburgh.
-
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

4. Deliberate Fire Setting

Background:

Deliberate fire setting has a negative impact within communities in terms of property loss, environmental impact and is unwanted antisocial behaviour affecting communities across the city.

We continuously monitor deliberate fire setting trends and will utilise Fire Investigation colleagues where appropriate.

Whilst a very small proportion involve occupied buildings, vehicles and outdoor structures (primary fires), the majority of deliberate fires are classed as secondary in nature and commonly occur in outdoor locations on open ground with vegetation or refuse set alight.

Analysis of incident data identifies deliberate secondary fires occurring throughout the year, however peak activity is noted in the springtime, during the bonfire season and when prolonged periods of dry weather arise.

Deliberate fire setting is regarded as anti-social behaviour and is also criminal in nature. These acts can lead to serious consequences such as personal injury, damage to property and the environment.

Deliberate fire setting impacts on place, domestic and commercial property, wellbeing and potentially employment and incomes.

Dealing with instances of small scale deliberate fire setting diverts operational fire and rescue resources from other potential emergencies and identifying those responsible is reliant on significant evidence being available.

Therefore, we take a proactive approach to reducing deliberate fire setting. Working in partnership, we will seek to combine our information to identify those parts of our communities that are being affected by anti-social behaviour in order to reduce such instances whilst tackling the underlying causes of such behaviour.

On some occasions the SFRS will work with Police Scotland to investigate deliberate fire setting to determine the cause and if possible, those responsible for such acts. Diversionary and engagement activity is regarded as an important approach in tackling anti-social behaviour and will continue to be part of our approach to raise awareness of the impact of this unwanted activity.

We continue to support local groups to reduce this type of antisocial behaviour and engage with schools in identified areas. We support the work required to introduce firework control zones (related to deliberate fire setting) and are a key stakeholder and partner in the delivery of Operation Moonbeam in response to national activity around Bonfire period.

A continued focus on antisocial behaviour and diligent after fire investigations will serve to mitigate behaviour related to deliberate fire setting and supports LOIP Outcomes 2 and 3.

We will achieve it by:

- Identifying those parts of Edinburgh's communities affected by deliberate fire setting and sharing this information with our partners.
- Utilising our Young Firefighters, Fire Reach, Firesetters and school's education programmes to raise awareness of the impact of fire related anti-social behaviour.
- Working with partners to develop joint strategies to reduce the risk posed by deliberate fire setting and to mitigate its impacts.

Performance Indicators:

- Reviewing the number and type of deliberate fire setting incidents within Edinburgh.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of our youth engagement programmes.

Local Prevention Activity:

Community Safety Engagement:

- Education and Youth Engagement delivered through partnership working identifying those most in need of support and direction.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 3 – A good place to live.
 - We aim to reduce deliberate fire setting in Edinburgh by 5% per year.
 - Enable the SFRS to divert its resources towards other community-based activities.
 - Protect the natural and built environment.
 - Support the promotion of active and responsible citizenship across Edinburgh communities.
 - Support our communities in feeling safe from crime, disorder and danger.
-
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

5. Non-Domestic Fire Safety

Background:

Workplaces and business (with a few exceptions) are classed as non-domestic premises and as such come within the scope of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 (the Act) which places duties on persons responsible for these premises to comply with the Act and its associated regulations.

The SFRS has a statutory duty to promote fire safety and where required enforce compliance with fire safety legislation. To discharge this duty and to secure compliance, the SFRS has adopted an approach utilising advice, education and, where required, formal enforcement powers.

Given the variety and quantity of premises which come within the scope of the Act, the SFRS has developed a fire safety enforcement framework which is based on the principal of risk combined with historical fire data across occupancy groups to create the fire safety audit programme. Those premises which present a higher degree of risk from fire are subject to regular fire safety audits to verify compliance.

The ability for the city to attract business and bolster its reputation as a good place to do business is supported through an effective fire safety auditing program within the built environment. Our fire safety expertise is also applied to the safe events within the city (for example the summer festivals, concerts and sporting events) and our thematic activity is driven by intelligence or incidents of note from around the world.

Our robust auditing programme ensures that premises that present a risk to members of the public or have had complaints lodged against them are subject to legislative and regulatory compliance to ensure that persons working, living around or visiting such premises are safe.

Our fire safety enforcement teams also support operational crews to ensure that fire precautions within common areas of high-rise buildings are operational and maintained.

We are a statutory consultee at design stage for large scale building projects and we are a key partner in the post Grenfell cladding remediation programme in Edinburgh. By working effectively alongside City of Edinburgh Council, SFRS are promoting and supporting improved, legislatively compliant passive and active fire precautions within commercial premises.

The impact of fire can have a devastating impact on the city, businesses, employment, the provision of critical services and also our heritage - particularly in cities such as Edinburgh. Evidence suggests that premises affected by a serious fire experience a high failure rate.

The SFRS will undertake its audit programme to support Edinburgh's ambition to grow its economy during this challenging period of economic recovery and seek to safeguard its culture, heritage and continuation of employment opportunities.

These approaches support LOIP Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.

We will achieve it by:

- Undertaking our fire safety audit programme in accordance with the SFRS Enforcement Framework.
- Engaging with duty holders to promote responsible fire safety management of premises that come under the auspices of Part 3 of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.
- Working in partnership to ensure the appropriate provision of fire safety standards are incorporated in new premises under construction or premises undergoing material changes.
- Working in partnership with other enforcement agencies and organisations to support legislative compliance, applying robust enforcement where there is evidence of non-compliance.

Performance Indicators:

- Reviewing the number of fires in non-domestic premises and the type of premises involved in fire.
- Reviewing the number and types of fire safety audits carried out across Edinburgh.

- Reviewing the outcome of fire safety audits and enforcement activity carried out in non-domestic premises.

Local Prevention Activity:

Protection:

- The Protection Function encompasses some of the most specialised subject matter experts within the Service and this strategy intends to ensure that those skills are developed, maintained and retained at the highest level and deployed appropriately and effectively to reduce community and firefighter risk.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 2 - Access to work, learning and training opportunities.
 - We aim to reduce fires in non-domestic premises in Edinburgh by 3% per year.
 - Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across Edinburgh.
 - Reduce the potential for loss of life and injury.
 - Protect Edinburgh's culture and heritage.
 - Protect the natural and built environment and reduce the impact of fire on our Communities.
-
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

6. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

Background:

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents are defined as “an event which has required an operational attendance by the Fire & Rescue Service due to the unwanted actuation of a fire alarm system”. Common causes include engineer testing, aerosols, cooking, accidental call point actuation, dust, poor siting of detector heads etc.

These types of call continue to constitute over % 19 of all calls received in Edinburgh and is draining on the operational resources required to respond. This impacts on all other SFRS activity in Edinburgh such as training and preventative work as well as reducing the resources available to attend genuine emergencies. There is also a financial cost in terms of unnecessary vehicle movements and the disruption of the normal business of the premises affected.

The volume of UFAS calls in Edinburgh has been reduced with the recent introduction of the SFRS UFAS policy; however, UFAS calls still account for a large part of our operational response. Not only does this impact on business continuity and productivity but also increases road risk and diverts our resources from other priority activities including training, exercising, community safety events and operational inspections and site visits.

A reduction in UFAS provides both business and operational resilience and supports LOIP Outcome 2.

We will achieve it by:

- Engaging with premises owners/occupiers to identify the cause of every UFAS incident.
- Working with owners/occupiers to implement and support their management of fire alarm systems and the introduction of demand reduction plans.
- Identify premises which attract a significant operational response and re-assess the response required.

Performance Indicators:

- Reviewing the number of attendances at non-domestic premises and the type of premises generating UFAS across Edinburgh.
- Evaluating the outcomes of demand reduction plans to review progress and share good practice.
- Reviewing our operational responses to UFAS incidents to ensure they are based on an assessment of risk and demand.

Local Prevention Activity:

Protection:

- Operational crews will continue to engage with Duty Holders when attending Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal (UFAS) incidents and record incidents to allow accurate monitoring of premises incidents.
- Protection Officers will engage with Duty Holders when auditing premises to educate and support to reduce UFAS type incidents.

Expected Outcomes:

- LOIP Priority 2 – Access to work, learning and training opportunities.
- We aim to reduce fires in non-domestic premises in Edinburgh by 3% per year.
- Enable the industrial, commercial and service sector to maintain business continuity and employment across Edinburgh.
- SFRS - Safer Communities through Prevention - Our Preparedness will be increased to enable us to support communities to be better prepared to meet the challenges of major incidents and support ongoing community safety.

Review

To ensure this Local Fire and Rescue Plan remains flexible to emerging local or national priorities a review may be carried out at any time but will be reviewed at least once every three years.

A review may also be carried out if the Scottish Minister directs it or if a new Strategic Plan is approved. Following a review, the Local Senior Officer may revise the Plan.

Further Reading and reference documents

- SFRS Strategic Plan [SFRS Strategy 2025-2028 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- SFRS Prevention Strategy [Prevention Strategy 2025-2028 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Statistics [Statistics | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)
- City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement plan [Plans – Edinburgh Partnership](#)

Contact Us

We are fully committed to continually improving the service we provide to our communities and recognise that to achieve this goal we must listen and respond to the views of the public and our partners.

We use all feedback we receive to monitor our performance and incorporate this information into our planning and governance processes in order to continually improve our service. We are proud that the majority of feedback we receive is positive, and we are keen to hear examples of good practice and quality service delivery that exemplifies the standards of service that we strive to provide for the communities of Scotland.

If you have something you would like to share with us or you require additional information, you can get in touch in a number of ways:

Write to: Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
LSO Office
McDonald Road Fire Station
EH7 4NS

Phone: 03030016337
Visit our website: www.firescotland.gov.uk

Follow us on X @scotfire_Edin

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Use the feedback form on our website to send an email - www.firescotland.gov.uk



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