



Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service

PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING

East Lothian Community Safety Partnership

Partners Report

28th April 2009

Moira Richardson
Group Manager
East Lothian
moira.richardson@lbfire.org.uk

Geoff Aird
Group Manager
Community Safety
Service Headquarters
geoff.aird@lbfire.org.uk

Mike Partington
Group Manager
Community Safety
Service Headquarters
michael.partington@lbfire.org.uk

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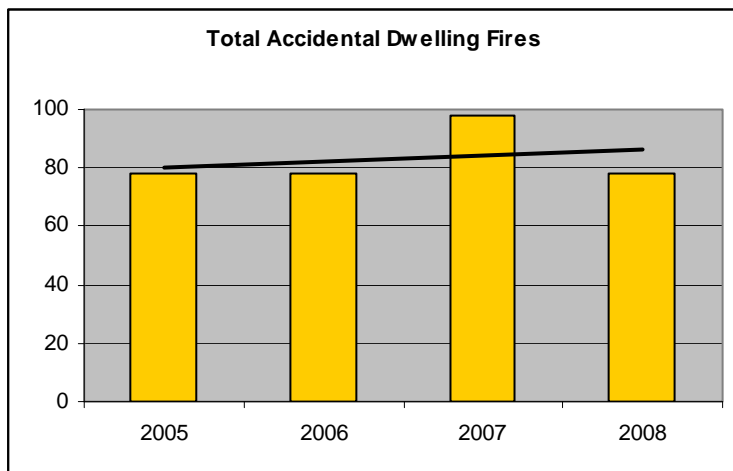
Introduction

This report contains statistics and analysis for fire-related activities in East Lothian over a 4-year period (April to April) and all of 2008.

1. Fire Activity

Accidental Dwelling Fires

Total accidental dwelling fires 2005/6	78
Total accidental dwelling fires 2006/7	78
Total accidental dwelling fires 2007/8	98
Total accidental dwelling fires 2008/9	78



YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES
2007	4	21
YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL ACCIDENTAL DWELLING FIRES
2008	1	19
2008	2	14
2008	3	23
2008	4	22

2008	Total	78
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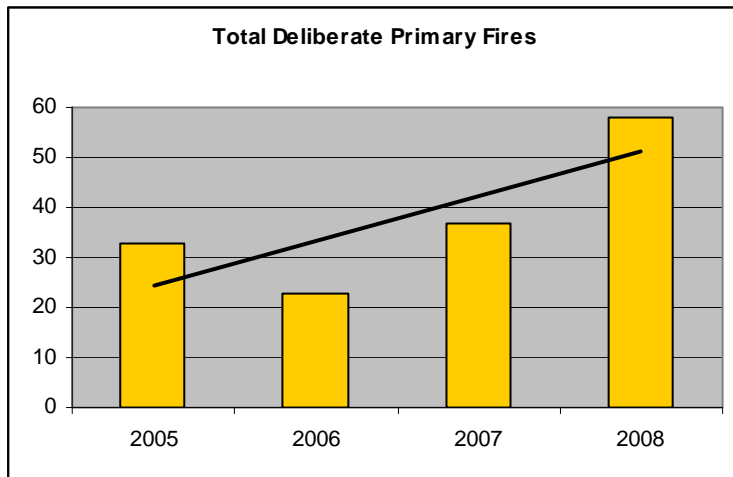
Analysis

There has been a 5% increase in accidental dwelling fires compared to the same period last year.

2. Deliberate Fires

2(a) Deliberate Primary Fires

Total deliberate primary fires 2005/6	33
Total deliberate primary fires 2006/7	23
Total deliberate primary fires 2007/8	37
Total deliberate primary fires 2008/9	58



YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES
2007	4	4
YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL DELIBERATE PRIMARY FIRES
2008	1	8
2008	2	25
2008	3	18
2008	4	7

2008	Total	58
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Analysis

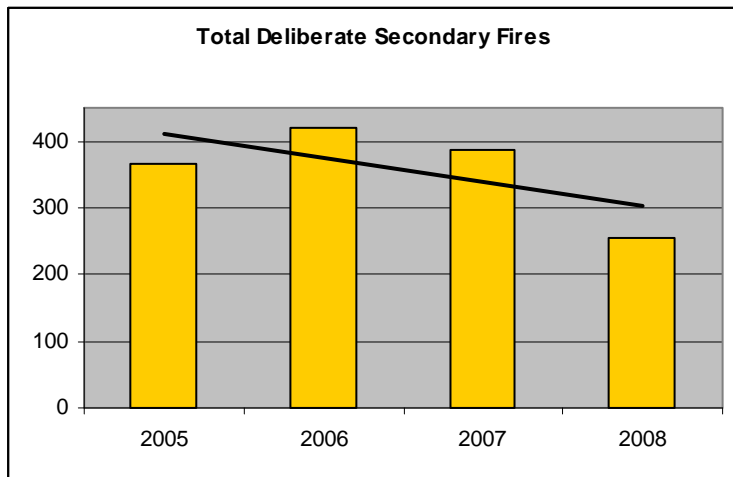
There has been a 75% increase in deliberate primary fires compared to the same period last year.

Although this figure appears alarming at first glance, the following should be noted: -

When Watch Managers complete the fire report (FDR 1) for Primary fires they have to decide between Accidental, Deliberate or Malicious for the most likely cause. The difference between deliberate and malicious is a grey area, and in the past, it has been down to the Watch Manager's discretion. However guidance states that 'malicious' should only be chosen where 'malicious ignition is beyond reasonable doubt'. New guidance has suggested that to do this the Watch Manager would have to know the 'state of mind' of the individual starting the fire. This would of course be impossible and up to a court of law to decide, therefore Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service is including what used to be both deliberate and malicious in to 'Deliberate Primary Fires.

2(b) Deliberate Secondary Fires (East Lothian)

Total deliberate secondary fires 2005/6	365
Total deliberate secondary fires 2006/7	419
Total deliberate secondary fires 2007/8	387
Total deliberate secondary fires 2008/9	256



YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL DELIBERATE SECONDARY FIRES
2007	4	59
YEAR	QUARTER	TOTAL DELIBERATE SECONDARY FIRES
2008	1	75
2008	2	66
2008	3	76
2008	4	39

2008	Total	256
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These fires are wide ranging in their type and nature – bins, fields, bonfires, rubbish etc. Although often minor in nature they do pose a problem to the communities in which they occur and can be a real nuisance. The incidence of secondary fires is also dependent upon several external factors – weather conditions can reduce or exaggerate the incidence of outside fires especially those occurring in grassland or fields and unfortunately the schools holidays also tend to have an impact, particularly regarding fire-related anti-social behaviour.

Analysis

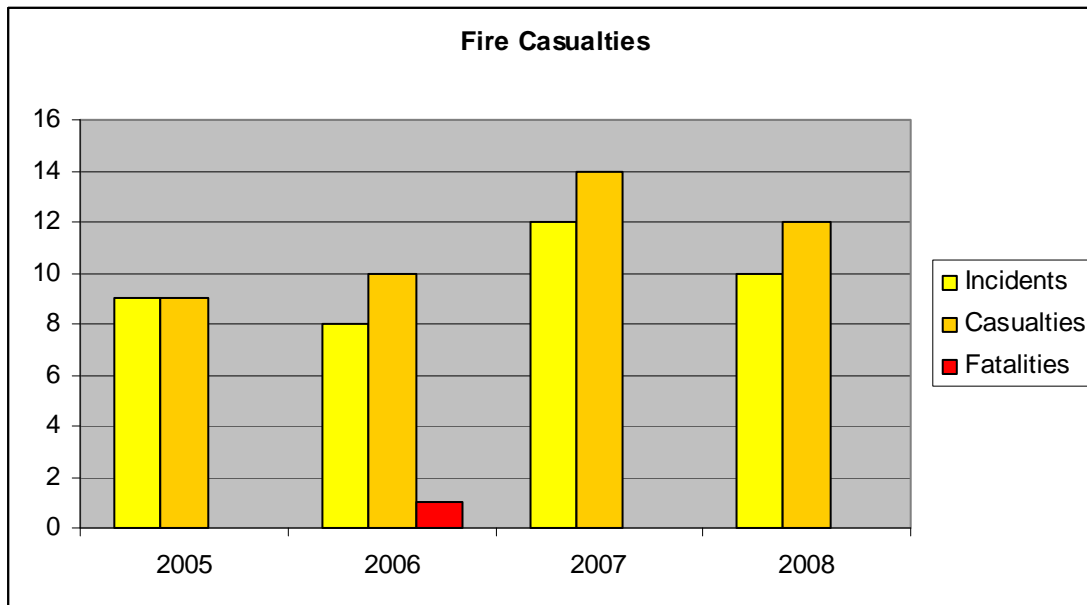
There has been a 34% decrease in deliberate secondary fires compared to the same period last year.

It is very encouraging to see this type of fire on the decrease. Stations in the area have been busy trying to tackle deliberate secondary fires with a range of initiatives. Watch managers now have access to statistical data that allows them to analysis these type of fires in their station area and pro actively tackle this issue.

3. Fire Casualty Statistics

The following table and chart indicate the total figures for the past four years.

Fire Casualty Statistics	2005/6 Total	2006/7 Total	2007/8 Total	2008/9 Total
Incidents	9	8	12	10
Casualties	9	10	14	12
Fatalities	0	1	0	0



YEAR	QUARTER	Incidents
2007	4	1
YEAR	QUARTER	Incidents
2008	1	1
2008	2	2
2008	3	5
2008	4	2

2008	Total	10
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YEAR	QUARTER	Casualties
2007	4	1
YEAR	QUARTER	Casualties
2008	1	1
2008	2	2
2008	3	7
2008	4	2

2008	Total	12
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YEAR	QUARTER	Fatalities
2007	4	0
YEAR	QUARTER	Fatalities
2008	1	0
2008	2	0
2008	3	0
2008	4	0

2008	Total	0
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4. Home Safety Check programme

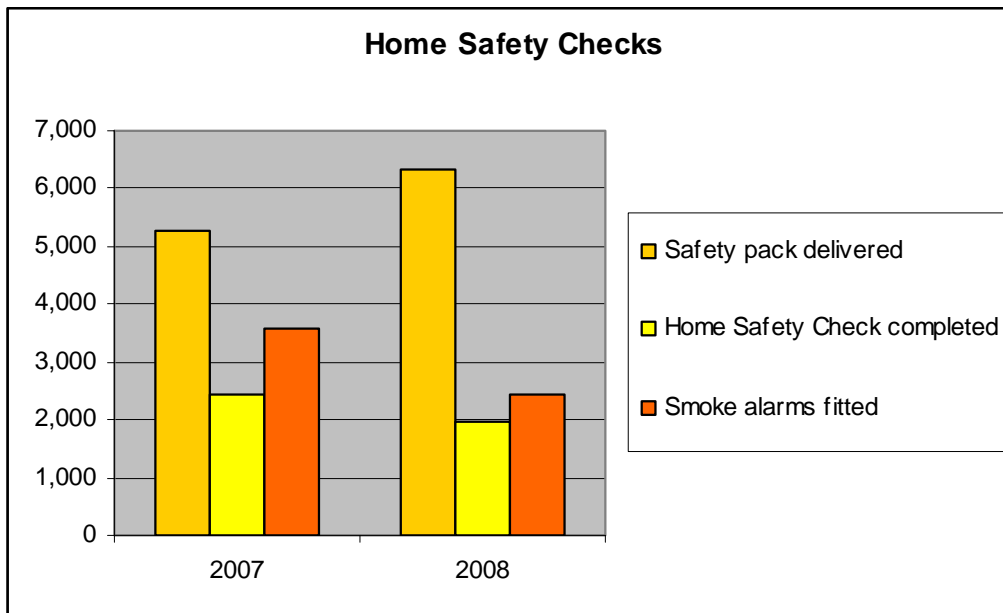
The home safety check programme continues helping make people safer in their homes. The following figures show performance over the last two years.

Home Safety Check Total – 2007/8

Safety pack delivered	5,275
Full Home Safety check completed	2,456
Smoke alarms fitted	3,576

Home Safety Check Total – 2008/9

Safety pack delivered	6,324
Full Home Safety check completed	1,984
Smoke alarms fitted	2,423



YEAR	QUARTER	Safety Packs Delivered
2007	4	1,514
YEAR	QUARTER	Safety Packs Delivered
2008	1	1,568
2008	2	1,861
2008	3	1,221
2008	4	1,674

2008	Total	6,324
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There has been a 10% increase in the number of safety packs delivered to homes compared to the same period last year.

YEAR	QUARTER	Completed HSCs
2007	4	608
YEAR	QUARTER	Completed HSCs
2008	1	511
2008	2	456
2008	3	468
2008	4	549

2008	Total	1,984
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There has been a 10% decrease in completed home safety checks compared to the same period last year.

YEAR	QUARTER	Smoke Alarms Fitted
2007	4	839
YEAR	QUARTER	Smoke Alarms Fitted
2008	1	615
2008	2	534
2008	3	567
2008	4	707

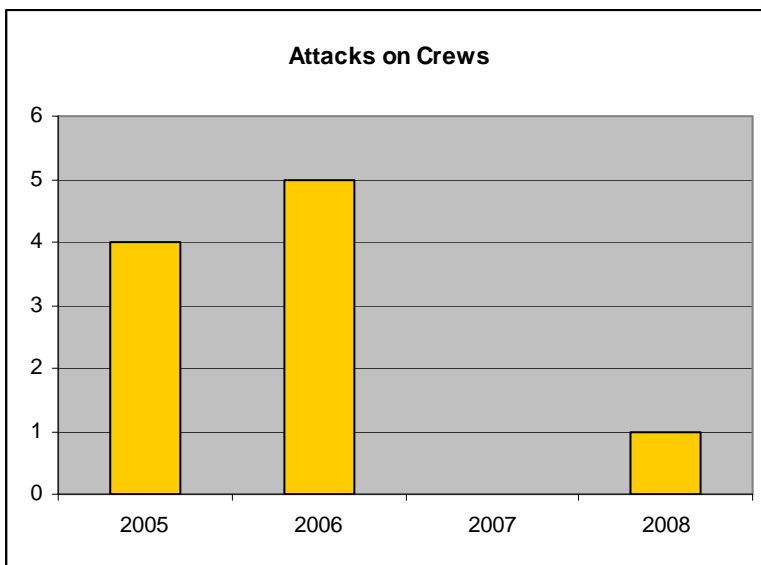
2008	Total	2,423
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There has been a 16% decrease in smoke alarms fitted compared to the same period last year.

5. Violence to crews

This is a real problem for the service as a whole and has been for a number of years now. Attack methods are many and varied ranging from verbal abuse to the use of missiles, various weapons and spitting to name but a few. East Lothian does not have a serious problem with attacks on Fire Crews.

YEAR	ATTACKS ON CREWS
2005/6	4
2006/7	5
2007/8	0
2008/9	1



YEAR	QUARTER	ATTACKS ON CREWS
2007	4	0
YEAR	QUARTER	ATTACKS ON CREWS
2008	1	0
2008	2	1
2008	3	0
2008	4	0

2008	Total	1
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6. Youth Activities: Cooldown Crew / Firesetting Programme

The **Cooldown Crew** works with disaffected young people. To date there have been 9 successful Cooldown Crew courses in East Lothian.

COOLDOWN CREW		Number of Programmes	Total Attending
2008	Q1	1	8
2008	Q2	1	10
2008	Q3	1	10
2008	Q4	1	10

2008	Total	4	38
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The **One-to-One Firesetting Intervention Programme** was set up in 1991, to address the growing instances of children and young people becoming involved in fire-play / fire setting behaviour. Specially-trained Community Safety Fire Safety Officers meet the child at an appropriate location where the young person will feel comfortable. A one-to-one counselling session can then take place. The parents(s)/guardian/relevant person is always contacted first to gain permission for the meeting.

Firesetting Intervention Programme		Number of counselling sessions
2008	Q4	1
2008	Total	3

7. Visits & Events

The number of visits carried out, and events attended, reflects the extent to which Lothian and Borders Fire & Rescue Service interacts with the community at large.

Visits by members of the public include group outings to fire stations and visits to the Museum of Fire. Station Crews participate through fire appliance visits to community events such as gala days and fairs, as well as outings to schools, nurseries and numerous other community groups composed of people from all backgrounds. Community Firefighters visit groups on request to give fire safety talks.

Events attended by appliances and by the Community Safety Vehicle range from the large scale, such as the Aberlady and Wallyford Gala Days, to smaller events like high school health fairs. All ages as well as social and ethnic groups are therefore interacting with the Fire Service and being provided with fire safety information.

YEAR	QUARTER	VISITS AND EVENTS
2008	1	38
2008	2	23
2008	3	24
2008	4	28

2008	Total	113
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