



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

**Working together  
for a safer Scotland**

**Inverclyde**  
council

Report to:	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee</b>
Date of Report:	<b>16<sup>th</sup> March 2017</b>
Report by:	<b>David Proctor, Local Senior Officer ( LSO) Scottish Fire and Rescue Service</b>

Subject:	<b>Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Report</b>
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## **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) performance and activities covering the three month reporting period from March 2017 to May 2017.

## **PERFORMANCE**

2. The information provided in this report and attached appendix relates to the specific key performance indicators detailed in the Inverclyde Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017. The SFRS Local Senior Officer will be happy to meet with any Elected Members who wish to discuss specific Ward issues.

A summary of the key performance indicators is detailed below:

- a. The total number of Accidental Dwelling Fires decreased from **35** in the same period in 2016 to **22** in the current reporting period.
- b. The total number of All Fire Casualties decreased from **13** in the same period in 2016 to **2** in the current reporting period.
- c. The total number of incidents involving Deliberate Fire Raising decreased from **367** in the same period in 2016 to **277** in the current reporting period.
- d. The total number of Fires in Non-Domestic Buildings increased from **5** in the same period in 2016 to **18** in the current reporting period.
- e. The total number of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal incidents decreased from **99** in the same period in 2016 to **96** in the current reporting period.

- f. The total number of Road Traffic Collisions incidents attended by SFRS which resulted in casualties, increased from **26** in the same period in 2016 to **23** in the current reporting period. The number of recorded casualties decreased from **15** in the same period in 2016 to **5** in the current reporting period.

## **PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS**

1. SFRS is committed to working in partnership with Community Planning partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors in order to work together for a safer Scotland. Strengthening our relationship with and working in partnership to add value to our communities is critical to the success of our strategy.

The following activities are illustrative of SFRS arrangements in terms of partnership working and targeted engagement:

- a. The Local Area Liaison Officer (LALO) attends community safety/wardens meetings within Inverclyde on a weekly basis and provides statistics of incidents within the Local Authority Area to ensure partners are aware of all fire related anti-social activity. This forum continues to deliver on achieving joint positive initiatives and outcomes. In addition to this meeting a multi-agency operational meeting has been set up to allow partner agencies to share information on incidents and activity's within Inverclyde. SM Hughes represents SFRS at this meeting. It is hoped that this forum will be developed over the coming months to fine tune the information shared to provide outcomes for the partnership.
- b. The Community Action Team (CAT) have delivered a fire safety talk to 200 S3 pupils at Inverclyde Academy.
- c. The CAT visited the Hillend Day Centre and provided support and information to 30 adults which resulted in 10 high risk Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) being carried out.
- d. There were fire safety talks delivered to 200 pupils at St Francis Primary School.

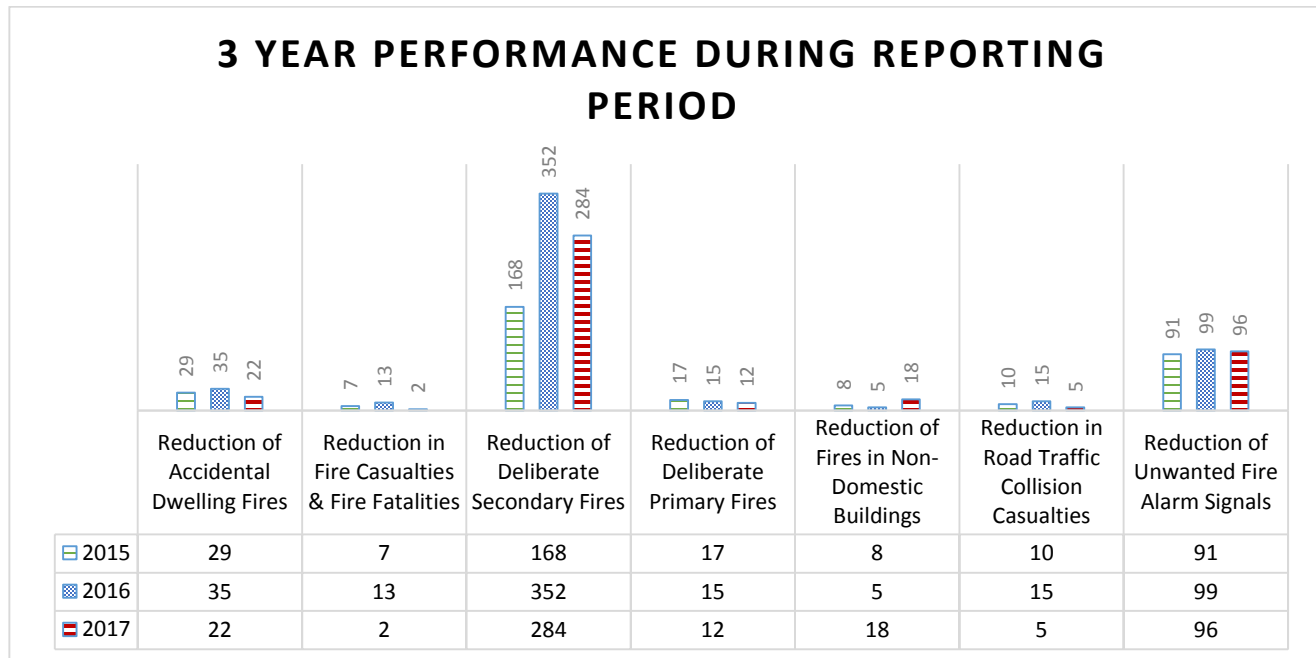
- e. A thematic engagement targeting the marinas was carried out providing boat owners with critical fire safety advice; officers attended James Watt Dock and Inverkip Marina to deliver fire safety message.
- f. A joint agency agreement is being developed with Inverclyde Royal Hospital to agree protocols to share information on service users within the local communities using oxygen to allow SFRS to engage with these individuals to highlight specific fire safety measures for consideration.
- g. A total of 370 Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) was carried out in Inverclyde during the reporting period. These HFSVs are carried out by our operational personnel and Community Action Team (CAT) officers who will conduct these visits jointly with partner agencies where deemed appropriate. Of these HFSVs:
  - i. 44 were as a result of high risk referrals from partners to SFRS.
  - ii. 70 were as a result of Post Domestic Incident Responses (PDIR). The SFRS conducts a PDIR at all domestic dwelling incidents (includes fire alarm actuations and special services). This involves positive engagement with the occupier(s) of the affected property and neighbouring properties by SFRS personnel. Fire safety advice and support are provided; where required SFRS provide and fit 10 year battery powered smoke detectors

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub Committee members are asked to note the contents of this report and the attached appendix.

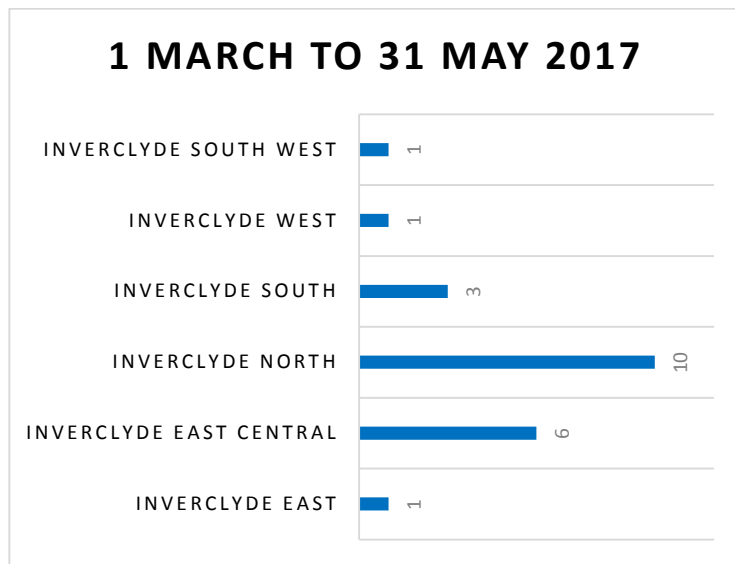
The graph below provides a comparative overview of the activity levels within the reporting period over the last 3 years.

1. THREE YEAR PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



## 2. REDUCTION OF ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES

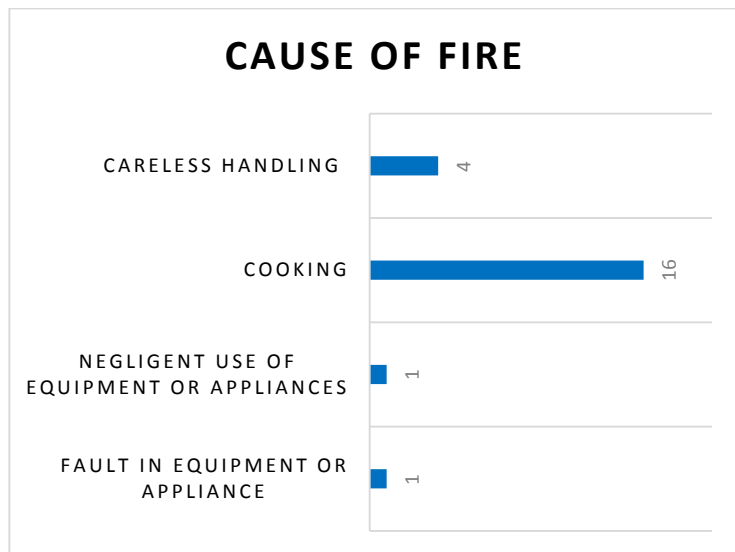
### 2.1. Incidents by Ward



The slightly higher levels of activity in wards North and East are a direct correlation to the number of residents and homes within each locality.

Over the reporting period there have been no significant incidents or trends out with the cause of fire detailed below.

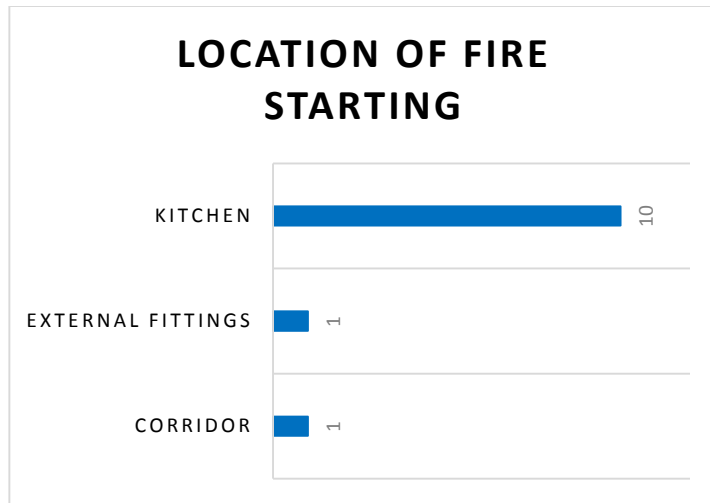
### 2.2. Cause of Fire



As is evident from graph 2.2 cooking remains the most significant cause of accidental dwelling fires in Inverclyde. This reflects the trend across Scotland.

However further analysis of the information has shown that the majority of the incidents are small in nature and require no action by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The increase in smoke and heat detectors within homes has provided early warning and intervention.

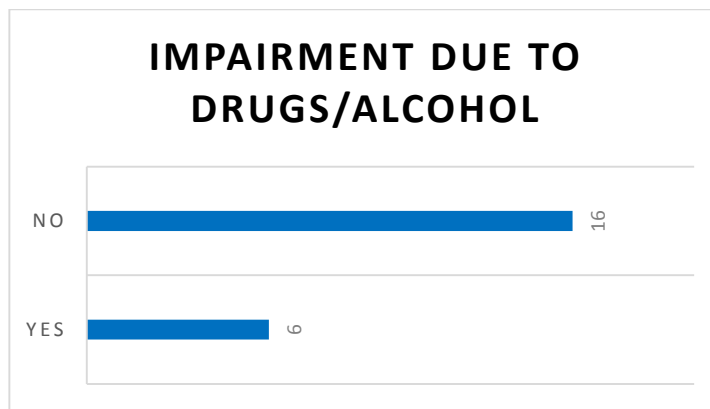
### 2.3. Location of Fire



The information within this graph links directly to the 2.2 where cooking was identified as the most common cause of fire.

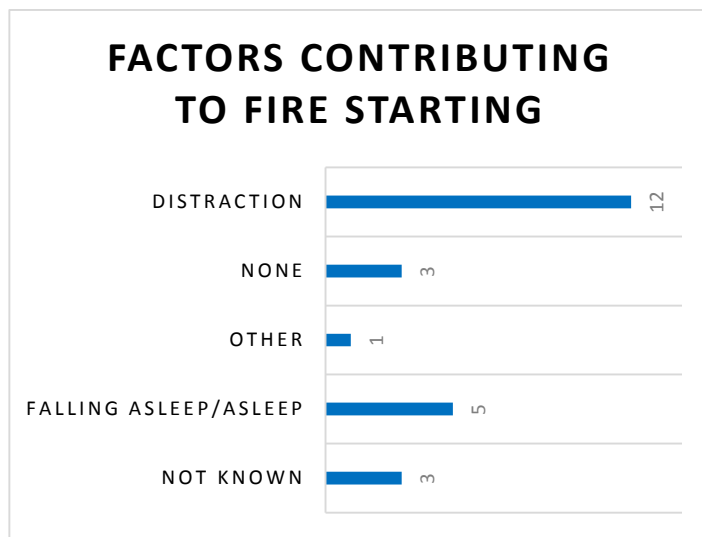
SFRS personnel carry out Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) visits and provide residents with information on safe cooking at each incident they attend of this nature and provide additional safety guidance at the Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV)

### 2.4. Human Factors



Of the 22 incidents we attended 16 were not influenced by drugs or alcohol.

However distraction still has a bearing on accidental fires and this is a hard factor to resolve.



Distraction includes conditions such as alcohol/ drug (prescribed or other) use, mental health, capability and individuals dealing with other matters and forgetting that they have left something cooking.

It is also noted from the information within this graph that there were no contributory factors in 3 of the incidents and was deemed purely accidental.

### **3. REDUCTION OF FIRE CASUALTIES**

#### **3.1. Casualties by Ward**

There were two recorded fire casualties during the reporting period. 1 in Inverclyde South and 1 in Inverclyde East. (At time of report being collated there are potentially some outstanding records for May in respect to fire related casualties)

#### **3.2. Casualties by Age and Gender**

The casualty profiles were 1 male (30 to 39 years of age) and 1 female (70 to 79 years of age). Over the past two years there has been a growing trend of older females being the most at risk of harm from fire; this is not evident at this time as being a similar trend with Inverclyde.

#### **3.3. Extent of Harm**

Both casualties were removed to hospital with slight injuries and taken as a precautionary measure. The positive impact of early warning of fire provided by either standalone or linked smoke alarms is evident in terms of the reduction in the number of severe dwelling fires and the associated level of fire related injuries compared to 10 years ago.

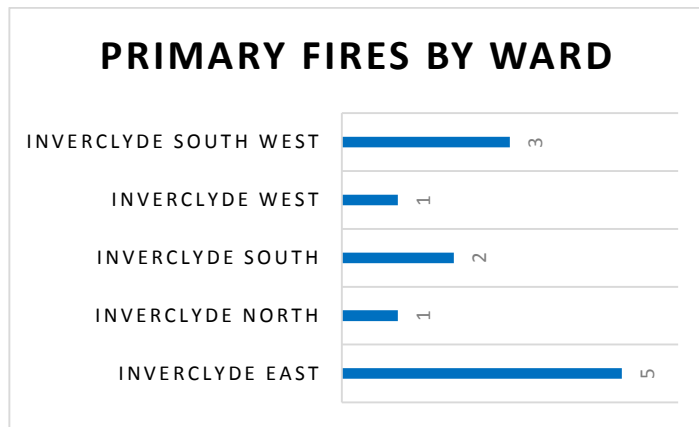


## 4. REDUCTION OF DELIBERATE FIRE SETTING

### 4.1. Primary Fires

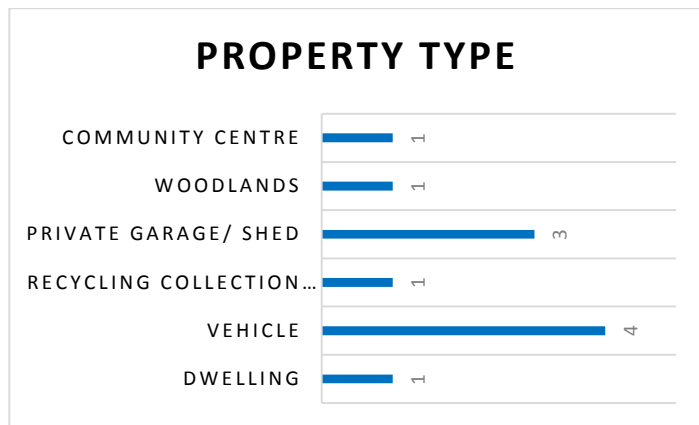
Primary fires are classed as those involving property which has a specific private or commercial value; and generally relates to building, structures or vehicle fires. During March, April and May 2017 there were a total of 12 deliberate primary fires; this was a decrease when compared to the same period in 2016 when there were also 15 deliberate primary fires.

#### 4.1.1. Incidents by Ward



Deliberate fire setting is a criminal offence and SFRS will request Police Scotland to attend suspected deliberate primary fires when deemed appropriate. The SFRS Local Area Liaison Officer attends regular meetings within Inverclyde to provide fire activity overviews for action as appropriate.

#### 4.1.2. Property Types

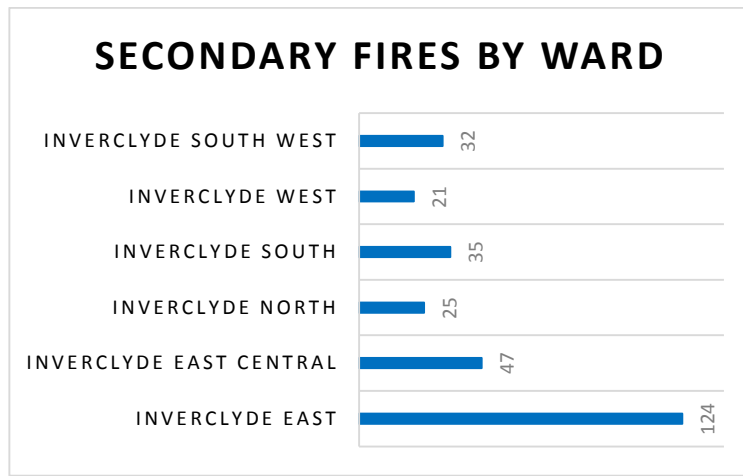


SFRS officers will also complete Community Intelligent Reports at incidents where deliberate fire setting occurs; these are passed to Police Scotland where relevant information is gathered and used to support further investigation.

## 4.2. Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are classed as those involving derelict property (structures or vehicles), refuse, grassland and scrubland. During March, April and May 2017 there were a total of 284 deliberate secondary fires; this is a decrease when compared to the same period in 2015/16 when there were 352 deliberate secondary fires. There has been extensive engagement with youths through school and club talks by both SFRS and partnership agencies; it is hoped that these interventions have in part contributed to the reductions.

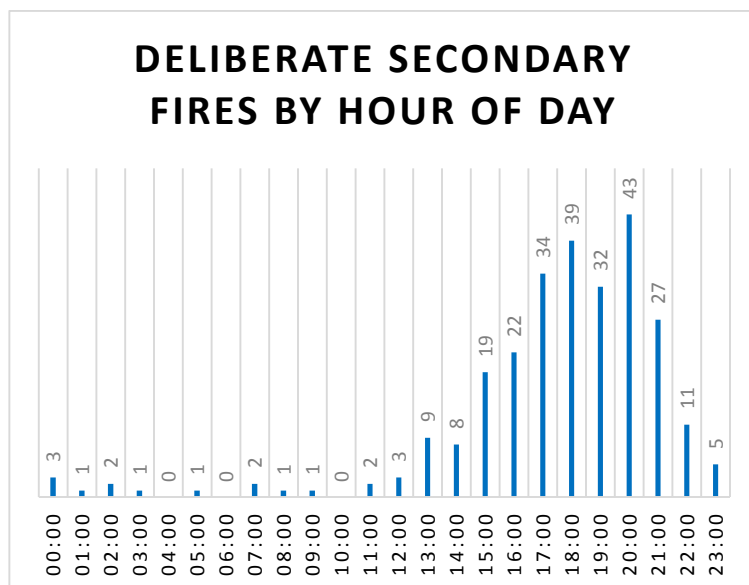
### 4.2.1. Incidents by Ward



SFRS works closely with our partners to provide appropriate engagement, education and intervention approaches.

Schools in areas identified as having higher fire incidents are targeted and the CAT officers actively engage with the pupils to educate them on the dangers and subsequences of wilful fire setting.

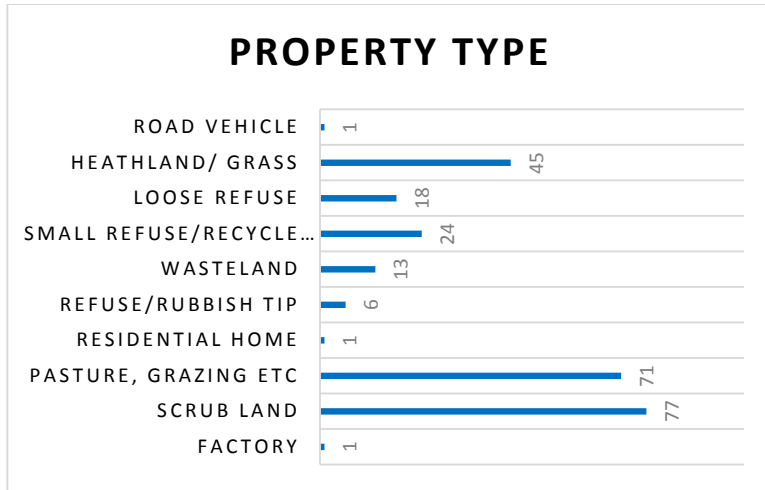
### 4.2.2. Time of Day



Graph 4.2.2. shows it is evident the vast majority of fires occurred between 15:00hrs to 21:00hrs; this pattern leads us to believe the majority of these fires have been started by school age young people who outwith these times will either be in bed or at school.

The Schools programme addresses wilful fire setting and educates young people on the impact of available front line emergency resources attending secondary fires and not being available for life threatening emergencies.

### 4.2.3. Property Type



Fires involving grassland, scrubland and pastures accounted for the majority of deliberate secondary fires in Inverclyde. These fires require significant SFRS resources to bring them to a safe close.

Work is on-going with Police Scotland and the Wardens service to identify the fire setters within areas of higher activity to enable appropriate interventions to be administered.

## **5. REDUCTION OF FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES**

This category includes commercial premises, private lockups/ garages and other structures. These incidents are included in the Deliberate Primary Fires referred to in section 3.1.

### **5.1. Incident by Ward**

There were a total of 18 recorded fires in non-domestic premises during the reporting period:

- Inverclyde North (7)
- Inverclyde East (6)
- Inverclyde East Central (2)
- Inverclyde South (1)
- Inverclyde South West (1)
- Inverclyde West (1)

### **5.2. Property Types**

The types of properties include:

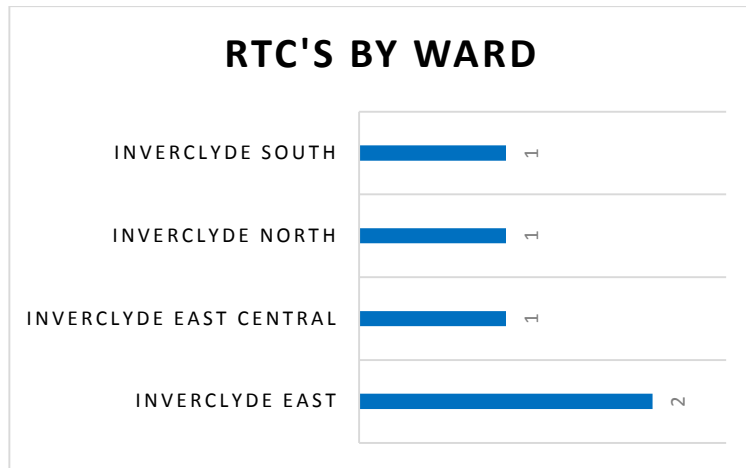
- Takeaway
- Care Home
- University
- Private Garage/ Shed
- Industrial premises

All fires in non-domestic premises which are classed as relevant premises under The Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 will be subject to a post fire audit. These are conducted by specialist Fire Safety Enforcement Officers (FSEO) who will carry out a full inspection of the premises and all paperwork required under the Act; where deficiencies in fire safety management arrangements are identified the 'duty holder' will be issued with a notice as appropriate.

Private sheds and garages do not come under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 but are classed as non-domestic.

## 6. REDUCTION OF CASUALTIES IN NON FIRE EMERGENCIES

### 6.1. Road Traffic Collision Incidents by Ward



There were a total of 5 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which SFRS attended in the reporting period; this will not reflect the numbers attended by Police Scotland which will potentially be higher.

This is due to the fact SFRS only attends incidents of this nature when requested to assist in extrication of casualties or to make the scene safe

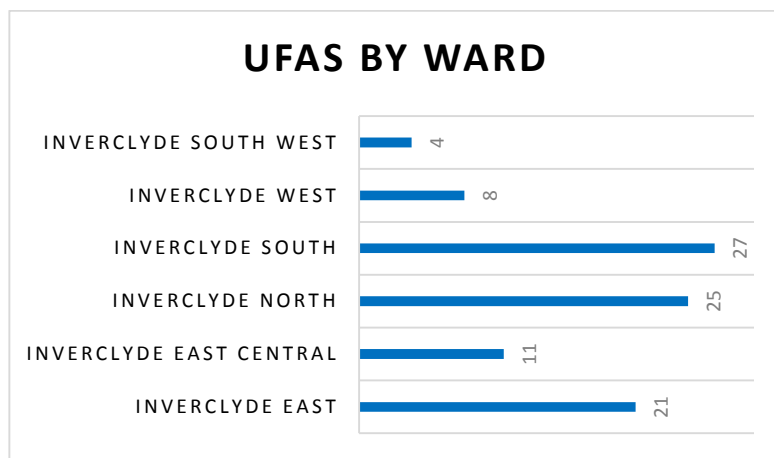
### 6.2. Road Traffic Casualties (RTC) by Ward

There were 4 RTC related casualties recorded by SFRS in the wards highlighted in 6.1. All 4 had slight injuries and went to hospital for precautionary check only. There were no fatalities within this reporting period.

## 7. REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE ALARM SIGNALS

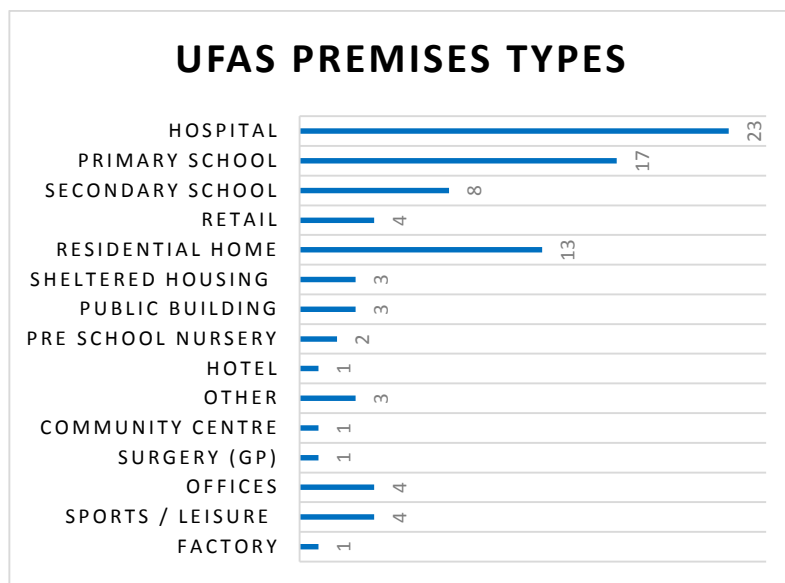
SFRS attends a range of false alarm incidents which include system faults, accidental actuation of fire alarm, malicious calls and good intent calls. SFRS is focused on reducing the associated road risk posed by 'blue light' journeys linked to our attendance at Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) incidents. There is a national policy in place which ensures we are adopting a standardised approach to positively engage and educate duty holders at premises which have fire alarm system actuations which are not due to an actual fire.

### 7.1. Incident by Ward



South Ward has the highest number (27) of Unwanted Fire Alarm Actuations (UFAS); the majority of these incidents occurred at Educational or Hospital facilities. This is confirmed in the following graph on property types.

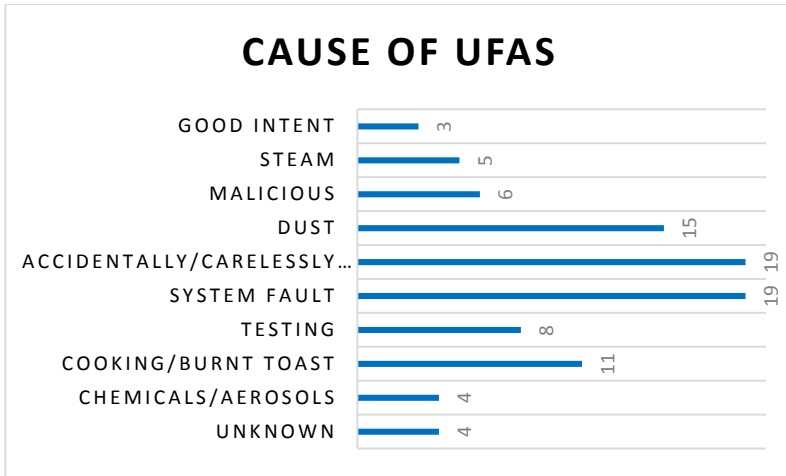
### 7.2. Property Types



From the graph it is evident that Hospitals and Medical care facilities within Inverclyde accounted for a total of 23 UFAS incidents during the reporting period.

Incidents in schools accounted for 25 UFAS incidents.

### 7.3. Cause of Actuation



The SFRS works closely with all relevant premises where UFAS occur. Where the number of actuations are above acceptable standards the FSEO team will carry out a fire safety audit of the premises to identify deficiencies in the management of alarm system and actuations; where deemed necessary notice of fire safety deficiency notice will be issued.