

Home Safety Awareness

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Prevention & Protection

Can this be avoided?



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Lives lost

Since the formation
of the SFRS

205



people have lost their
lives in fires

**159
(78%)**

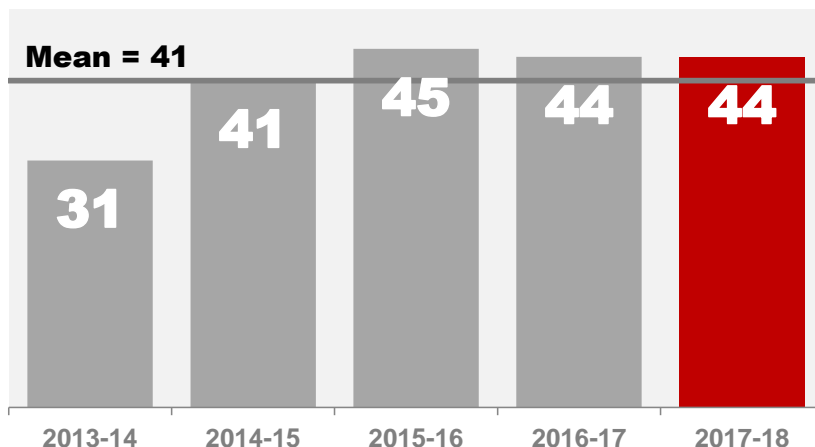
of fatalities were regarded
as being preventable



In 2017/18, this was the
equivalent of nearly
4 people per month losing
their lives

Since 2013/14, **205** people have lost their lives in fires. In 2017/18, 44 people lost their lives, which is **7% above the 5 year average**.

The 5 year average is **16% lower** overall than the **10 year average**.



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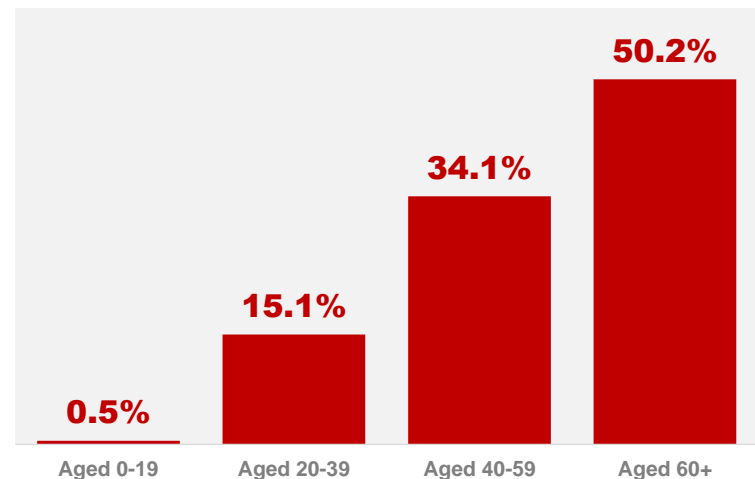
Who is most at risk from a fire in the home?

- Older people
- People with physical and mental health issues including dementia or cognitive impairment
- People with a visual and/or a hearing impairment
- People dependent on drugs and/or alcohol
- People who smoke
- People who live in our most deprived communities
- People who live alone or live in an isolated or rural community
- People who hoard or live in heavily cluttered households

Scotland Together Report 2009

Who's most at risk?

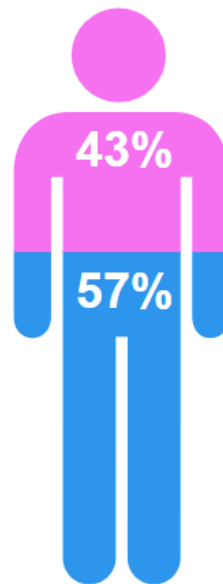
Of the total number of fire deaths recorded between 2013/14 and 2017/18, over **50%** were aged **60 years and over**.



Over half



of fire deaths
were people aged
over 60



2013/14
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18
Total

Male Female

13 18

24 17

27 18

28 16

25 19

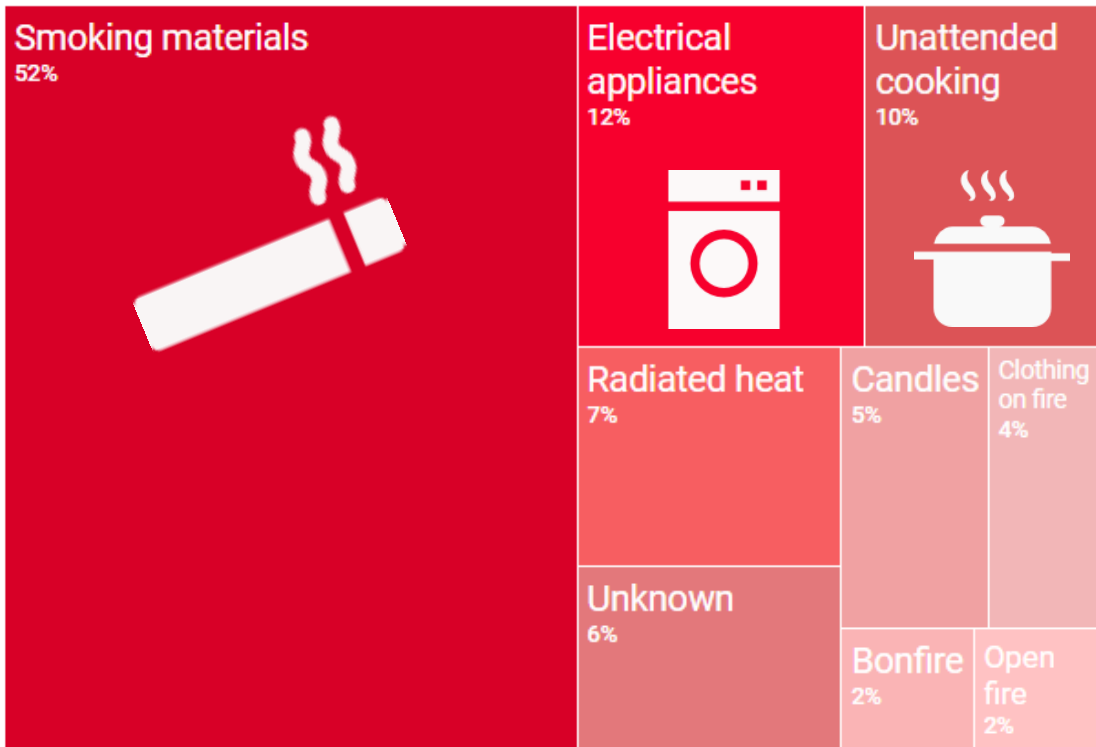
117 88

Of the 205 people who have died in fire related incidents over the last 5 years,
57% were male.



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What are the causes of fatal fires?



During the **five year period**, the single highest identified primary cause of fatal fires was attributed to **smoking materials**, which account for **52%** of preventable fire deaths across Scotland.

In 2017/18, 43% of fatal fires were attributed to smoking materials, **9% less** than the 5 year average.

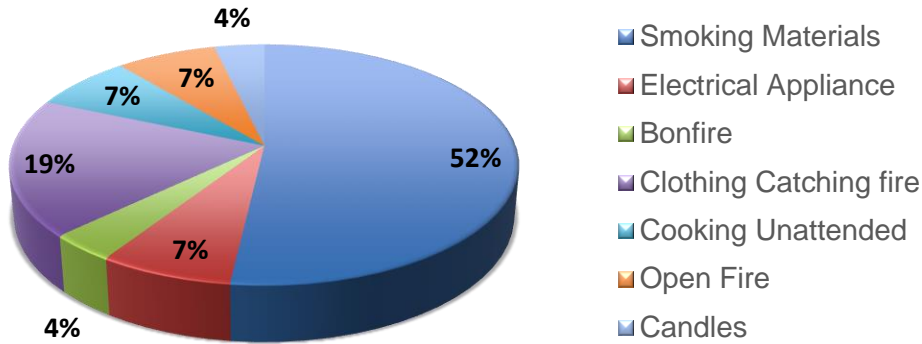
In terms of other contributory factors, during 2017/18, it has been identified that the most common factors contributing to fire fatalities were:

- A **smoker** within the house
- Person living **alone**
- People with **health issues** (medicated)
- Persons under the influence of **alcohol**
- People with **mental health** issues
- People with **mobility** issues

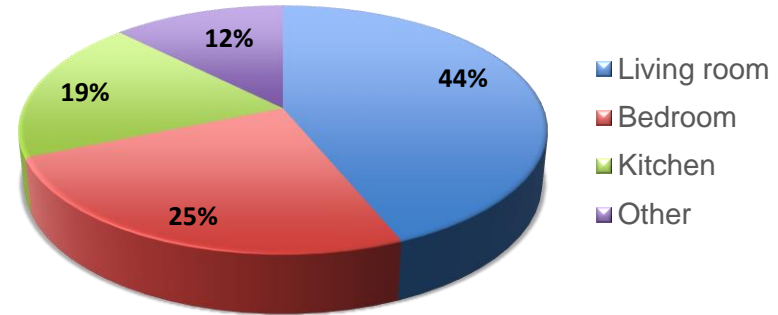


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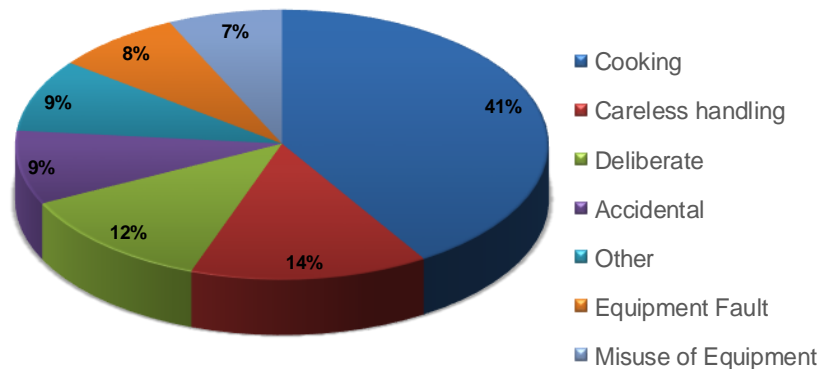
Cause of Fatal Fires



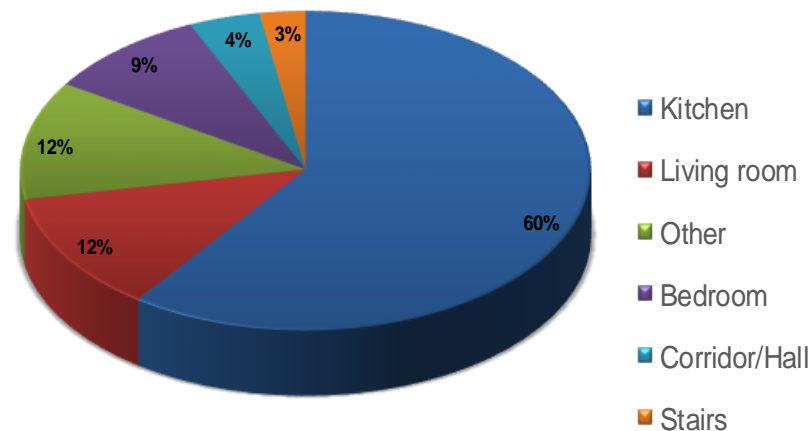
Room of Origin



Cause of Casualties Fires

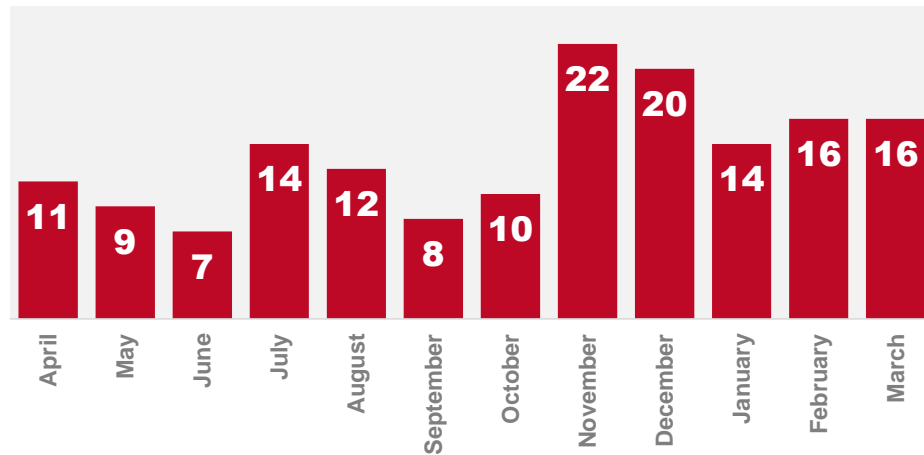
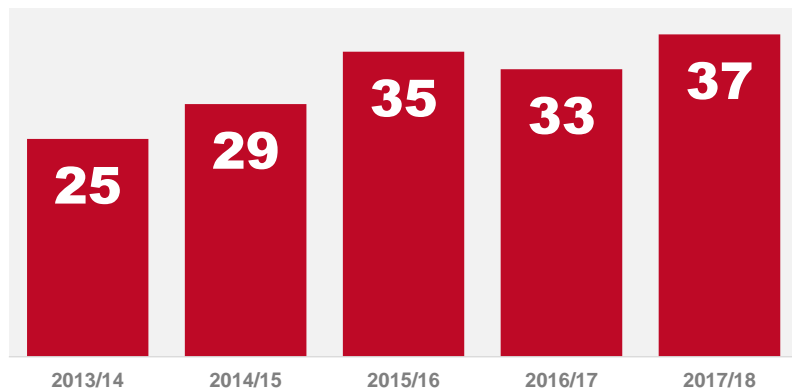


Room of Origin



Preventable deaths

In 2017/18 the **highest number** of preventable fire deaths were recorded since the formation of the SFRS.



Winter months are more likely to contribute towards fire fatalities, with over a quarter of preventable fire deaths happening in November and December between 2013/14 and 2017/18



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Events prior to Fire & Rescue attendance

- Typical small flatted property within residential area.
- Single elderly /disabled occupant.
- Heavy smoker with above average alcohol consumption.
- Provided with significant supported care due to levels of disablement.
- Evidence of poor fire safety.
- No prior referral to Fire Service.



What is the Issue?



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Sequence of Events

- Elderly woman pushing walking aid while balancing a small tray with lit cigarettes and ashtray.
- The reduced mobility and motor skills of the householder caused the tray to be dislodged from the walking aid.
- Setting fire to house coat, rubber grips on the walker and the living room carpet.
- Householder loses her balance and falls, smashing glass insert in coffee table



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Post Fire Investigation



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Post Fire Investigation



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Community Care & Support in Place

- Significant levels of home support from primary and secondary providers.
- Installed community alarm. No link to smoke detectors.

**WOULD YOU HAVE MADE
A REFERRAL TO THE FIRE
AND RESCUE SERVICE ?**



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Partnership Working

Working together to reduce the risk of fire,
and improve the safety and wellbeing of the
people we care for.

John's Story



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04/08/2011



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Safety. Teamwork. Respect. Innovation.



04/08/2011



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09/09/2011



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Conclusions

- Be aware of the threat from fire, based on the home environment, health and lifestyle of the householder.
- Utilise the skills and experiences of partner agencies to reduce risks within households.
- Refer to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service or contact your local Community Fire Station to discuss particular concerns or for further advice and guidance.
- www.firescotland.gov.uk Visit website for contact numbers and further fire safety advice. Fire Safety leaflets can also be downloaded.

Current Position

**HOME FIRE
SAFETY VISITS**

70,744

HOME FIRE
SAFETY VISITS
2016-17



37%

HFSVs to homes with
above or **well above**
average risk level

57,899

smoke alarms installed
across SCOTLAND



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What does a HFSV consist of ?

- Carrying out an assessment of the fire risk present in a home and providing householders with relevant fire safety information
- Testing existing smoke and heat alarms and providing additional alarms if necessary
- Establishing referral systems to facilitate effective liaison with partners and allow information sharing

Current Position

Home Fire Safety Visits

- Assessment of fire risk, provision of advice and information
- Fitting of smoke and heat detection and issuing other resources
- Referrals and signposting
- Limited ability to report on wider activity, no consistent approach
- Targeting could be improved – 80% fire fatalities are known by partners
- Training.

Financial Costs of Deaths in the Home

- Between £1.3 and £1.6 million
- In recent years fire deaths have fluctuated between 40 – 45 annually
- 1,250 to 1,400 deaths are due to unintentional harm.

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Guidance & Analysis

SFRS Casualty Analysis

- Smoking
- Unattended Cooking
- Winter Months
- Age over 60 under 5
- Mental Health
- Hoarding
- Reduce Mobility
- Physical Disability
- Poor Health
- Prescribed Medication
- Living Alone
- Alcohol
- Addiction Issues
- Deprivation

CFOA Guidance

- Fire Safety
- Health
- Mental Health
- Sensory Impairment
- Loneliness/ Social Isolation
- Smoking
- Alcohol and Drugs
- Prescription Medicines
- Hoarding
- Safety of under 5's
- Employment
- Home Security
- Consent

Strategic Assessment of Unintentional Harm

- Approx. 1,400 deaths per year
- Falls most significant cause of death (42%)
- Falls significant issue for elderly and under 5's
- 1/3rd of Incidents within Home/Garden
- Areas of increased deprivation:
 - More likely to experience incident
- The under 5's
 - Falls/Burns & Scalds
 - Poisonings
- The over 65's:
 - Falls/ Affect of Loneliness & Isolation
 - Projected increase
 - Single Occupancy Homes



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How many alarms are required to meet new standards?

The standard by February 2021 requires:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm in every kitchen
- Co Alarm if required – **ALL INTERLINKED**

QUESTIONS?



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