

Agenda Item	5
Report No	NC/14/25

# The Highland Council

**Committee:** Nairn Area Committee

**Date:** 25 August 2025

**Report Title:** Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report

**Report By:** Local Senior Officer for Highland

## 1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Nairn Area Committee Members on progress against the priorities outlined in the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Area Committee Plan.
- 1.2 Priority areas are identified through a range of Intervention, Prevention and Protection activities which are delivered through partnership to reduce the risk to the communities of Nairn and Nairnshire.
- 1.3 The report also contains previously agreed information and performance as requested by Area Committees.

## 2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to comment, scrutinise and note the attached Area Performance Report.

## 3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.2 **Legal** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.3 **Community (Equality, Poverty, Rural and Island)** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.4 **Climate Change / Carbon Clever** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.5 **Risk** - There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.6 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no implications arising from this report
- 3.7 **Gaelic** - There are no implications arising from this report

## 4 Nairnshire Committee Performance Report

- 4.1 The attached performance report provides the current figures for the reporting year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and from the previous four reporting years from the

central Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) performance management database against the key indicators and timelines from previous reports.

- 4.2 In achieving the priorities within the Area Plan a number of prevention activities are being progressed including; the delivery of free home fire safety visits (HFSV) through our operational On-Call Staff and Community Safety Advocates (CSA), post domestic incident response (PDIR) both of which are aimed at reducing accidental dwelling house fires following our attendance at any incidents of this type. Local managers will also support the partnership delivered road safety programmes, Driving Ambition and the reduction of fire-related antisocial behaviour through targeted youth engagement activities and thematic action plans.

The continued application of the Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS) Policy provides a means of targeting premises that the Service attends repeatedly and by engagement reduce the number of calls.

Staff also undertake Operational Intelligence (OI) visits to the higher risk premises in Nairn to gather vital information on the hazards and risks on these sites which can help our operational response and firefighter safety.

The Service continues to commit to agile working through electronic and modified methods to deliver partnership and community activities to support those most vulnerable within our communities.

- 4.3 It must be emphasised that the baseline figures for some of the indicators within the report are very low and this can make meaningful statistical analysis challenging. The low figures can also make it inappropriate to provide detailed data analysis which could compromise personal information.
- 4.4 Both Fire Fatalities and Fire Casualties were at zero in this reporting period, which are welcomed by SFRS. For the year Deliberate Fires has shown a slight increase in this reporting period but continue to be at a very low level in the area with only ten in this reporting year.

Special Service – Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) are low, with the total annual figure remaining comparable with previous years. We will continue to work with partners and educational establishments to promote road safety.

False Alarm UFAS incidents continue to be at a very low level in the area. SFRS personnel continue to work in partnership with the clear aim of trying to eliminate all incident types through our preventative work and targeted engagement with premises, particularly those who have had multiple alarm actuations. Where improvement cannot be demonstrated, SFRS Enforcement teams will liaise with premises holders to improve building management and reduce unwanted fire alarms.

Designation: Local Senior Officer for Highland

Date: 01/08/2025

Author: Station Commander Nick Nethercott

Background Papers: Highland – Nairn Area Committee – Performance Report



# **Highland Nairnshire Committee**

**2024-25  
Scrutiny Report**



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

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for a safer Scotland**

# Highland Nairnshire Committee

## 2024-25 Scrutiny Report

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### About the statistics within this report

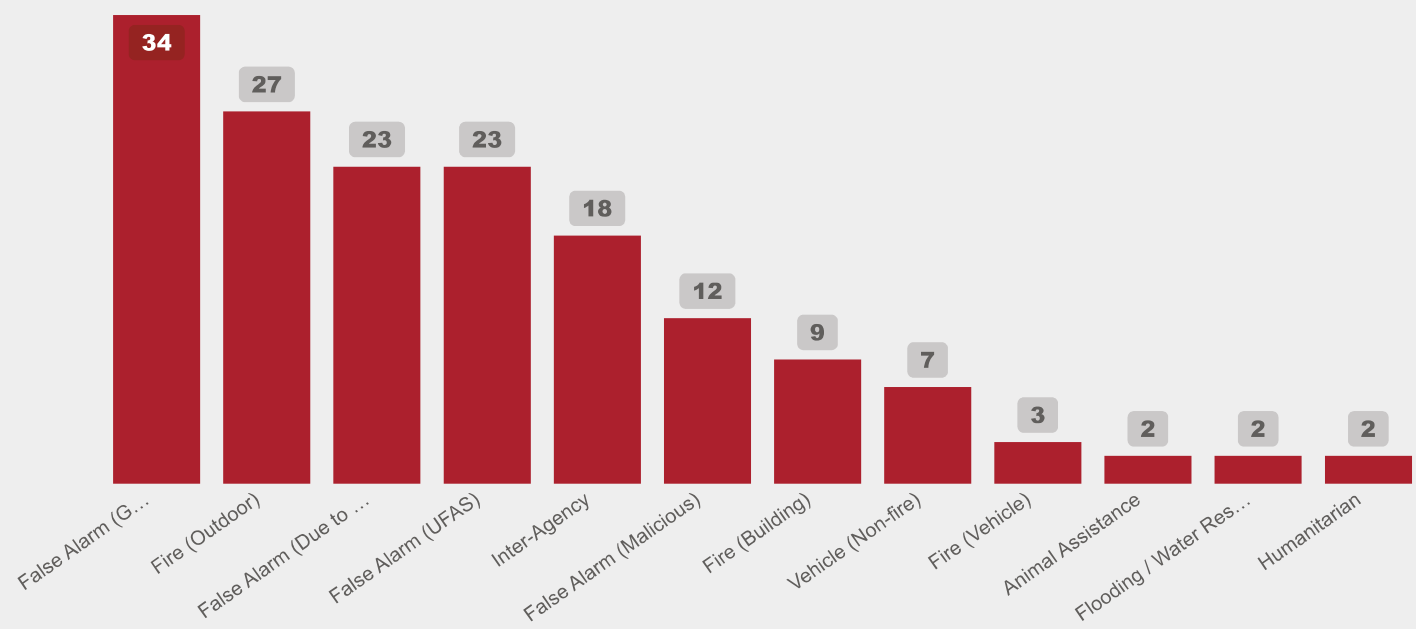
The activity totals and other statistics quoted within this report are published in the interests of transparency and openness. They are provisional in nature and subject to change as a result of ongoing quality assurance and review. Because all statistics quoted are provisional there may be a difference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

1. Summary

2024-25

 <b>165</b> Total Incidents (Incl. Incompletes)	 <b>39</b> Fires	 <b>34</b> Non-Fire Incidents	 <b>92</b> False Alarms	 <b>23</b> UFAS
 <b>3</b> People Rescued by Firefighters	 <b>0</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Fires)	 <b>0</b> Fire Fatalities	 <b>7</b> People Receiving First Aid or Hospital Treatment (Non-Fire)	 <b>1</b> Non-Fire Fatalities
 Home Fire Safety Visits	 Fire Safety Audits			

Top 10 Incident Types

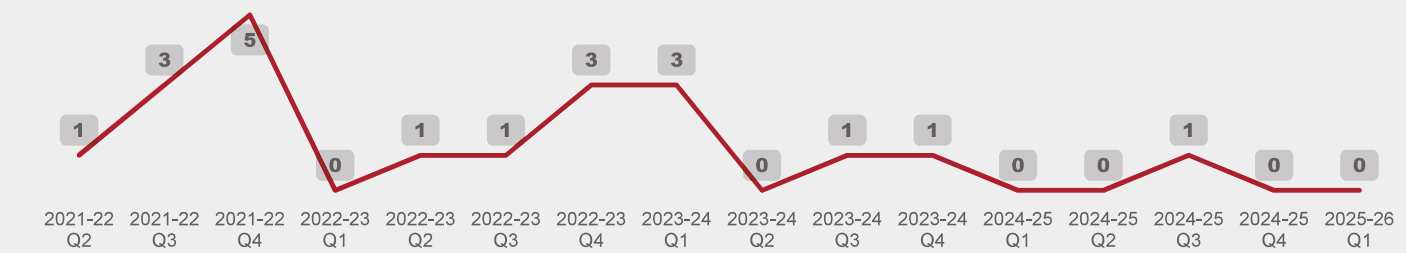


The information above provides a summary of the twelve months (1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025) activity against headlines indicators. It aims to provide - at a glance - our direction of travel during the current reporting year.

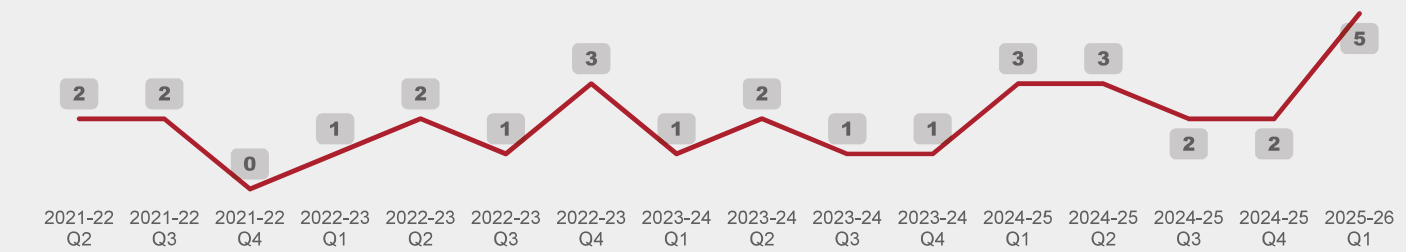
2. Trends

Previous 16 quarters (4 years)

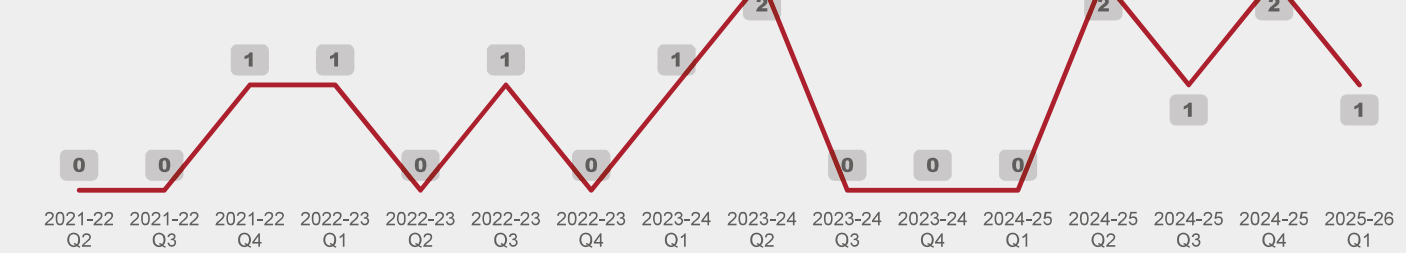
Accidental Dwelling Fires



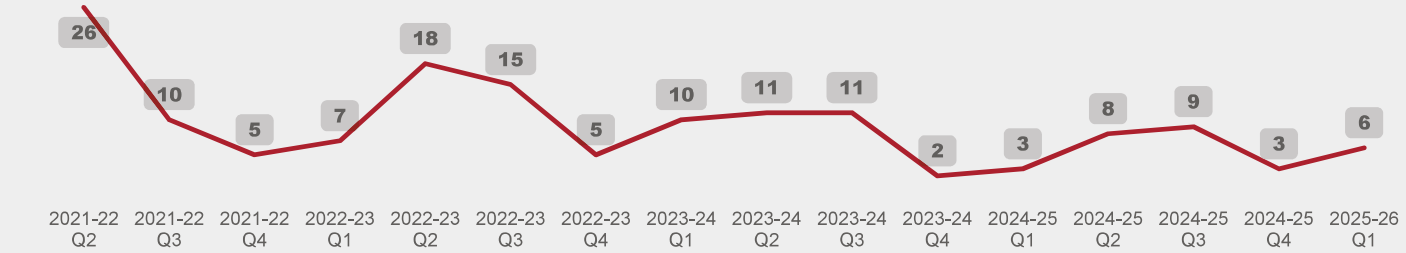
Deliberate Fires



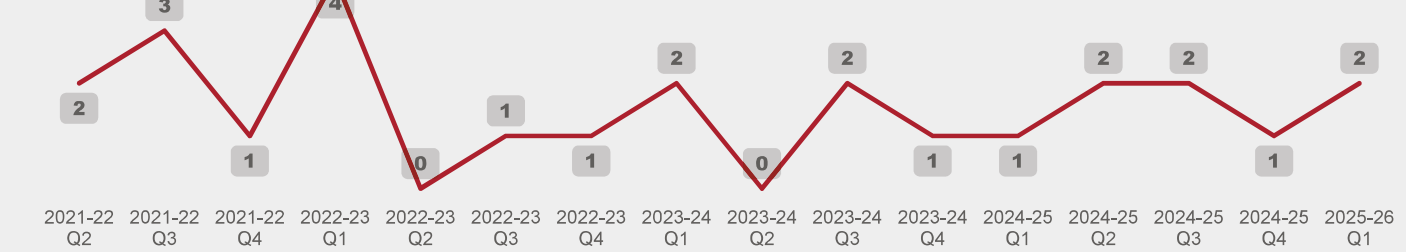
Non-Domestic Fires



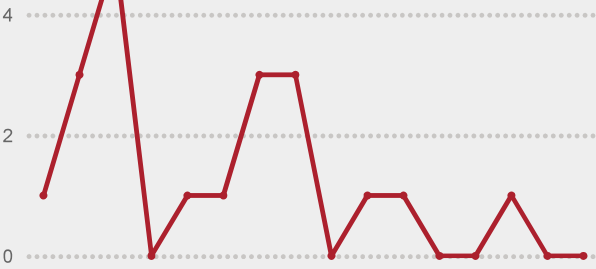
Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals



Road Traffic Collisions



Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Extent of Damage	Incidents
Limited to room of origin	1

Incidents by Ward

Nairn & Cawdor

1

Source of Ignition (Top 10)



Other domestic style appliance

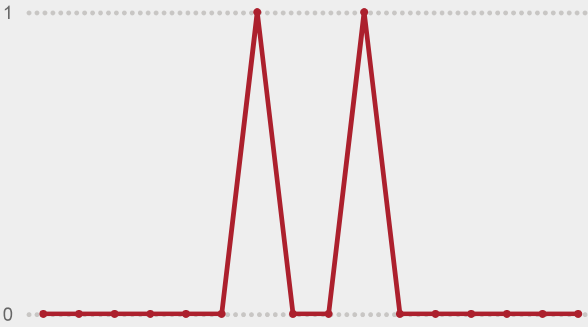
1

Accidental Dwelling Fires  
in this period

There was 1 **Accidental Dwelling Fire (ADF)**, which was classed as low severity, requiring little or no intervention from the Service and minimal fire damage.

All ADFs are following up with a HFSV and agency referrals where required.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Casualties by Ward

Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
	▼

0

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

0

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)

0

First Aid Given at Scene

0

Hospital Slight Injuries

0

Hospital Serious Injuries

There were **0 ADF Fatalities** and **0 ADF Casualties**. It should be noted that these figures do not include those who have been recommended to have a precautionary check up.



Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Nature of Injury/Cause of Death	Casualties
Cuts/Lacerations	3
Bruising	1
Chest / Abdominal injury	1
Collapse	1
Other medical condition	1
Shock / Anaphylactic shock	1

Casualties by Ward



7

Non-Fatal Casualties

1

Fatal Casualties

3

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



1

First Aid Given at Scene



3

Hospital Slight Injuries

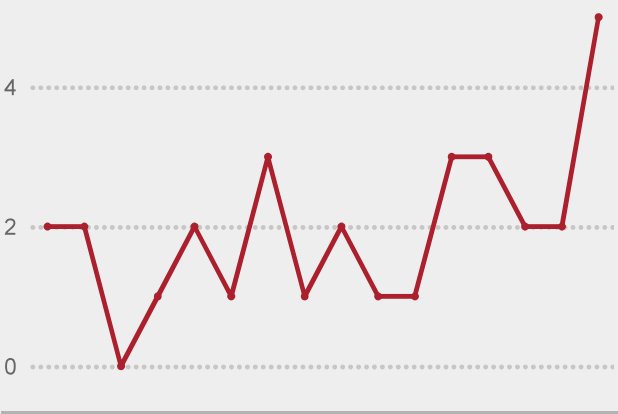


3

Hospital Serious Injuries

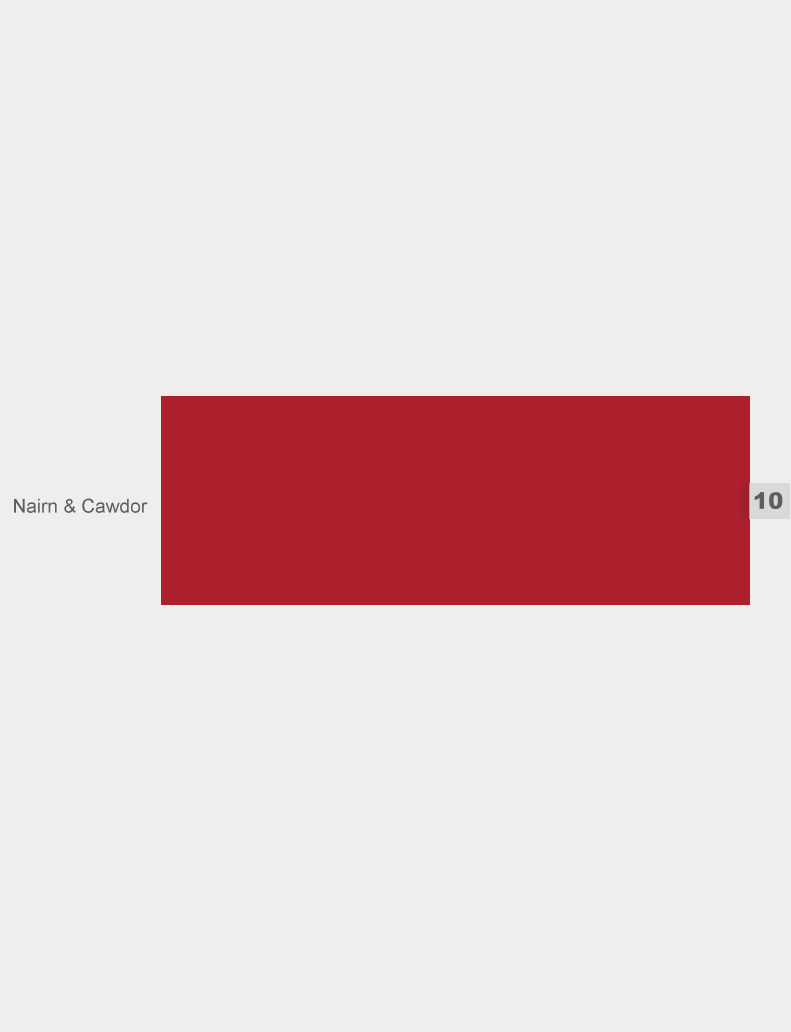
There was 1 Non-Fire Fatality and 7 Non-Fire Casualties. Six of the casualties were as a result of Road Traffic Collision incidents. Whilst this is lower than previous years, we continue to work within our community to reduce figures further.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Property Type	Incident
Grassland, woodland and crops	5
Other outdoors (including land)	2
Non Residential	1
Refuse	1
Road Vehicle	1

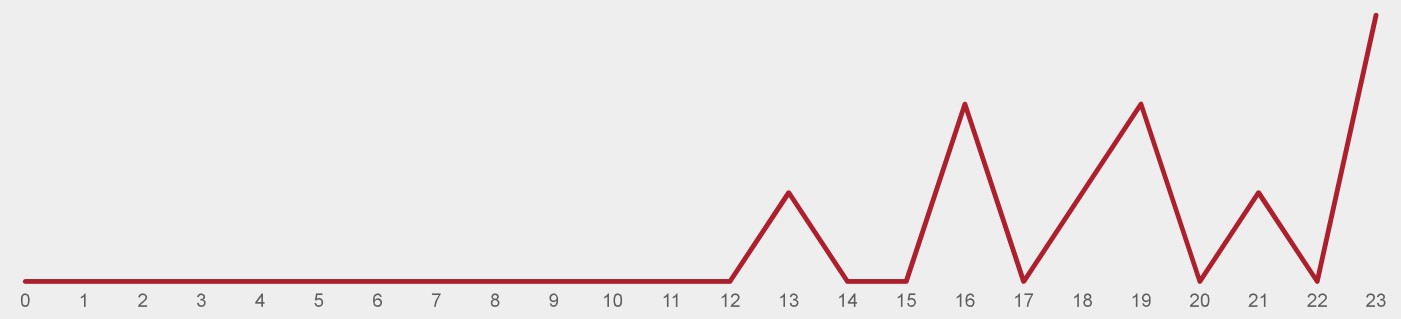
Incidents by Ward



10

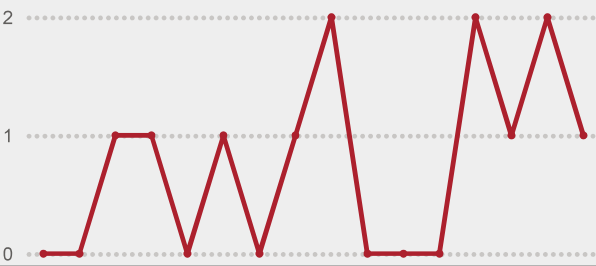
Deliberate Fires  
in this period

Hour of Day



There were **10 Deliberate Fires**, which is higher when compared to the previous reporting periods. Referrals are made to other agencies to those at work within our communities.

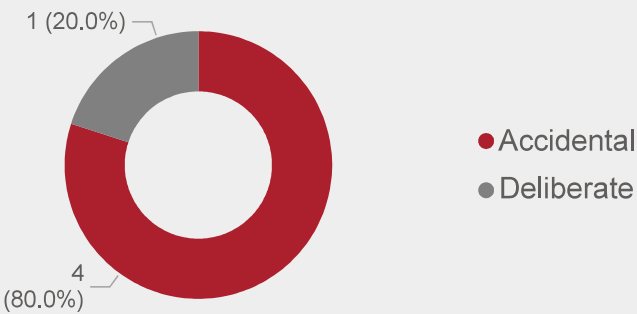
Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Sporting venues	2
Food and Drink	1
Permanent Agricultural	1
Public Utilities	1

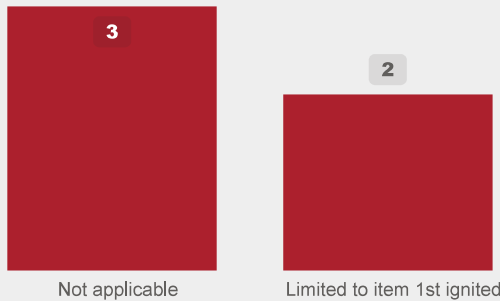
Incidents by Ward



5

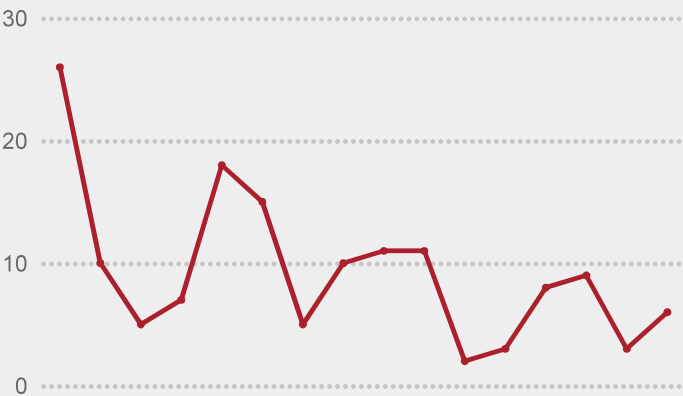
Non-Domestic  
Fires in this  
period

Extent of Damage



There were 5 Non-Domestic Building Fires which is higher than in previous reporting periods.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



Top 15 Property Types

Property Type	Incidents
Residential Home	12
Hotel/motel	8
Offices and call centres	3

Incidents by Ward



23

Unwanted Fire Alarm  
Signals in this period

We attended **23 Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)** which continues to show a decrease in these types of incidents. The figure continues to remain low following the Service's change to attendance at commercial business and workplace premises.

Trend by Quarter (4 years)



6

Road Traffic Collisions in this period

Property Type	Incidents
Car	5
Multiple Vehicles	1

Incident Type	Incidents
Vehicle (Non-fire)	6

Incidents by Ward

Nairn & Cawdor

6

6

Non-Fatal Casualties

0

Fatal Casualties

2

People Rescued by Firefighters

Extent of Harm (Non-Fatal)



1

First Aid Given at Scene



3

Hospital Slight Injuries



2

Hospital Serious Injuries

We attended 6 Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) which is comparable to previous reporting periods. These incidents resulted in 6 Non-Fatal Casualties.

Our Prevention teams continue to work with partner agencies through the Highland Road Safety group, old driver Virtual Reality Scheme and Road Safety Scheme of new drivers.

Update as of 2024-25 Q4:

Statistics for Home Fire Safety Visits are not available due to a system change. The Business Intelligence Team is actively working in collaboration with Digital and Technology Services and the Community Safety Team to ensure suitable quality for future reporting. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

## 11. Fire Safety Enforcement

Update as of 2024-25 Q4:

Enforcement data is currently not available due to data quality issues. The Business Intelligence Team is actively working to ensure suitable quality for future reporting. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Unfortunately the figures for the number of Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) and Fire Safety Enforcement Audits are currently not available as referred to above.

It should be noted that with the introduction of a new, modernised Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) system that enhances how we identify, assess and support the most at risk from fire, we may see an initial decline in referrals and HFSVs whilst the new systems and referral pathways are embedded.

- 2 x On-Call Retained Duty System appliances across 1 Station

These Stations serve the Nairnshire population

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

Station	1 Apr 24 – 31 Mar 25 Availability* %	Male	Female	Staff
Nairn – 1 <sup>st</sup> Appliance	97.70%	17	0	17
Nairn – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Appliance	69.33%			

### Wildfire prevention campaign launches



You may have already noticed that we issued our first [Wildfire Danger Assessment on Saturday 1 March](#).

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

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

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

A [Wildfire Prevention Campaign communications toolkit](#) has been shared all partner organisations.

### Christmas 2024 – Nairn Station

Nairn Fire Station's Santa's Sleigh raised in December 2024 a total of £10,940 was raised and shared amongst local causes and the Firefighters Charity.





Community Safety and Engagement remains a priority for SFRS within the Nairn Community as part of our preventative work. This is supported by both our local operational crews and by our Community Action Team.

During the 2024/25 year we have taken part in many activities. Our local crews have used the SFRS seasonal activity calendar to engage with residents and tourists throughout the year to deliver safety messages such as firework safety, BBQ's and fires in the open and home fire safety advice.



### New Driver Early Intervention

Our Community Action Team delivered a New Driver Early Intervention Talk to approx. 40 Nairn Academy pupils as part of our Road Safety Campaign.

### Nairn and Nairnshire Community Planning Partnership

We work to support the Nairn and Nairnshire Community Planning Partnership. We have representation on this committee attended the Community Event in October 2024. We see this as a valuable contribution to the Community and look forward to continuing our with this partnership.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT (HFSV)

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

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

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

## WILDFIRE STRATEGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Tier 2 Stations:** 24 stations (13 of which within Highland) have received additional training and specialist PPE, with four stations also set to receive the new 4x4 support vans.

**Tier 3 Stations:** 10 stations (2 of which within Highland) will be equipped with Ford Rangers, trailers, and ATVs.

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

## BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## OVERNIGHT CARAVAN / MOTORHOME SPACING IN CAR PARKS

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

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

### Annex 3: Holiday Camping and Caravan Sites

#### Spacing

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

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

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

## COMMUNITY ASSET REGISTER

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

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

## 13. Glossary of Terms

### Term - What it means

#### **ADF**

Accidental Dwelling Fire.

#### **HFSV**

Home Fire Safety Visit.

#### **PDIR**

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

#### **RTC**

Road Traffic Collision.

#### **Special Service**

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

#### **UFAS**

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

#### UFAS Policy Change

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

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

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



# SCOTTISH

## FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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BUSINESS  
**INTELLIGENCE**

Design, figures and charts by the Business Intelligence team.