

Item: 3

Police and Fire Sub-committee: 26 August 2025.

Performance against Orkney Fire and Rescue Plan.

Report by Robert Lennox, 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 April to 30 June 2025.

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 April to 30 June 2025, 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:** An Equality Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring reports.
6. **Island Communities Impact:** An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required in respect of performance monitoring.
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 April to 30 June 2025.



Orkney Islands

2025-26 Q1

Scrutiny Report



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

**Working together
for a safer Scotland**



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney Islands

2025-26 Q1

Scrutiny Report

Contents

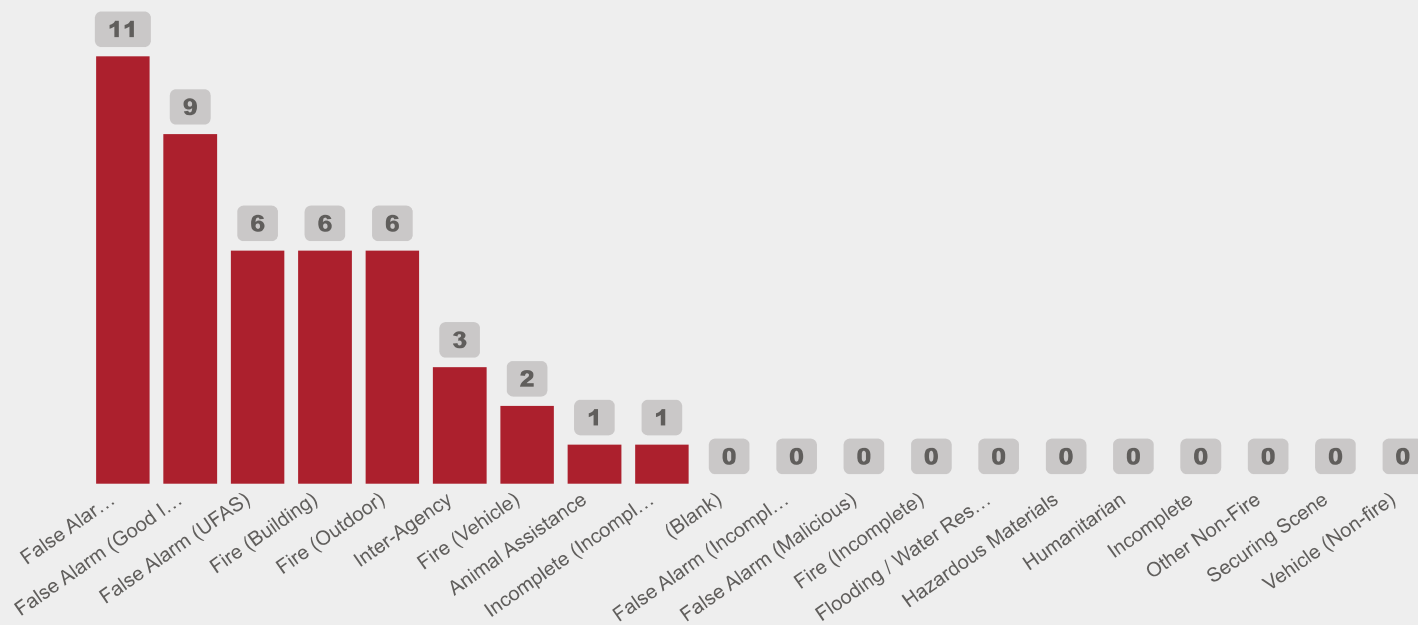
1	Summary	Page 3
2	Trends	Page 4
3	Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)	Page 5
4	Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties	Page 6
5	Non-Fire Casualties	Page 7
6	Deliberate Fires	Page 8
7	Non-Domestic Fires	Page 9
8	Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)	Page 10
9	Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)	Page 11
10	Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs)	Page 12
11	Fire Safety Enforcement	Page 12
12	Station Availability and Establishment	Page 13
13	Community Safety & Engagement	Page 14
14	Recent Questions and Answers	Page 16
15	Glossary of Terms	Page 19

About the statistics within this report

The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They 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 a difference in the period totals quoted in our reports after local publication which result from revisions or additions to the data in our systems. The Scottish Government publishes official statistics each year which allow for comparisons to be made over longer periods of time.

 45 Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 14 Fires	 4 Non-Fire Incidents	 26 False Alarms	 6 UFAS
 1 People Rescued by Firefighters	 0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 0 Fire Fatalities	 0 People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 1 Non-Fire Fatalities
 Home Fire Safety Visits	 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

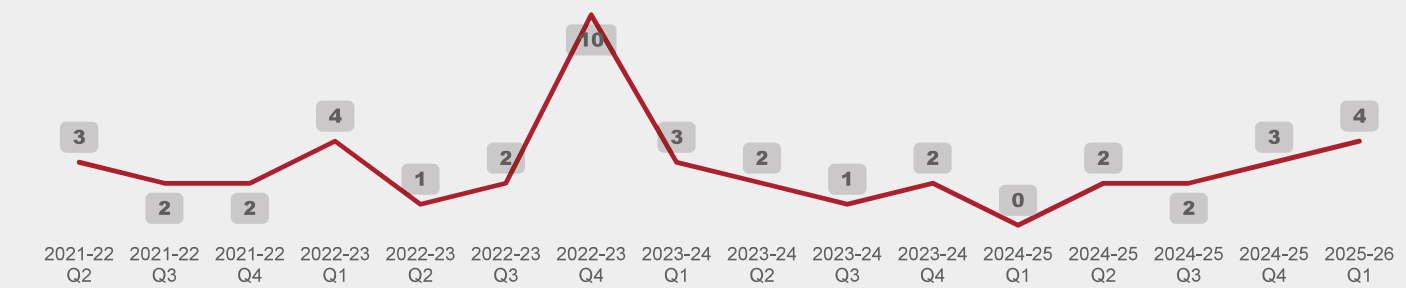


The information above provides a summary of the three-months (1 April - 30 June 2025) activity against headlines indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

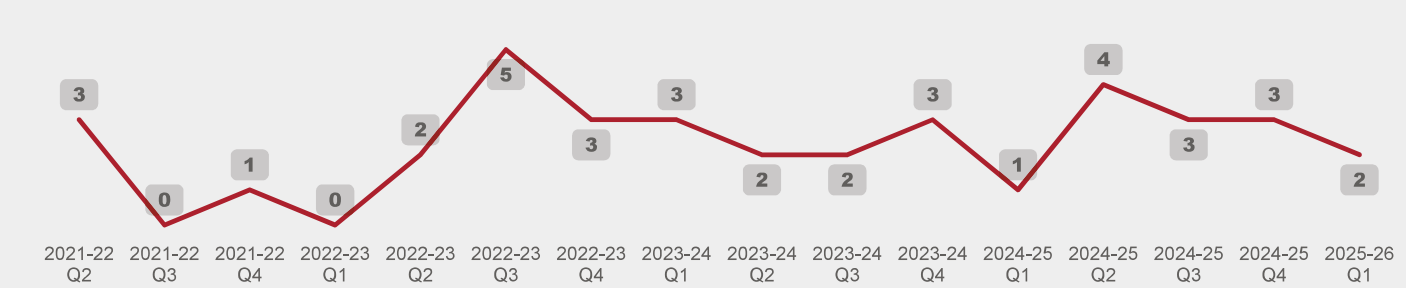
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

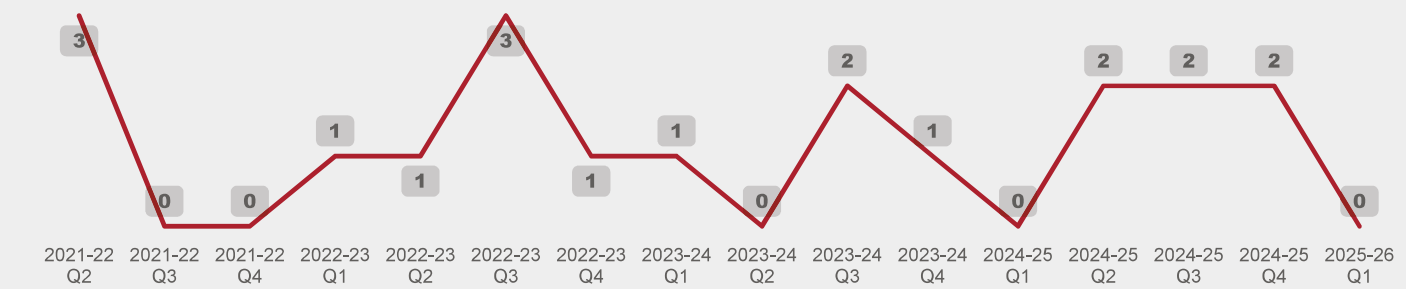
Accidental Dwelling Fires



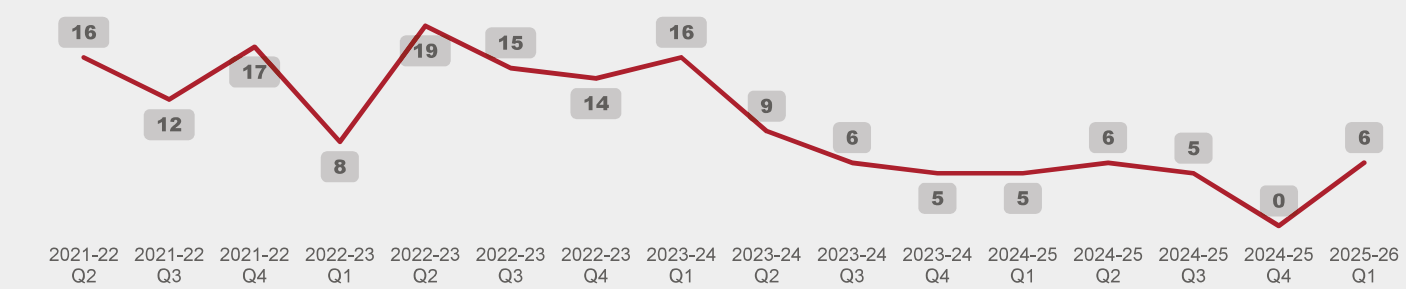
Deliberate Fires



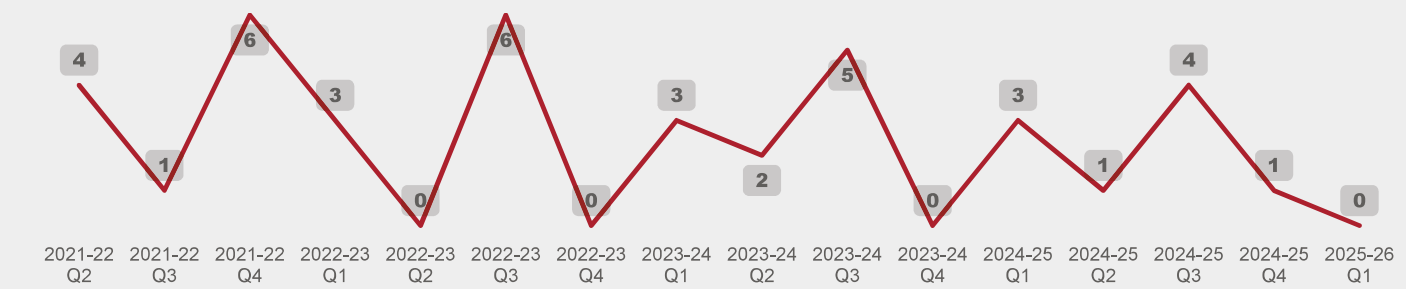
Non-Domestic Fires



Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions



3. Accidental Dwelling Fires

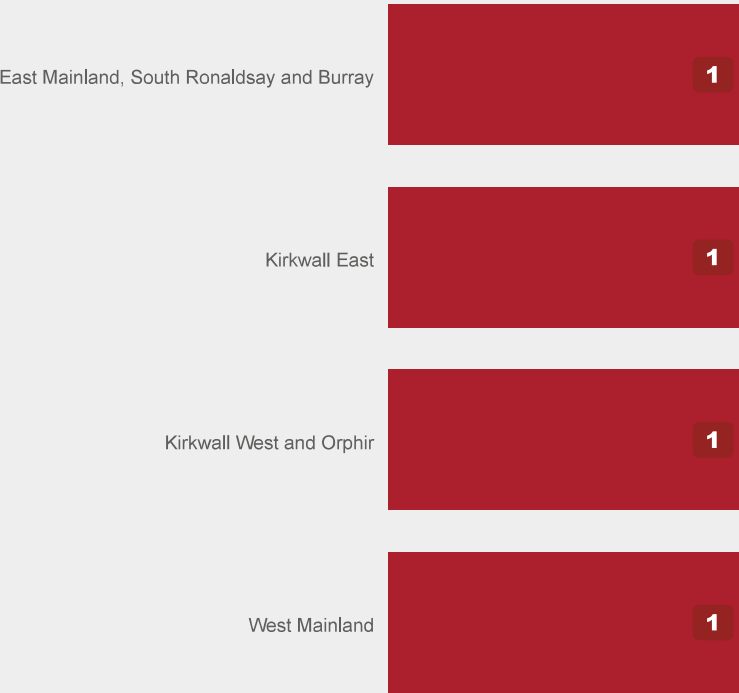
2025-26 Q1

Trend by Quarter (4 years)

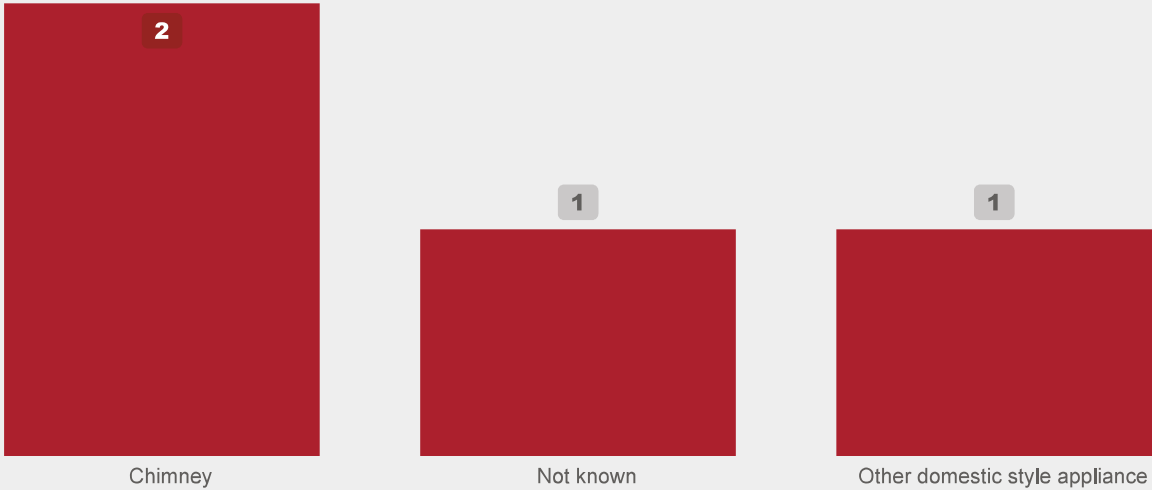


Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to item 1st ignited	2
Limited to room of origin	1
Not applicable	1

Incidents by Ward



Source of Ignition (Top 10)



4

Accidental Dwelling Fires in this period

There were **4 Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs)** which is slightly higher than the previous reporting period. The majority are class as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

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

4. Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

2025-26 Q1

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
	▼

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries



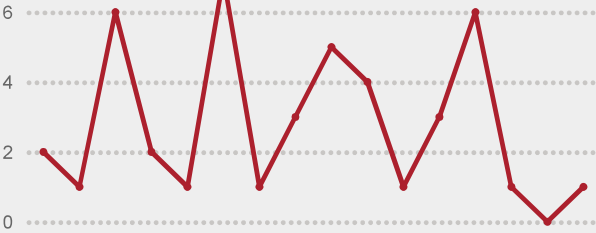
0

Hospital Serious Injuries

There were 0 ADF Fatalities and 0 ADF Non-Fatalities for this period.

It should be noted that these figures do not include casualties who were advised to have a precautionary check up.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Chest pain / Heart condition / Cardiac arrest	1

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

1

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries



0

Hospital Serious Injuries

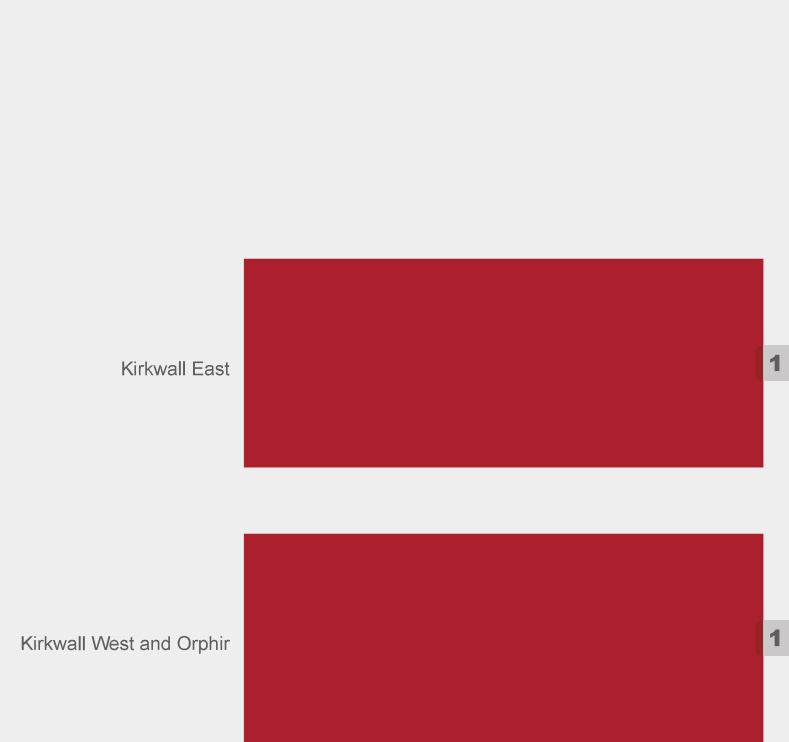
There was 1 Fatal Non-Fire Casualty during this reporting period.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	1
Other outdoors (including land)	1

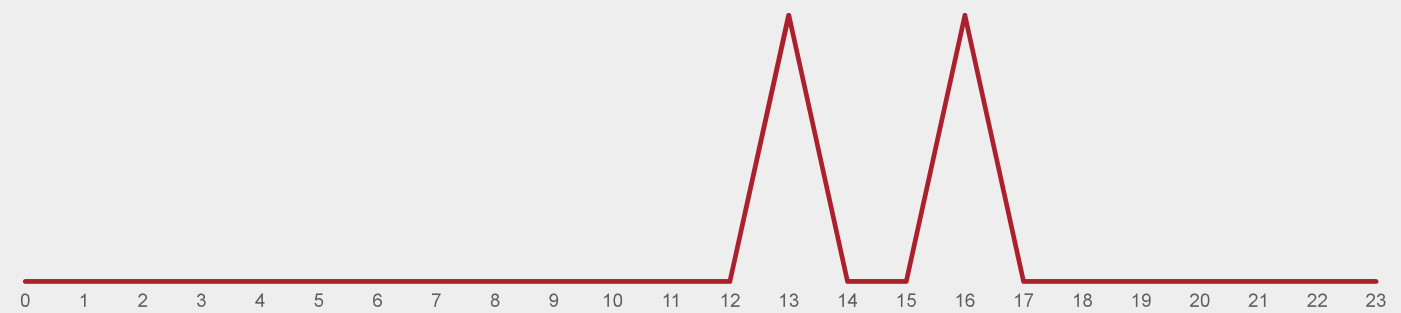
Incidents by Ward



2

Deliberate Fires
in this period

Hour of Day



There were **2 Deliberate Fires** during this reporting period, which is slightly lower than the previous reporting period.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
---------------	-----------

- Accidental
- Deliberate

0

Non-Domestic
Fires in this
period

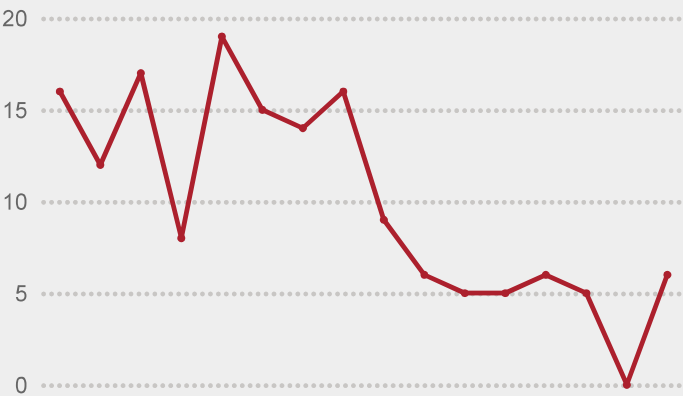
Extent of Damage

There were **0 Non-Domestic Fires** incident during this period, which is a reduction from compared to the previous reporting period.

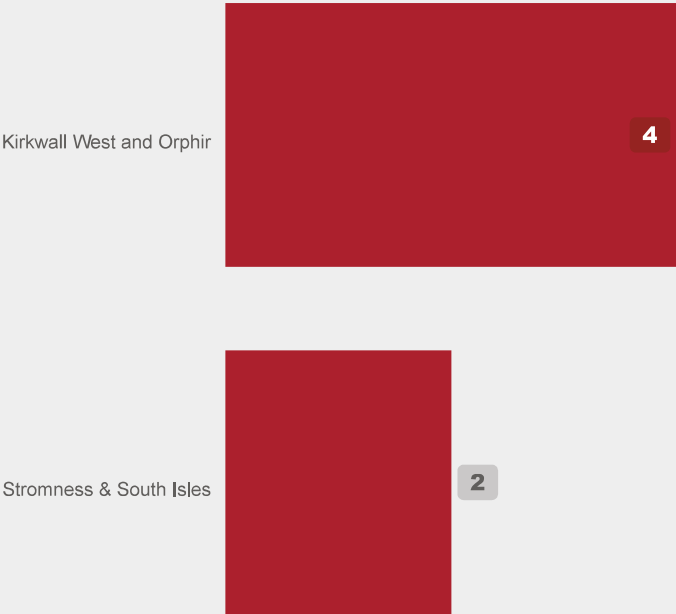
8. Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals

2025-26 Q1

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward



Top 15 Property Types

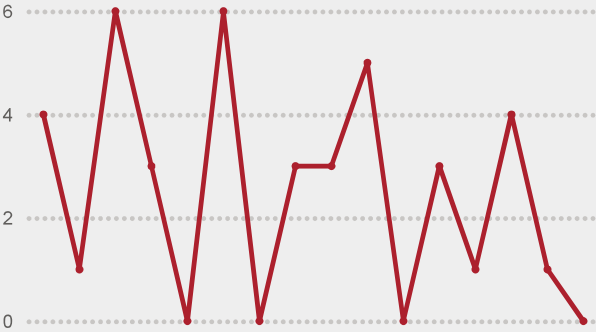
Property Type	Incidents
Hotel/motel	2
Residential Home	2
Hospitals and medical care	1
Nurses'/Doctors' accommodation	1

6

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals in this period

There were 6 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents during this period, which shows an increased compared to the previous reporting period however, the general trend for UFAS incidents continues to decline and is well below the 3-year average after the changes made to how we respond to UFAS.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Incidents by Ward

0

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
---------------	-----------

Incident Type	Incidents
---------------	-----------

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



0

First Aid Given at Scene



0

Hospital Slight Injuries

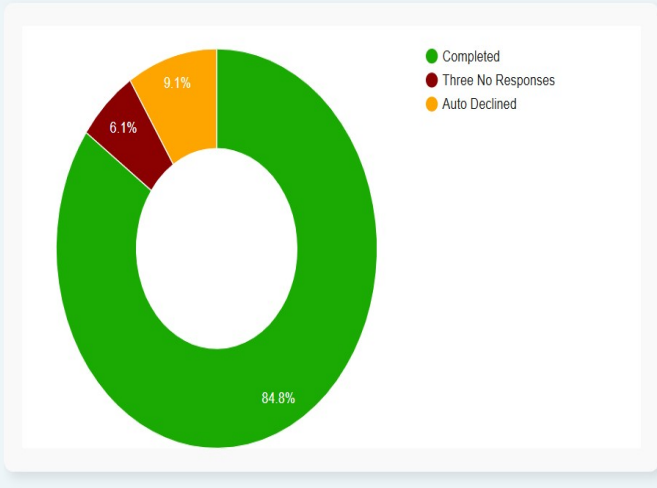


0

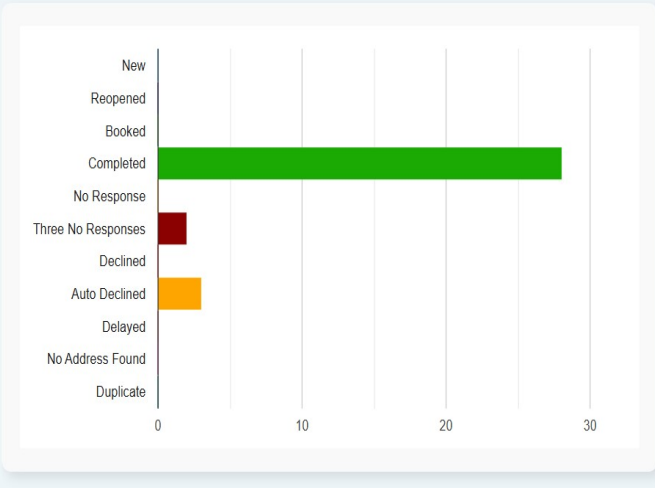
Hospital Serious Injuries

There were 0 Road Traffic Collisions during this reporting period which is a reduction from the previous reporting period.

Visit Status (Percentage)



Visit Status (Count)



A total of **28** high risk Home Fire Safety Visits have been completed within the reporting period. We continue to engage with all our partners to ensure that we are reaching those in most need of assistance and referring onwards to other agencies that can offer bespoke services to meet their needs.

11. Fire Safety Enforcement

During the reporting period **8 Fire Safety Audits** of sleeping risks were completed.

Look forward:

A week of audits scheduled for July 2025 (Q2) in preparation for Orkney Island Games.

New Part Time Auditing Officer based on Orkney took up post in Q1. On-going development over the next few months, funding secured for the individual to attend 9 week industry standard Fire Safety module course at SFRS NTC commencing August 2025. This post provides invaluable FSE presence on Orkney, and provides succession planning for the WIOS FSE team.

Current prohibition notice on an Orkney Hotel to be re-audited in July 2025 with a view to closing Prohibition/ Enforcement Notice.

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

***Please note the availability figures do not include Joint Mobilising availability.**

Station	Apr – June 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Eday	0%	1	0	1
Hoy	83.10%	6	0	6
Kirkwall – 1 st Appliance	99.98%	13	2	15
Kirkwall – 2 nd Appliance	84.89%			
North Ronaldsay	75.32%	2	2	4
Papa Westray	97.21%	7	0	7
Rousay	69.54%	5	0	5
Sanday	99.65%	8	0	8
Shapinsay	77.75%	7	1	8
St Margaret's Hope	88.06%	8	1	9
Stromness – 1 st Appliance	98.18%	16	2	18
Stromness – 2 nd Appliance	65.51%			
Stronsay	100%	11	1	12
Westray	100%	10	0	10

- 103 x Station based personnel.
- 2 x Wholetime On-Call Watch Commanders.
- 1 x Wholetime On-Call Crew Commander.
- 1 x Wholetime Community Safety Advocate.
- 1 x Part-time Fire Safety Auditing Officer
- 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 Instructional staff and administrative functions.

Orkney Fireskills

A Fireskills course was run in June, which saw candidates complete the course over 10 weeks, providing them with a SFRS Fireskills award, along with employability and first aid certificates. Instructors on the course were from Kirkwall and Stromness Fire Stations and the Community Learning & Development Orkney team who supported the planning and ongoing participation of the candidates as the course progressed. It is hoped that similar courses will run for more youth from the isles in the near future.



Home Fire Safety

Our Community Safety Advocate visited Eday in June to deliver another session on home safety and offering Home Fire Safety Visits to the community.

Wildfire prevention campaign launches



You may have already noticed that we issued our first **Wildfire Danger Assessment on Saturday 1 March.**

Figures show that 80% of large outdoor fires since 2010 were recorded during March and May.

We will promote key prevention messages across our social media channels which will signpost to relevant website pages where people can learn what causes wildfires, how to prevent them and how to keep themselves safe.

Affiliate social media accounts can support the campaign by sharing safety messages on our corporate channels using the hashtag **#WildfirePrevention**.

A **Wildfire Prevention Campaign communications toolkit** has been shared all partner organisations.

HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT (HFSV)

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service has introduced a new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that enhances how we identify, assess, and support those most at risk from fire. 2025 is a transitional year as we embed these new systems and referral pathways, and as a result, we may initially see a decline in referrals and HFSVs.

However, we are working hard at a local level to ensure we continue reaching the most vulnerable in our communities. We are actively encouraging new and existing partner organisations to sign up to our Data Sharing Framework (DSF), which enables secure, GDPR-compliant referrals and supports timely, person-centred interventions.

Please share this information with your networks, and if interested in establishing a referral pathway, we encourage you to contact the Shetland Community Action Team to arrange a local, face-to-face discussion and begin the sign-up process. [Home fire safety visits | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

WILDFIRE STRATEGY

We are advancing our Wildfire Strategy, aimed at enhancing our capability to manage and mitigate wildfires across Scotland. We are committed to improving wildfire prevention, response, and partnership efforts, ensuring both local communities and natural landscapes are better protected.

Area Commander Michael Humphreys has taken over as the Wildfire Capability Lead and Chair of the Scottish Wildfire Forum (SWF), following the groundwork laid by DACO Bruce Farquharson. Michael Humphreys said:

"I am honoured to step into this role, especially as someone who lives and works in the Highlands. I have witnessed first-hand the devastation wildfires can cause to both nature and communities. I'm committed to building on the excellent work started by Bruce Farquharson and continuing to innovate as we implement our Wildfire Strategy. This includes educating communities and visitors to Scotland on wildfire prevention and improving our response capabilities."

Our Wildfire Strategy focuses on four key pillars: **Partnership Working, Provision of Information, Prevention, and Response.**

Partnership Working and Information Sharing: We work closely with the land management sector and other agencies to ensure a unified approach to wildfire prevention. This includes fostering a shared understanding of **Muirburn** and **prescribed burning** practices, alongside utilising the collective expertise of our partners for prevention education and intervention when needed.

The Scottish Wildfire Forum plays a key role in raising awareness and sharing knowledge. Through the **Wildfire Danger Assessments** provided by the SWF, we inform **Tactical Advisors** and the public about wildfire risks using social media and traditional outlets. More information can be found on the [Scottish Wildfire Forum website](#).

Prevention: In early 2024, we revamped our wildfire prevention materials and expanded the wildfire section on our website from a single page to seven detailed theme pages. This coincided with a **22-week prevention campaign**, which successfully drove significant traffic and interaction with our online wildfire content. Visit our updated website pages at [Wildfires | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#).

Response: Our Wildfire Strategy, launched in 2023, is backed by a £1.6 million investment over three years. This includes acquiring all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), trailers, specialist equipment, and four 4x4 support vans, which will be deployed as part of a comprehensive response package.

Despite global challenges impacting supply chains, we continue to progress. Four of the **Tier 2** wildfire stations are set to receive the 4x4 support vans, and **Tier 3** stations will be equipped with ATVs and additional wildfire-specific PPE.

Tiered Approach: All SFRS operational personnel are trained to at least **Tier 1** in wildfire response.

Tier 2 Stations: 24 stations have received additional training and specialist PPE, with four stations also set to receive the new 4x4 support vans.

Tier 3 Stations: 10 stations will be equipped with Ford Rangers, trailers, and ATVs.

Flexi Duty Officers: These officers have undergone Wildfire Tactical Advisor training and will support wildfire incidents across the country.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

We can advise, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continuously engage with the Scottish Government and Building Standards regarding a range of fire safety issues that may impact on the built environment, of which BESS is one of many priorities.

SFRS do not regulate building standards but can, and do, get involved with consultations for new and emerging premises types with regard to fire risk and fire safety. Specifically, for BESS construction, SFRS continue to engage with building standards and local planning teams on this issue to ensure any additional and exceptional risks from these premise types are identified and managed accordingly. Ultimately, it is the remit for building standards to ensure that appropriate legislation and regulation is in place, and the responsibility of Local Authority Building Control to verify construction projects against the requirements.

SFRS are working closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that the processes in place are appropriate review and comment on these types of premises during the planning stages.

Please be assured that the safety of our firefighters and communities is a priority. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will respond to all reports of fire which are received and have the ability to deploy a range of standard and specialist resources as determined by the needs of the incident. At these incidents, personnel will employ a range of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in order to effectively and safely resolve the incident, alongside working with partner agencies to mitigate the risk and impact to the public and the environment. The SOPs in use by SFRS are informed by the National Operational Guidance (NOG) produced by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and this guidance includes incidents involving rechargeable batteries.

We would advise you to contact the Local Authority Building Control Team with any questions/concerns.

BESS sites do not fall within the building warrant consultation process and we are not made aware of these in the same format as other consultations. That said, we have processes in place to respond to such proposals and make comment where necessary around any concerns or issues we foresee when responding to such incidents and for making effective preparations to deal with any incidents should the need arise.

When considering these proposals, we look at appliance access and water supplies amongst several other things and follow national guidance produced by the National Fire Chief's Council for BESS systems.

OVERNIGHT CARAVAN / MOTORHOME SPACING IN CAR PARKS

Although a car park area used as a motorhome stopover is not typically considered relevant premises, and therefore outwith the scope of the Fire Scotland Act, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service recommends that such sites should be risk assessed for fire safety and that this is reflected within the site fire risk assessment.

The Scottish Government's "Guidance for existing premises with sleeping accommodation. Annex 3: Holiday Camping and Caravan sites" which is the benchmark standard that SFRS audits existing caravan/ holiday parks

Annex 3: Holiday Camping and Caravan Sites**Spacing**

1. Subject to the variations listed below, the distance between any two units should generally be not less than 6 m for permanent residential sites and touring sites, and 5 m for holiday caravan sites.
2. The 6 m distance between units may be reduced where caravan construction is inherently fire-resistant. Under such circumstances, the distance may be reduced to 5 m. Where there is a mix of fire-resistant and non fire-resistant construction, the larger separation distances apply.

**Screenshot of Scottish Government guidance:- [Fire safety - existing premises with sleeping accommodation: practical guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/practical-guidance/annex-3-holiday-camping-and-caravan-sites/pages/1-1-spacing)*

If SFRS was auditing premises which deviated significantly from the benchmark standard, we would generally look for additional fire safety measures.

COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

- The Community Asset Register is a Scotland wide database of volunteers willing to help during an emergency. The database plots assets on a map so if an emergency incident occurs we can identify those who could help. Assets can be people with either skills or equipment.
- There's no obligation on volunteers to provide support, as we will always respond to deal with emergencies. However, if we believe a volunteer could help, we ask if they're available. If they are, we explain where they should go and what they should do.
- Volunteers acting under our instruction, are insured and can claim certain expenses, such as mileage, however we don't pay hourly rates for their time.

To register: <https://www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-area/community-asset-register/>

13. Glossary of Terms

Term - What it means

ADF

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

HFSV

Home Fire Safety Visit.

PDIR

Post Domestic Incident Response, a term used to indicate actions taken following attendance at a fire or other incident in the home. PDIRs include amongst things the offer of a free follow up home fire safety visit.

RTC

Road Traffic Collision.

Special Service

Calls to incidents which are not fires or false alarms such as RTCs, rescues, flooding, incidents involving hazardous materials or the provision of assistance to other agencies.

UFAS

Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. When an automatic fire detection and alarm system is activated as a result of anything other than an actual fire the activation is classed as a false alarm. If an attendance is made to such an event by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, then the event is recorded as an UFAS incident.

UFAS Policy Change

In response to COVID, on the 6th May 2020, the SFRS decided to send 1 pump to UFAS premises that did not have their own Predetermined attendance (PDA).

As of 1st July 2023, the COVID interim 1 pump response was ended and a new UFAS policy was implemented.

The new policy is to call challenge all UFAS incidents with the intention of non-attendance. Hospitals, care homes, and sleeping risk premises are all exempt and receive either 2 pumps or their premise specific PDA.



SCOTTISH

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland



BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.