

SFRS in Western Isles

The Fire and Rescue Service is provided to the Western Isles through a network of 14 Retained Duty Fire Stations located throughout the Outer Hebrides. The most northerly station (Port of Ness) is around 140 miles from the most southerly (Castlebay, Isle of Barra) via road, two ferries and multiple causeways.

A total of c140 Retained Firefighters, 6 Wholetime Officers, 1 full time Community Safety Advocate and 1 part time Administrative Assistant are employed to deliver the Service. Operational activity levels for the 14 stations in total averages around 400 incidents per year, 50% of those on average include a Stornoway appliance.

Officer Structure

- LSO / Area Manager: Fraser Burr (responsibility: WI, O and Sh)
- Group Manager: Iain Macleod iain.macleod4@firescotland.gov.uk (Area Commander)
- Station Manager: Steve Oliver steve.oliver2@firescotland.gov.uk (Station Manager – day to day performance and support)
- Crew manager Alan Saunders alan.saunders@firescotland.gov.uk (Butt to Uig CC areas)
- Crew manager Ross Macrae ross.macrae@firescotland.gov.uk (Stornoway / Point / Broad Bay CC areas)
- Crew Manager David Stewart david.stewart@firescotland.gov.uk (Harris, Lochs CC areas)
- Crew Manager John MacIsaac john.macisaac@firescotland.gov.uk (Uist, Benbecula & Barra)

Local Challenges:

- Recruitment
- Day Time availability -
- Training
- Technology infrastructure (broadband connectivity) – increasing reliance on electronic systems
- Station Support (geographical/capacity challenges associated with island context – how we get around, how we supply equipment, cost of travel / couriers)

Local Fire & Rescue Plan for Western Isles

Influenced by local priority
Elected Member support with Ward based consultation
Underpinned by the National Objectives/Outcomes
Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland 2013
Single Outcome Agreements & **Community Planning**
Direct links to local needs

Most common Operational Activity types.

1. False Alarm (UFAS)
2. False Alarm (Good Intent)
3. Chimney Fire
4. False Alarm (Dwelling)
5. Outdoor Fire
6. Dwelling Fire
7. RTC
8. Vehicle Fire
9. Other Building Fire
10. Flooding
11. Animal Assistance
12. Other Primary Fire
13. Assist other Agency
14. Release of Persons (not RTC)
15. Refuse Fire
16. False Alarm (Malicious)
17. Hazardous Materials

HFSV – Primary tool for preventing fires in the home (and going forward expanding to general safety such as falls assessments.)

A HFSV may be defined as: 'A comprehensive assessment carried out by a trained assessor, which examines the levels of fire risk within the home. It provides a means to mitigate the risk through the provision of guidance, advice and, if required, the installation of long life battery operated smoke and heat alarm(s).'

A HFSV consists of:

- Assessing the chance (probability) of fire occurring
- Considering the consequences (severity) to occupants and neighbours should a fire occur undetected
- Utilising a risk assessment methodology to take account of health of the occupants, lifestyle, fire hazards, home environment and layout of dwellings
- Testing of existing smoke alarms, fitting of replacement and/or additional alarms to ensure adequate provision throughout dwellings
- Providing a heat alarm if appropriate
- Establishing referral systems to facilitate effective liaison with partners to advise and inform them of any notable risk or emerging trends
- Recording data within CSET