SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
2014 - 2015
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Vision, Values And Priorities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Performance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Overview</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention And Protection</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response And Resilience</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Training</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication And Engagement</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Area News</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It gives me great pleasure to present our second South Lanarkshire Area annual performance review for 2014-15. This document details our achievements and the challenges we have faced as we continue to deliver a strong and effective national fire and rescue service at a local level within our communities.

During the past year, the dedication and hard work of all our staff, has allowed us to improve the level of service delivered in our communities, as we continue to work towards the targets set out in the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework and additionally at a local level through the South Lanarkshire Single Outcome Agreement.

We will continue to develop our performance framework and improve outcomes for our communities throughout South Lanarkshire, through effective relationships and partnership working, to that end, the past year has seen us further enhance our local connection with the public and our partners.

We are committed to ensuring the safety of our communities and our firefighters and prevention remains at the heart of everything we do. We are however, fully sighted on the fact that the number accidental dwelling fires have increased over the past year and we are fully committed to working closely with South Lanarkshire Council and all stakeholders to better understand the cause of these incidents and identify how best to respond to them in terms of preventative work and shape the kind of services the public requires.

We know that we cannot reduce fire fatalities and the occurrence of emergencies which harm people and damage property in isolation; cohesive, integrated working with our partners is absolutely the key.

We’ve worked hard to support those most vulnerable in society within South Lanarkshire, who may be at increased risk of a fire in the home. Increasing numbers of people living alone and living longer, many with long-term health conditions including in some cases drug and alcohol dependency, mean the service must be able to effectively identify those most at risk and support them to be safer.

Our success is dependent on the significant efforts of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) staff who, despite the challenges of fire reform, have remained focussed on improving the quality and consistency of our services throughout the year, sharing best practice and identifying innovative ways to improve public safety within a reducing budget.

The context in which these achievements have been made continues to create challenges, and will continue to do so for the years ahead. However, as a national service we will be better able to face the pressures on this organisation and the wider public sector and work to ensure safer, stronger local communities within South Lanarkshire.

Area Manager Alan Fairbairn
Local Senior Officer
OUR VISION, VALUES AND PRIORITIES

VISION

Our vision is bold and aspirational. The journey of reform gives us the opportunity to build on best practice and deliver, through our partnerships, real improvements to the health, safety and well-being of communities throughout South Lanarkshire.

Our aim is to deliver the best service we can 24 hours a day, seven days a week and to keep challenging ourselves to continuously improve it. Our staff are well trained to very high standards and we continually seek out new approaches to firefighter training so that we can adopt best practice to maintain those standards.

In addition to this, we will be innovative and creative in looking for better ways to do things, in challenging our own thinking and in challenging the thinking of our partners. We will work in partnership with our communities to develop services.

We will strive for excellence and explore new ways to help us develop a fire and rescue service that is recognised as a world leader. We will do this, for example, by exploring how we can best use the available technology to improve our service or develop specialist skills in our workforce.

VALUES

We will develop a values framework which fully aligns with our aspirations for the new service. Our values will reflect our role as a modern 21st century public service and, with our supporting behaviours, will define how we will work to achieve our vision.

We have identified what we believe to be important from the predecessor services’ values statements. These are values that have been consistently demonstrated and constantly reinforced.

Safety
The safety of the communities we serve is at the core of our values. We will do our utmost to enhance and preserve it. In doing so, firefighters must often work in dangerous conditions. We also place a very high value on their safety.

Dignity
We will respect the dignity and worth of every individual within both the communities we serve and in our workplaces. We will be sensitive to individuals’ circumstances, particularly those who are most vulnerable in our society.

Excellence
We will strive for quality in everything we do and will act reliably and responsibly at all times. We will behave professionally and take pride and ownership in everything we say and do. We will be a learning organisation, taking on board the lessons learned from our own experiences and comparable organisations.

Diversity
We recognise and value the diversity of our workforce and Scotland’s communities. We will implement working practices that will be attractive to and meet the needs of those diverse groups. We will take steps to ensure equality of access to our community safety and fire prevention services and equality of impact in the delivery of emergency response. We will encourage participation in public life by engaging with diverse community groups and their representatives.

Fairness
We will treat people fairly and not prejudge any individual or situation. We will be consistent and considerate in the development and implementation of our policies and practices.

Integrity
We will be open and honest in our dealings with colleagues and with the public. We will not compromise on our commitment to act professionally and deliver greater safety and security to the communities we serve.

Equality
We will remove unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited in the Equality Act 2010. We will promote equality of opportunity through our employment practices, service delivery and engagement activities. We will ensure that our corporate decision-making processes are used to identify and remove barriers and bias that would prevent equitable access and quality of service.
Respect
We will listen to and respect the communities we serve, as well as each other. We will deal with criticism constructively and respect and value each other’s contributions. We will respect the views of partners and members of the public, endeavouring to understand their perspectives to improve our quality of service.

PRIORITIES

Local Risk Management and Preparedness
The SFRS has a statutory duty to reduce the risks to our communities to make certain that they receive the best possible service. The management of risk within our community involves:

- **Identifying the risks to the community which fall within the scope of responsibility of the SFRS**
- **Undertaking a process to prioritise these risks**
- **Ensuring that appropriate Local and National resource capability and trained Fire Service personnel are in place to address them**

Reduction of Accidental Dwelling Fires
Throughout South Lanarkshire, dwelling fires occur within a wide variety of home types. Statistical analysis has shown that the majority of dwelling house fires occur in the social rented sector. A high percentage of these fires started in the kitchen when the occupier was cooking or had cooked food.

In South Lanarkshire, dwelling house fires are more prominent in several ward areas. Additional significant contributory risk factors are the consumption of alcohol and use of smoking materials in the fires that occur.

Reduction in Fire Casualties and Fatalities
Dwelling fires can have a significant negative impact upon both individuals and the community and are financially costly to housing providers in terms of repair and the reinstatement of homes. By giving safety advice and fitting smoke detectors, the SFRS can reduce the risk of fire and its associated human and financial costs as well as enhancing community safety.

The reduction of fire casualties is clearly linked to the reduction in dwelling house fires. The reduction of fire fatalities and casualties is at the core of preventative activities carried out by SFRS in the South Lanarkshire Area. The costs associated with fire casualties are high – with potentially significant trauma to individuals, and high financial costs to health service and housing partners.

The Fire & Rescue Service in South Lanarkshire aims to target a reduction in these casualties by working with partner agencies by adopting a more collaborative strategy.

Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting
Deliberate fire setting is a significant problem for the Fire and Rescue Service and is responsible for a very high number of all of the secondary fires that are attended in South Lanarkshire. The main secondary fire categories are refuse, grassland and derelict building incidents.

Reduction of Fires in Non-Domestic Properties
There is a very close link between deliberately set Secondary fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour. By continuing to focus our attention on deliberate fires this will reduce the burden on the SFRS and partners and enhance community wellbeing.

Working closely with partner agencies the SFRS within South Lanarkshire has managed to reduce secondary fire activity in 2014/15 by 29% on the previous year. All workplaces and business premises are classed as Non Domestic Fires and come under the scope of the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk as most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and self-contained sheltered housing make up the greatest proportion of these incidents within the South Lanarkshire area.

High fire risk properties are audited on an annual basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations, for example Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.
Reduction in Casualties from Non-Fire Emergencies
A central part of the SFRS’s role is responding to small and non-Fire emergencies such as Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), other rescue situations and flooding. Operational Firefighters are trained to a high standard and have at their disposal the latest equipment for extricating and administering first aid to casualties. Attendance at RTCs is a core role for the SFRS but primary responsibility for road safety lies with Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Local Authorities.

The SFRS has a crucial role in supporting these organisations’ activities at a local level and can provide access to hard hitting education programmes aimed at the most at risk groups to highlight the consequences of RTCs and dangerous driving. National statistics identify that the most at risk group is young male drivers who we include in our “Cut it out” programme which is aimed at S5 and S6 pupils.

Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) are when an automated fire alarm activates and results in a mobilisation of SFRS resources, and the reason for the alarm turns out to be something other than a fire emergency. Other types of false alarm include malicious 999 calls and emergency calls made when a person genuinely believes that an emergency has occurred which requires the attendance of the SFRS, and that belief subsequently turns out to be unfounded.

In South Lanarkshire there has been a slight increase in UFAS activity compared to the previous year. Malicious 999 calls reduced by 15% over the same period. Commercial premises that have repeated UFAS are subject to preventative measures that are designed to drive down false alarms.

Every blue light journey increases the risk of collision within South Lanarkshire and has the potential to make members of our communities feel less safe.
OUR PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2011/12</th>
<th>2012/13</th>
<th>2013/14</th>
<th>2014/15</th>
<th>4 year average</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All deliberate primary fires</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All deliberate other building fires</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All deliberate Secondary fires</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>1142</td>
<td>819</td>
<td>1057</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All accidental dwelling fires</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>₹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All accidental other building fires</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>₹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All fatal fire casualties</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-fatal fire casualties excl. precautionary checkups</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Service RTCs</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Service flooding</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>△</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Service ‘others’</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>₹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarm: AFAs</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1877</td>
<td>△</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarm: Good Intent</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>741</td>
<td>706</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>₹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>False Alarm: Malicious</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2014/15 INCIDENTS
- False Alarm: Malicious: 3%
- False Alarm: Good Intent: 16%
- False Alarm: AFAs: 41%
- All deliberate primary fires: 3%
- All deliberate other building fires: 1%
- All accidental dwelling fires: 6%
- All accidental other building fires: 1%
- Special Service RTCs: 3%
- Special Service flooding: 1%
- Special Service ‘others’: 7%
INCIDENT OVERVIEW

DWELLING FIRES

Preventing dwelling fires, and the deaths and injuries associated with it, is one of the key priorities of the SFRS in South Lanarkshire. Accidental dwelling fires have increased slightly and incidents are still caused predominantly by cooking and this is an area targeted to educate and inform the community. To help mitigate this risk, free Home Fire Safety Visits are carried out as an important part of this prevention work.

Many of our most vulnerable citizens are older people who live alone and may have carers or other support agencies calling on them. The SFRS in South Lanarkshire works with a range of Partner agencies, including social work and carers, so that colleagues in other services and Local Authority Departments can identify fire safety hazards and we in turn can notify other agencies of individuals in our community requiring additional support.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

Road traffic collisions also account for a large percentage of operational activity in South Lanarkshire but pleasingly also show a 15% decrease over the previous year in incidents attended.

Rescues after South Lanarkshire motorway crash

Emergency responders worked side-by-side at the scene of a motorway crash involving several vehicles in South Lanarkshire.

Three men were taken to hospital following the collision, which took place shortly after 7:45am on Wednesday (4 March) at the Junction 13 off-ramp of the M74 (A74M).

The Incident Commander from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), said: “We were mobilised following a call from the ambulance control that reported people trapped as a result of a collision.

“We joined ambulance, police and the helimed teams at the scene and our firefighters used hydraulic cutting equipment to free two men from separate vehicles.

“This involved removing the roofs of two cars to give paramedics and the doctor better access to those inside, as well as creating the space needed to safely lift them clear.

“Our ambulance colleagues had already got one man from a vehicle and this was a road rescue operation that relied on the extremely close co-operation of each of the emergency services and the specialist skills of all involved.”

All three casualties were taken to Wishaw General Hospital. Their injuries were not life-threatening.
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS

Our Environmental Protection Unit (EPU), which is based at Hamilton, has attended a number of incidents involving hazardous materials. The EPU attends these types of incidents along with specialist Scientific Advisors; Incidents have included materials such as ammonia, mercury, petrol and many other types of chemicals and hazardous materials.

Crews from South Lanarkshire attended a Chemical Incident in Blantyre in November 2014. Firefighters in gas-tight suits and breathing apparatus isolated a chemical vapour leak at a factory in South Lanarkshire.

Crews were mobilised to a report of a leaking chemical at Ireland Alloys. Three appliances and a specialist chemical unit from Hamilton attended the incident. On arrival the Incident Commander was faced with a leaking chemical and a small vapour cloud inside the factory.

The Incident Commander immediately gathered information regarding the chemical involved and took direction from a specialist scientific advisor. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and gas-tight chemical suits were committed to isolate the chemical and dissipate the vapour cloud safely.

Two workers who had been in the factory at the time of the leak were treated at the scene by colleagues from the Scottish Ambulance Service as a precautionary measure.

SFRS crews isolated the leak and ventilated the area while the scientific advisor conducted atmospheric monitoring, which confirmed the air was safe.

SPECIALIST RESCUE IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

SFRS Rope Rescue Team based at East Kilbride responded to Calderglen Country Park in South Lanarkshire on Tuesday after 8 July 2014 to rescue an injured woman who had fallen down an embankment into the River Calder.

Firefighters, paramedics and police officers all attended the incident, which occurred shortly after 1pm around half-a-mile inside the East Kilbride Park.

This operation involved the close co-operation of the emergency responders to treat the casualty and bring her safely up the steep 15ft embankment. She had sustained a significant leg injury however the river was thankfully slow-flowing and shallow, which meant she was able to get out the water and onto the shore.

Paramedics provided treatment before firefighters conducted a rope rescue to bring her up using a stretcher specially designed for such circumstances. SFRS crews from East Kilbride, Clydesmill and Hamilton were all mobilised to the incident. They included specially-trained swift water and technical rope rescue teams, with members of the Scottish Ambulance Service Special Operations Response Team among the paramedics in attendance.

After being safely moved from the embankment the woman was taken by ambulance to Hairmyres Hospital.
ROPE RECUE TEAM ATTEND MULTI FIRE

The Rope Rescue Team from East Kilbride attended the incident at the Red Road flats in the north east of the city.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) crews were mobilised to the Red Road flats on Petershill Drive in response to a 999 call from a member of the public received on the 24th September 2014.

The caller reported a fire within the building’s upper floors and four crews were immediately despatched from Springburn and Calton fire stations.

First responders reached the incident in less than five minutes and teams quickly moved to assist residents and locate the source of smoke, which was found to be emanating from within the building’s external cladding.

As four firefighters in breathing apparatus conducted cutting away operations inside the block, others from a specialist rope rescue gained access to an outside panel by abseiling from the 22nd floor.

The team – based at East Kilbride Community Fire Station – used a thermal imaging camera to confirm the fire was extinguished.

INDUSTRIAL UNIT BLAZE IN LARKHALL SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

SFRS crews successfully prevented the fire spreading to adjacent units. Around 70 firefighters worked to bring a blaze at an industrial unit in South Lanarkshire under control.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) received a 999 call shortly before 11:25pm on Saturday (17 May) reporting a fire at the Struther Hill Industrial Estate in Larkhall.

Two appliances were immediately sent from Larkhall and Motherwell community fire stations and firefighters reached the scene within six minutes.

Crews found a single storey factory unit well-alight and moved to gain access, with officers requesting additional resources to bolster firefighting operations. Further appliances were mobilised from Hamilton, Clydesmill, Lesmahagow, Bellshill, Coatbridge, Yorkhill, Lanark, Strathaven and Renfrew.

Firefighters battled throughout the night to stop flames spreading to neighboring premises using multiple main water jets, which successfully contained the fire to the unit where it originated.

Work to dampen down pockets of fire continued into Sunday afternoon and SFRS crews remained in attendance to conduct inspections of the premises and ensure there was no hidden fire spread.
HIGH VOLUME PUMP
(Clydesmill Fire Station)

Natural Flooding
Flooding is becoming an increasing problem and causes widespread damage and disruption to areas, which can often affect a large number of locations simultaneously.

The High Volume Pump (HVP)/Hose Box Pods will enhance the ability of SFRS to assist in mitigating the effects of flooding, working in partnership with The Scottish Government and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) who are the lead agency for flooding.

Fire Fighting Duties
The HVP/Hose Box Pods can enhance the existing capabilities of SFRS to pump high volumes of water for fire fighting. Where incidents occur on an unprecedented scale or where several incidents occur simultaneously affecting the volume or pressure of the local water supply, the HVP/Hose Box Pods will provide additional resilience and capability to supply water to the incident ground.

WILDFIRE UNIT (Lanark)

The Wildfire Unit is based at Lanark Fire Station and was mobilised to help tackle a well-developed grass fire which covered an area of one and a half square miles in Elvanfoot.

The Wildfire Unit comprises of a Land Rover Defender with road trailer equipped with a standard inventory including a high pressure fogging unit and associated equipment to deal with grass, heath land and forest fires collectively referred to as Wildfire fires.

This resource is of additional benefit to the Incident Commander particularly where incidents of this nature occur within rural areas of South Lanarkshire.
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

LEADHILLS COMMUNITY FIRE STATION OPENING

SFRS have officially opened the new home for its volunteer crew protecting rural communities on either side of the South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway boundary.

Leadhills Community Fire Station serves the small village of Leadhills in South Lanarkshire as well as nearby Wanlockhead in Dumfries and Galloway’s Nithsdale area.

Chair of the SFRS Board Pat Watters and Assistant Chief Officer (ACO) Dave Boyle, the director of service delivery for the west of Scotland, officially declared the new station open at a ceremony attended by elected representatives from both authorities. Mr Watters said: “Rural and remote communities throughout Scotland depend on firefighters who provide an absolutely essential emergency service and it is a great pleasure to unveil the new Leadhills Community Fire Station.

“This new facility is a significant improvement for our volunteer crew based here and it provides them with a modern base of operations. We have made clear our commitment to ensuring every community has the fire and rescue resources it needs and this investment in Leadhills shows that promise being delivered for both South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway.”

The new community fire station is a refurbished single-storey building that was provided to SFRS by the landowner of Hopetoun Estate. Refurbishment to turn the property into a fire station commenced in January 2013 and the SFRS crew began using it last summer, with improvements continuing until earlier this year.

ACO Boyle added: “The new Leadhills Community Fire Station is a real asset for our firefighters as it offers them facilities that just weren’t available before. Volunteer units are made up of committed men and women who give up their own time to protect their communities and we know they are extremely highly valued by the people they serve. Having a working appliance bay, drying area and station office makes a difference to crews and we appreciate Hopetoun Estate providing this building for the use of the volunteer unit serving this area.”

Like their colleagues on the whole-time and retained duty systems, the units’ firefighters work closely with fellow responders from other emergency services to maximise the chance of a positive outcome for casualties and others who find themselves in danger.

Area Manager Alan Fairbairn, the SFRS local senior officer for both South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway, said: “With skills including firefighting, road rescues and emergency trauma care our volunteer units respond to a very wide range of emergencies.”

“They have an all-terrain vehicle that functions as a fire appliance but the equipment it carries, including medical items, obviously means it can be a vital resource at other types of incidents. Having a working fire station at Leadhills is a great benefit to the team and gives them the best possible base from which to carry out their vital role in both South Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway.”

A spokesperson for Hopetoun Estate said: “The Trustees of Hopetoun Estate are delighted to be in a position to assist the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service find new premises for the Leadhills community crew. Not only is the new location more suitable to their needs, it also ensures this historic building, right in the heart of the village, will be given a new lease of life. The Trustees would like to pay tribute to the fire service for the valuable contribution they make keeping the community safe.”
SFRS Prevention and Protection department within South Lanarkshire is responsible for ensuring that the service continues to provide support to communities with a focus on making them safer. This work will involve the merging of differing approaches to community safety engagement and enforcement, together with identifying and adopting best practice that will benefit all communities across South Lanarkshire. Prevention and Protection will implement SFRS policies and procedures in respect to community safety and demand reduction within South Lanarkshire.

**ENFORCEMENT**

Over the last year the Services priority has been to identify and audit high risk premise in line with risk based schedule. As an area we also have set internal priorities in relation to Post Fire Events and the assistance of operational crews to provide them with expert advice in relation to Legislative matters.

To allow this to be achieved a Sleeping Risk database has been created incorporating: Hotels, Care Homes, Houses of Multiple Occupation, Hospitals and Operational Referral forms have been widely used interdepartmentally to allow transfer of information. High fire risk properties are audited on an annual basis to ensure that the fire precautions within the property are to a suitable standard. For some buildings, joint inspections are carried out with other organisations, for example Health and Safety Executive, Police Scotland, Trading Standards and Environmental Health.

Sleeping risks are seen as a particularly high fire risk as most fatal fires occur at night when people are less vigilant and at their most vulnerable. Residential care homes, student accommodation and self-contained sheltered housing make up the greatest proportion of these incidents within the South Lanarkshire area.

Over the period 307 audits were conducted by South Lanarkshire Enforcement Officers. Of these audits, 229 were properties that involved sleeping risks.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>Care home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>Houses in multiple occupation (HMO) or tenements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>Purpose built flats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>Hostel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td>Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>G</strong></td>
<td>House converted to flat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>H</strong></td>
<td>Other sleeping accommodation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>J</strong></td>
<td>Further education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>K</strong></td>
<td>Public building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td>Licensed premises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td>School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td>Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Other premises open to the public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>R</strong></td>
<td>Factory or warehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S</strong></td>
<td>Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T</strong></td>
<td>Other premises</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IN THE YEAR 2014/15

Two Enforcement Notices were served on premises in South Lanarkshire. Enforcement Officers are continuing to work with the occupiers and other relevant enforcement agencies to bring them to the required standard. These two properties involve sleeping risks. A number of joint visits were conducted with Building Control Officers and the local Enforcement Officers. Future workload for the department has to also incorporate Crown Premises which previously were not under the Services legislative authority. NHS Lanarkshire Hospital Audits are arranged on a risk basis, we hold regular meetings with NHS Lanark estates fire safety team to ensure our approach is targeted.

Building Control is one of our closest partners in relation to building safety, we have regular consultations in relation to new build construction and fire engineered proposals. Our Area Legislative Office is located in Hamilton. Biannual meetings have also been established between the departments to ensure skills maintenance in relation to changing legislation and to allow a joint approach to be developed.

This working relationship has allowed 6 South Lanarkshire Building Control Officers to attend the SFRS training college in Cambuslang, so that they could be exposed to hot fire training, allowing them to experience at first hand fire development and the types of temperatures that the Fire Service Personnel are exposed too. This provided them with a better understanding of fire and gave them greater knowledge for when they are considering future building proposals and the safety features that the Fire Service require.

South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire LSO Areas have a Concordat of Partnership Working with NHS Lanarkshire. The aim is to promote and establish a close and harmonious working relationship between both organisations with a particular focus on Fire Safety. Quarterly meetings are established to allow information exchange, to plan future workloads and to organise joint training events. South Lanarkshire officers have also assisted in the provision of expert advice to NHS staff whilst they have been receiving in house training form NHS trainers.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

SFRS within South Lanarkshire seek to engage through every possible avenue with “at risk” members of our community, through partnership working and a referral pathway to target members of our community with more complex social needs.

Training is undertaken with many partner agencies to ensure their staff are aware of the risk of fire, whilst carrying out their own duties in our communities. There is an on-going programme of targeting care homes and sheltered housing accommodation. Areas of higher activity are targeted by all staff, post incident, to try and encourage friends and neighbours to request and uptake a free Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV).

Whilst the number of accidental dwelling fires is of concern, the total instances for the year has reduced, with the majority of fires confined to the room of origin and caused minor damage due to the increased presence of smoke detectors giving early warning.

Various initiatives were facilitated including the Spring/Easter, Summer/Holiday, Autumn/Bonfire Reduction and Winter/Festive Strategy. The strength of all SFRS initiatives is through a partnership approach and analysis of hotspots is undertaken and shared with partner agencies at a local level to ensure areas of shared concern are addressed where possible at source to prevent further escalation.

Work was carried out with local business through involvement of legislative officers to ensure businesses are aware of the risk of deliberate fires in their properties and advice given on how to protect their property against fire.
THE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

Through the findings of the Scotland Together report, fatal fire analysis, outcomes from case studies and case conferences, and local anecdotal evidence, it is recognised that there are frequent contributory factors evident in fire fatalities and casualties. These contributory factors include alcohol consumption, smoking, prescribed medication and drug use, mobility issues, frailty and age related problems, lone occupancy, distraction and living in areas of multiple deprivation.

Those individuals and groups recognised to be at an increased risk of fire are often difficult to engage with and educate through mainstream methods. Targeted intervention and prevention activities and partnership working are therefore crucial to minimise risk and support effective Community Safety Engagement (CSE).

Targeted activity at LSO Area level is supported by both Directorate and Service Delivery Areas through the P&P Strategy, national campaigns and initiatives, SFRS Media Strategy, CSE Campaign Calendar and Seasonal Campaigns.

The Community Action Team (CAT) plays a key function to support the delivery of CSE in order to meet the objectives of the Local Fire Plan and priorities set out by the Local Senior Officer.

The CAT is made up of a Local Authority Liaison Officer, Community Firefighter and Community Safety Advocates.

Community Safety Advocates are utilised for a range of activities and initiatives determined by locally identified need. Example areas of work include the following:

- The generation and delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits
- The creation of partnership links locally to identify and engage with those most at risk, either through direct access or via appropriate referral pathways
- The delivery of presentations to a range of audiences including community groups, partner agencies and SFRS staff
- Provision of support to Station personnel to develop and deliver local activities and initiatives (working together to ensure a lasting legacy once the Advocate’s work has ended and they have moved onto another project)

- Support the delivery of media campaigns and seasonal strategies
- Represent the SFRS at a range of events
- Deliver school talks and educational input to relevant groups including input on road and water safety (where relevant)
- Support the delivery of youth engagement courses and activities
- Record and monitor CSE related activities and outcomes

The role of the Community Firefighter is similar to that of the CS Advocate however these staff members provide operational expertise and knowledge to the CAT. This operational experience should be taken into account when determining the use of the CAT and how it can best be utilised to support local delivery. Specific activities undertaken by the Community Firefighter include:

- Providing operational expertise to lead/assist with the safe delivery of youth engagement courses and activities e.g. Firereach
- Provision of skills, knowledge and understanding gained from previous operational experience
- The delivery of high risk Home Fire Safety Visits, identifying fire safety concerns and considerations
- Supporting the delivery of programmes for children and young people

The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) is influenced by the Local Fire Plan, LSO Area priorities and partnership considerations as identified via Community Planning arrangements.

The LALO is utilised to facilitate links between the SFRS, local authority, partner agencies and local communities. This role involves working within appropriate community partnership thematic groups and engagement with key partners, at tactical level, to identify and establish early intervention opportunities to secure shared outcomes.

They play a pivotal role in the delivery of improved service through joint-working, participation in Local Area Teams, Community Safety sub groups, Community Planning groups, and support the implementation of the Local Fire Plan.

In addition, the LALO co-ordinates consistent information sharing, evaluation and reporting of CSE activities, to inform potential service improvements internally and with local partner agencies.
The LALO is a key member of the CAT, working closely with the P&P Group/Station Manager, and employing local intelligence and performance management information to ensure resources remain focused on local demand reduction objectives and communities most at risk.

EXAMPLES OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Water Week
As part of St Elizabeth School Water Week, Shona Scott from the South Lanarkshire CAT visited all classes to discuss the importance of water for Personal Health and a Safe Community. She spoke about Fire Hydrants and their importance for putting out fires and for the children to respect their use and how deal with their abuse especially during Summer Months.

Junior officers are ready to take important road safety message back to schools
238 primary six and 7 pupils recently attended their first formal engagement in their new roles as Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO). The pupils, from 110 schools throughout South Lanarkshire learned what it meant to be a JRSO and what will be expected from them over the next school year.

The event, held at Chatelherault Country Park in Hamilton, was organised by South Lanarkshire Council to give the young people the chance to meet with JRSO from other schools, share best practice and find out how they can best fulfil their roles.

Partner organisations also showed their support, and the Police, Fire Service, Sustrans, XPO Logistics, Cycling Scotland and Living Streets were on hand to enhance the pupils’ learning experience.

Spreading the Fire Safety Message to Shopmobility
Shopmobility is a Registered Charity that offers manual powered wheelchairs and scooters for a small charge giving people the freedom and independence to go where they want, when they want.

By providing mobility equipment their aim is to increase freedom, choice and independence for people with restricted mobility.

This charity runs a community café ‘The Meeting Place’. Members of the CAT attended their first Information day and supported the event by giving Fire Safety advice and explaining how the Fire service can be seen as an approachable service that seeks to keep people safe in their homes and the community as a whole.
**Housing Forums**
As part of their annual programme of Housing Tenant engagement, South Lanarkshire Council held an information day at East Kilbride Town Centre.

The event provided a great opportunity for SFRS to promote the Home Fire Safety Service and to engage with members of the public to deliver Home Fire Safety Advice and information. The successful event was also attended by various agencies such as Police Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council Community Wardens, and South Lanarkshire Council Housing Officers.

The knock-on effect has seen many householders gain valuable knowledge on fire safety and receive a free Home Fire Safety Visit.

The CAT now attends regular forums with Housing Services that also encourages Housing Officers to make a referral to the Fire Service should their service users need that extra bit of support to live safely in their homes.

---

**YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

By meaningfully engaging with young people, SFRS give individuals the opportunity to gain skills, feel a sense of empowerment and make a healthy connection with positive role models i.e. SFRS personnel as well as their peers and other adults.

Benefits to SFRS as an organisation include;

- **Learning from each other’s skills and knowledge**
- **We can develop new opportunities, initiatives and fresh ideas**
- **Increases the opportunity for the organisation to deliver important safety messages**

Benefits for young people include;

- **Increased self-esteem, skills and knowledge**
- **Enhances individual development and enforces the opportunity to affect change**
- **Self-discipline and Time Management**
- **Opens the mind to new employment opportunities**
- **Meaningful participation gives people a sense of worth and a feeling of being valued which can also contribute to positive mental health.**

SFRS seek to achieve an attitude that moves away from youths taking unnecessary risks that would have a negative impact on the community in which they live.

The FireReach programme provides training and development opportunities for young people principally through Fire & Rescue related activities and is aimed at 16-19 year olds.

The programme continues to develop the core skills of the young person and promote a more positive image of young people within the community.
Education programs were also carried out in schools to educate and inform youths of the dangers of deliberate fire setting.

SFRS has set up a task group to look at grass fire reduction throughout Scotland, and within South Lanarkshire work is on-going with partners to reduce these instances, and try to educate and inform those responsible of the environmental and financial cost to society as well as the costs to the Fire Service.

Areas of increased activity are discussed at local Problem Solving Groups and close links with youth workers help to promote the social awareness of youngsters and to try and prevent them offending in the first instance.

An initiative called Crucial Crew helps young people aged 10-12 avoid becoming victims of crime, cope with dangerous situations, learn social responsibility, and understand the role of the emergency services.

Every year more than 3000 South Lanarkshire P7 school children attend the event. This year’s event, which runs from 18 August to 22 September in James Hamilton Heritage Park, East Kilbride will be attended by 3500 primary children. Agencies participating include South Lanarkshire Council, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Ltd, Scottish Power and British Red Cross.

Council and emergency services staff recreated safety scenarios so that the children can then learn about the potential hazards at home and health and safety around building sites and railways. Young people are also told about the dangers of drugs, dealing with bullying, electricity safety and internet safety.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP SECONDMENT

SFRS seconded a member of staff into Substance Misuse Services in South Lanarkshire however, the project ended on the 27th June 2014.

The purpose of this partnership was to allow closer cooperation and co-ordination of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSV) delivered by SFRS to homes deemed at risk due to the use and consumption of drugs and alcohol by persons in their household. The fundamental basis of this approach to Community Safety is to protect people’s right to live without fear, to go about their lives safe from crime, disorder and free from injury or harm.

Effective partnerships play a crucial role in helping to tackle community safety issues. All of the agencies involved share a broad commitment to community safety and to working together to develop a quality of life for all residents.

Through this engagement activity SFRS have developed a referral system which allows Substance Misuse Services to engage with the Fire and Rescue Service, identify persons at risk and allow for a coordinated response to tackle and reduce the risk of fire in the home.

Consequently there have been visits to homes where the risk of fire has been profiled as High Risk and measures have been put in place to help reduce the risk of fire.

This project has given the Substance Misuse Services and SFRS the opportunity to refine how best to deliver safer communities in South Lanarkshire focusing on specific groups who we believe are at risk from fire. SFRS has been able to inform the Substance Misuse Services on Home Fire Safety and Hazard awareness matters, which may be encountered during their home visits, which has improved referrals to SFRS for HFSV.
Risk recognition training
SFRS has delivered risk recognition training to Substance Misuse Team, Social Work Services, NHS, Care home Wardens, and Housing Managers throughout South Lanarkshire. This training helps improve understanding and referral exchange to deliver a service to some of the most vulnerable in our community and helps tackle inequalities.

Partner agencies have an opportunity to engage with the Fire Service and have a coordinated approach, one such example is the provision of Fire Resisting Bedding and a Smoking cessation message by the Fire Service funded by Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug (ADP).

Inter-Agency training
South Lanarkshire Council Social Work Service have developed Inter Agency training and SFRS staff have benefited from the interactive nature and cross cutting issues all partners bring to the training event, this interaction greatly improves information sharing, increases referral exchange, and allows attendees to better understand the role of other partner agencies. Sharing information and identifying at risk persons is of great importance where we must target resources to the most at need.
RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

RESPONSE

South Lanarkshire Area encompasses a wide and varied range of operational risks from the urban areas of Rutherglen and Cambuslang to the rural communities of Clydesdale, this in turn requires the ability to respond to a variety of incidents in all locations which is achieved from strategically positioned stations at the following locations:

Wholetime – Hamilton, East Kilbride, Clydesmill and Lanark

Retained – Larkhall, Strathaven, Lesmahagow, Douglas, Abington, Biggar and Carluke

Volunteer – Leadhills.

The “workhorse” of the Fire and Rescue Service is the Fire Appliance which is the initial response to all incidents, carries a crew of up to six personnel and is equipped with an extensive range of equipment to deal with most incidents from fires to road traffic collisions to hazardous materials and many more.

In the event of a more difficult or complex incident there is also a range of specialist resources, strategically placed not only within South Lanarkshire but throughout Scotland which are immediately available to assist with incidents such as rescue from height, severe flooding, wildfires, hazardous material incidents.

The table below indicates the location of each resource.

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE AREA RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Appliance</th>
<th>Hamilton</th>
<th>East Kilbride</th>
<th>Clydesmill</th>
<th>Lanark</th>
<th>Larkhall</th>
<th>Strathaven</th>
<th>Lesmahagow</th>
<th>Douglas</th>
<th>Abington</th>
<th>Biggar</th>
<th>Carluke</th>
<th>Leadhills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerial Rescue Pump</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Rescue Resource</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Volume Pump</td>
<td>●●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Unit</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope Rescue Unit</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildfire Unit</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Support</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●●</td>
<td>●●●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One Appliance  ●
Two Appliances  ●●
RESILIENCE

The full description can be found in “Preparing Scotland – Scottish Guidance on Resilience” which details the responsibility placed on Category 1 and 2 responders in order to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The term “Resilience” is a very wide ranging description which includes a number of areas ensuring that our communities and National Infrastructure are protected by having the correct resources, properly trained and equipped, situated in suitable locations and that proper pre-planning, testing and contingency planning has been undertaken in order to respond to the risks and hazards which may present. This is achieved by the following Local Resilience Partnership

The Lanarkshire local Resilience Partnership (LRP), which replaced the SECG Lanarkshire Area Group has now become firmly established as the local part of the West of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (WoSRRP) and continues to develop with partners, this was further reinforced this year by the appointment of a dedicated Civil Contingencies Officer (CCO) who operates in a pan Lanarkshire capacity which provides a direct link between both South and North Lanarkshire response areas and the Lanarkshire LLRP.

The purpose of the group is to provide the principal local forum supporting collaboration between Lanarkshire’s Category One and Two Responders and their key partners. In realising the duties shared by Category One and Category Two Responders and under the terms of the Civil Contingencies Act, this helps prepare us for responding to emergencies which can impact upon the communities of Lanarkshire and the organisations themselves.

The local LRP will help its partners fulfil the following objectives:

• Create and exploit opportunities to share expertise and good practice
• Enhance the individual and collective resilience of partner organisations
• Enhance understanding of the others roles, responsibilities and capabilities
• Ensure effective collaboration in responding to emergencies
• Ensure learning identified through exercise and response is shared and incorporated within preparations

This group is a pan-Lanarkshire group with the following members

• North Lanarkshire Council
• NHS Lanarkshire
• Police Scotland Lanarkshire Division and Emergencies Planning (West)
• Scottish Environment Protection Agency
• Scottish Ambulance Service
• Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
• South Lanarkshire Council

Category 2 responders and other relevant stakeholder groups are invited to the LRP as required.

Some notable areas of work this year have been

John Dewar’s - Poneil
A top tier COMAH site within South Lanarkshire which has seen significant development in capacity, which required a complete update of all plans and information held and is now developing to a full multi-agency exercise to test all elements of planning and response to an incident.

M8/M73/M74 Roads Improvement Project
This year saw the commencement of a massive civil engineering project completing in 2017 which will vastly improve road travel both within and through the South Lanarkshire area and beyond. This now has a dedicated team, including the CCO and Station representatives involved with all aspects of the project who will work closely with partners including the construction contractors to ensure any impacts on roads are fully assessed and evaluated to ensure any impacts are adapted into response plans by our Operations Control Centre and communicated to all responding stations.

Community Risk Register
This year also sees a review of all Risk Preparedness Assessments (60) by members of the LRP to ensure the assessments are accurate and properly reflect the risk identified. This is a very wide ranging list from fire to oil pipelines to pandemic flu to major power outages etc. This is a major piece of work by all LRP members to ensure an updated local risk register is included in the WoSRRP new Community Risk Register.

Serious Organised Crime/Counter Terrorism
In 2004 the UK Government produced the first revised version of a strategy to tackle counter terrorism (CT) issues on a national scale entitled “Contest”.
This document was followed in 2009 when the Scottish Government produced a national strategy for tackling Serious & Organised Crime (SOC) in Scotland entitled “Letting Our Communities Flourish”.

Within Lanarkshire, both strategies play an integral role in directing the work being carried out by a range of agencies that all have responsibilities in these areas. As a result, a Lanarkshire SOC/CT Multiagency Strategy Group was established to bring together these key partners, to coordinate resources and eliminate duplication of effort in pursuance of the strategic objectives of the group.

S Lanarkshire Area sits as a key partner of this group with senior representatives sitting on the strategic group and by embedding the aims and objectives into work undertaken at tactical and operational levels. The model adopted by the Lanarkshire group is now being seen as a model of best practice for use by others.

**Local Strategic Assessments**

In order to ensure the Local Area Plan is fit for purpose and accurately identifies the risk profile of the Local Authority Area it is necessary to subdivide the information sources which inform this into smaller “chunks”. This ensures that the wide variance of risks within such a diverse Local Authority Area are accurately identified and assessed ensuring the correct preplanning and availability of responding resources in the event of an emergency incident occurring.

This information, when compiled into an area plan will ensure that an accurate picture exists within the Local Authority Area of our risks, hazards and resources and ensuring that these are the correct resources trained to the correct level.

These continue to be a “work in progress” as the risks and environment changes, so does the need to continually evaluate risks within the area to reflect local circumstances resulting in a live set of plans and information available for pre-planning and response.

**Operational Intelligence**

SFRS has an obligation under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 Section 9.2(d) to make arrangements for obtaining Operational Intelligence (OI) required or likely to be required to maintain the safety of personnel attending incidents at any location within a station ground.

The requirement on employers to provide specific information on risks has been further reinforced by subsequent legislation such as the COSHH Regulations (2002); Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. These procedures help meet Corporate Objectives of actively addressing, identifying and reducing risks to personnel.

This is achieved by means of a regular inspection process of identified risks, the collection of information, hazards, plans etc. which is held in a database accessible from the data terminal on appliances both for training purposes and for briefing en-route to an incident ensuring crews have the latest information available.

Currently within South Lanarkshire there are almost 800 premises in the system, in addition contingency plans are held for other risks such as COMAH sites and specific locations such as the State Hospital, John Dewar and Sons and Multi Agency Response Guide for Douglas Park football ground.

**South Lanarkshire Rural Risk Form**

At present there is great variation across Scotland on how risk information is captured and presented in relation to rural risks. Gleaning information by interrogating maps can provide some information, although this cannot be trusted as accurate as local conditions constantly change and may impact on multiple factors.

When capturing information it is important to have validation of currency and accuracy. SFRS is not resourced to a level whereby it can allocate personnel to physically inspect each and every Rural Risk or ensure adequate and timely recording of any changes. SFRS rely on support in many areas from many agencies to assist in information capture and communication.
The information required within a Rural Risk Form with regards to farms, is contained within an electronic, four page document which is accessible only by authorised fire service personnel. This document requires information to be recorded which will assist in any SFRS operational response. The section headings cover the following key areas:

- **Identification**
- **Description of Farmhouse**
- **Fire Safety**
- **Silos**
- **Waste Management**
- **Chemicals/Drugs**
- **Fuels/Gases**
- **Machinery and Plant**
- **Renewable Energy**
- **Diversification Projects**
- **Miscellaneous**

SFRS have a statutory duty to respond to emergency situations through the length and breadth of Scotland including island locations. In the event of fire, our primary focus is on the protection of the public and property although a duty also exists to respond to ‘other emergencies’ i.e. Rope Rescues, Water Rescues, and Flooding. This extends the recognised authority of the SFRS beyond the previous limits of the responsibility for fire emergencies.

Within rural communities, the level of response to incidents is provided by part time personnel (Retained Duty System (RDS) and volunteers) who invariably live and work within that community. This has a distinct advantage in that local knowledge usually exists. RDS and Volunteer Stations which are close to larger towns or cities are supported by full time personnel should incidents demand.

SFRS continuously strives to support operational response by the provision of information irrespective of location or type. Within each and every community there is requirement to ensure that the information best fits the range of incidents which the SFRS may attend. Farming is a major industry - UK agriculture’s contribution to the economy increased by a staggering 67% between 2007 and 2013.

Part of what makes farming unique is its structure, with over 90 per cent of farms made up of sole traders or family partnerships, and remains an industry characterised by family farming businesses.

Farming and its processes have evolved and in recent years farm businesses have diversified into agricultural-environment schemes including renewable energy and waste management. As farming diversifies, the risks and hazards also change which is of interest to SFRS and how it conducts its business to protect what is valuable to everyone.

There are over 9000 farms in Scotland, and SFRS operational response to these properties include Primary Fires (Property/Structures/Vehicles), Special Services (Extrication following RTC, Large Animal Rescue, Flooding), Secondary Fires (Grass/Crops/Refuse) and False Alarms.

Farms are particularly vulnerable to wilful fire raising. Their isolated location, open boundaries, readily ignitable hay and straw stacks make them easy targets. However historically, from a Fire Service point of view the farming community has been a ‘Hard to reach’ group simply by virtue of the nature of the job and lifestyle.

South Lanarkshire Area have identified an opportunity to engage with these communities to effectively communicate a valuable safety message, not only for the benefit of farming communities themselves but also for the protection of fire crews from the associated dangers within farm premises. The Rural Risk Form will allow us to do this.

RURAL CRIME AWARENESS
(Police Scotland)

A Rural Forum on Crime Awareness has been established which allows lines of communication to be opened between partners, the farming community and the rural community as a whole. This allows SFRS and other partners the opportunity to engage with the farming community on a regular basis. Neighbourhood Watch Scotland were also present and launched ‘Rural Watch’ - an initiative based on the same principles as ‘Safer Rutherglen’, a successful initiative that SFRS has been actively involved in for the last twelve months.

Following the success of the event, a Rural Forum on Crime Awareness is to be established promoting communication between partners, the farming community and rural community as a whole. Due to the nature of the farmer’s job and their predominantly rural location, the farming community are generally hard to reach.
This forum will give the fire service and its partners an opportunity to engage with farmers on a more regular basis”. Councillor Graeme Campbell (Avondale & Stonehouse) also reiterated the need for the farming community to ‘work together’ to help bring perpetrators of rural crime to justice.

**SOUTH LANARKSHIRE RIVER CLYDE MAP BOOK**

Crews from Clydesmill Community Fire Station which has a Water Rescue Resource have designed the River Map Book which helps crews to become more familiar with the River Clyde and its associated risks and hazards.

Crews from Clydesmill managed to secure access to Rutherglen Cruising Club Boat Yard in Rutherglen, thereby allowing easier access for the zodiac boat to be launched. Easier access allowed for a greater frequency of training events on the river from the tidal weir at Glasgow Green up stream to Carmyle Weir.

This book also assisted with preparation and training for the Commonwealth Games with regards to the Athletes Village backing onto the River Clyde and the large public gatherings at Glasgow Green.

To complete this book accurately involved gathering information on the River Clyde from various sources and involved engaging with Police Scotland and a local Wildlife Protection Officer who had knowledge due to both fishing and animal poaching.

Assistance also came from the cruising club members who were able to tell of various historical features, such as piles for old bridges, which at high water presented little or no hazard but quite the opposite during periods of low water & several angling clubs.

The Map Book allowed Hazards, obstacles and access/egress points to be easily identified and equally importantly easily described and communicated to oncoming resources and partner agencies.
EXERCISE WINTER BREACH

SFRS Officers from South Lanarkshire attended “Exercise Winter Breach 3” on November 14th 2014. This exercise raised awareness of preparations and dependencies across Lanarkshire Resilience Partnership organisations in readiness for the challenges of winter and any adverse weather.

Attending this exercise allowed SFRS to gain an understanding of how NHS Lanarkshire and North and South Lanarkshire Councils integrate their health and social care arrangements to provide care for people during the winter season.

It also highlighted the interdependencies between the private, public and voluntary sectors in supporting communities and individuals affected by emergencies and provided an insight into the emergency role and capability of voluntary sector organisations and how we can provide mutual support.
Training is always a key priority within South Lanarkshire Area and the diverse risks require crews to undertake training and development in a range of core and specialist skills to meet the needs of the community.

RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM
PHASED ASSESSMENTS (RDS)

South Lanarkshire currently has 11 RDS Trainee Firefighters who are at various stages of their development. Pictured below is Trainee Firefighters training in a confined space BA emergency using a thermal imaging camera. This core skills training allows the trainees to develop their skills and ensure they can use them, if required in an emergency situation.

FIRE BEHAVIOUR

South Lanarkshire is in the enviable position of having the state of art National Training Centre within its area at Cambuslang and this allows crews an excellent facility where we can replicate numerous real fire behaviour conditions as seen below.

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION TRAINING

South Lanarkshire has a high proportion of major and arterial roads within the area, and ensuring crews can deal with numerous scenarios that they may have to attend is achieved by RTC training to maintain and develop skills.

Below are images from a training weekend hosted at Lesmahagow Community Fire Station. Mini exercises were created to consolidate learning which included scenarios using techniques like the roof flap pictured below.
BREATHING APPARATUS EVENTS - RIDGEPARK

SFRS and South Lanarkshire Council have continued to work in partnership during 2014/15 to provide a realistic training environment at Ridgepark School, Lanark. The former educational centre has been specially adapted to become an excellent site for conducting Breathing Apparatus exercises.

A variety of events have been facilitated by Area Trainers for both Whole-time and Retained personnel with positive feedback being received from all personnel who attended.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICE VISITS

The British Red Cross visited all Whole-time groups and Retained stations during May and June to raise awareness of an important resource which is available to crews. The Fire Emergency Support Service (FESS) provides welfare support to people affected by incidents which crews have attended.

A presentation by Community Resilience Manager Jim Connie was delivered to crews who were also given the view the resources located aboard the FESS vehicle, pictured below.
TRAINING IN THE COMMUNITY

Successful multi-agency exercise at Carstairs
South Lanarkshire stations took part in a training exercise with the NHS, Scottish Ambulance Service at Carstairs State Hospital. The event was planned to consolidate and develop an understanding of the roles played by organisations at a fire within secure accommodation. It involved crews from Lanark, Carluke, Biggar, shots and Motherwell as well as Operational Control Staff from Johnstone who attended to observe and monitor messages from the Incident ground.

Charles Tennants (Hamilton)
The aim of the exercise was to ensure personnel were adequately trained to deal with the hazards and risks associated with incidents involving chemicals and to ensure knowledge and understanding of equipment and the associated skills required.

This also allowed the testing of procedures within Company and for shared learning in dealing with these types of incidents.
South Lanarkshire Management Team continues to communicate and engage with their communities with the use of Twitter.

The use of Twitter has allowed SFRS to send out fire safety messages to the general public, whether they have been related to specific incidents within local communities or corporate seasonal safety messages. It has also allowed SFRS staff to communicate to the public in terms of what activities and initiatives have been running in their local area.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE CULTURAL AUDIT

Over the summer in 2014 many colleagues from South Lanarkshire took part in the SFRS Cultural Audit survey and made their voice heard throughout the service.

The data collected from the survey helped SFRS measure our current culture and also helped shape the activities we needed to prioritise to help us get where we wanted to be.

Key findings from the survey were discussed and explored in greater detail and South Lanarkshire personnel attended focus groups which took place across a range of SFRS locations. The Focus groups took place in November and December 2014.
ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Following the appointment last year of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service’s Energy and Environment Officer, SFRS has been very keen to tap into the expertise of the Energy and Environmental Officer for South Lanarkshire. Clydesmill Station continues to run as part of a waste management programme. SFRS are very keen to roll out lessons learned from the pilot to all our other stations and supporting premises around South Lanarkshire.

SFRS within South Lanarkshire has also nominated an officer responsible for Environmental issues. This will assist SFRS in developing a clear understanding of the role which they can play in terms of reducing carbon footprint and exploring new and emerging sustainable energies. The nominated officer sits on the South Lanarkshire Sustainability Partnership Group, this allows key partnerships to evolve and grow within South Lanarkshire and assist in the development of the SFRS environmental strategy for South Lanarkshire.

CLOTHES BANKS

Lanark Fire Stations Fire Fighters Charity clothing bank has recently been the best performing collection point in Scotland.

The bank, which sits outside the station, collected over 3,500kgs of clothes between April and September, raising a fantastic £1,053 and making it one of the charity’s top 12 performing sites in the UK.

Overall, SFRS collected nearly 75,000kgs of clothes at over 60 sites during the six month period, raising an amazing total of £22,424.

Area Manager Fairbairn said “We were delighted by the support we receive from the local community in Lanark, who make a fantastic effort to donate to our clothes bank for The Fire Fighters Charity. “

“Their generosity and enthusiasm go a long way in helping us raise much needed funds and we’re all extremely grateful they help this worthwhile cause.”

“We must also extend our thanks to Clyde Recycling Ltd who handle the logistics of the donations on behalf of the charity.”
TINTO HILL CHARITY CLimb

Hardy SFRS staff from South Lanarkshire donned their walking boots to take part in their annual St Andrew’s Hospice Charity hill climb at Tinto Hill.

The climb which took place between 20th to 22nd May saw volunteers from the hospice and army cadets join SFRS staff and along with two thousand S1 pupils from North and South Lanarkshire Secondary Schools.

As well as fresh air, fun, exercise, teamwork and a sense of achievement they also raised money for a fantastic cause.

St Andrew’s Hospice is Lanarkshire’s hospice which provides specialist care services to patients from across Lanarkshire with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. It is a very special place which recognises the need to provide support for patients, their families and carers. To maintain these vital care services their fundraising team has to raise £57,000 each week.

St Andrew’s Hospice sent a letter of thanks to SFRS and Margaret Donald the hospice’s Schools Manager said: “Our thanks go to the fire service for your continued support - we couldn’t do it without you”.

ABINGTON CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Abington Fire Station celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special ceremony. The station – which opened on 10 November 1964 at a cost of £9,000 –, was described by Fire Magazine in February 1965 as providing “up to date facilities for the retained men who cover a large area of southern Lanarkshire, including the A74 main highway to the south.”

Mr A. D. Wilson, HM Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland at the time, added that “the opening was a milestone for the Service in Lanarkshire.”

Crews from the RDS station welcomed LSO Alan Fairbairn to the anniversary event (pictured above), which culminated in a commemorative plaque being unveiled.

Area Manager Fairbairn took the opportunity to reflect on the station’s history with both current and retired Abington firefighters, who were delighted to see a vintage Dennis appliance from the era which belonged to the SFRS Heritage Trust.

He said: “The type of equipment we use and incidents we attend may have changed over the 50 years since the station opened, however one thing has remained constant and that is the dedication and commitment of the crew members at Abington to ensure that they deliver a professional, first class level of service delivery to the local community and surrounding area.”
BIKEABILITY TRAINING ROLLS OUT IN SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

Due to the rise in RTCs involving bicycles in 2014, South Lanarkshire’s Community FF John McQuade teamed up with South Lanarkshire Council’s Road Safety Department and Cycling Scotland to deliver Bikeability Scotland training to parents, teachers and other school staff from primary schools throughout the area. The skills learned by the teachers, staff and volunteers allowed them to deliver Bikeability training to more than 2000 P6/7 pupils at 103 primary schools across South Lanarkshire.

Bikeability Scotland forms part of the Scottish Government’s Cycle Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and aligns to the National Standard for Cycle Training developed on behalf of the UK Government’s Department for Transport.

John, a keen cyclist and cycle trainer said: “This was great opportunity to work in partnership with Cycling Scotland and South Lanarkshire’s Road Safety Department to deliver the Bikeability training.

“When the young people are confident enough to cycle on the roads, they will gain valuable road safety skills and it is hoped that the skills gained as a cyclist will benefit them once they become young drivers”

Pictured above are school teachers, volunteers, council staff and partners who participated in Bikeability Scotland training courses behind Councillor Graham Simpson (South Lanarkshire Council’s Road Safety Forum Chair), Shona Morris (Development Officer, Cycling Scotland) and GM Peter O’Brien (Head of Community Safety, South Lanarkshire Area).

HAMILTON FIREFIGHTERS GET ON THEIR BIKES

Hamilton Firefighters raised money for the Firefighters Charity and the Lanarkshire Cancer Care trust. They successfully cycled the West highland Way in one day. The team set of on the 22nd June 2014 to cycle the 96 miles to Fort William, which took the a n impressive 20 hours and 31 minutes. WM Tulsa Davidson led the team made up of firefighters Brian Carlyle and Eddie Kerr as well as WM Jim Muir from Motherwell Community Fire Station.

CARLUKE’S TOUGH MUDDER EFFORTS

Firefighters from Carluke Fire Station, who raised £625 for The Fire Fighters Charity by taking part in the Tough Mudder challenge in 2014. Debbie McCafferty, Andrew Stephenson, Gary Watt, Kris Dobbin and David Wood all successfully completed the course, despite David losing his shoe in the mud during the process!
LIFE SAVING PARTNERSHIP

In the past year the SFRS/Anthony Nolan Partnership has continued with its drive to recruit more pupils from schools in South Lanarkshire. A further 171 potential life savers were added to the Anthony Nolan bone marrow register by SFRS volunteers with recruitment events been hosted by Strathaven Academy (54), Biggar High School (65) and Larkhall Academy (52). The partnership has been working hard to develop events in schools due to changes in the age criteria for joining the register.

GM Andy Watt, Chair of the Partnership said: “We’ve been focusing on this age group as research has shown that young adults, predominately under the age of 25, have a far greater chance of being selected as a donor for someone. This is primarily because donations from people in that age group have a much greater chance of success with better patient outcomes”.

“To add 171 young people to the register is fantastic and testament to schools in South Lanarkshire and especially the pupils. To see young people step forward and potentially save someone’s life is extremely gratifying, we delighted to hear that two pupils who joined the register at these events have been identified as a match for someone requiring a transplant”.

“Initial feedback from the schools is that the events were seen as an extremely positive experience, the partnership also gives us the opportunity to build on our excellent relationship with schools”