

THE HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS FIRE BOARD

27 November 2009

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report by Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item	
Report No	

Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform members of incidents of note, as well as providing an update on Performance.

Incidents of Note

It is with deep regret I must report that the service attended a fatal fire on the 13th October in Kirkwall. At 11.05hrs a call was received by Fire Control from a neighbour reporting "blackened windows and alarms ringing".

A fire crew from Kirkwall mobilised to this incident with two supporting appliances from St Margaret's Hope and Stromness respectively.

Prior to the arrival of the fire service, ambulance and police personnel managed to remove the elderly lady from the living room of the property which by this stage was heavily smoke logged. On arrival of the fire service the lady was receiving treatment from the ambulance personnel in attendance. There remained in the property a small section of carpet directly in front of the hearth still on fire. The crew turned off the power to the property and extinguished the relatively small fire. The remaining fire crew assisted the ambulance crew in moving the lady to the ambulance where she was removed to hospital. The stop message was returned at 11.18hrs.

A hot strike and leaflet drop of Slater Street was carried out by the responding fire crew.

A joint fire investigation was carried out by Northern Constabulary & H&IF&RS on the evening of the fire. Unfortunately due to the severity of her injuries the lady died the next day.

The Chief Fire Officer will provide verbal updates on other incidents of note.

Performance Report

Incident Totals

The number of incidents which have been attended in the year to date for each council area are shown in the table below, along with end-year projections and comparisons to the previous two years.

Incident Totals

Year	Incidents	Highland	Orkney Isles	Shetland Isles	Western Isles
2009/10*	5348	4345	294	258	450
2009/10**	3291	2674	181	159	277
2008/09	5135	4161	178	264	532
2007/08	4826	3987	204	183	452

* Projected end-year total

** Incidents to date

The projected end-year total for Orkney of approx. 294 is an increase on previous years, and relates in the main to increases in the number of automated false alarm calls (currently totalling 105 after seven months compared to 69 in total in 2008/09) and secondary fires (currently 12 compared to 8 in total in 2008/09). The increase in the number of automated false alarm calls is being called to the attention of the district officer for further investigation and action.

Dwelling fires and fire casualties

The current projected totals for the number of dwelling fire incidents this year show that the overall total is likely to be of the same order as in 2008/09.

This year to date there has been one dwelling fire fatality, in Orkney. There are 12 casualties recorded to date, 9 in Highland and 3 in the Western Isles.

The number of fatalities and casualties to date is lower than in 2008/09. The total number of fatalities and casualties last year was 7 fatalities and 25 casualties in Highland, no fatalities and 1 casualty in Orkney, 1 fatality and 4 casualties in Shetland, and 1 fatality and 6 casualties in the Western Isles.

The total number of dwelling fires for the year to date, projected end-year totals, and previous-year totals are shown in the table below.

Dwelling Fires 2009/10

Council Area	Dwelling Fire Incidents	Projection	2008/09 Totals
Highland	78	128	125
Orkney Isles	6	10	7
Shetland Isles	6	10	11
Western Isles	14	23	30

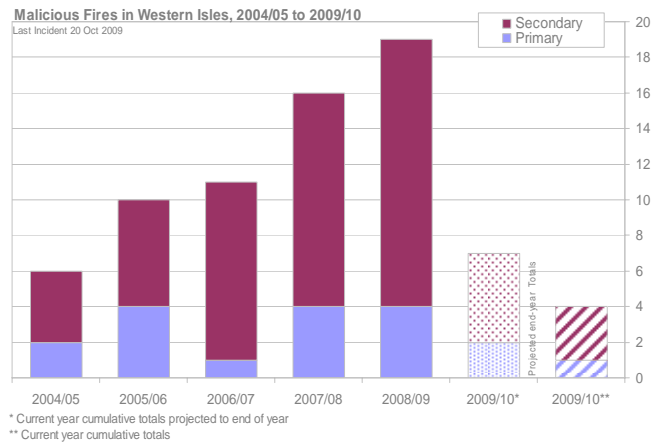
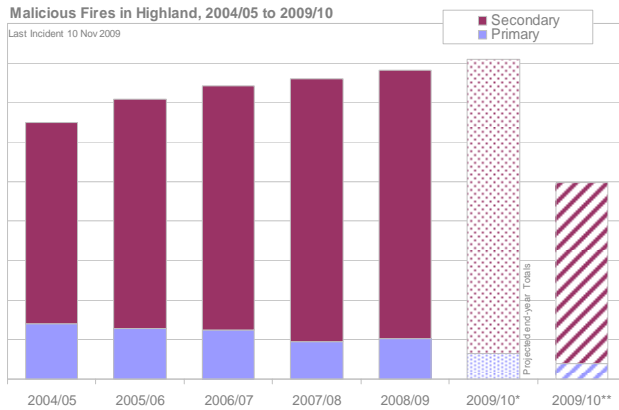
Suspected Alcohol-Related Incidents

In 2009/10 to date 13 dwelling fires have suspected alcohol involvement. 8 of these are in Highland, 4 in Western Isles, 1 in Shetland, and none in Orkney.

Malicious Fires

The number of malicious fires (mainly non-property related secondary fires) has been increasing in some areas (Highland and Western Isles in particular).

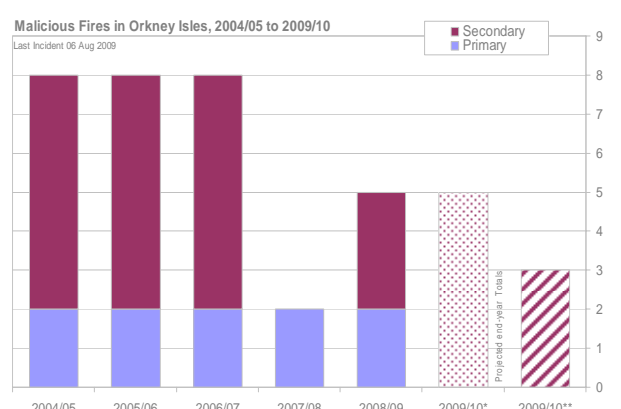
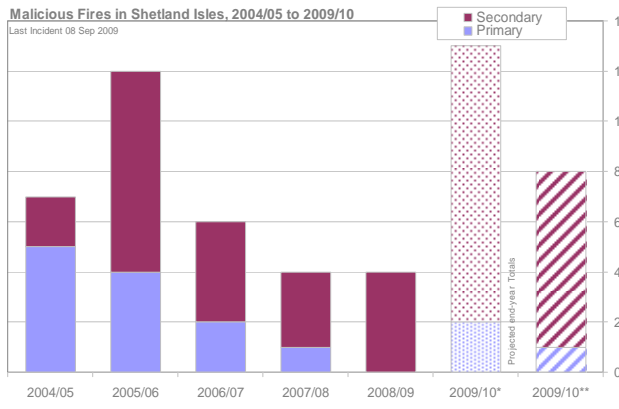
Please note that the current totals and end-year projection for Western Isles shown on the rightmost chart are understated, as we are still waiting on classification of incident cause for some incidents which occurred in the past two months.



Highland

Western Isles

The number of malicious secondary fires in Shetland has also increased when compared to previous years. The figures for Orkney are in line with norms from previous years.



Shetland

Orkney

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

**BRIAN A MURRAY
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
18 NOVEMBER 2009**