



Report for 1998-1999



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE





SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
Justice Department

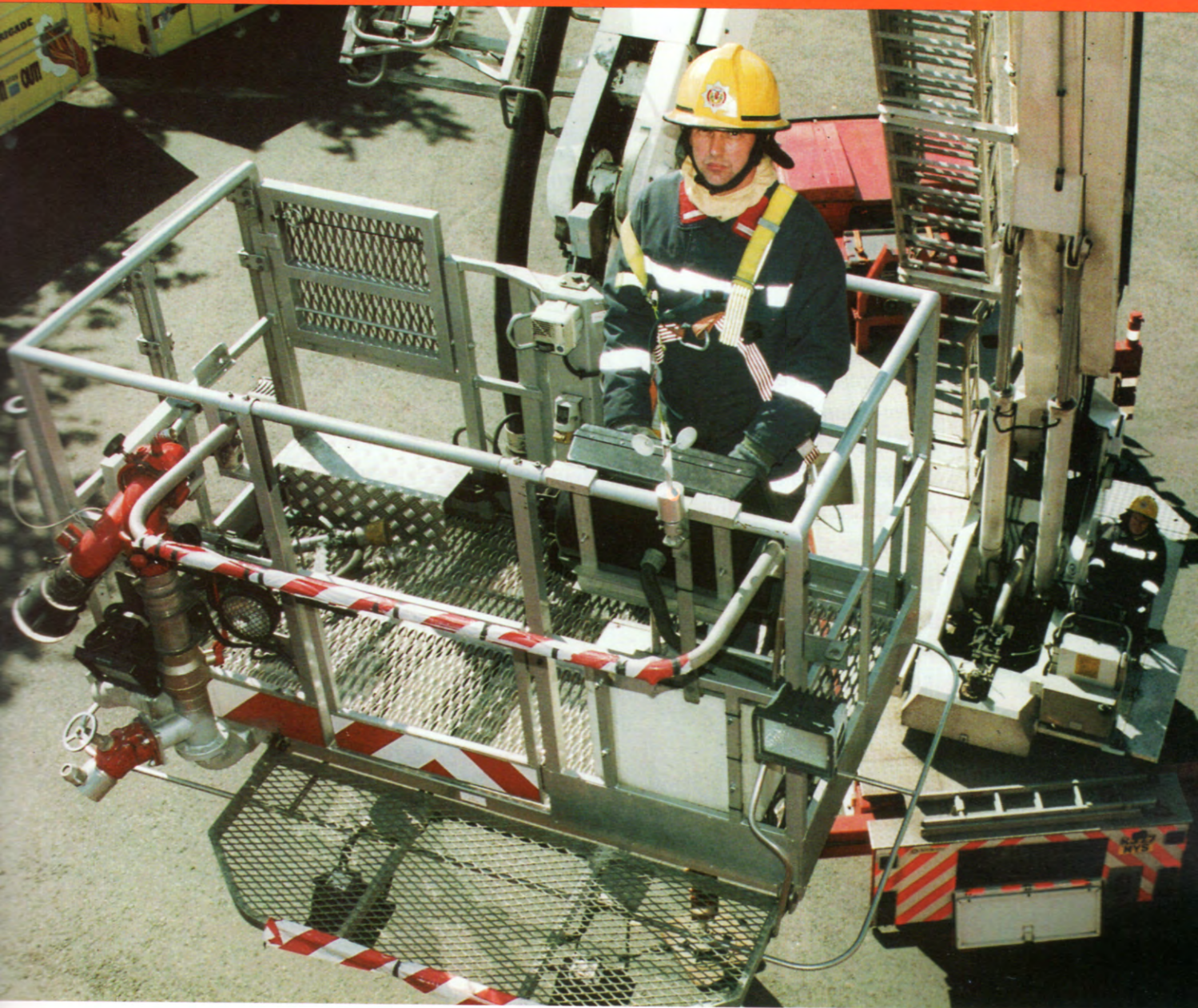
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

Report for 1998 - 99

Presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1999

Laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers
November 1999

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
Fire Department



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Introduction



Annual Report of
D T Davis Esq. OBE OSjt QFSM CEng CIMgt FIFireE(Life) MInstE
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland

To: Jim Wallace
Deputy First Minister and Minister for Justice

Sir

1. I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the 8 fire brigades in Scotland for the financial year ended 1998-99. This is the first such Report I have had the pleasure of submitting since taking office as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services. As was the case with prior publications, this document provides an objective review of service delivery to the public by the fire brigades in Scotland.
2. HM Inspectorate of Fire Services is charged with examining and improving the efficiency, effectiveness and standards of the Fire Service in Scotland, and the ways in which it provides a service to the public. The aim of our team is to promote a high quality of service and value for money objectives which take full account of public expectations, in accordance with the principles set out in the Citizen's Charter, and inspire public confidence.
3. Brigade Inspection Reports have hitherto been submitted to the Secretary of State and, in accordance with the new constitutional arrangements, will from now on be submitted to the Minister of the Scottish Executive responsible for fire service matters. In line with our commitment to openness all Reports are published. They aim to:
 - i. inform the public about the performance of their fire service;
 - ii. draw brigade achievements and good practice to notice;
 - iii. identify publicly the scope for improvement;
 - iv. help accelerate improved value for money in the fire service; and
 - v. promote greater public awareness of the Inspectorate's role and function.
4. Information gathering begins each year with the receipt from brigades of statistics covering many aspects of their performance, operations and administrative matters. This includes staffing, recruitment, training, equal opportunities, buildings, vehicles and fire safety and the arrangements in place for dealing with complaints from the public.
5. Hitherto inspections have been undertaken of all 8 Scottish brigades each year. The Inspectorate carries out a full 'primary' inspection of 4 of the brigades, with the remaining 4 undergoing an 'intermediate' inspection. The 'intermediate' inspection checks that action has been taken on recommendations from previous inspections and looks at any changes which have occurred since the previous 'primary' inspection was carried out.
6. The duration of an inspection will depend on the size and the nature of the brigade concerned and whether it is a 'primary' or an 'intermediate' inspection. Inspections are normally undertaken by myself along with the HM Inspector, the Senior Assistant Inspector and the Lay Inspector, and consist of:

- i. visits to fire stations and other brigade premises;
- ii. discussions with senior officers on various aspects of the brigade's performance;
- iii. pre-planned fire station drills and exercises; and
- iv. meetings with representatives of staff associations.

At the conclusion of an inspection, the team undertakes to discuss preliminary findings with the Firemaster.

7. A leaflet entitled 'The Role of HM Inspectorate of Fire Services', which gives further background to the principles and job of the Inspectorate, is available from the Fire Service Inspectorate.

8. The current establishment of the Fire Service Inspectorate is as follows:

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services	1;
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire Services	1;
Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services	1;
Assistant Inspector of Fire Services	2;
Lay Inspector (part-time)	1;
Administration Manager	1;
CAD Operator	1;
Personal Secretary	1; and
Typist	1.

9. The Inspectors in post are:



HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services

**Dennis T Davis OBE OStJ QFSM CEng CIMgt FIFireE(Life)
MInstE**

Appointed: 1 June 1999

Formerly: Chief Fire Officer,
Cheshire Fire Brigade, 1986 - 1999



HM Inspector of Fire Services

Allan Smith Whitton QFSM GIFireE

Appointed: 29 April 1996

Formerly: Deputy Firemaster,
Central Scotland Fire Brigade, 1984 - 1996



Senior Assistant Inspector of Fire Services

Charles George Newcombe Stewart

Appointed: 6 March 1995

Formerly: Senior Divisional Officer,
Strathclyde Fire Brigade, 1992 - 1995



Assistant Inspector of Fire Services (Crown Inspection)

Graham Donald Goodall BSc MIFireE

Appointed: 9 May 1994

Formerly: Station Officer,
Merseyside Fire Brigade, 1987 - 1994



Assistant Inspector of Fire Services (Crown Inspection)

Duncan Carrick

Appointed: 28 April 1997

Formerly: Divisional Officer II
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade, 1991 - 1994



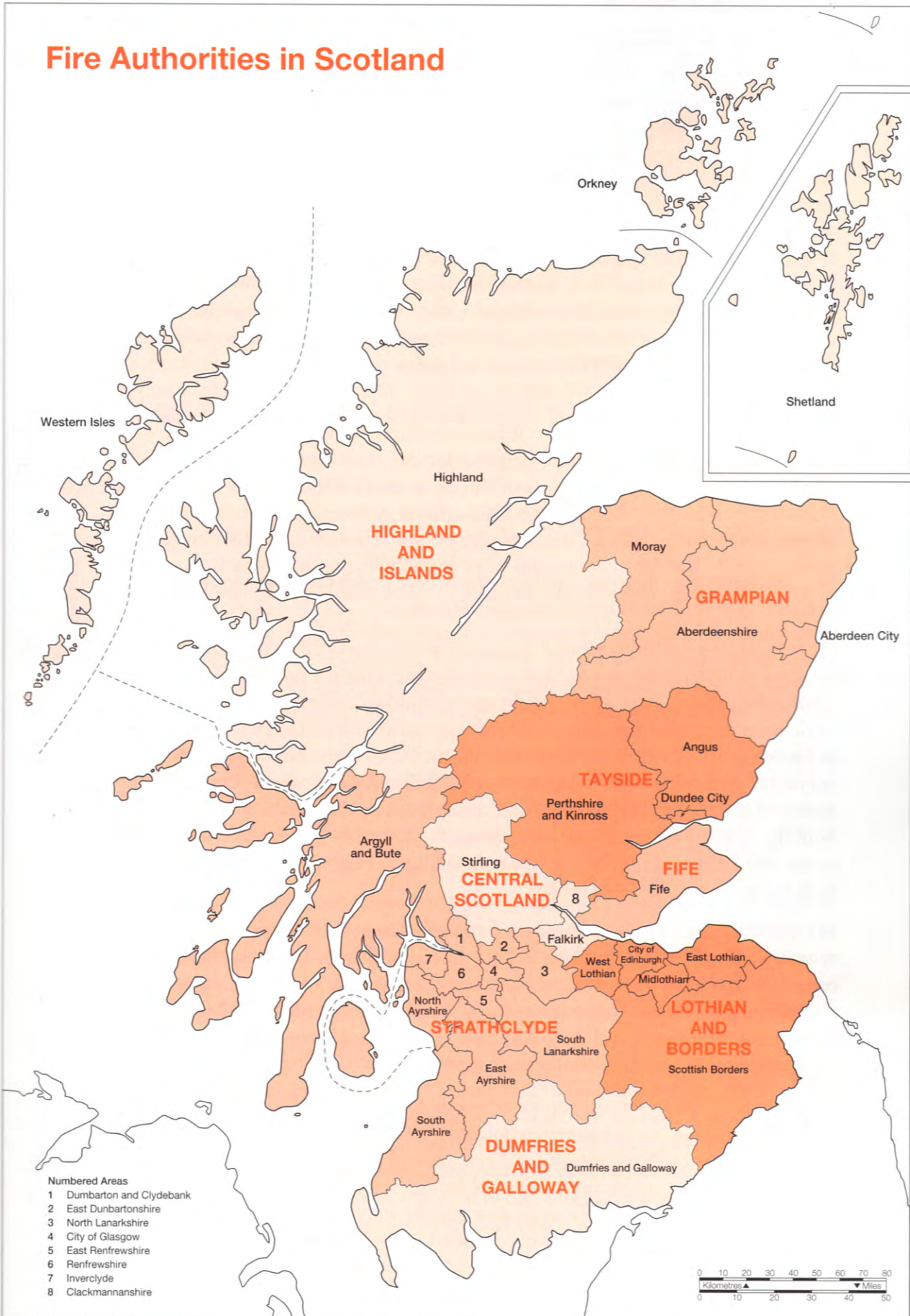
Lay Inspector of Fire Services (Part time)

David Dick OBE DIC CEng FIEE

Appointed: 12 October 1994

Formerly: Principal, Stevenson College of Further
Education, Edinburgh 1969 - 1987

Fire Authorities in Scotland



Introductory Remarks

10. I assumed my responsibilities as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for Scotland on 1 June 1999 and this Report substantially reflects the leadership and energy of my well respected colleague, Neil Morrison, who retired on 31 March 1999 after a distinguished service of over 37 years, the last 5 as Chief Inspector. Neil Morrison had been the Firemaster of Grampian Fire Brigade for 8 years before joining the Inspectorate. After joining he devoted himself to reshaping the organisation to meet the challenges that were confronting the fire service. His previous experience included being present in Aberdeen at the time of the offshore disaster of Piper Alpha in 1988 in which 167 people died. This reinforced for him the important issue of safety. This commitment was demonstrated 10 years later in 1998 when, at the International Fire Conference in Glasgow, the Minister then responsible for fire service matters, Henry McLeish, was able to launch the UK National Guidance on Operational Risk Assessment for Health and Safety for the fire service.

11. This important work which Neil Morrison led had involved a considerable effort across Scotland, with support from Grampian Fire Brigade, the Scottish Fire Service Training School, the Fire Brigades Union, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association, the Home Office and the Health and Safety Executive. The work published by The Scottish Office has now been introduced into all UK brigades and provides a fitting tribute to the efforts of the previous Chief Inspector.

12. I therefore take this opportunity to thank Neil for his contribution and to wish him and his wife, Kath, a long and happy retirement.

13. On joining the Inspectorate I was immediately impressed by the way this small group of individuals has managed to accommodate what is a pressing Government agenda of change. There is little doubt that considerable effort has been demanded by Government of the public services. The issues of Modernising Local Government and seeking to improve performance through the Best Value initiative are particularly relevant, but there are also other issues and challenges, not least a Review of the Structure of Police and Fire Services in Scotland, and also national initiatives derived from the 1997/98 Comprehensive Spending Review, the 1995 Audit Commission report, the 1998 service response "Out of the Line of Fire" and the 1997 Fire Safety Task Force report "Safe As Houses".

14. All of these initiatives demand time and effort from both fire authority and fire brigade staff and the Fire Service Inspectorate as it seeks to maintain the essential communication between Government and those meeting the various demands placed upon their organisations in Scotland. This Report also demonstrates that fire authorities, Firemasters and their staff have worked hard to ensure that the public are provided with a service of a high standard.

15. People are the key to any success and within the staffing area it will be seen that fire brigades are at or near their wholetime staffing levels. Serious difficulties continue to exist with recruitment and retention of retained firefighters and this is particularly important to most Scottish brigades. Similarly, in the volunteer firefighter establishment, difficulties arise and the response has also not been quite as forthcoming as brigades would have wished in the area of diversity, particularly female recruitment, despite their efforts. Medical retirements also continue to grow, creating further pressure in human resource management.

16. Operational activity levels are generally continuing to fall following the trend of previous years, although false alarms still give cause for concern, with the high percentage they represent of all activity. Despite this trend the work which has been ongoing by brigades to reduce malicious false alarms and those caused by fire detection apparatus has been successful, with the trend decreasing year on year. The continuing growth of road traffic accidents is also illustrated within the Report and it is pleasing to see brigades are continuing to equip and gain new skills to meet this continuing demand. A worrying growth activity is that of wilful fire raising, which again this year shows no sign of abatement.

17. Within the fire safety education area the Report contains many fine examples of the excellent work now being undertaken across Scotland. This work, primarily aimed at those most vulnerable in society, has witnessed further growth in active fire detection within domestic premises, through the use of smoke detectors. It is disappointing to record, however, that despite these efforts fire deaths in the reported period actually rose to 96, which is 7 more than the previous year, and that the majority of these deaths occurred outside the sleeping hours of 11 p.m. till 7 a.m.

18. The Report draws the conclusion that the majority of deaths in domestic premises do show that the casualty had suffered from alcohol or drug abuse. This in turn shows why it is essential for the fire service to work with other agencies, in partnership, if deaths from fire are to be reduced still further. Preventable deaths create casualties and not the victims of some unavoidable accident. Greater effort will be required if these unnecessary tragic losses are to be avoided.

19. Fire safety has also embarked, using the techniques of risk assessment, on a more flexible use of its resources. As a consequence, the number of inspections within residential and non-residential premises has declined by nearly 30% and I hope the released staff can be redirected into a wider range of preventative strategies.

20. The fire service continued to use its best endeavours to seek enforcement of fire safety legislation through co-operation and persuasion without resort to the courts and it is pleasing to note that on only 5 occasions did brigades find it necessary to seek court orders and on only 6 occasions did they use their powers to prohibit particular uses of premises for fire safety reasons.

21. The key to successfully meeting these challenges has been the 8 Scottish brigades. The Inspection process, which is designed to provide assurance to the public, has again confirmed all brigades' positive approach to meeting the demands placed upon the fire service from many directions. Firemasters, in seeking to not just respond but to actively pursue objectives, are, I feel, demonstrating the best endeavours of public service. The Inspectorate, through its review of the managerial and organisational arrangements within brigades, seeks to introduce a supportive, yet questioning dimension into brigade thinking. This in turn encourages, I believe, best practice by adding to the dissemination of lessons and observations reached between individual brigades. The pursuit of greater efficiency and smarter working will require Firemasters to be even more proactive in developing strategies for their fire authorities. These strategies will need to take account of the inevitable financial constraints and demand for increased services which will exist in the medium term future.

22. Some key indicators of the reviewed operating environment in the Report are:

- ◆ deaths from fire were below the 10 year average (96 this year as against an average of 109 for the period);
- ◆ continued emphasis on employee fire safety through the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997;
- ◆ reduced levels of non-statutory inspections (27.8%) reflecting the use of risk assessment by brigade fire safety departments to help identify those premises most requiring attention;
- ◆ extensive development of community fire safety through projects, publicity, sponsored initiatives, training programmes, partnership events, Internet education schemes, domestic sprinkler trials, Crucial Crew and other 'Better Citizen' activities. Thousands of children, young and older adults in Scotland have experienced these fire service events;
- ◆ improved learning for firefighters about fire behaviour under realistic circumstances at the new facilities provided at the Scottish Fire Service Training School in Gullane;
- ◆ safer operating circumstances for firefighters through the provision of vehicles with better ergonomic stowage and safety cabs, new personal protective equipment, premise improvements and operational equipment;
- ◆ increased consultative working arising from changes in the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council and the joint committees;
- ◆ a reduction in operational demand (down 4.1% on last year to 103,976) including the pleasing fall in malicious false alarms (down 34.8% over 5 years) and good intent false alarms (14.3% lower than last year), although a continuing rise in the use of fire service skills and equipment in non-fire incidents (up 7.3% and reflecting a growth in attendance at road traffic accidents).

23. The Report also highlights some of the on-going demands which are facing fire authorities, such as the requirements to change radio apparatus. It is right that the fire service should seek to use technology in its widest sense to help fight fire, although a direct consequence of this approach is the escalating capital costs involved in the provision of such equipment. Similar demands are placed upon the acquisition of skills by fire brigade personnel and this inevitably introduced further pressures on brigades' training budgets.

24. The issue of funding pressure on fire authorities is not new. What is new is the different environment, following the establishment of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Executive, in which the discussions will occur. Clearly the provision of an effective fire service, delivering a high quality service to communities throughout Scotland, is a public goal. Meeting that goal and satisfying the other priorities placed upon local government has always been a challenging situation. The fire service, in seeking to modernise whilst continuing to provide the respected service expected by the public, will need to be especially innovative and clear thinking about how it uses its resources. Overall the 1998-99 fire service Grant Aided Expenditure was £170m, an increase of 3.66% over the previous year.

25. It is with these ideas in mind that I decided it was necessary to review the working processes of the Fire Service Inspectorate so that it may better reflect the requirements placed upon it by the public. The task has therefore now begun to re-examine the established priorities and business approach so as to ensure that the Inspectorate does make its own contribution to the new Parliament and Executive. The task will be undertaken with the assistance of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, the Fire Brigades' Union, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association and colleagues within the Scottish Executive Justice Department. The review will seek to take account of the initiatives already mentioned and of a number of others which are particularly important to the fire service.

26. Health and safety, changes in fire service training, review of risk assessment methods, millennium planning, diversity and fairness in the workplace, establishment of a national centre for community fire safety and closer working with other agencies to promote a safer society have direct impact upon the working arrangements. It is hoped that these issues can be so incorporated into a new working process that is seen as both relevant and supportive of fire service development in Scotland. My aim is to ensure that the Fire Service Inspectorate contributes to the common goal of making our community safer from fire.



Section A
General



Developments in 1998-99

Devolution

1. Perhaps the most significant event in 1998-99 was the enactment of the Scotland Act 1998. The creation of a Scottish Parliament with devolved legislative competence and a Scottish Executive with a wide range of devolved functions has altered the framework of public administration in a very fundamental way.
2. So far as concerns the fire service, the intention was that legislative competence in respect of all matters covered by the Fire Services Act 1947 and general fire safety legislation should be devolved to the Scottish Parliament, and that all relevant Ministerial functions should be exercisable by the Scottish Ministers. In the main, that intention has been achieved by the general provisions of the 1998 Act; that is, very few specific provisions have been necessary in relation to these matters. It is worth noting, however, that legislative competence in respect of "process" fire safety, for which the Health and Safety Commission and Executive are responsible, is reserved to the Westminster Parliament.
3. For the present, the fire service in Scotland will continue to operate under the existing legislation, and the service related network of formal and informal organisations will continue to function on a Great Britain basis. In particular, the Joint Strategic Committees of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils and the Scottish CFBAC will continue to bring together fire service interests from both sides of the border in the discussion and progression of policy, technical and other considerations. Fire authorities and brigades in Scotland are, however, aware that they will now have much more direct access to and involvement in the process of government, and can be expected to take full advantage of the opportunities which this presents.

Fire Safety Legislation

4. It is the intention of the Government to amend the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (the Fire Regulations) which give effect in Great Britain to the specific fire safety requirements of 2 European Council Directives adopted in 1989. The Government proposals for amending the Regulations were set out in a consultation document issued in August 1998 and were primarily in response to the Commission's recent expression of concern about the adequacy of the text of the Fire Regulations to implement the Directive requirements in full. In addition there was a need to justify the exceptions made from the application of the Regulations in the UK.
5. The main reason for deciding to amend the Regulations is that the European Commission has pursued a detailed examination of Member States' transposition of the Framework and Workplace Directives, focusing on differences between the text of the Directives and that of national laws. Their main concern is that the text of our existing legislation applying to workplaces excepted from the Fire Regulations, including premises presently certified under the Fire Precautions Act 1971, does not implement the requirements of the Directives in full by applying those requirements directly on all employers. There is also concern that the duties placed on the employers by the Regulations should fully reflect the unconditional nature of the responsibilities and obligations imposed by the Framework Directive.
6. As a result of the Commission's approach a written Parliamentary answer on 8 April 1998 announced that the Government would take the necessary steps to

address the Commission's concerns about meeting the terms of the Framework Directive in full. This involves making changes to the Fire Regulations and removing most of the exceptions from the Regulations. Therefore the risk assessments made by employers who have control of workplaces no longer excepted from the Regulations will need, explicitly for the first time, to address the requirements in Part II of the Fire Regulations. This part of the Regulations deals, amongst other things, with the need to safeguard the safety of employees in case of fire and record the significant findings of the assessment where appropriate.

Community Fire Safety

7. A recommendation of the Community Safety Task Force contained in their published report was an endorsement of both the Audit Commission report and the findings of the 1994-95 Interdepartmental review team on "fire safety legislation and enforcement", that supported giving brigades a statutory duty to educate the public on fire safety matters. It was felt that a new duty under the Fire Services Act 1947 would consolidate the position of Community Fire Safety (CFS) and send a signal that the Government recognises its importance and encourage the redirection of resources from within budgets to give the task greater priority. The "statutory duty" recommendation also formed part of the proposed new Bill on Fire Safety legislation that will not now proceed in the next parliamentary session. Therefore it was proposed that the statutory duty measure for CFS be pursued as a Private Member's Handout Bill in Westminster's 1998-99 Session. Unfortunately this Bill was not picked up by any Member of Parliament either and will require waiting on another ballot at the next Parliamentary Session. It is the intention of the Home Office to explore also other avenues for legislation to promote CFS in England and Wales and it would be for the Scottish Executive to determine whether to promote a CFS Bill in the Scottish Parliament.

8. Following consultation with the Inspectorate, Firemasters and other key interests the Department issued a "Dear Firemaster" letter in December 1998 providing guidance on the preparation of local CFS plans covering a 3 to 5 year forward period that would be revised annually.

9. The main purposes of structured CFS plans are:

- a) to enable brigades to develop a more strategic data driven approach;
- b) to instil a regular planning cycle for CFS; and
- c) to outline clearly a programme of CFS activities and how they can contribute to achieving the brigade's objective of helping communities to be less at risk from fire.

Prior Options Review

10. Concern has existed for some time regarding the ongoing financial difficulties being experienced by the Fire Service College, which provides core progressive training courses for the whole of the UK fire service together with some international and commercial training. (See 'Section E: Training' for details of current use).

11. This concern has given rise to a further review of the College, to be led by the former head of Fire Safety Unit at the Home Office, which will report during 1999.

12. The review as announced by the Home Secretary on 3 March 1999 will:
- ◆ Evaluate the College's performance and its governance since its launch as an agency
 - ◆ In light of the performance evaluation, and taking account of developments since the launch as an agency, re-appraise the options for achieving best value for money in the provision of central training for the Fire Service.
 - ◆ If the review concludes that the Fire Service College should continue to function as an executive agency, drawing on the lessons learned, make recommendations for future development of the College and for changes, if required, to the Framework Document to reflect the College's role, aim, objectives, managerial arrangements and any increased flexibilities. Course fees (which have recently increased) and travel and subsistence costs for students from Scottish brigades are met by the Scottish Executive and Scottish interests were to be consulted by the review team.

Comprehensive Spending Review

13. The Report for 1997-98 mentioned the CSR of the Fire Service being undertaken by The Scottish Office Home Department for Ministerial consideration. One important outcome of the Review was the announcement in July 1998 of a substantial increase in fire service GAE provision for each of the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. This included provision for likely pay and pension costs - although in the event the cost of the firefighters' pay settlement in November 1998 was higher than expected - as well as for community fire safety activity, for health and safety and training improvements, and for helping to raise the standard of provision in remoter rural areas of Highland and Islands.

14. At the same time brigades were expected actively to pursue efficiency savings and one initiative to that end was the establishment, with representatives of brigades, of a Purchasing Arrangements Working Group chaired by HMIFS Mr Whitton.

15. Another outcome of the Review was a proposal to set in hand an examination of options for change in the structure of the fire service, in concert with a study of the options for the police service. As at the end of March 1999 a steering group representative of the main interested parties was about to be set up.

Best Value

16. Of continuing importance to all Brigades and their Fire Boards and Authorities during the year has been the introduction, through the joint working of the Accounts Commission, The Scottish Office and Inspectorate, of defined Best Value initiatives.

17. Local Government has, for just over a year, begun through a management process of strategic and financial business planning, to introduce audit arrangements designed to help explore options for better value for money. These involved scrutiny of management arrangements demonstrated through local performance plans.

18. The fire service had, in effect, commenced this appraisal process one year later than local government and had therefore benefited from the general experience gained by other local services.

19. The fire service appraisals had generally shown that the management arrangements which existed were in general accordance with best practice guidance.

20. Further work will continue in this area and the publication of key indicators, designed to help inform the public of actual delivered service performance.

Fire Cover

21. Active evaluation is being made of possible new fire cover arrangements throughout the UK and 2 Scottish Brigades are currently assessing risk as part of the 'pathfinder' initiatives.

22. These pathfinders are in effect seeking to test out new planning assumptions, whilst maintaining their current systems of response, so as to enable an informed judgement to be made on a UK-wide basis. Thus far the early work has been encouraging although questions remain particularly relating to rural communities.

23. The work will be ongoing for some years before any new system is introduced and there are difficult questions remaining to be addressed including resourcing any significant change.

24. The components of the new system are however designed to enable life and property factors to be better incorporated together into a holistic fire cover pattern of safety.

Health and Safety

25. The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) (Amendment) Regulations 1998 (CHIP 98) came into force on 6 January 1999 and clarify the health hazards of 2 specific families of vitreous materials that will be classed as "irritants". CHIP lays down the rules by which suppliers must classify and label hazardous chemicals and forms an integral part of carrying out COSHH assessments.

Firemasters and Fire Authorities

26. At the end of the reporting period the following Firemasters were in post:

Central Scotland Fire Brigade	Firemaster I S T Adam OBE QFSM;
Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade	Acting Firemaster M J Bitcon FIFireE;
Fife Fire and Rescue Service	Firemaster N H Campion MIFireE;
Grampian Fire Brigade	Firemaster J Williams BSc MIFireE;
Highland and Islands Fire Brigade	Firemaster R Gordon QFSM AIFireE;
Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade	Firemaster C Cranston QFSM GIFireE;
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	Firemaster J Jameson QFSM AIFireE CIMgt; and
Tayside Fire Brigade	Firemaster D S Marr QFSM FIFireE.

27. There have been 2 changes to the ranks of Firemaster since the last report. Firstly Firemaster Mr A Russell, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade, has transferred to Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and subsequently the Deputy Firemaster Mr M J Bitcon is carrying out the Firemaster role in an acting capacity. Secondly, Mr J Williams was promoted from Deputy Firemaster to Firemaster of Grampian Fire Brigade.

28. I wish to record my thanks to Firemasters and their staff for their co-operation and assistance given to members of the Fire Inspectorate during their visits and for the valuable contributions to the many discussions held throughout the year.

Honours and Awards

29. The following officers received awards in the Queen's Honours Lists in the year under review:

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

J Jameson, lately Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

J T Martin, lately Assistant Firemaster, Strathclyde Fire Brigade

H Cameron, Retained Station Officer, Highland and Islands Fire Brigade

S B Grieve, Retained Sub-Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

R Anderson, lately Retained Sub-Officer, Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM)

N H Champion, Firemaster, Fife Fire and Rescue Service

R M Brown, Deputy Firemaster, Tayside Fire Brigade

A J Early, Assistant Firemaster, Central Scotland Fire Brigade

J F Napier, lately Sub-Officer, Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

Miss E McMurdo, lately Senior Fire Control Operator, Fife Fire and Rescue Service

The Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

30. This medal was awarded to 501 members of the Scottish Fire Service.

31. I offer my sincere congratulations to all of those whose work, within the Scottish Fire Service, has been so justly recognised.



Section B Personnel and Administration



Establishments and Strengths

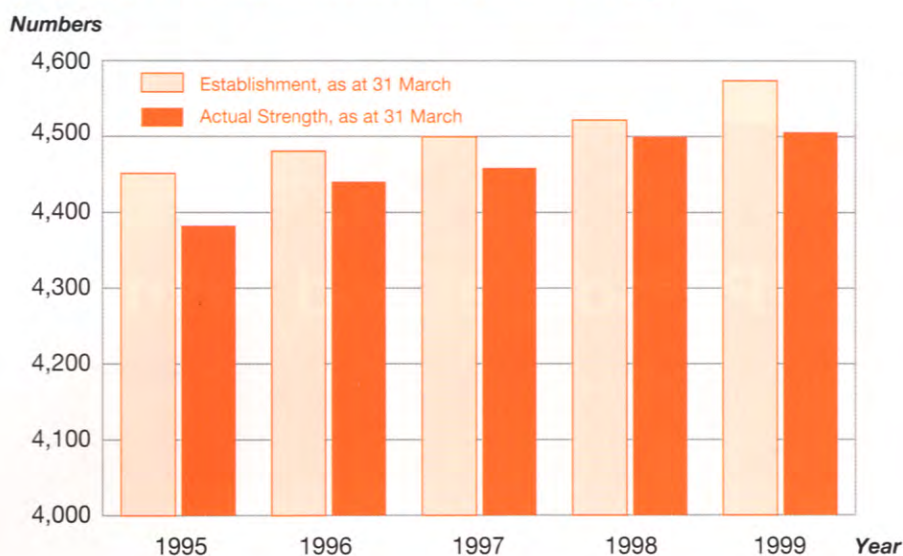
1. The establishments and actual strengths of Scottish fire brigades are given at Appendix 2 of this report.

Wholetime Personnel (Operational)

2. The total establishment of wholetime operational personnel members of Scottish fire brigades at 31 March 1999 was 4,574, an increase of 30 on the previous year. The actual strength of Scottish fire brigades, as opposed to the recognised establishment, was 4,506, giving a shortfall between the establishment and the actual number employed of 68. However, given that brigades normally have personnel ready to join the first recruit training course in the following year, this understaffing is not a cause for concern. All brigades have, for a number of years, been staffed at or near their wholetime establishment figure and the overall pattern for both establishment and strength figures continues to remain broadly constant over the years.

3. As in previous years brigades experienced no problems in attracting suitable personnel to fill vacancies that arose during the year. However, as in the past the number of applications from females and members of ethnic minority groups to join the Fire Service in Scotland continues to be disappointingly low, in spite of the continued efforts of brigades to attract such applicants. Out of a total of 1,468 applications processed by brigades in 1998-99 only 81 (5.5%) were from females or ethnic minority groups. Despite this low response the number of female firefighters serving in brigades again rose from 33 to 41, while the number of members of an ethnic minority serving in the operational section of brigades also rose from 3 to 4. Graph 1 shows the wholetime establishment and the actual strength of the Scottish Fire Service from 31 March 1995 to 31 March 1999.

Graph 1: Wholetime Establishment and Actual Strength



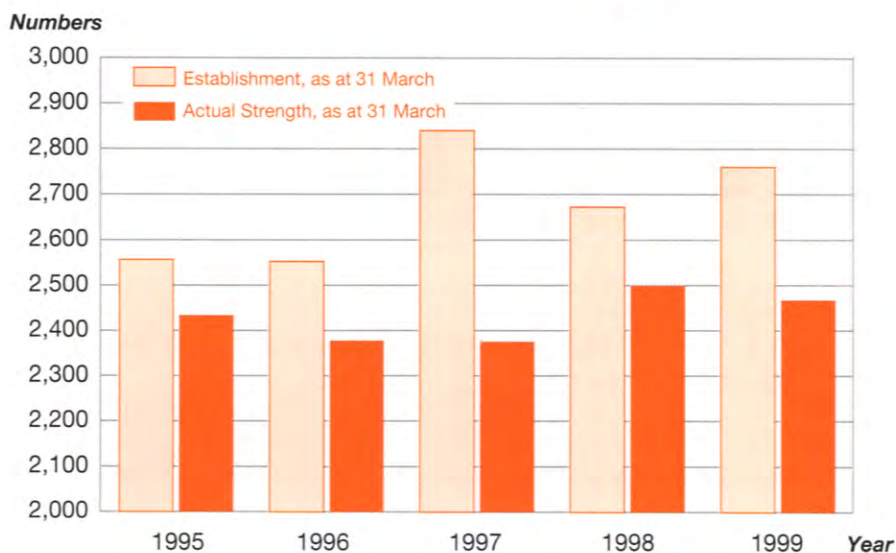
4. During the year 139 wholetime operational personnel left the Fire Service for various reasons. In contrast 141 firefighters joined the Fire Service in 1998-99, 14 more than in 1997-98. Details of the gains and losses of personnel in each brigade are shown in Appendix 3.

5. During 1998-99 there were 49 retireals from the Fire Service on medical grounds. This figure was 27 more than the previous year. The number of personnel who retired on ordinary pension during the year was 37.

Retained Personnel

6. The figures relating to the establishment and the actual strength in the retained sector of brigades at 31 March 1995 to 31 March 1999 are shown in Graph 2.

Graph 2: Retained Establishment and Actual Strength



7. As can be seen from Graph 2 the retained establishment has increased by 88 in 1998-99 when compared to those figures registered for the previous year. The establishment figure recorded at 31 March 1998 included provision for a programme of change by Highland and Islands Fire Brigade. The current figures recorded in this Report serve to rationalise the situation. As the changes proposed had not yet been agreed or implemented in full. The actual number of firefighters in post throughout Scotland at 31 March 1999 was 2547, an increase of 47 when compared to the previous year.

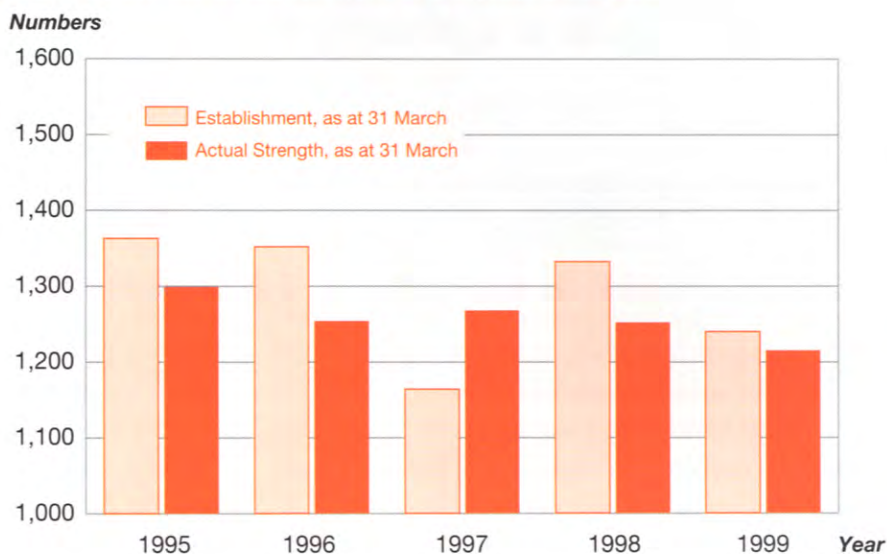
8. During the year 495 applications were received to join the retained sector of the Fire Service; from this total 172 persons were subsequently recruited as firefighters. While the number of personnel in post is satisfactory, serious problems continue to be experienced in recruiting personnel who can provide operational cover during the working day.

9. The number of female firefighters in the retained service of Scottish brigades is 61, the same as last year's total.

Volunteer Personnel

10. Details of the volunteer establishment and actual strength as at 31 March 1995 to 31 March 1999 are shown in Graph 3.

Graph 3: Volunteer Establishment and Actual Strength



11. The total establishment of volunteer firefighters was 1240 as at 31 March 1999, a decrease of 6.9% on the 31 March 1998 figure. The actual number of volunteers in post in Scotland fell by 37 to 1215.

12. At the end of 1998-99 there were 70 female volunteer firefighters serving in brigades, 12 more than in the previous year.

Control Room Staff

13. As at 31 March 1999 the number of Control Room staff in post was 213, 3 more than the recognised establishment for Scottish brigades. There are 181 females and 32 males.

Non-Uniformed Staff

14. The total number of non-uniformed staff as at 31 March 1999 was 789, 36 more than the previous year. There are 452 females and 337 males.

Absence from Duty

15. The proportion of the total number of working days lost in Scottish brigades due to sickness affecting wholetime uniformed personnel was 6.53%, as indicated below.

Year	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
Percentage	4.77	6.01	6.68	7.14	6.53

16. The 1998-99 statistical returns show that 34 wholetime, 15 retained and one volunteer operational personnel received serious injuries. The comparable figures for 1997-98 were 50, 14 and none respectively. These serious injuries were sustained in the following circumstances:

	Wholetime	Retained	Volunteer
at fire incidents	10	9	1
at special service incidents	1	1	0
during training periods	14	3	0
during other duties	9	2	0

17. The percentage of the total number of working days lost to sickness affecting Control Room staff in 1998-99 was 8.0%, a 0.6% increase on the figure for 1997-98.

Discipline

18. During 1998-99, 11 persons were charged with a total of 22 offences under the Fire Services (Discipline) (Scotland) Regulations 1985. The corresponding figures for the previous year was 20 persons charged with 21 offences.

The punishments awarded in respect of the offences were:

dismissal	1;
reduced in rank	2;
stoppage of pay	2;
reprimand	4;
caution	2;
no case to answer	2; and
case still open	9.



Section **C**
Operations



Fire Fatalities

1. During 1998-99, 96 people were killed in fires attended by Scottish fire brigades. This represents an increase of 7 deaths from last year's total, which was subsequently revised to a total of 89, and unfortunately reverses the reduction experienced in fire fatalities in recent years. Four brigades recorded a decrease in fire fatalities in 1998-99 with the other four brigades showing an increase in the number of fire deaths. The wide fluctuation in the incidence of such deaths within each brigade over the years makes it very difficult to determine patterns that may be effective in combating fire deaths. Therefore the collective Scottish totals are heavily relied on in relation to the planning of strategic community fire safety measures.

2. Table A shows the number of deaths due to fire within each of the Scottish Brigades attended over the last 10 years at which time Scotland was experiencing a very high rate of fire related deaths. There has been some fluctuation over the last decade in relation to these deaths with an annual average of 109 being revealed. However, it is pleasing to note that the current total is only 54.9% of the peak of 175 deaths recorded in 1979.

Table A: Number of Fire Deaths in Each Brigade Area 1989 to 1998-99

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99
Central Scotland	4	4	9	8	2	4	2	7	4	1
Dumfries and Galloway	1	8	3	3	6	8	1	2	2	3
Fife	6	5	7	11	14	9	4	9	1	6
Grampian	12	11	11	13	11	4	10	3	11	4
Highland and Islands	9	6	12	10	6	7	4	8	13	4
Lothian and Borders	19	22	18	13	20	8	8	7	11	10
Strathclyde	56	73	72	53	52	42	58	58	43	58
Tayside	6	4	7	8	16	5	5	8	4	10
Totals	113	133	139	119	127	87	92	102	89	96

3. Appendix 6 gives details of the fire fatalities in each brigade in terms of the age group, the location of the fire and the month of the year in which the incident occurred.

4. When considering the actual location of fatal fires in this reporting period statistics show overwhelmingly that most people lost their lives in domestic fires - that includes houses, flats and residential caravans - with 80 people being killed in these situations. This figure represents 83.3% of the total deaths from fire in Scotland, which is a slight drop in percentage terms although a numerical increase of 4 deaths. Four of these incidents resulted in multiple deaths with a total of 11 lives lost, one of which claimed the lives of 5 members of the one family and the other three fatal fires resulted in 2 deaths in each case.

5. Sixteen people lost their lives in other incidents involving fire such as motor vehicles, self-immolation and also in commercial and industrial premises. Six people died in fires following 3 separate road traffic accidents, one of which resulted in three deaths. Unfortunately this year 4 persons died in open air incidents, one as a result of a bonfire accident and the other three following the ignition of their own clothing

which they had doused in flammable liquids. Of the remaining incidents, one involved the deliberate misuse of flammable gas in a portable accommodation unit and another the accidental ignition of a flammable liquid in a garage. One death was recorded as being within hotel accommodation, one while in hospital, with the 2 remaining deaths caused by a welding accident in a shipyard.

Fatalities Due to Fires in Dwellings

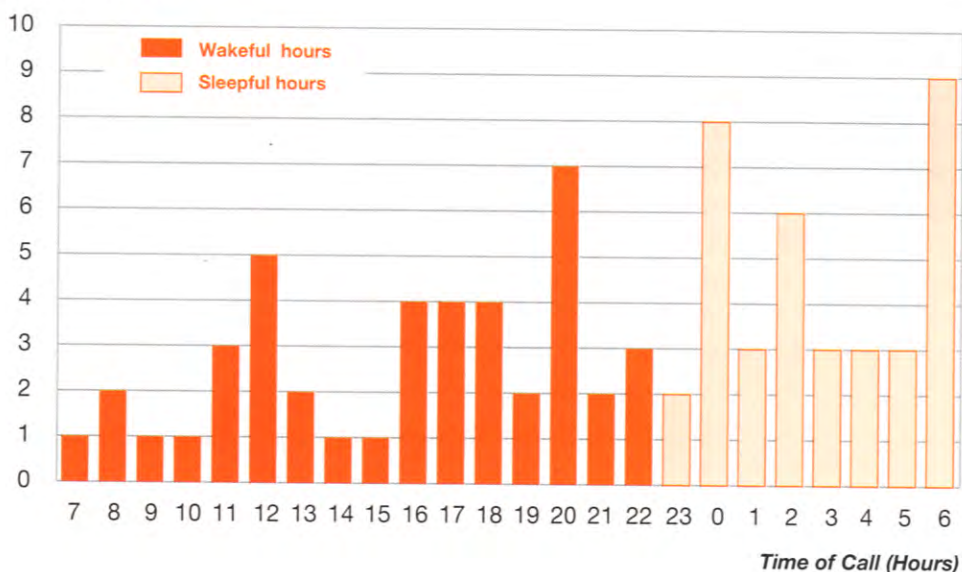
6. During the year under review there were 73 outbreaks of fire causing 80 fatalities in all types of dwellings (including residential caravans) that resulted in one or more fatalities. This represented 4 more fatal fires than the previous year and 5 more deaths. The months of the year in which most of the fires occurred were May with the exceedingly high monthly total of 18 deaths and both November and February returning 8 deaths in each month. In 1998-99 there was an equal split between the summer and winter months, in that October to March produced 40 deaths being 50% of the total. Again it can be seen this year that the traditionally held view of the winter months producing more fatalities is being challenged with May alone producing 22.5% of the total number of fire fatalities in Scotland.

7. An analysis of the most prominent days of the week in which the fatalities occurred showed that 18 fell on a Friday and represented 22.5% of the total. Sundays, as with last year, followed in second place with 15 deaths and 18.8% of the total. Therefore it can be seen that in Scotland some 33 deaths and 41.2% of all fire fatalities took place on those two days. The remaining days of the week averaged out at almost 9 per day which is slightly higher than last year's average figure of 8.

8. Graph 4 relates to the number of fatal fires that occurred in 1998-99 and the time that the first call was made to the fire brigade. If it is accepted that the hours of 11pm and 7am are "sleeping hours", statistics show that 37 people (46.3%) lost their lives in dwellings during these times. What is perhaps more disturbing is that during the daytime or "wakeful hours" 43 people (53.7%) lives were lost.

Graph 4: Number of Fatal Incidents Related to the Time of Call in 1998-99

Number of Fatal Incidents

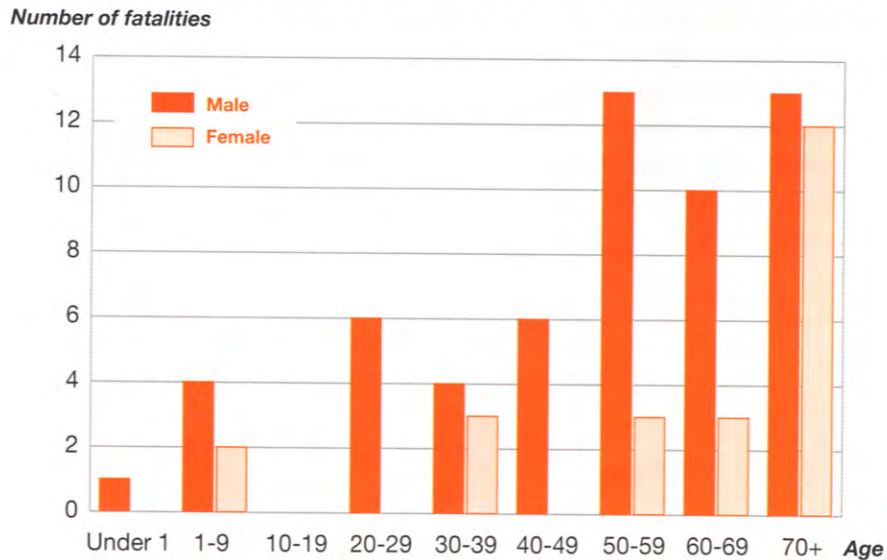


9. In this reporting period 0600hrs was recorded as the most vulnerable hour of the day for fatal fires with 9 deaths (11.3%) closely followed by midnight with 8 lives (10.0%) being lost. What is fairly evident from the times of fatal fires is that fire is certainly no respecter of time and it is important to remind everyone that constant fire safety awareness is essential in the preservation of life.

10. Numerically it can be ascertained from the following totals for each age group that the group who suffered most as a result of fire deaths in the home were in the 70 to 79 age group which accounted for 22.5% of the total. This group was closely followed by the 50 to 59 age group with 16 deaths, 20.0% and the 60 to 69 age group with 20 fatalities and 25% of the total. These figures clearly show the vulnerable age groups within Scottish society in relation to the loss of life when fire breaks out. During 1998-99 the number of persons in each age group who were killed by fire in the home was as follows:

under one year	1	(1.25%)
1-9 years	6	(7.50%)
10-19 years	0	(0.00%)
20-29 years	6	(7.50%)
30-39 years	7	(8.75%)
40-49 years	6	(7.50%)
50-59 years	16	(20.00%)
60-69 years	13	(16.25%)
70-79 years	18	(22.50%)
80+ years	7	(8.75%)
Total	80	

11. The general perception within fire service circles is that the elderly are among the most vulnerable fire fatality groups and this year's figures continue to show that this remains the case. Of the 80 people who died in fires in their homes, 59 were male and 21 were female. It is interesting to note that 51 (63.8%) of the people involved lived alone. The prominence of male victims of fire is readily appreciated as shown in Graph 5 and particularly in the 50 to 80 years' age groups where some 33 males died in comparison with 14 females. Statistical returns for domestic fatal fires show that 18 (85.7%) of females were over fifty years of age. Whilst being numerically higher, at 36, only 61.0% of male fatalities fell into this age group. It is also interesting to note that 27.1% of all male fatalities occurred in the 20 to 50 years age group. Therefore the fire safety message must continue to be promulgated by all Scottish brigades at both local and national level and be a focus for their Community Fire Safety efforts to take these vulnerable groups into account in the future.

Graph 5: Total Fire Deaths in Dwellings by Age Group and Sex in 1998-99

Areas in which Fatal Fires Started

12. Detailed investigation of fatal fires in 1998-99 showed that the following locations were recorded as being the room or area of origin within dwellings where the outbreak of fire took place:

	1997-98 No. of Incidents	1998-99 No. of Incidents
Livingroom	40	40
Bedroom	17	23
Kitchen	10	11
Hall	3	3
Utility Room	1	1
Stairwell	2	2
Totals	73	80

13. Whilst the number of fires occurring in living rooms remained constant the impact overall increased this year to 54.7% which is an increase from 39% recorded in last year's annual statistical returns. When combined with the number of fires originating in bedrooms the result is 78%, a very clear indication once more of the rooms in the home that pose the greatest threat to life. In both these rooms there are many potential ignition sources and sufficient fuel in the form of flammable furniture and fittings for a fire to develop rapidly once ignition has taken place.

Causes of Fatal Fires in Dwellings

14. Brigade Fire Investigation Officers have reported that the misuse of alcohol and drugs, both prescribed and non-prescribed, have led significantly to the deaths of many fire victims by impairing their natural response and reaction to the outbreak of fire. In remembering that 37 people (46.3%) perished during the wakeful hours

it is unfortunate that within this reporting period 58.8% of all fatalities in dwelling fires were known to have their senses impaired at the time of the fire by alcohol and or drugs. In addition another 18.8% of the total number of fatalities suffered from a form of physical disability adding a further impairment to their escape from fire. There is hard evidence from the investigation of fatal fires that the tragic cocktail of flammable polyurethane furniture in the home allied to the misuse of smoking materials, alcohol and or drugs continues to be a major factor in the vast majority of fire fatalities in Scotland.

15. The most common immediate causes of fatal fires in dwellings during the reporting period were:

Carelessness in the use of smokers' materials	43	58.9%;
Unattended overheating pan left on cooker	6	8.2%;
Accidental	6	8.2%; and
Radiated heat	5	6.8%.

16. There has been an increase of 43.3% in the careless disposal of smoker's materials leading to a fire death from the 30 incidents recorded last year to 43 in 1998-99. This is despite strenuous campaigning by the Scottish Office and Brigades to warn the public of the very real dangers of the misuse of cigarettes, matches and lighters. Investigations continue to show that all age groups are involved and as previously indicated there is usually also the misuse of alcohol and or drugs whether prescribed or otherwise.

17. Cookers were the second most common source of ignition with the main cause of fatalities stemming from cooking being left unattended. In Scotland the number of people who die as a result of leaving pans unattended had been steadily rising over the years and although it is pleasing to see that the total did not increase this year neither did it decrease. That suggests that there is still much education and work to be carried out in this regard by those involved in community fire education duties. One chip pan left unattended this year was responsible for the deaths of two people in the resulting house fire and again represents an appalling and preventable waste of human life.

18. In relation to fires caused by radiated heat, faulty heating or electrical appliances there was a welcome decrease from 11 to 7 deaths in this reporting period. It must be emphasised once more that there is a basic life saving requirement to prevent the outbreak of fire through these causes by paying close attention to manufacturer's advice on servicing and siting of heating appliances in the home.

Non-Fatal Casualties

19. In addition to the 80 fatalities that occurred in 73 separate dwelling fires this year, brigades have recorded 1,616 non-fatal casualties caused by these outbreaks. That represents a reduction of 48 casualties. The term non-fatal casualty is used to describe a person who is affected by the smoke or heat from a fire and requires treatment elsewhere other than the first-aid treatment provided by fire service personnel at the incident

20. Scottish brigades rescued 614 people from fires this year, an increase of 22.8% and in addition to the foregoing it is worthy of note that another 322 non-fatal

casualties were rescued by brigade personnel from other types of buildings and fires. It seems that not only has there been an increase in the number of fatal fires and resulting fatalities this year but also in the number of persons who required the assistance of the fire brigade to make good their escape from such traumatic conditions. It has been highlighted in previous annual reports that not only were these people put in serious danger from the outbreak of fire but it is obvious that the firefighting crews involved in these rescues were also put at risk. Statistical evidence shows that many of the fire deaths occurring in Scotland are preventable and therefore the solution is clearly in the hands of the Scottish people, who should make themselves aware of the two main principles to be adopted in being safe from fire. These are: learn how to avoid the initial outbreak of fire and practise what to do if fire does accidentally or otherwise break out and a warning given.

UK Comparisons on Casualties

21. The most recent confirmed fire statistics for the United Kingdom (UK) 1997 also show that the largest single cause of accidental death (36%) was the careless handling or disposal of smoking materials. There were 723 deaths in the UK, compared with 709 in 1996, 736 in 1995 and 641 in 1994 and represents a national rise in the number of people who died in fires since 1994 that was the lowest figure since 1962. Up to date estimates of fire fatalities in the UK for 1998 indicate that the number of fire deaths has started to fall. This provisional evidence is therefore contrary to that experienced in Scotland during the reporting period.

22. The main source of ignition for dwelling fires in the UK was the misuse of cooking appliances and shows an increase of 6% to 31,191 incidents from last year. Overall, dwelling fires fell by 2% to 70,700 in 1999 the first fall recorded since 1990. Approximately three-quarters of all fires and casualties occur in dwellings with 489 people dying in 1999 and 12,784 others being injured in house fires. In Scotland over the same period 70.6% of all fires occurred in dwellings with three times more fires breaking out in those dwellings that were occupied by more than one family.

23. The Government is keen to improve the fire safety of consumer products in order to reduce damage resulting from fires and have supported the use of flame retardant materials in furniture for some time. However, statistics have shown again this year that polyurethane foam filled furniture is a significant and dangerous factor when it becomes involved in fire and was a contributory factor in 22 (27.5%) dwelling fire deaths in Scotland during 1998-99. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) commissioned its own research into the risks and benefits of flame-retardant materials and the University of Surrey have recently published the results. Within the report it is suggested that around 40 deaths and 413 non-fatal injuries occur per every 1,000 upholstery product fires within the UK and concluded that the benefits of using many flame retardants far outweigh possible risk to the environment or human health.

Smoke Alarms

24. Although national data suggest that approximately 80% of Scottish homes have at least one portable smoke alarm fitted it is questionable if all of these alarms are being properly serviced, sited, tested and maintained to ensure their reliability in the event of a fire. Investigations carried out by Scottish fire officers of the 73 fatal fires that occurred within this year shows clear evidence that alarms were fitted in 50 (68%) of these cases. Of the 50 that were fitted only 15 were found to be in working

order, while in 7 the battery was discharged, in 4 where the damage to the unit was so severe that it was not possible to test, and 2 were faulty. The disturbing statistic, in the case of the remaining 22 smoke alarms, is that the battery had been removed from the unit thus rendering it inoperative and with absolutely no chance of giving a warning to the occupants of the house.

25. Evidence is also clear from the investigations that in the 15 incidents where the alarm did work the circumstances were such that the occupants could not have escaped from the developing fire by their own unaided efforts. Whilst this questions the benefits of having a properly installed and working smoke alarm system installed in their home it remains the fire service view that members of the public should continue to be made aware of the dangers of fire. I would also urge that members of the public be aware of and appreciate the advantages and merits of installing a mains electricity operated system when considering either an initial installation or the upgrading of an existing battery operated smoke alarm system. Smoke alarms are indeed a passive form of fire safety but the return on the cost of such an installation can be measured or balanced by the potential safety of human life and the minimising of damage to property.

Fire and Other Emergencies

26. For statistical purposes, the emergency calls to which brigades mobilise appliances and crews, are divided into 3 broad categories:

- Fires;
- Special Service incidents; and
- False alarms.

27. Fires are sub-divided into 3 main categories: Fires which affect property; Secondary Fires which are, in the main, outdoor fires; and Chimney Fires which, as the title suggests, are confined to a chimney or flue pipe.

28. Special Service incidents is the term used to cover the wide range of emergency occurrences to which brigades are called, but which do not involve an outbreak of fire. They include road traffic accidents, rail crashes, chemical spillages, flooded property, persons trapped in lifts or other situations where there is a risk to life.

29. False alarms are also sub-divided into 3 categories: Good Intent, where the caller genuinely thinks that a fire emergency exists; Apparatus, where the call to the brigade does not reflect a real emergency (generally as a result of a fault in a fire detection or warning system); and Malicious, where the call to the brigade is made by a person who knows that there is no outbreak of fire.

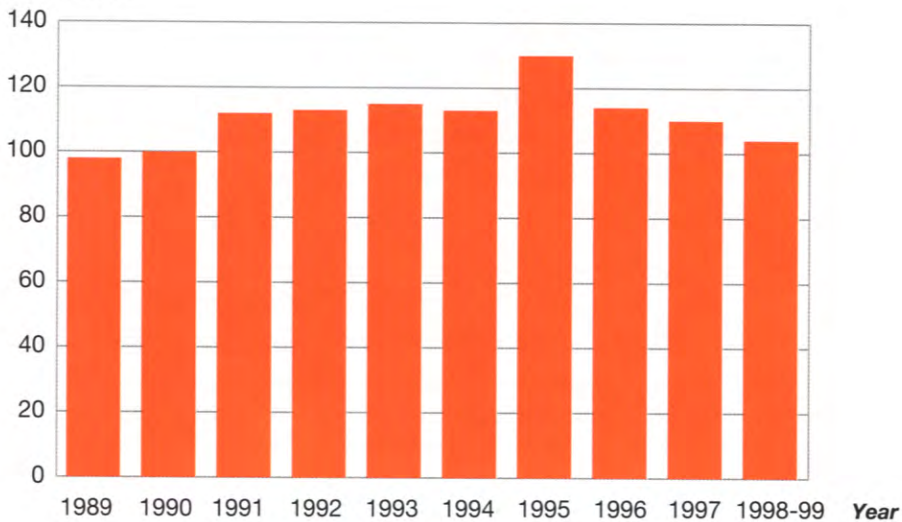
Total Emergency Incidents

30. During 1998-99 the total number of emergency incidents attended by Scottish brigades was 103,976, which represents a 4.1% decrease when compared to the previous year.

31. Graph 6 shows that the 1998-99 total is the lowest recorded since 1991 and well below the average of emergency incidents for the 1990s.

Graph 6: Total Emergency Incidents attended by Scottish Brigades 1989 to 1998-99

Emergency Calls '000s



32. Of the total emergency incidents, 45,926 (44.2%) were outbreaks of Fire, 10,003 (9.6%) were Special Service incidents and 48,047 (46.2%) were False Alarm calls.

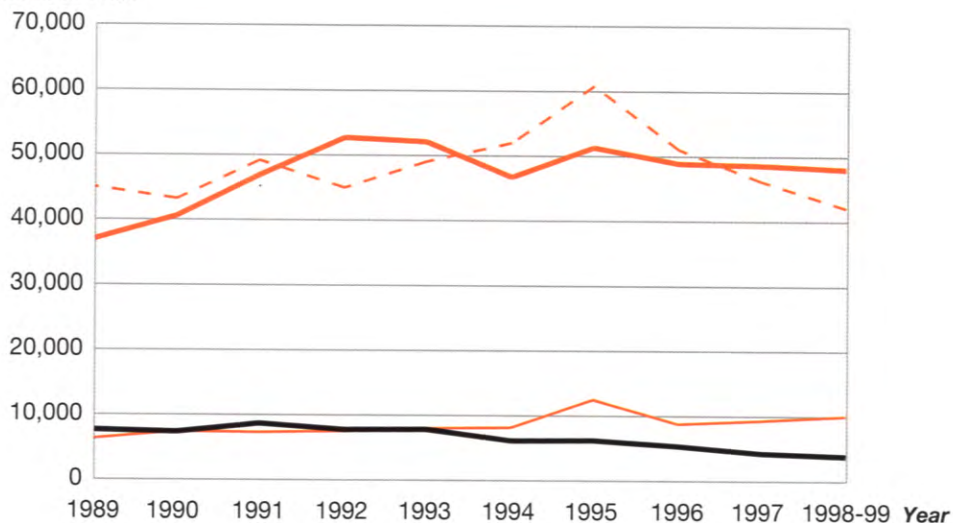
33. Appendix 4 gives details of these 3 categories within each Scottish brigade and indicates the number of incidents in which the circumstances required the attendance of one or more fire crews.

34. Appendix 5 gives information on the larger fires, that is those requiring the attendance of 6 or more pumping appliances and crews.

35. The nature and trends in the various types of emergency calls received by brigades over the past 10 years is shown in Graph 7.

Graph 7: Breakdown of Calls 1989 to 1998-99

Number of Calls



36. As can be seen from Graph 5, Fires, other than Chimney Fires, have decreased for a third successive year from the record high figure in 1995-96. Chimney Fires also continued to reduce and now stand at the lowest figure recorded since 1975.

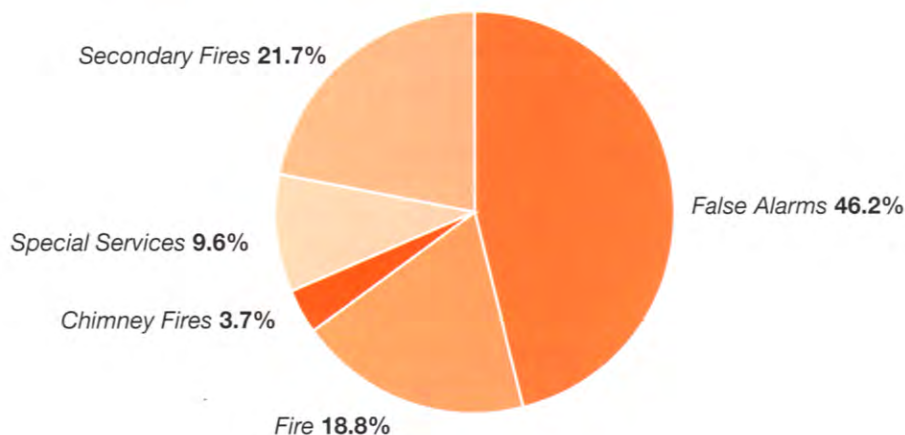
37. The number of Special Service incidents, that is emergency incidents not involving an outbreak of fire, increased by 7.3% continuing the gradual increase in such incidents over the past 10 years.

38. False alarm calls to Scottish brigades accounted for 46.2% of the total emergency incidents in 1998-99. Of the 3 types of these calls, Apparatus continues to increase which, as has been stated in the past, is not surprising as both the brigades and the Fire Inspectorate continue to encourage the use of fire detection and fire warning systems. Good Intent calls have again decreased by 14.3% from last year's figure and are at 13,276, the lowest figure since 1989.

39. In 1998-99, the number of Malicious false alarm calls continued to decline for the sixth year in succession to 7,513. Over the past 5 years this translates into a 34.8% decrease and a 66.6% decrease from the record high figure reached in 1992. It is again pleasing to note this criminal activity continues to decline thereby freeing brigades' resources to respond to actual incidents. Credit for this decline goes to each brigade for their continued efforts with their community education programmes as well as the continued introduction of new technology into the telephone network which enables a quicker and more accurate trace to be made of these illegal calls.

40. As has been mentioned, the operational activity of brigades in 1998-98 was 4.1% down on 1997-98, representing 4,441 fewer emergency incidents for the Service to deal with. Graph 8 shows the broad categories of the 103,976 incidents during the year and the percentage of each in relation to the overall total.

Graph 8: Types of Call in 1998-99



41. There has been a slight increase in the proportion of Fires, that is fires affecting property, within the overall number of emergency incidents, the actual number of these Fires increased to 19,491, 2.5% more than in the previous year. The percentage change in this type of fire incident ranged from Grampian Fire Brigade increasing by 14.1% to Tayside Fire Brigade decreasing by 5.2%.

42. Out of the total number of Fires affecting property, 13,268 (68.1%) occurred within occupied buildings of which 9,618 were dwellings. The most common causes of Fire were as follows:

In dwellings

- ◆ pan left unattended on cooker;
- ◆ wilful fire raising;
- ◆ dropped light;
- ◆ faulty electrical appliance or the misuse of electrical apparatus; and
- ◆ carelessness with smokers' materials (cigarettes/matches).

In buildings other than dwellings

- ◆ wilful fire raising;
- ◆ faults in electrical appliances or the misuse of electrical apparatus;
- ◆ radiated heat;
- ◆ pan left unattended on cooker; and
- ◆ faulty electrical appliance or the misuse of electrical apparatus.

43. Continuing the trend of recent years wilful fire raising is a prominent cause of Fires in both dwellings and other buildings and remains a source for concern.

44. The other main causes of Fires in the home also continue to be predominantly down to human negligence, such as chip pans left unattended, the incorrect disposal of cigarettes and matches, or the lack of servicing of electrical appliances.

45. The number of Secondary Fires attended by brigades during 1998-99 was 22,580 - a decrease of 16.9% from the previous year. Central Scotland Fire Brigade were the only ones to experience an increase - (3.7%) - in these Fires during the year. Fires of this type, being mainly outdoor fires, can be affected by the weather conditions and consequently fluctuate in frequency from year to year.

46. Chimney Fires totalled 3,855 during 1998-99, a 9.9% decrease from the previous year. All brigades experienced a reduction in such Fires. Chimney Fires are now at the lowest for 24 years. Highland and Islands Fire Brigade continues to have the highest incidence of these Fires with 1,166 or 30.2% of the Scottish total.

False Alarm Calls

47. During 1998-99 the total number of False Alarm calls was 48,047, a reduction of 1.2% on last year's total. As previously stated these calls accounted for 46.3% of the total number of emergency attendances made by brigades in Scotland. The number of calls in relation to each of the 3 categories of False Alarm was as follows:

Good Intent	13,276	(15,500);
Apparatus	27,258	(25,068); and
Malicious	7,513	(8,059).

The figures in brackets refer to the totals for 1997-98.

48. It will be noted that 56.7% of these incidents were within the Apparatus category which is explained, as previously mentioned, by the increase in fire protection and fire warning systems.

49. A three way partnership exists between the British Fire Protection Systems Association Limited (BFPSA), CACFOA and the Home Office who have embarked on a national campaign to reduce unwanted fire signals from automatic fire detection systems known as apparatus faults.

50. This initiative uses Home Office statistics to analyse the frequency and weight of false alarm calls, particularly those involving apparatus faults, as well as using the individual participating brigades' local statistics to point up the 20 worst offenders in their area. Interestingly, recent evidence has indicated that Health Care premises are by far the worst offenders in this respect.

51. Like many other electronic devices, some fire detection systems incorporate microprocessors which may have a year 2000 sensitivity. However studies undertaken by the industry indicate that it is only a small minority of fire alarm systems which are likely to be seriously affected by the Millenium Bug although some of these may generate a false alarm as a result of misinterpreting the date change. Current estimates of the additional number of false alarms expected to be generated in Scotland range between 16 and 80 calls.

52. Within the Good Intent category, the total was 14.3% down on the previous year. Only Central Scotland Fire Brigade and Fife Fire and Rescue Service experienced an increase in this category.

53. The number of Malicious false alarm calls in 1997-98 fell by 546 from 8,059 to 7,513. This is the sixth consecutive year Scotland has experienced a reduction in the number of such calls and continues a most welcome feature as these calls waste brigades' valuable time and resources which could be more properly used in the attendance at genuine emergency incidents.

54. Table B shows the number of Malicious false alarm calls within each brigade over the past 5 years, while Graph 9 indicates the percentage of each alarm category in the overall total.

Graph 9: False Alarm Calls in 1998-99

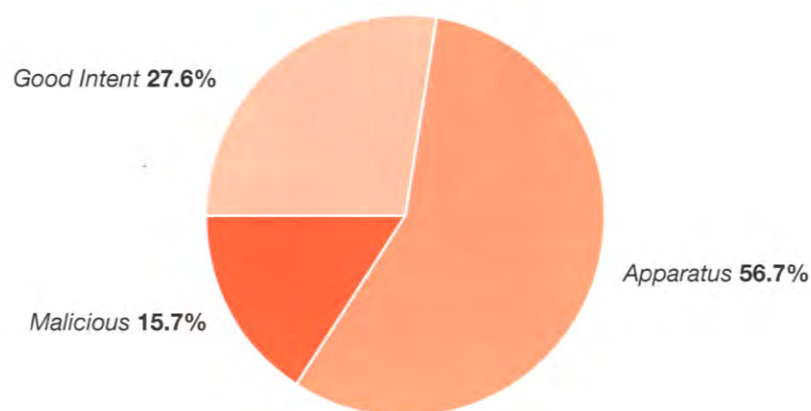


Table B: Malicious False Alarm Calls 1994 to 1998-99

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99
Central Scotland	475	431	409	436	432
Dumfries and Galloway	235	146	134	85	65
Fife	848	771	710	656	606
Grampian	544	415	486	443	336
Highland and Islands	387	309	280	264	310
Lothian and Borders	1,356	1,188	1,362	1,194	1,204
Strathclyde	6,926	5,681	4,998	4,426	4,056
Tayside	756	696	626	555	504
Total	11,527	9,637	9,005	8,059	7,513

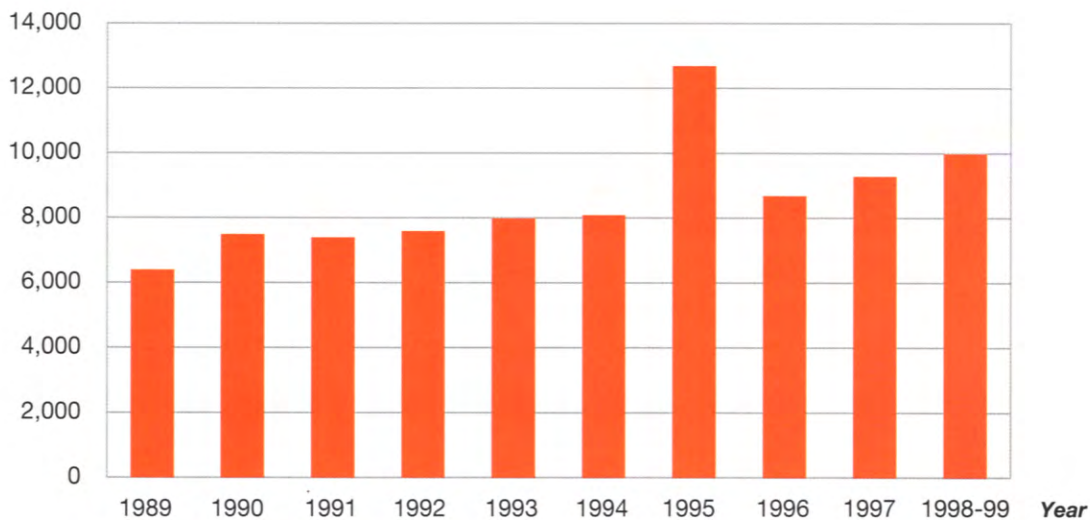
Special Service Calls

55. The total number of Special Service calls attended by brigades in 1998-99 was 10,003, an increase of 680 (7.3%) over the previous year, and continues the average increase of such calls since 1991, excluding 1995-96 peak figure.

56. Graph 10 shows the increase of Special Service calls in the 1990's quite clearly.

Graph 10: Special Service Calls 1989 to 1998-99

Number of Calls

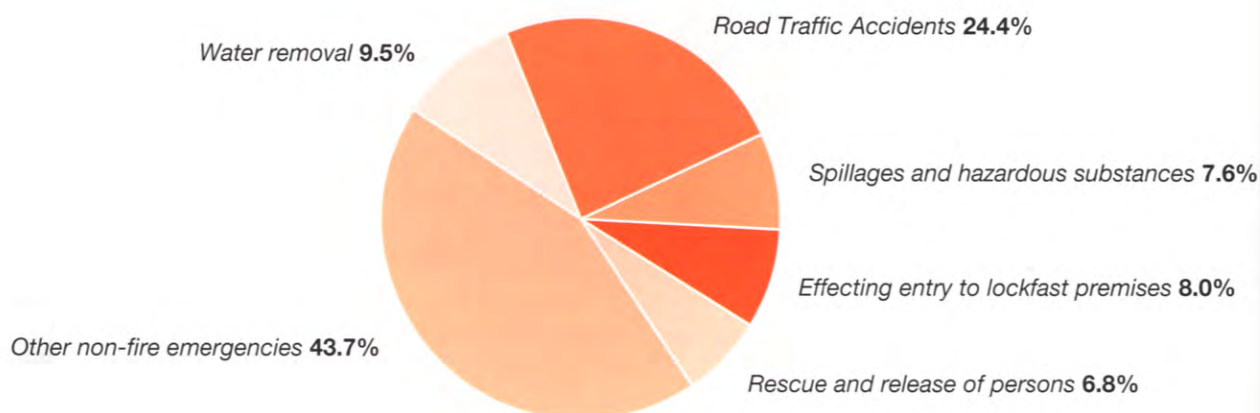


57. The most common types of Special Service calls attended by brigades in 1998-99 were:

- ◆ road traffic accidents 2,444 (24.4%);
- ◆ pumping water from flooded areas 946 (9.5%)
- ◆ effecting entry to lockfast premises 804 (8.0%);
- ◆ standing by, or assisting at spillages 755 (7.6%); and
- ◆ the rescue or release of people 679 (6.8%).

58. Graph 11 shows the activities listed under the Special Service heading, together with the proportion that each represented in relation to the number of incidents attended.

Graph 11: Special Service Calls in 1998-99



Road Traffic Accidents

59. During 1998-99 brigades in Scotland attended 2,444 road traffic accidents which did not involve an outbreak of fire. This was 75 more than in the previous year. Out of the 2,444 incidents, 823 (34.7%) involved the removal of persons trapped in the wreckage. On these occasions the skills of the fire crews are fully tested in protecting the vehicle or vehicles from further damage, ensuring that fuel does not ignite and, at the same time, dealing with the persons trapped and other injured people.

60. On 1,333 other occasions the RTAs did not involve the extrication of persons from vehicles but required the containment of the damage and the protection of those removing the wreckage, often in the presence of a fuel leakage. There were 288 occasions when fire crews' services were not in the event required.

61. Table C shows the number of RTAs attended by brigades over the past 5 years together with the number of deaths due to fires in vehicles over the same period.

Table C: Number of Road Traffic Accidents Attended and Resultant Fire Deaths 1994 to 1998-99

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99
Number of road traffic accidents attended (no fire)	2,146	2,150	2,322	2,369	2,444
Number of deaths due to fires in road vehicles	4	4	2	7	6

Rescues

62. In 1998-99 the number of people who were rescued by fire brigades from emergency incidents totalled 2,210, a decrease of 329 from the previous year. Table D shows the number of persons rescued by brigades from emergency incidents in the past 5 years.

Table D: Number of Persons Rescued from Emergency Incidents 1994 to 1998-99

Incident	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998-99
Fires	555	472	585	1,231	614
Other emergency situations without fire	978	805	745	579	790
Road traffic accidents	595	745	717	729	806
Totals	2,128	2,022	2,047	2,539	2,210

63. At this stage in the Report I would like to pay tribute to each of the emergency services for their co-operation in dealing with the many incidents that occurred throughout 1998-99. Such co-operation is extremely important - in safeguarding the lives of those unfortunately involved and in the containment of incidents - and is greatly appreciated.

64. As previously mentioned detailed information on the operational activities of each Scottish brigade is given in tabulated form at Appendices 4 and 5 of this Report.

Recorded Crimes in Scotland

65. In 1997 the number of cases of fire raising, excluding the offence of "muirburn", proceeded with against persons in Scotland was 149. This represents a decrease of 14% from last year and is the lowest number of recorded cases in the last decade. Of this total 119 cases were proved against the person involved which represents a 79.9% conviction rate. It is noted that 109 males against 10 females made up this total.

Custodial sentence	35
Fine (average £350)	22
Community Service Order	13
Probation	19
Caution or Admonition	6
Other	5

66. However these facts have to be balanced against the total number of crimes of fire-raising recorded by the Police in Scotland in 1998 which was a total of 2,500 albeit a decrease of 10% from the 1997 total. During the same period the number of cases involving persons being charged with making a False Alarm call to the Fire Brigade was 17 with a 100% conviction rate being recorded.

Health and Safety

67. Accident statistics for the Fire Service in Britain as a whole continue to remain high. The incidence of all injuries to all firefighters reported to the HSE in 1997-98, using the most up to date (but still provisional) figure available, was 3,524 injuries per 100,000 employees, a rate which remains comparable with the construction industry. Of these, manual handling related injuries account for some 30%. HSE are therefore expected to continue during 1999/2000 their present focus on brigades' compliance with the 1992 Manual Handling Operations Regulations.

68. Throughout 1998/99 HSE has contributed to a range of Fire Service health and safety initiatives and activities, as well as carrying out its formal inspection role. In particular it has built upon the work of its locally based inspectors with Scottish fire brigades. HSE's Crown, Fire and Police National Interest Group (NIG) concentrated much of its work in 1998 into the four key Fire Service Risk Management documents launched by Henry McLeish, then Scottish Office Minister with responsibility for the fire service, on 8 September 1998.

69. These documents together make up the comprehensive operational risk assessment and risk management document suite originally envisaged by the HMIFS (Scotland) in 1997 for Scottish Fire Brigades. The documents came about through effective co-operation between Scottish brigades; seconded officers of Grampian Fire Brigade; the Scottish Fire Service Training School at Gullane; the National Health and Safety Officer of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU); CACFOA and in particular Assistant Firemaster John Early of Central Scotland Fire Brigade and, subsequently acknowledging that this work was of national importance to UK fire brigades, SDO Martyn Muckett Principal Health and Safety Adviser, HMFSI, Home Office as well as HSE.

70. In order that this project could proceed as smoothly as possible a good, effective working relationship between HSE and HMIFS Scotland had already been established. This will be maintained following the successful completion of the project to ensure any health and safety advice and guidance to Scottish brigades remains current, useful and of high quality.

Fire Damage in the United Kingdom

71. The report of the Association of British Insurers dealing with the general business statistics of fire claims in 1998 used information supplied both by members and non-members of the Association. In addition the report results contain business interruption figures for commercial claims which is a well known by-product of the incidence of fire and even to this day is not fully appreciated by the business community.

72. Although in 1998 the exceptionally high insurance claims resulting from the third quarter of the year were followed by an 18.8% decrease in the fourth quarter, overall the claims resulted in a total cost of £220m that represented a 3.8% increase from the corresponding period in 1997. It was also noted that the Commercial claims in the fourth quarter remained higher than an "average quarter".

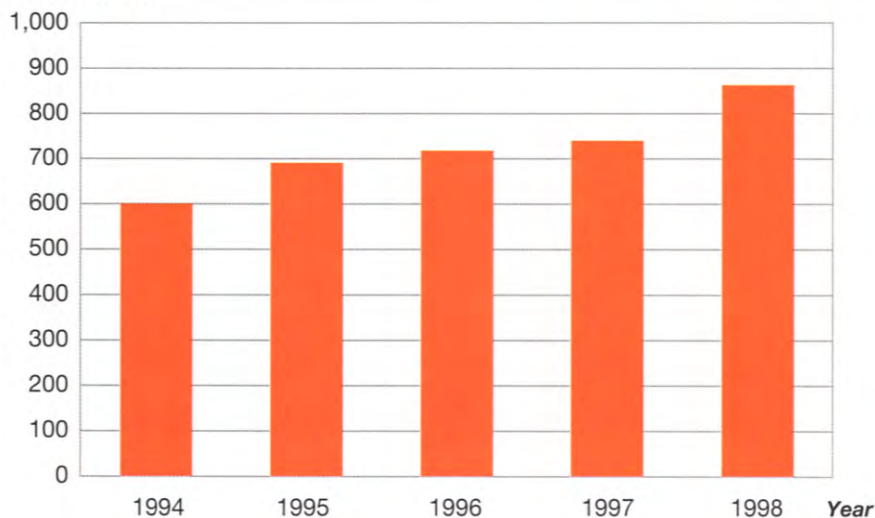
73. It is of interest, as reported in the previous paragraph, to have a comparison of various quarterly returns. However, the main indicator of the actual cost of fire is the annual cost of insurance claims in the UK. This total rose by 16.8% over the previous year resulting in the total cost of all fire claims in 1998 of £863m. This is the highest level since 1991 when fire claims exceeded the £1 billion mark.

74. A publication of the Government Statistical Service issued in November 1988 shows that local authority fire brigades attended 958,000 fires or false alarms in the United Kingdom in 1997, 6% less than in 1996. The main reason for this decrease was attributed to the number of outdoor fires which fell by 55,000 (14%) to 330,000. The total number of deaths from fires in the UK was estimated at 730 compared with 709 in 1996, 736 in 1995 and 641 in 1994. The rise in the number of people who died in fires since 1994 follows a falling trend, as 1994 had the lowest figure since 1962. There was a 2% rise in the number of non-fatal casualties to 18,600 in 1997. This total represents a 50% increase from the total recorded 10 years ago in 1987 of 12,600.

75. Overall, dwelling fires in the UK have continued to increase from 66,300 in 1994 to a new peak in 1997 of 72,200. It is also reported that around three-quarters of all fires and casualties occur in dwellings. In 1997 an estimated 560 people died in fires in the home and about 14,900 people were injured, a 5% increase on 1996. The largest cause of accidental death (36%) was careless handling/disposal of smoking materials. The main source of ignition of fires in dwellings was cooking appliances; and the misuse of equipment/appliances increased by 17,100 (6%) to 31,200 cases while chip pan fires increased by 5% to 12,300.

Graph 12: Fire Damage in the United Kingdom 1994 to 1998 Annual Monetary Losses

Millions of Pounds



Graph 13: Commercial and Domestic Sectors Annual Monetary Losses to Fire Damage 1994 to 1998

Millions of Pounds



Performance Indicators Working Group

76. In November 1998 it was necessary to bring together the members of the Scottish Fire Indicators Implementation Working Group (SFIIWG) to ascertain brigades' views on the proposed new Key Prescribed Indicators (KPIs) and to re-visit the methodology of collating the statistical information to ensure that there was a common standard throughout the Scottish brigades. It was also an opportunity to rationalise the information sought by the Accounts Commission, the existing Scottish Fire Indicators and the new KPIs. The group found no difficulty in principle with any of the 6 proposed KPIs nor indeed with the collation of data for them. However, it was soon clear that further clarification and guidance of the definitions was required and it was therefore agreed that new guidance should be made available.

77. At the same time as the above meeting was taking place the Scottish Office Development Department (SODD) had issued a further Circular No 26/98 to Local Authorities. This covered a wide range of services in the Best Value context and requested views on the proposed KPIs by December 1998. The Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council met on 17 December 1998 and was generally content with the progress being made and also with the views and recommendations made by the group which was now renamed the Performance Indicators Working Group.

78. In addition to the above there was ongoing dialogue with the SODD to agree on the way forward both as regards guidance notes and as regards the shift in the policy emphasis from a fairly rigidly prescribed Public Performance Report (PPR) to a more flexible requirement of a framework for Public Performance Reporting. The SODD subsequently issued a Circular No 5/1999 on 1 February that included the 6 proposed national KPIs in their final form. Two of these encompass aspects of community fire safety, which was not previously covered in the SFIs scheme.

79. Brigades were asked to furnish by 31 March 1999 details of their assessment of their likely performance in 1998-99 and their targets for both 1999-00 and 2000-01. Confirmation or otherwise of these figures was to be provided by 30 June 1999, along with brigades' proposed framework for the development of Public Performance Reporting.



Section D Fire Safety



Background

1. Under the Fire Services Act 1947, read with the Scotland Act 1998, the Scottish Ministers have a general responsibility for the efficiency of fire brigades and is assisted by the Justice Department's Fire Service and Emergency Planning Division and by the Scottish Fire Inspectorate. The latter advise on operational matters and the statutory role of the fire authorities and their duties under the 2 main statutes and Regulations affecting fire, namely:

- ◆ The Fire Services Act 1947 (the 1947 Act);
- ◆ The Fire Precautions Act 1971 (the 1971 Act); and
- ◆ The Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997.

2. In addition to the primary role of safeguarding life the fire authorities utilise the brigades to carry out 4 other main functions on their behalf under the 1947 Act:

- ◆ firefighting;
- ◆ mitigating damage caused by fire and firefighting operations;
- ◆ enforcing legislation on fire precautions in existing buildings, much of which is concerned with premises covered by the 1971 Act; and
- ◆ giving of free goodwill advice to the general public on such matters as fire safety advice, the restriction of the spread of fire and the means of escape in case of fire.

3. The 1971 Act established the present-day rules for fire certification and removed most of the former anomalies relating to the powers of various statutory bodies. The 2 main points of the 1971 Act are that:

- ◆ compulsory certification by the fire authority is only required for premises put to uses which have been designated as requiring a fire certificate; and
- ◆ designated premises must be put to one of the uses listed in the Act, which are:
 - for the provision of treatment or care;
 - as sleeping accommodation;
 - for entertainment, recreation or instruction (used by clubs and associations);
 - for teaching, training or research;
 - for any purpose involving access to premises by members of the public, whether on payment or not;
 - as a place of work.

4. The 2 Designating Orders made so far are the:

- ◆ Fire Precautions (Hotels and Boarding Houses) Order 1972;
- ◆ Fire Precautions (Factories, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises) Order 1989.

It should be noted that fire authorities are responsible for enforcing the provisions of the 1971 Act in premises other than Crown premises, which continue to be the responsibility of HM Fire Inspectorate. The 1971 Act also makes provision for the

fire authorities to set aside, or grant exemption from, the requirement to have a fire certificate but only in prescribed circumstances and not in hotels and boarding houses.

5. The uses for which a fire certificate is required are hotels and boarding houses in which there is sleeping accommodation for staff or guests and factories, offices, shops and railway premises in which the number of persons in each case exceeds the figure stated in the statutory instrument. A fire certificate is also required for factories having explosive or highly flammable material stored in or under the premises.

Future Fire Safety Legislation

Amendment of the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations

6. Since December 1997 the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations (Fire Regulations) have been in full force in the UK. However, the Government received a letter from the European Commission under article 199 of the Treaty of Rome challenging the implementation of the general fire safety provisions of the European Framework Directive. The letter highlighted the Commission's concern on 2 fronts, the first being the need to justify the exceptions from the Fire Regulations including certified premises. The second was that the duties placed on employers by the Regulations should fully reflect the unconditional nature of the responsibilities and obligations imposed on the employers by the Framework Directive.

7. Following a Parliamentary Question in April 1998 the Government decided to take the appropriate steps to rectify these matters in full, which would involve making changes to the Fire Regulations including the removal of most of the exceptions. A public consultation document including amending regulations was duly issued in August 1998 with comments being invited by 13 November 1998.

8. Some of the proposed amendments will affect employers generally but the main effect will be to extend the scope of the Fire Regulations by imposing them directly on those employers who have control of workplaces currently excepted from the Regulations namely:

- i. workplaces where a fire certificate is in force or for which an application for a fire certificate is pending under the Fire Precautions Act 1971;
- ii. sports grounds and regulated stands where a safety certificate is in force and they are in use for the activity for activities specified in the certificate;
- iii. sub-surface railway premises;
- iv. ships in the course of construction or repair;
- v. workplaces subject to the Fire Certificates (Special Premises) Regulations 1976; and.
- vi. buildings at the surface of mines.

9. The consultation document not only gave details of the Government's proposals to amend the Fire Regulations but also sought views on the best way forward to deal with the resultant overlap of existing legislation and the amended Regulations. The consultation also covered other issues including the operation and effectiveness of the enforcement regime set out in the Fire Regulations. The legislative overlap that would originate from amending the Fire Regulations as proposed would affect premises that require a fire certificate under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 at present

but would also be subject to the Fire Regulations if one or more persons are employed on the premises. The public view was sought on possibilities to reduce the legislative overlap with regard to existing fire precautions legislation, as follows:

- i. by extending the scope of the Fire Authority to exempt premises from the need to hold a fire certificate under Section 5A of the 1971 Act; or
- ii. amending the Fire Precautions (Factories, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises) Order 1989 so that fire certificates are not required for premises where Part II of the Fire Regulations applies;
- iii. a third minimalist option of doing neither of the foregoing and simply allowing the overlap to remain pending a fundamental review of fire safety legislation found favour with a very high proportion of those consulted.

10. A proposal to remove the written notice of intent procedure found favour with the Cabinet Office Better Regulation Unit and it was also indicated that there is a clear need for a simplified single enforcement regime. Removal of the written notice of intent procedure also re-aligns the Fire Regulations with health and safety regulations in general.

Community Fire Safety

11. One major outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review was the announcement by Ministers in July 1998 of increased levels of fire service Grant Aided Expenditure GAE for the years 1999-2000 to 2001-02. Included in this was £8.5 million for Community Fire Safety (CFS) activities by Brigades over these years, to be seen in the context of assumed efficiency savings within brigades and the eventual budgetary provision that the fire authority/joint board actually decided to make. It was noted by the Inspectorate that the size of the Fire Service pay award made in November 1998 would also be very relevant to the funding actually available.

12. In May 1998 Mr Henry McLeish the Scottish Office Minister responsible for Home Affairs wrote to Firemasters and other key interests to emphasise the importance of making community fire safety a core activity of the fire service in Scotland. The importance of coherent planning had been highlighted in the "Safe as Houses" report, which suggested that most existing CFS programmes lacked any long term strategic framework or purposeful target setting. It further recommended - and the Minister endorsed - the introduction of local plans providing for all local work to be based on sound evidence of the community's fire safety needs and to be properly focused and measured with the purpose of CFS plans seen as being:

- ◆ to enable brigades to develop a more strategic, data driven approach;
- ◆ to instil a regular cycle for CFS;
- ◆ to outline clearly a programme of CFS activities and how they can contribute to achieving the brigade's objective of helping communities to be less at risk from fire.

13. The development of CFS will be accorded a high priority by the Scottish Fire Service Inspectorate during inspections. We will within the the overall inspection procedure look at brigade CFS plans to assess whether the approach taken is in line with best value and best practice criteria. It is envisaged that the plans would cover a 3-5 year period and should preferably run from 1999-2000. Given the key

motivation of enhancing human safety the main focus is expected to be on accidental fires in the home and the resultant associated fatalities and casualties. However, CFS is seen as having a wider scope and should involve matters such as hoax calls, wiful fire raising and perhaps programmes for juvenile fire setters.

Fire Safety Inspection of Premises

14. During 1998-99 fire safety officers and suitably trained operational officers carried out a total of 55,709 fire safety inspections. This total includes work carried out in premises that attract the provision of a fire certificate issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 (32,769) and also those inspections falling within the scope of The Fire Precautions Workplace Regulations (22,940). Brigade officers also examined 7,639 plans of new or existing buildings requiring alteration and made comment on matters relating to the structural fire precautions, the means of escape from fire and for fire-fighting facilities.

Certifiable Premises

15. Table E shows the total number of premises in each of the occupancy groups for which a fire certificate is required under the terms of Section 5 of the 1971 Act. Once again there has been an increase in the number of premises registered with fire authorities resulting in a new peak of 26,309 premises.

Table E: Certification of Premises under Section 5 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 in 1998-99

	Total Certifiable Premises	Total Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued in Current Year	Total Re-inspections of Certificated Premises in Current Year
Factories	4,412	3,733	90	1,609
Offices	11,088	10,077	321	3,495
Shops	6,232	5,762	188	2,178
Railway Premises	5	2	0	2
Hotels/Boarding Houses	4,842	4,694	125	4,148
Totals	26,309	24,268	724	11,432

16. The total number of fire certificates issued by Scottish brigades is 24,268 an increase of 535 from that recorded last year and 92.2% of all certifiable premises. This is due in part to the number of applications being submitted to brigades within the reporting period and other variable factors such as the exemption procedure mentioned previously (2.9% of the total number of certifiable premises have been exempted). The main reason for the shortfall of approximately 5% is that once an initial inspection is carried out by an inspecting officer, more often than not the owner/occupier of the premises requires to carry out upgrading work to meet the standard for fire certification. This results in a time limit being placed on the work to be carried out and thereby extends the certification procedure. There are several

reasons for the totals in Table D to alter including fluctuations in the national economy, as brigades receive new applications and where business premises close down. In addition buildings are often found to be out-with the scope of the certification criteria or may have been granted an exemption from the requirement to have a fire certificate by the brigade.

17. Fire brigades have a policy, on receipt of an application for a fire certificate, of assessing the potential life and fire risk from the information provided. The work is then prioritised, with those premises presenting a high life risk such as hotels & other sleeping accommodation being inspected before others that represent a lesser fire risk. Throughout Scotland there remains a total of 2,037 fire certificates that have still to be issued, although this total is 241 less than that reported last year. The nature of the various occupancies is as follows:

Hotels and Boarding Houses	148
Factories	409
Offices	1,011
Shops	469
Railway Premises	0
Total	2,037

18. From this total of premises without a fire certificate 1,252 (61.4%) have been inspected by brigades and are in the process of being prepared for the issue of a certificate. The occupiers and owners of these premises are therefore carrying out the necessary upgrading work to meet the requisite level for fire certification purposes.

19. The total number of certificated premises that have been re-inspected in 1998-99 is shown in Table D. These inspections are a routine method used by the brigades to ensure that the standard of fire precautions laid down for the premises is being maintained. Should the inspecting officers not be satisfied with any matter affecting the fire precautions they have the power to issue a notice under Section 8 of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 to restore the building to the minimum standard required by the fire certificate.

20. The re-inspection programme for Scotland in certifiable premises is shown in the following table and represents those premises that fire brigades have prioritised for such an inspection in 1998-99.

Hotels and Boarding Houses	90.9%;
Factories	45.5%;
Offices	37.9%; and
Shops	41.1%.

21. As direct result of these re-inspections by both fire safety inspecting officers and operational personnel, a total of 1,645 fire certificates currently in force were amended and re-issued to take account of changes that had taken place within the premises. This is a decrease from last year of 128 certificates.

22. Throughout Scotland there are still 231 fire certificates that have been carried over from the time that certification was carried out under the auspices of The Factories Act 1961 and The Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963. These certificates are deemed to satisfy the present day standards if conditions within the occupancies have not materially altered since the certificates were first issued. As time and circumstances advance the number of such certificates being in existence will reduce. Evidence of this trend is indicated by this year's total which is 31% lower than that recorded last year.

23. The provisions of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 allow for certain premises falling within laid down criteria to be exempt from the requirement to have a fire certificate issued in respect of the building or premises. In Scotland there are 754 premises that have been issued with an exemption notice, which represents an increase from last year's total of 219 premises. The Inspectorate continue to encourage fire brigades to continue to assess premises for exemption at the application stage in addition to revisiting the existing premises that fall within the exemption criteria that have not been exempted.

Non-Certifiable Premises

24. With the advent of the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (FPWR) the premises where people are employed, that do not require a fire certificate within the designated uses, still require to be furnished with basic fire precautions such as the provision of means of escape and means for fire-fighting. At present brigades have recorded the following number of premises falling within the scope of the FPWR.

Factories, Offices and Shops	44,804
Residential Premises	7,050
Non-Residential Premises	22,881
Total	74,735

25. It is anticipated that, through the process of risk assessment and the resulting re-inspection programme carried out over the ensuing years, all of the recorded premises will attract the correct level of inspection frequency for the risk of fire involved to persons who either work or frequent the building. In 1998-99 brigades in Scotland carried out 4,845 (10.8% of the total premises) inspections and examined 1,855 plans of non-certifiable factories, offices and shops. Similarly some 5,793 (82.2%) inspections and 927 examinations of plans of residential premises along with 12,302 (53.8%) inspections and 1,673 examination of plans of non-residential premises were carried out within the reporting period.

26. The duty placed on brigades by Section 1(I)(f) of the Fire Services Act 1947 to provide advice on request had the effect of generating enquiries from commerce and industry, local authorities, architects and members of the public. The total number of "goodwill" or non-statutory inspections carried out in residential and non-residential property in Scotland was 22,427 representing a decrease of 8,654 (27.8%). Again this reduction is thought to be a reflection of risk assessment procedures now introduced to ensure that where guidance exists which can be used directly by the occupier then the occupier is encouraged to use the guidance rather than request an inspection.

27. From this total there were 15,438 inspections in the non-residential category. Premises operating under the Licensing Scotland Act 1976, schools and colleges, places of public entertainment, and gaming outlets made up the bulk of the visits carried out. Of the 6,989 inspections in residential property, hospitals, homes, residential care premises and houses in multiple occupation were most frequently visited.

28. One other source of work, particularly for fire safety officers, is the inspection of plans of new or buildings subject to a warrant for alteration and the preparation of reports on the provision of suitable fire precautions. During 1997-98, 2,583 sets of plans were examined. That is a substantial reduction of 5,940 (69.6%) from the previous year.

Offences and Prosecutions

29. In Scotland there were some 11,000 routine inspections of certificated premises during the reporting period. These resulted in only 5 court prosecutions and subsequent conviction under the terms of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 for contravening the existing fire certificate issued to the relevant premises. This small percentage of prosecutions (0.04%) compared to the routine inspection programme serves to show both the responsible attitude of the owners and occupiers of certificated premises and very low number of cases brought to court by the fire brigades in Scotland. This should contradict the suggestion that fire authorities are heavy handed in respect of their handling of their statutory enforcement powers. Of the total of 5 prosecutions, 2 were of hotels, 2 related to shop premises and 1 to a Factory.

30. Under the terms of Section 10 of the 1971 Act, fire authorities are empowered to issue a notice, prohibiting or restricting the use of a building or part of a building in certain situations. The crux of the decision to use these powers is based on the authority's opinion that the use of the premises presents a serious risk to persons in the event of fire. In 1997-98 a total of 6 prohibition notices were issued by brigades in order to deal with conditions that were considered to present an unacceptable degree of danger to people within the premises. The premises covered by these notices were:

Shops	3
Hotels and Boarding Houses	2
Houses in multiple occupation	1

Community Fire Safety

31. With Community Fire Safety very much in the forefront of brigades' non-operational activities throughout the year, it is pleasing to report on the involvement, resource and quality of work that surrounds this important element of public safety and the efforts of those concerned in spreading the fire safety theme. Although the concept of Community Fire Safety is supported by the Scottish Office it is through the efforts of each brigade working within their local area that the main groundwork and education of the population is carried on. Annex A, page 89 lists some examples of the fire safety initiatives that were carried out in Scotland in 1998-99.

Education and Publicity

32. During the year under review The Scottish Office continued to support the fire service in Scotland in its efforts to educate the public about fire safety measures in an attempt to reduce the number of fires which in turn would mean fewer fatalities and casualties.

33. A Scottish Office fire safety television campaign, costing £40,000, was run from 18 to 31 December 1998 using the 'Burning Christmas Tree' commercial to highlight the need to be aware of the danger from fire over the festive period. This was followed by The Scottish Office's new fire safety campaign 'Reminder' during the month of February 1999. The objective of this campaign was to remind the public of previous messages in which The Scottish Office and the fire brigades had sought to convey the importance of first installing a domestic smoke alarm; secondly maintaining it after it is installed; and thirdly of having an action plan for escape should the alarm be activated. The campaign, fronted by 'Crime Watch UK' presenter Nick Ross, consisted of the "Reminder" television commercial backed up by a series of newspaper advertisements in the main Scottish daily and Sunday newspapers. "Fire Action Plan" leaflets with advice on how to prepare an escape plan were also available from the brigades. The campaign cost £175,000.

34. The Scottish Office continued to support brigades' local campaigns by the provision of fire safety leaflets. In addition, the close liaison with all the fire brigades via CACFOA Fire Safety Committee - developed in order that both the fire service and The Scottish Office could deliver fire safety messages which are current and which target the problem areas identified by the fire service itself - became stronger. This has now led to the production of 5 new subject-specific fire safety leaflets giving advice about domestic smoke alarms, special care for special people, safe frying, smokers' materials and fire safety with electricity. Further subject-specific fire safety leaflets are under consideration.

Building Standards Advisory Committee

35. The Building Standards Advisory Committee (BSAC) is an advisory non-departmental public body sponsored by the Scottish Office Development Department with the Construction and Building Control Group providing the Secretariat.

36. The terms of reference of BSAC are:

- ◆ to advise the Secretary of State on the exercise of his regulation making functions;
- ◆ to keep the operation of the building standards regulations under review and make such recommendations to the Secretary of State as the Committee considers desirable;
- ◆ to advise the Secretary of State on any questions which he may refer to the Committee relating to any of his functions under Part II of the Act (Building Standards and Building Operations).

37. The Secretary of State is required to consult BSAC before making any regulations prescribing standards for buildings and the main committee met 3 times during the year. The principal matters considered dealt with the revision of 4 parts of the technical standards on heat producing installations; the conservation of fuel and power; ventilation and access for the disabled. A research sub-committee having the reference of advising on trends in design and construction and on the research relevant to policy and practice in the development of building regulations and the building control process in Scotland.

38. As commented in last year's annual report BSAC has developed a working group on Fire that includes a representative from the Fire Inspectorate with the committee meeting 3 times during the year.

39. Major issues discussed at these meetings included the following:

- ◆ a research review on Class Relaxations for Shopping Centres and Paint Spray Booths;
- ◆ BSI proposed unified fire design code BS 9999 to replace BS 5588;
- ◆ the installation of domestic/residential sprinklers;
- ◆ BSAC response to the Secretary of State on "Fire Safety Legislation for the Future";
- ◆ NHS Firecode Scotland, Building Regulation Note 1/98;
- ◆ BSAC response to the proposals for amending the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997.

40. A meeting was arranged between the Committee and the Minister responsible for Building Control matters in Scotland to discuss a variety of topics including the scope and economic impact of the construction industry, CO₂ emissions and a review of the building control system. This meeting led to the suggestion that such meetings held on a regular basis could prove to be productive and ensure that the forward plan of BSAC was consistent with the Minister's programme.

41. Although it was expected that the building control system would be devolved that process had not at the close of the reporting year actually taken place and therefore it is not clear just how the Scottish Parliament will operate in the future. However, it is seen as very possible that amendments to the Building Standards that are presently being considered by BSAC will be placed before the Scottish Parliament in its first year.

Fire Protection Association (FPA)

42. During the year, the FPA further strengthened its close links with the Fire Service and other sources in Scotland.

43. The Home Department which is represented on the FPA Council has confirmed its continuing representation through the Scottish Executive following introduction of the new administration in July 1999.

44. In conjunction with the National Association of Hospital Fire Officers, the FPA organised in June 1998 the Healthfire International Conference & Exhibition in Edinburgh. Chaired by HMCI (Scotland), this major event attracted speakers from the USA, Canada, South Africa, India, Slovenia as well as from the NHS and Building Control.
45. Fire '98 and UK's annual fire conference and exhibition organised jointly by the FPA, CACFOA, and the IFE (through Fire Conferences & Exhibitions) was held at the SECC in Glasgow by special request.
46. Fire Safety Week '98 initiated and sponsored by the FPA repeated the successful theme of 'Everything Burns'. This event, which was well supported throughout Scotland and endorsed by The Scottish Office, again provided the opportunity to emphasise continuing fire brigade community fire safety programmes.
47. The FPA was pleased to collaborate with the Department of Fire Safety at Edinburgh University through the provision of speakers for its courses.
48. Involvement in the framing of new and evolving fire safety legislation continued to be a principal concern of the FPA. Changes to the Fire Precautions (Work Place) Regulations, and Fire Safety Legislation for the future (towards deregulation and self-assessment), were of particular importance. Arson prevention as a significant feature of fire safety legislation continued as an FPA priority in the deliberations.
49. The FPA is to collaborate with the Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade in the extension of the fire safety education internet developed for 9/10/11 year old children in Scotland, available for 13/14 year olds throughout the UK. Consideration is to be given to this being used for the National Fire Safety Youth Quiz as an internet-based competition.





Section **E**
Training



Scottish Fire Service Training School

1. The main function of the SFSTS continues to be the training of recruit firefighters for Scottish fire brigades: this is met by the provision of 3 x 16-week training courses for entrants to the Fire Service. These courses are used also by the Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service. The School also provides more specialised courses to meet the needs of Scottish brigades and other organisations, such as the Prison Service and the Health Service; and offers certain courses of the Fire Service College on an outreach basis. It is interesting to note that the number of students completing courses at the School has risen by 50 per cent over the past 2 years.
2. During 1998-99 the number of students completing the various courses at the School were as follows (numbers in the previous year, 1997-98, are in brackets):

Course	Numbers	
Wholetime Recruits	125	(149)
Retained Recruits	26	(35)
Retained Personnel other than recruits	160	(122)
Wholetime Leading Firefighter	35	(22)
Experienced Firefighters	45	(12)
Scottish Fire Safety Legislation	15	(29)
Breathing Apparatus Instructors	103	(42)
Breathing Apparatus Instructors Refresher	10	(0)
Hospital Fire Prevention etc	34	(33)
Prison Officer Fire Prevention etc	25	(54)
Road Traffic Accident Operators (Wholetime)	108	(105)
Road Traffic Accident Operators	61	(48)
Road Traffic Accident Operators Refresher	12	(0)
NEBOSH*	19	(18)
IOSH*	45	(47)
Fire Safety Modules*	97	(97)
Fire Service Health and Safety*	97	(97)
Fire Safety Health Care*	20	(36)
Fire Safety Licensing Modules*	19	(31)
Emergency Medical Technician	40	(38)
Power Station Firefighters	47	(16)
Rover Group Firefighters	12	(0)
Total	1,155	(951)

* outreach courses from the Fire Service College.

3. The Real Fire Training Facility at the School was completed in early summer 1998 and is fully operational. The then Minister for Home Affairs, Devolution & Local Government Henry McLeish MP kindly agreed to perform the official opening of the Facility which took place on 17 February 1999. Its realistic training

capabilities have been assimilated into relevant course programmes and its use is expected to be still further extended. The facility enables firefighters to experience and tackle real fire conditions which are likely to be met on the fire ground.

4. A 'Flashover' and 'Backdraught' facility has also been installed but is not currently operational. This is because of environmental issues requiring to be addressed and these are being actively pursued.

5. During the year financial provision was made for a 'Confined Space' training facility, as recommended in my predecessor's report last year. This will include a grain silo which will enable simulated rescues to be undertaken in a safe environment. The facility should be fully installed by April 1999 and be fully operational soon after.

6. As was noted last year, the classroom accommodation available for the specialised Breathing Apparatus course and that part of the recruit course syllabus with BA, is far from ideal and is very limited. It was converted many years ago from a ladder store and from other rooms within the garage complex. Accordingly the School needs to have a purpose-built Breathing Apparatus Teaching Block and I would urge that the necessary funding to enable provision of such a facility be identified at the earliest possible time. A feasibility study might be commissioned to explore the most advantageous and best value options for the construction of a purpose-built facility.

7. Further information about the School is available in the Commandant's Annual Report, copies of which may be obtained from the Alistair Whitwell, Director of Administration, Scottish Fire Service Training School, Gullane, East Lothian, EH31 2HG.

Fire Service College

8. During 1998/99 the Fire Service College (FSC) again worked closely with the Fire Inspectorate and SOHD to design and deliver training programmes meeting the needs of the Scottish Fire Service. This training has been delivered both at the FSC and the SFSTS. Overall, the number of student training weeks involving Scottish brigades remained at 1997/98 levels, but within individual brigades there were varying levels of training compared with last year.

Table F : Student Weeks at Fire Service College 1998/99 and 1997/98 by Brigade

Brigade	1998/99	1997/98	Variance
Central Scotland	146	152	-4%
Dumfries and Galloway	62	69	-10%
Fife	168	174	-4%
Grampian	143	188	-24%
Highland and Islands	151	148	2%
Lothian and Borders	447	393	14%
Strathclyde	778	785	-1%
Tayside	209	189	11%
SFSTS	25	30	-16%
Total	2,129	2,128	

9. The success of the Health and Safety courses run in Scotland during 1997/98 was consolidated during 1998/99 with further successful courses being delivered. This initiative should have a significant impact on the Health and Safety awareness and performance in Scotland. It is anticipated that the courses will continue to be delivered in 1999/2000.

10. In the National Examination Board Occupational Safety and Health General Certificate Course, one student achieved a distinction.

11. The use of the SFSTS to deliver training on an outreach basis has continued to represent an effective and economic alternative to using the FSC facilities. This outreach training has mainly involved fire safety and health and safety courses, details of which are shown below.

Table G: Fire Service College Training at SFSTS during 1998/99

Type of Training	Number of courses or modules	Total Number of Students trained
Fire Safety Officer Course (FSOC) Module A	1	24
Fire Safety Officer Course (FSOC) Module B	1	24
Fire Safety Officer Course (FSOC) Module C	1	32
Fire Safety Officer Course (FSOC) Module D	2	31
Licensing Module (LM)	1	19
Health Care Module (HCM)	1	20
National Examinations Board Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety and examination	1	20
Fire Service Health & Safety Course (FSHSC)	1	21
Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)	2	45
Safety for Senior Officers Workshop	1	15

12. The FSC maintains a small group of officer instructors seconded from Scottish fire brigades to the Fire Safety Engineering Division. These officers support the Scottish legislation and technical guidance content of fire safety courses. The FSOC Module D and the Licensing and Health Care modules are specifically based on the Scottish legislative and building control framework and are only delivered in this form in Scotland. The remaining courses also form part of the standard programme at the FSC where officers from all over the UK study together and are able to share knowledge and learn from their combined experiences.

13. The Fire Safety Engineering Division at the FSC has, for the past two years, been researching a fire risk analysis model for use by the fire service. This Building Fire performance Evaluation Method is the basis of a joint project with Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade to develop an integrated safety programme in support of risk management of both fire safety and operations.

14. The FSC has continued to support the developments in respect of vocational courses for the Fire Service during 1998/99 with the competence based programme extension to role maps for firefighters, Crew commanders, Watch Commanders and Station Commanders. The progress has been impressive and the effect on the progressive training system will need to be considered very carefully, with all parties being part of the discussions.

15. The vocationally based routes to academic qualifications have been extended during the year with an HNC in Fire Command and Management being made available through the University of Central Lancashire together with HNDs in Fire Safety Studies and Fire Command and Management. In 1998/99, there were no HND students from Scottish brigades. The distribution of Scottish HNC students is shown below.

Table H: Scottish HNC Students in 1998-99 by Brigade

Central Scotland	2
Fife	1
Grampian	2
Highland and Islands	1
Lothian and Borders	1
Strathclyde	8
Total	15

16. To help the 15 students from Scottish brigades currently enrolled on the HNC in Fire Command and Management, the FSC holds project presentation boards at the SFSTS. The first such presentation took place on 15 March 1999. The FSC will continue holding presentations for Scottish students at the SFSTS whenever it is considered appropriate.

17. The Fire Safety Technology and Management programme continued to flourish steadily with a slight increase in the number enrolled and completed. The appointment of a Senior Lecturer with responsibility for the Diploma level is expected to improve the course operation.

18. The credit accumulation process with the Open University has been developed such that the Open University now accepts all the FSC programmes that have been validated by a UK University at full credit value that has been allocated during the validation process.

19. FSC re-structuring has meant that the review of the Higher Education strategy has been delayed slightly. Nevertheless it is still being developed for the year 2000.

20. FSC courses and programmes will need to be re-structured over the next few years to take account of the TSG and IWG deliberations and the changes to the Fire Service training required by the groups' work. This will require considerable resources, both at the FSC and in brigades, to achieve.

21. The BCC review is progressing satisfactorily for the start of a new programme to take place in 2000. The anticipation that it will/would be at Masters level is being confirmed by discussions with the College's partner Universities. Work with the European Fire Services Colleges Association, FSCA, is also ongoing to develop a European Masters based on the new BCC as a core element.

22. The FSC involvement with Work Based Learning has continued during 1998/99. The links with Middlesex University and Leeds University have been consolidated through the commencement of a Masters and a Doctorate. New links are being established with the Universities of Glamorgan and Portsmouth. The eventual goal is to have a national network of Work Based Learning links to enable Fire Service personnel to continue their vocational and academic studies throughout their career.

23. The FSC has continued to promote and encourage academic and applied research. During 1998/99 several staff have commenced postgraduate research projects that will lead to Masters or Doctorate qualifications. In addition, the Fire Service College research day in November 1998 attracted many eminent researchers from the UK and abroad. It is anticipated that during 1999/2000 some fire research workers from the USA and Australia will spend their sabbatical period at the FSC. This further supports the position of the FSC in the fire research world.

Brigade Training

24. Enclosed with FSC 1/1998 was a copy of 'A Competence Framework for the Fire Service' which was produced to assist brigades in implementing the framework. The circular also explained that the Training for Competence Framework was dynamic and subject to change and that additional sections would be incorporated into the publication as they were completed. During the year under review an introduction, an executive summary and a glossary of terms have been added to the documentation along with rolemaps which have been developed for the generic roles of firefighter, crew and watch commander and station commander. Each rolemap has been produced following a functional analysis of fire service work and the expected standard of competence required for a satisfactory performance. These rolemaps are the foundation for all training programmes and they are essential to assessments of performance that determine the achievement and maintenance of competence.

25. These new documents give further emphasis to the significant changes that are being introduced for fire service training. To that end brigades are continuing to make progress in the provision of personnel who have gained D32 and D33 Training and Development Lead Body Assessor Qualifications. A number of brigades also have selected personnel qualified as Internal Verifiers and have applied for Approved Centre status. Brigades are also working towards the introduction of a training for competence system and all Brigades are participating in a CACFOA, Number 7 District Working Group on Training for Competence which was set up to develop common standards and to minimise duplication of effort in the introduction of such a system.

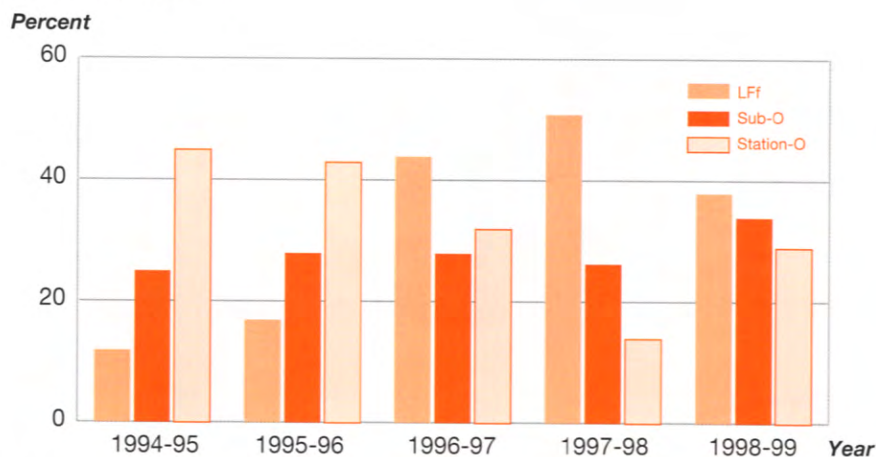
Fire Services Examinations Board

26. To obtain qualifications for promotion to a higher rank, firefighters, leading firefighters and sub-officers are required to be successful in examinations set by the Fire Service Examinations Board (FSEB). Annual examinations for promotion to the ranks of leading firefighter and sub-officer have both written and practical elements, while the examination for promotion to the rank of station officer consists of written papers only.

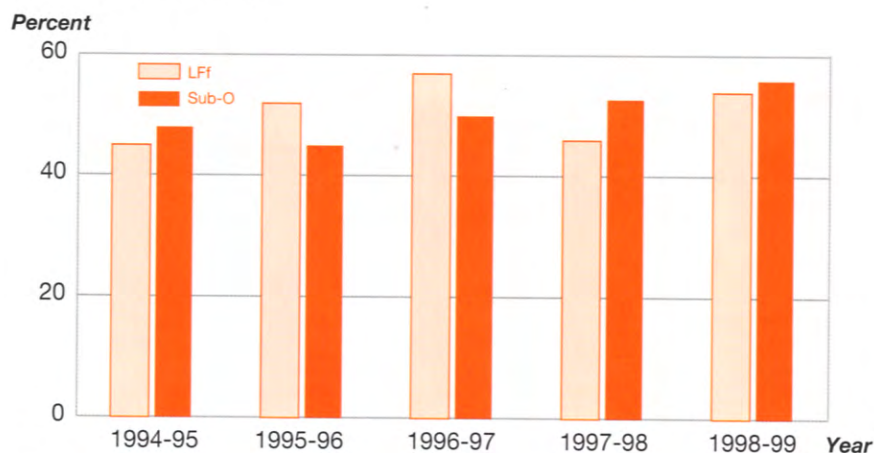
27. In Scotland, 3 local boards administer both the written and practical examinations on behalf of the FSEB. Graph 14 provides details of the success rate of the Scottish Fire Service over the past 5 years.

Graph 14: Fire Services Examination Board Percentage of Successful Scottish Candidates 1994-95 to 1989-99

Written Exams (passes %)



Practical Exams (passes %)



Institution of Fire Engineers

28. During 1998-99 candidates of the Scottish Branch sat the Institution's examinations with a total of 20 candidates being successful in the various gradings of the examinations, as shown below:

Examination	Number of Candidates
Preliminary	2
Intermediate	1
Graduateship	1 (passed 3 papers) 2 (passed 2 papers) 2 (passed 1 paper)
Membership	5 full member passes 2 (passed 2 papers) 5 (passed 1 paper)



Section F Supplies and Services



Premises

1. The Fire Service Allocations within the Local Authority Capital Expenditure distribution system contain an element of top slicing to help authorities to fund major projects, considered to be exceptional needs, including building works and other issues such as vehicle replacement.
2. It is estimated that Scottish Brigades have allocated a total of £1.65 million for property maintenance from their revenue budget in the reporting period. A total estimate of approximately £3 million is required per annum to meet the essential repairs, renovations and improvements throughout the entire Scottish fire brigade estate. Although the majority of premises visited during the inspection were being maintained to a satisfactory standard in terms of structure and decoration this is the sixth consecutive year of decrease from former allocation levels. This must be of a long-term concern to the overall status of the estate and indeed a number of the older stations are now showing signs of deterioration in the general fabric of the buildings. The deterioration in some cases is now at the extent that unless early remedial action is taken further degradation could lead to considerable building costs in the future.
3. A detailed list of the construction and maintenance of premises, during 1998-99, by brigades can be found at Annex B, page 101.

Transport

4. With the exception of Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade, who have a maintenance agreement with their Council's Commercial Services Group, all others have well equipped workshops able to carry out the majority of vehicle maintenance, other than the provision of 'rolling brake test' facilities, which in most cases is contracted out. Most Workshops now operate in accordance with the Vehicle Inspectorate's 'Heavy Goods Vehicle Inspection Manual' and The Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association Recommended Best Practices for the maintenance of Fire Service vehicles, to ensure a continued standardisation of maintenance.
5. The operational fleet of vehicles within Scotland consists of 458 first line pumping appliances, 62 lightweight fire appliances, 114 specials which includes aerial appliances, rescue units, pod carriers, foam carriers and command and control vehicles.
6. Three hundred and sixty eight support vehicles - vans, personnel carriers, cars - provide the ancillary back up for brigades. These are used for duties such as delivering supplies, hydrant inspections and monitoring, vehicle and communications maintenance, fire safety and operational support.
7. Throughout the year brigades purchased in total 33 water tender ladders, 2 aerial appliances and 8 light fire appliances to compliment their fleet. However, due to financial restrictions and priority assessment a number of brigades were unable to meet their replacement strategy. This accounted for 32 appliances (25 pumping appliances and 7 specials) which were outwith their replacement period.
8. A high standard of vehicles is now being specified and provided for by brigades. In reviewing the current vehicle replacement criteria, cognisance needs to be taken of the information available from brigades' fleet management systems regarding 'life to date' repair history and service costs along with dynamic age profile assessment

for each vehicle. All new water tender ladders now come provided with high specification crew safety features. This includes all steel crew safety cabs, automatic transmission and anti-lock braking system. To enhance crew safety the appliances are also fitted with a beam gantry stowage system to accommodate ladders, which improves manual handling, lighting masts and some with powered hose reels.

9. Highland and Islands continue to develop their manufacturing skills with the completion of a third 6.2 tonne ISUZU chassis light fire appliance. Seven lockers provide the space to house a wide range of operational equipment including Breathing Apparatus and hydraulic rescue equipment. A 1,000 litre per minute self contained removable pump can be utilised to provide a portable alternative. The appliance is also equipped with a 900 litre water tank a 10.5 metre ladder, short extension and a folding roof ladder. Highland and Islands have also commissioned a variation on the ISUZU using a Mitsubishi 6.3 tonne chassis with a fixed drive shaft and power take-off to allow the addition of a fixed pump. These larger 'midi' appliances are eventually to be the norm for volunteer units.

10. A new replacement for the Occupational Health Unit at Central Scotland Fire Brigade came in the shape of a 2.5 tonne Fiat Ducato chassis. This will allow greater flexibility for the Occupational Health staff to provide their service.

11. A new trial is underway in Strathclyde with the delivery of 4 new Scania water tender ladders which are provided with a synthetic environmentally friendly engine oil. It is envisaged this initiative will reduce requirements for engine maintenance. Early reports are extremely positive with the intention to change all Blue light appliances at the earliest opportunity.

12. Strathclyde also enhanced their fleet with the addition of Mercedes Benz 814, 4x4 light pumping appliances. These units are constructed on a 7.5 ton 4 wheel drive chassis and are provided with an integral crew cabin. The vehicles are designed to carry 5 of a crew as well as breathing apparatus and associated firefighting equipment. They are also fitted with a 2,000 litre Rosenbauer 2 stage high pressure fixed pumps which are supplied by 1,000 litre water tanks. It is understood that these appliances are to be used by volunteer units.

13. The ever increasing demand set upon brigades to continue to carry out efficient and effective maintenance of operational equipment, particularly ladders and rescue equipment, has seen added pressure to workshop staff to achieve all the requirements of Technical Bulletin 1/1994 - Periodic Inspection and testing of Fire Service equipment. To meet this demand along with the requirement to maintain vehicle maintenance schedules will necessitate a number of brigades to review staffing levels.

Equipment

14. The continued provision of lightweight carbon composite cylinders will in the long term reduce considerably the number of firefighters retiring from the Service due to spinal and skeletal injuries. It is therefore pleasing to report that 7 Brigades are now provided with lightweight cylinders.

15. The use of thermal imaging equipment has seen a steady increase over the last 12 months with cameras now being provided on a number of first line appliances in addition to specialist vehicles. Thermal imaging has significant practical applications and the ability to see through smoke reduces considerably the hazard to firefighters.

16. As highlighted in previous reports approximately £2 million per annum is actually provided and spent by brigades to maintain the appropriate level of equipment to meet operational requirements. During the year under review brigades purchased hose, ladders, thermal imaging cameras, hydraulic rescue equipment, limited life gas-tight suits, line rescue equipment, trauma kits, ice rescue equipment, resuscitators, casualty shields, step chocks and personal protective equipment.

17. Brigades continue to carry out research and development of operational equipment with evaluation having been carried out on lockable plastic hydrant covers, harnesses for aerial appliances, asbestos fibre monitoring equipment, replacement breathing apparatus, gas detection equipment, spinal boards and neck collars.

Communications

18. It was acknowledged that the Home Office Major Review of Radio Communications in the Police and Fire Services in England and Wales could have serious implications for Scotland, particularly in relation to frequency allocations and the technologies and standards on which any new systems would be based.

19. It was therefore decided to undertake a Scottish Review of Telecommunications for the Police and Fire Services, the first stage of which was the development of user requirements. One of the aims of the Review was to establish if there were any significant areas of diversity between Scottish requirements and those developed for England and Wales. The Review concluded that there were few significant differences between the requirements except that in Scotland they were being met to a greater extent with existing systems than in England and Wales.

20. The Public Safety Radio Communications Project (PSRCP) was originally set up as a joint project between the Police and Fire Services, however, considerable difficulties arose due to fundamental differences between what each service required. The end result of a considerable number of meetings was that the Fire Service would withdraw from the Project and it was agreed that a Fire Service Radio Strategy be developed. This would allow various options for example:

- ◆ enables various procurement options to be investigated including, a national framework agreement for equipment procurement, competitive procurement against a national specification, PFI type approaches, etc;
- ◆ enables the costs and benefits of the various options to be studied and a preferred approach identified;
- ◆ provides a way forward should the PSRCP not happen or is delayed;
- ◆ gives the Fire Service freedom to make a choice.

21. The current position regarding the radio replacement system in Scotland is:

- ◆ brigades to consider the Public Service Radio Communications proposals against alternative solutions;
- ◆ the report from the consultants, Mott MacDonald, Communication and Control Division, will provide additional information to inform debate regarding the future radio strategy for the Scottish Fire Service.
- ◆ the existing co-ordination between the Police and Fire Service in Scotland to continue with further evaluation of the possibility of a shared radio system which meets the requirements of both Services.

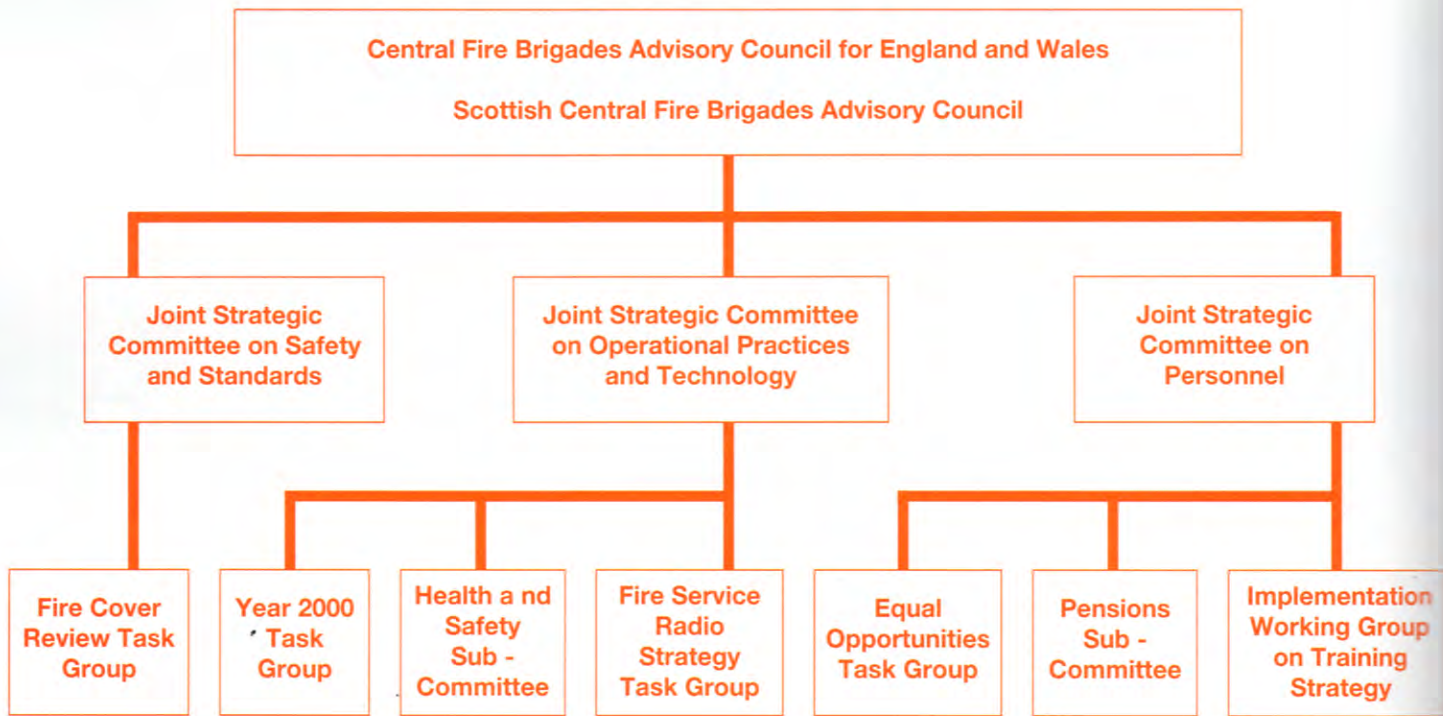


Section G
Councils, Committees and Groups



Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils

1. The Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils (CFBACs) were established under section 29 and 36(18) of the Fire Services Act 1947 to advise the Secretaries of State on matters relating to all fire service matters except pay, conditions of service and discipline. The Councils are composed of representatives of both fire authorities and employees, together with representatives of other fire service or relevant interests.
2. The following flowchart shows the current structure of the councils and their sub-groups at the end of the reporting year.



As shown above the detailed work of the CFBACs is conducted by the three Joint Strategic Committees.

Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council

3. The 88th, 89th, 90th and 91st meetings of the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council (SCFBAC) were held on 29 April 1998, 18 June 1998, 17 December 1998 and 5 February respectively. The 89th and 90th SCFBAC meetings were ordinary meetings at which a range of issues concerning the fire service in Scotland was discussed. The 88th and 91st SCFBAC meetings were special meetings called to discuss single, specific subjects. The 88th meeting considered, in depth, the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association Report "Volunteers - A Case for Change". The 91st meeting was held, at the request of the Fire Brigades Union, to discuss the Equal Opportunities Thematic Inspection Report, which had been published on 23 December 1998 by my predecessor as HMCIFS, but is now withdrawn. Mr J Hamill, Secretary of The Scottish Office Home Department, chaired all four SCFBAC meetings.

Joint Strategic Committee on Safety Standards (JSCSS)

4. The remit of the Joint Strategic Committee on Safety and Standards is:
 - ◆ to consider and advise on matters relating to fire safety and prevention, including also the relationship between fire safety and firefighting in the light of the Audit Commission's recommendations on standards of fire cover;
 - ◆ to prepare and implement an annual programme of work taking due account of implications and any requirements for research; and
 - ◆ to report on progress to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils.
5. The first meeting of the JSCSS (containing the remit of the former Joint Fire Safety Committee) took place in April 1998 at which time the terms of reference, the main areas of work and the organisational arrangements were discussed. The agenda also included the announcement that the Government had received a letter from the European Commission challenging the UK's implementation of the European Framework Directive and a need to justify the exceptions that had been made from the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. As the Government had decided to address the Commission's concerns this will require amendments to the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. Other matters discussed at the meeting were the responses made to the consultation document entitled "Fire Safety Legislation for the Future" and the awareness that the Government were committed to a thorough overhaul of fire safety legislation and the implementation of the recommendations of the Community Fire Safety Task Force.
6. A second meeting was held in September 1998 with an enhanced agenda dealing with amendments to the terms of reference and the main areas of work, which were agreed. Some of the main items under discussion were the implementation of the strategy for community fire safety, the joint national campaign to reduce unwanted fire signals generated by automatic fire detection systems and proposals for amending the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. Other major issues were the review of fire statistics, fire safety legislation for the future and the progress of the task group reporting on the Fire Cover Review.
7. A third meeting of the committee was held on the 10 March 1999 at which time the terms of reference and main areas of work of the committee were discussed and agreed. Other major items of interest covered were Community Fire Safety, the National Campaign to reduce unwanted fire signals generated by automatic fire detection systems and proposals for amending the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. Inter alia a review of fire statistics, along with discussion on Performance Indicators for the Fire Service and a progress report of the task group working on the Fire Cover review completed the very full and wide ranging schedule of business at that meeting.

Fire Cover Review Task Group

8. The Fire Cover Review Task Group was formed to take forward the next phase of work following on from the report of the Joint Committee on the Audit Commission Report (JCACR). The main terms of reference for the group were described as:

“Taking into account the safety of firefighters, community fire safety and legislative matters, develop a risk-based approach to the provision of rescue and emergency cover as outlined in the JCACR in its report ‘Out of the Line of Fire’, into a fully defined system capable of operational use for fire, rescue and emergency cover, and evaluate its running-costs and performance through the implementation of ‘Pathfinder projects’ in selected brigades.”

9. The new approach being developed consists of a risk based system which considers various types of risk, namely risk to life (individual and societal), property, environment and heritage although the main emphasis is on risk to life. The nature of response, in terms of balance between firefighting cover and community fire safety work, would vary according to nature and level of the risk.

10. It was envisaged that a total of 18 brigades would participate in pathfinder trials in 3 groups of 6, with the trials being carried out during 1999. Two Scottish brigades - Lothian and Borders and Strathclyde - are participating in the first tranche of trials. The main objectives of the trials are to assess the suitability or otherwise of the proposed method of achieving fire cover by evaluating the newly developed risk assessment toolkits, the suitability of worst case planning scenarios for flexible response, the proposed methods of determining fire cover requirements, and the costs of implementing the system and to assess the overall benefits of the system.

Joint Strategic Committee on Operational Practices and Technology

11. The remit of the Joint Strategic Committee on Operational Practices and Technology is:

- ◆ to consider and advise on matters relating to operational practices and procedures; health and safety practices; equipment selection and performance (including appliances, personal protective equipment and clothing), and operational communications and IT;
- ◆ to prepare and implement an annual programme of work taking account of implications and any requirements for research; and
- ◆ to report on progress to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils.

General

Distress Signal Unit (DSU) - Sound Research

12. Following the successful testing and trialling of the new ‘directional sounders’ for emergency appliances, a sound research project was commissioned into the DSU in respect of directional sound in the area of search and rescue operations. The aim of the research carried out by Dr Deborah Withington at Leeds University, was to investigate the ability of Human listeners to locate sounds used in existing DSUs and the potential new improved sounds.

Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV)

13. Over recent years the introduction of PPV in a number of brigades has seen its use as an integral part of their operational tactics and as an aid to the tactical ventilation process.

14. In order to produce guidance for the use of PPV, JSCOPT accepted this as one of their strategic issues with the process of formulating a National protocol to include:

- ◆ PPV implementation;
- ◆ operational guidance;
- ◆ user requirements and equipment guidance; and
- ◆ training guidance.

15. A task group was set up with the objective:

“to produce national guidance/Best Practice advice for the information of fire brigades in the use of Positive Pressure ventilation as part of their tactical ventilation and Firefighting techniques.”

16. It is expected the task group would produce a final report by Autumn 1999.

17. Measures have also been put in place to produce a training video; which is anticipated to be available for brigades by mid 1999.

Fire Service Manuals

18. During the inspection year the Fire Service Manuals have seen continued improvement with the issue of 5 new manuals:

- ◆ Fire Service Operations - Electricity
- ◆ Physics and Chemistry for Firefighters
- ◆ Communications and Mobilising
- ◆ Fire Service Operations - Incident Command
- ◆ Firefighting Foam.

Dear Firemaster Letters

19. Dear Firemaster Letter 11/1998 formally advised Firemasters of the publication of Health and Safety guidance for the Fire Service. The guidance will provide for a more systematic approach across the fire service to the training of firefighters in recognising the risks associated with particular scenarios. A 20 page pamphlet was also issued to all personnel which included a simple pocket-sized overview of the principals of dynamic risk assessment and the safe person concept.

20. Item A of Dear Firemaster Letter 15/1998 advised Firemasters of a new joint initiative by the Home Office, the Chief and Assistance Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA) and the British Fire Protection Systems Association (BFPSA) to reduce unwanted fire signals generated by automatic fire detection systems.

21. A new specification (A30) for firefighters leather boots has been prepared which includes compliance with the British Standard for safety footwear for professional use (BS EN 345-2). Information on this subject was promulgated to brigades in item B of Dear Firemaster Letter 15/1998.

Health and Safety Sub-Committee

Physiological and Environmental aspects of Firefighter Training

22. A research project, jointly commissioned and funded by FRDG and the HSE, commenced on January 1999 on the Physiological and Environmental aspects of Firefighter training. The aims of the research are to help achieve a balance between risk and realism in firefighting training, and to provide practical and precautionary guidance on the management of heat and stress during firefighting activities.

23. It is expected the project will be completed by Spring 2000.

National Safety Event Database

24. A working group from JSCOPT was set up in May of 1998 to formulate a framework for the collation of 'safety events' nation-wide.

25. In December of 1998 Dear Firemaster letter 16/1998 was issued to explain the rationale for the development of the Database and also to provide advance notification of the information that will be requested from Brigades when the system goes live in April of 1999. JSCOPT defined a 'safety event' as specific, unplanned events that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- ◆ personal injuries;
- ◆ vehicle accidents;
- ◆ equipment failures;
- ◆ ill health; and
- ◆ 'near misses'.

26. The database will provide a one stop shop for nationally comparable safety event information to assist the development of 'reactive monitoring systems'. It will also enable Brigades to monitor the effectiveness of their risk control measures and provide a consistent national framework for brigades to identify, record and analyse Safety Event Data.

27. The data collected should be available to the service from July 1999.

Year 2000 Task Group

The Millennium Date Change

28. It has been well documented that the forthcoming date change to the year 2000 and its associated dates may cause some disruption to certain items of equipment and procedural operations throughout the world.

29. With this in mind the Government set up a task group called 'Action 2000' to raise awareness of Y2000 issues within small and medium size enterprises and get them to take action. It has since widened its interest to the nation's infrastructure and its interdependencies. Various Cabinet Committees are also taking an interest.

30. All infrastructure utility companies and services have been subject to independent assessment of their progress towards Y2000 compliance and the Fire Service Inspectorate were tasked with such assessment in respect of the fire service in Scotland.

31. Early in 1998 brigades were issued with a variety of questionnaires to allow the current status of Brigades Year 2000 preparedness to be assessed.
32. Following this the Government required further confirmation to ensure that brigades were on track to deliver their project and contingency plans in preparation of the Year 2000.
33. A questionnaire was designed by Action 2000 to assist the inspection team rate the brigades according to the Traffic Light system:
- BLUE:** The assessment has not identified any risks of material disruption to the infrastructure processes.
- AMBER:** The assessment indicates that some risks of material disruption to infrastructure processes exist but there is an agreed containment plan to rectify shortcomings.
- RED:** The assessment indicates that there is a severe risk of material disruption to infrastructure processes and that timely rectification may not be possible.
34. The inspections started in late January of 1999 and continued through into April. The team spent 2 days in each Scottish brigade, questioning key staff and inspecting project plans, contingency plans, equipment confirmation etc.
35. There will be continual monitoring throughout the year of all brigades to ensure they are in a state of readiness for the event.

Fire Service Radio Strategy Task Group

36. A Task Group has been formed which is charged with carrying forward the decisions of the CFBAC following the acceptance by the CFBAC of paper FBU 963 and in particular:
- ◆ to assess the implementation of the recommendations of FBC 963 (DCOL 2/1999/Dear Firemaster Letter 6/1999) by fire brigades to make further recommendations as necessary;
 - ◆ to consider any proposals by the contractor of the proposed PSRC service regarding the provision of the service to fire brigades;
 - ◆ to make recommendations on further guidance to fire brigades arising from the implementation of the strategy and consideration of any proposals made by the PSRC contractor; and
 - ◆ to consider emerging technologies for meeting the fire service User Requirement for at-incident communications, paging and alerting and to recommend a strategy for dealing with these issues and guidance to the fire service.

Joint Strategic Committee on Personnel

37. The remit of the Joint Committee on Personnel is:

- ◆ to consider and advise on matters relating to fire service personnel, including training, other than those within the remit of the NJC;
- ◆ to prepare and implement an annual programme of work taking account of the financial implications and any requirements for research; and
- ◆ to report on progress to the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Councils.

Equal Opportunities Task Group

38. At the first meeting of the Joint Strategic Committee on Personnel (JSCP) held in April 1998 the view was endorsed that a small task-based working group (EOTG) would be best placed to achieve realistic progress on equal opportunities issues. The first meeting of the newly formed task group took place in July 1998 at the Home Office with the membership comprising of one representative each from the FBU, CACFOA, the employers organisations and the Home Departments.

39. The task group's initial programme of work included a review of the equal opportunities return submitted annually by the brigades to the Inspectorate and the implementation of a 9 category system of self-classification of existing personnel and future applicants. A women firefighters' conference, to be held on 31 October and 1 November in South Yorkshire, was discussed and it was noted that the JSCP had given their formal endorsement of a Women's National Networking system. The National conference for women firefighters was subsequently held to be a success with the Home Office Minister offering his personal endorsement of the aims of the conference and the network. It was also agreed that the conference should be held biennially.

40. Following concern expressed about the level of under-represented groups in brigades and about the fact that the service was generally unable to attract candidates from a wider diversity of backgrounds, it was agreed that a detailed examination of equal opportunities matters, within the recruit selection process, would be required before offering recommendations to the service. It is noted that the Home Office have set ethnic minority recruitment targets for brigades in England and Wales where latest fire service statistics showed less than 1.3% of the operational workforce had identified themselves as belonging to such a group. In Scotland there are 1,619,391 people of operational recruiting age ie 18 to 39 years of whom 26,750 (1.65%) have classed themselves as of ethnic origin. At present 0.04% of wholtime operational firefighters in Scotland have declared that they are from an ethnic background.

41. One of the tasks of the EOTG was to consult with the HM Inspectorate in England and Wales regarding the issues to be covered by an equal opportunities thematic review that would be a 2-stage process. The first involves sending questionnaires to all brigades and the second producing a report based on the findings of visits to 10 Brigades. It was noted that the Equal Opportunities Thematic Report issued by HMCIFS in Scotland in December 1998 had been withdrawn following representations made to the Scottish Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council.

42. Table I shows the increase of female firefighters within the Fire Service in Scotland over the past year, in wholtime, retained and volunteer sectors of brigades. It should be noted that not all of the brigades in Scotland have volunteer firefighters on their staff.

Table I: Breakdown of Gender and Ethnic Origin of Brigade Personnel in Scotland 1998-99

	Wholetime		Retained		Volunteer		Total	
White								
Male	4,461	(4,468)	2,468	(2,440)	1,144	(1,187)	8,073	(8,095)
Female	41	(33)	79	(51)	68	(57)	188	(141)
Black								
Male	3	(2)	0	(0)	0	(0)	3	(2)
Female	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Asian								
Male	1	(0)	0	(0)	1	(0)	2	(0)
Female	0	(0)	0	(0)	2	(0)	2	(0)
Others								
Male	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Female	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)	0	(0)
Total								
Male	4,465	(4,470)	2,468	(2,440)	1,145	(1,187)	8,078	(8,097)
Female	41	(33)	79	(51)	70	(57)	190	(141)
Overall Total								
	4,506 (4,503)		2,547 (2,491)		1,215 (1,244)		8,268 (8,238)	

The figures in brackets relate to the year 1997-98.

Pensions Sub-Committee

43. The Pensions Sub-Committee of the CFBACs (formerly known as the Joint Pensions Committee (JPC)) met twice during the year, to consider various items relating to firefighters' pensions. Amongst the principal items discussed were progress with the Government's ongoing review of fire service pensions and the first year of regional boards hearing appeals from firefighters on matters relating to medical retirement. The review of fire service pensions had been a wide-ranging one, involving the issue of a consultation document to interested parties including fire authorities and staff associations. In the light of their consideration of the responses to the various options in that document, the government are expected to bring forward proposals for changes to the pension scheme. These had not been published at the time of this report being finalised.

44. The introduction of the system of three-man boards to judge medical appeals appeared to have gone reasonably smoothly. It had been decided that the relatively small number of Scottish cases should be referred to the new English boards, which were quickly building up relevant expertise on the often-detailed issues. The Sub-Committee would continue to monitor the progress of appeal cases, as it would the wider matter of the number of medical retirements.

Implementation Working Group on Training Strategy

45. Following a report from the Training Strategy Group (TSG) in 1994, the IWG was formed to develop the recommendations set out by the TSG.

46. During an initial meeting, terms of reference were laid down to focus the IWG on their aims. These were:

- i. to examine the Training Strategy Group report in detail and to produce papers for the Joint Training Committee (now JSCOP) recommending how implementation of the separate sections should be taken forward;
- ii. to prepare an action plan with timescales for the work as a whole;
- iii. the above work should take account of work already in progress in the JSCP, its sub-committees and other sub-committees, working parties etc.

47. Many of the recommendations have wide ranging and far reaching implications for the Fire Service and the schedule to deal with all the strategic issues was going to be difficult and protracted. Some of the issues included the development of:

- ◆ a training and development system for the Fire Service;
- ◆ performance standards mapped to Fire Service roles;
- ◆ training programmes and courses in brigades and at the FSC;
- ◆ a new structure to replace ranks with roles carried out by the NJC;
- ◆ a new Fire Service qualification structure;
- ◆ a new procedure for selection and recruitment; and
- ◆ a related supported documentation and recording system.

48. A 'Competence Framework' has been published under cover of Fire Service Circular 1/98 which forms the basis for the management, planning and delivery of competence based training and addresses many of the issues within the TSG report. The main Components of the Competence Framework are:

- ◆ a guide to the management of competence;
- ◆ a guide to the operation of training for competence;
- ◆ a guide for assessment;
- ◆ role maps for station related roles.

49. Role maps for the positions of Firefighter, Crew Commander, Watch Commander and Station Commander have now been issued to all brigades. These rolemaps define the activities relevant to a particular role and using these will identify how that role contributes to achieving the organisations aims and objectives.

50. The proposed introduction of continuous Professional Development (CPD) has seen a project to design specifications for the 4 stages of development within a role. These are:

- ◆ training and learning;
- ◆ measuring the achievement of competence;

- ◆ measuring the maintenance of competence; and
- ◆ continuous development.

51. This would ensure the competence framework has the necessary infrastructure within it to enable personnel to monitor, maintain and develop the necessary skills required to continue the development of the workforce within the organisation.

Civil Defence and Emergency Planning

52. Funding support continued within the reporting period in each Brigade for the provision of an Emergency Planning Officer who is responsible to his Firemaster for the preparation and updating of the Brigade's Civil Defence and other Emergency plans.

53. During January, February and March 1999 the Scottish Home Department sponsored an eighth series of general emergency planning courses for local authorities and emergency services and as these courses are now targeted at tactical level staff it is slightly disappointing to note that only 2 Brigade personnel attended as students.

54. Although the Brigade Emergency Planning Officers organise various exercises and training events for their own brigades the main thrust of the various emergency planning co-ordination groups within local authorities is in the participation and use of fire brigade personnel at multi-agency exercises throughout Scotland, representation of which is as follows.

Central Scotland

55. The Brigade participated in 3 multi-agency exercises to test the inter-disciplinary approach to emergency situations. Two of these were developed as Grangemouth Major Incident Control Committee "disaster co-ordination" (DISCO) 'table-top' exercises and the other was a 'live' on site exercise at the DCL Ltd. Bonded Warehouse at Menstrie.

Dumfries and Galloway

56. During the reporting period the Brigade participated in 5 multi-agency exercises to test the inter-disciplinary approach to emergency situations. Two of these were developed as 'live' on-site exercises involving the following: fire and release of radioactivity from a nuclear power station and a multiple road traffic incident. The 'table-top' events included an offshore ferry fire, a fire and the evacuation of a shopping mall and a fire and evacuation of a train within a tunnel.

Fife Fire and Rescue

57. Exercise "Dark Blue" was the fourth major multi-agency exercise in the annual series undertaken on behalf of the Fife Emergency Planning Policy Group. The scenario was developed around a crowd-related incident at the Stark's Park Stadium of Raith Rovers Football Club and the exercise was conducted in table-top format. It was in 2 phases: emergency response, and its immediate aftermath, and the recovery phase, which focused on the medium to long term provision of practical and emotional support.

Grampian

58. To test the inter-disciplinary approach to emergency situations the Brigade participated in 13 multi-agency exercises. Five of these were developed as "live" on-site exercises, 8 being conducted as "table-top" events. The following is representative of the events as they took place throughout the reporting period: Live - RAF Lossiemouth and RAF Buchan, Mobil - St Fergus, Aberdeen Airport Phase 1&2 and Stirlinghill RAF/Police; Table-Top - Tall Ships Aberdeen Harbour, Shell - St Fergus, Peterhead Bay Authority, Pittodrie Stadium, Stoneywood Mills and Dr Grays Hospital - Elgin.

Highland and Islands

59. To test the civil emergencies planning arrangements 14 multi-agency exercises were carried out. Eleven of these were developed as "live" on site exercises with the remaining 3 being conducted as "table-top" events. During the reporting period the Brigade participated in numerous exercises involving the Coastguard, RNLI, Royal Air Force and ferry operators. They included live exercises at Dounreay (Delta 25 and Delta 27), Sumburgh, Orkney, Stornoway and Inverness Airports, at Nigg and Flotta Oil Terminals, at Lerwick and Lochboisdale Harbours and a Tanker Hazchem incident, Portree. Table-top exercises were held for Benbecula and Shetland Airports and with the Stornoway Coastguard exercise "Clear Blue Water" being a third such incident.

Lothian and Borders

60. The Joint Co-ordinating Group was heavily involved in emergency service planning for 4 major special events within the city of Edinburgh. These were: the Edinburgh Hogmanay Celebrations; Bank of Scotland Firework Display; the Edinburgh Tattoo; and The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. In addition the Brigade participated in 6 multi-agency exercises to test the inter-disciplinary approach to emergency situations. Four of these were developed as 'live' on-site exercises - ie Railtrack Incident Exercise, Gas Works Exercise, Edinburgh Airport Exercise and Torness Power Station. Table-top exercises were carried out for both Edinburgh Airport Terminal and Saughton Prison.

Strathclyde

61. The Brigade participated in 16 multi-agency exercises, nine of which were live and the other seven being of the table-top variety. Prestwick, Campbeltown, Tiree and Islay Airports were Live exercises, as were Glasgow Underground, Hunterston Power Station and Faslane Naval Base. Milngavie Waterworks and 6 other sites throughout the Strathclyde area were exercised as Table-top events.

Tayside

62. During the 1998-99 period the Brigade participated in a significant number of multi-agency exercises to test the inter-disciplinary approach to emergency situations within the Tayside area. The live on-site exercises were at Ninewells NHS Hospital, a Ship fire in harbour and a Major Road accident at Baluniefield, all in Dundee, along with a Major Gas Leak in Forfar, a Major Aircraft accident at Strathallan, a Major Chemical incident at Coupar Angus and a Ship fire in harbour at Arbroath. The remaining table-top event, based in Perth, was conducted as a Brigade-wide command and control exercise.

The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances

63. Within the reporting period the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Substances held their 48th and 49th meetings in Rose Court, London. Among the major issues raised at these meetings were:

64. The European Directive 96/82/EC commonly known as the Seveso II Directive was due to be implemented into UK legislation by 3 February 1999 through the introduction of the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) which will supersede the CIMAH Regulations. As a result of further consideration of key issues the implementation date has been put back until 1 April 1999. These Regulations place duties on operators falling within their scope to notify the Competent Authority (CA), who are the enforcing authority for COMAH, of their activities. In Scotland the CA will be the Health and Safety Executive and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

65. The provisions of the Directive aim to prevent the occurrence of major accidents at fixed installations involving hazardous substances that would pose a risk to the health and safety of people and the environment. The Directive also requires operators to make arrangements for mitigating the effects of any accident that may happen by developing onsite emergency plans and co-operating with local authorities to prepare offsite plans that have to be tested on a regular basis. The offsite plan must include arrangements for the restoration and clean up of any environmental pollution. The operators of sites where the quantities of dangerous substances exceed the higher thresholds (top tier establishments) must submit safety reports and prepare and test emergency plans.

66. COMAH also places duties on the CA to communicate the conclusions of safety report assessments to operators; prohibit activities if there are serious deficiencies in measures for prevention and mitigation of major accidents and to have inspection systems and programmes in place. The CA will also carry out inspections and investigate accidents and designate certain sites as "domino effects" establishments. As it is Government policy that those who benefit directly from a service are expected to pay, it is the intention that the cost of work carried out under COMAH should be recovered through charging on a component or banded charging scheme.

67. In addition updates were received by the Committee on the following matters:

- ◆ Dangerous Goods Safety Advisers (DGSA) Directive;
- ◆ a report on the TEXACO site explosion at Milford Haven in 1994;
- ◆ date discontinuity or the year 2000 problem;
- ◆ a proposed ATEX Directive for the protection of people working in potentially explosive atmospheres. (Possible adoption by late 1999 and full implementation by June 2003);
- ◆ proposals for new Petroleum Legislation;
- ◆ the consolidation and simplification of legislation dealing with the Transport of Dangerous Goods; and
- ◆ the re-titling of the Dangerous Substances in Harbour Area Regulations 1987 to the Dangerous Goods in Harbour Area Regulations 1999.



Section **H**
Miscellaneous



Fire Services National Benevolent Fund

1. The Fund's principal aim is to provide assistance to the widows and orphans of Members of the United Kingdom's Fire Services and to Retired and Serving Members and their families, when in need.
2. The Fund's main purpose is to provide help and support to the widows, widowers and young dependants of firefighters killed on duty. It will:
 - ◆ co-ordinate the provision of financial and material assistance to all Members who are in need;
 - ◆ endeavour to assist Members who cannot be helped from any other source;
 - ◆ assist the recovery to health of those in need of therapy, convalescence, or rest; and
 - ◆ provide advice or short term assistance when needed until official help is forthcoming.
 - ◆ In its dealings, the Fund will act with integrity and offer appropriate care and support when needed.
3. In its dealings, the Fund will act with integrity and offer appropriate care and support when needed
4. In 1998, the following were achieved:
 - ◆ One-off hardship grants were awarded at a total cost of £240,350;
 - ◆ 887 convalescence and beneficial rest applications were accepted at the Marine Court and Harcombe House Convalescent Centres with personnel from Scottish brigades using the facilities on 75 occasions;
 - ◆ 607 clients received therapy, rehabilitation and nursing care at Jubilee House, with 95 admissions from representatives of Scottish brigades;
 - ◆ monitoring and maintenance charges were paid for 76 dispersed lifeline alarm units for disabled and elderly persons living in their own homes;
 - ◆ 7 of the Fund's young dependants were sponsored on outward-bound courses; and
 - ◆ 4 young people from the Education Register were sponsored on sail training voyages.
5. The Trustees have continued with the new style Business Plan which came into force on 1st January 1998 which embraces the annual Operating and Capital Budgets. This plan specifies all aspects of the Fund's activities and aspirations. It will undergo regular review and update by the Trustees in the form of a rolling document and sets the way the Fund is to conduct its affairs.
6. The Fund's Policy Study Group (PSG) has produced a number of wide ranging policy proposals which are still undergoing detailed study and consideration. Three sub-groups have been formed within the PSG and these are examining the areas of 'Facilities', 'Administration' and 'Welfare and Counselling'. It is expected that a series of roadshows, run by the PSG around the UK to advise and consult with the membership on the proposals, will take place towards the end of 1999 or early 2000.

7. Other achievements throughout the year were:
- ◆ gaining vastly improved awareness and support both within the Fire Service and the general public as well as attracting media attention at a national level;
 - ◆ Yellow Helmet week 1998 raised record-breaking funds thanks to the tremendous effort and involvement of more stations than ever before; and
 - ◆ Blaze Bear was launched as the official mascot for the Fund and more than 6000 bears were sold to raise funds.

Competitions

8. To test firefighters' knowledge of, and skills in, fire technology and first aid, CACFOA organises annual competitions in these topics. Teams from throughout the UK may enter at local level, with the winners of the qualifying round progressing to district or national finals.
9. The National Firefighters' Quiz alternates between the wholetime and the retained service yearly and this year's competition was contested by Retained personnel.
10. Four teams - Dumfries and Galloway, Fife Fire and Rescue, Grampian and Tayside - competed in the District Final. This competition demonstrates the professionalism and skill of the Retained service. The standard was extremely high in what was a closely contested competition. Fife Fire and Rescue were the eventual winners and went on to represent the Scottish District in the UK northern area semi-final held in March 1999 at Strathclyde, which was won by Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
11. The First Aid Competition differs from the National Firefighters' Quiz in that it is open to wholetime, retained and control personnel.
12. Teams from Dumfries and Galloway and Strathclyde competed in the Scottish District Finals. Strathclyde will compete at the National Final to be held at the Fire Service College on 11 June 1999.
13. The tenth annual British National Extrication Competition (BNEC) and conference, staged by the Car Users Entrapment and Extrication Society (CUEES) and the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association was hosted by GMC and took place at their training centre on August 7-8, 1998. The event was opened by Iain McWilliam, Chairman of CUEES and Chief Fire Officer Jeff Ord, CACFOA's competition secretary.
14. The event combined a one-day conference, which focused on the perspective of people involved in RTAs (the victims), and a competition, which attracted 36 teams from around the country. The winners this year were Manchester 'B' who now go on to represent the UK in the World Extrication Challenge in Melbourne, Australia in September, 1999.
15. Strathclyde will be hosts to the competition in July 1999, and are looking forward to what will undoubtedly be a major National Event in the UK Fire Service's calendar.

Fire Services Sports and Athletics Association

16. The Association has continued to be active and some of its members have through their efforts, achieved accolades at all levels. The Angling section continues to be a favourite sport and Bridlington was chosen as the venue for the Skol International Trophy. Four Scottish Anglers made up a total of one hundred Anglers competing in this much-coveted trophy.

17. The Scottish running contingent entered an ever increasing number of Road and Cross-Country events. The hard contested national event of the Peter and Eve Carr Memorial Trophy culminated in the award being presented to the Strathclyde athletes.

18. The Bowls section has had mixed fortunes against their competitors from the Police and Prison Service with the Scottish Fire Service winning only a few games during this period. Their fortune improved during the Four Nations Championships, which were held in Aberdeen, with all the major trophies being awarded to the Scottish Bowling Team.

19. The Golf Section is as vibrant as ever. Events such as the Lander Trophy, Scottish Open, Four Nations, National Pairs and the Scotland -v- England match, hold few fears for such an enthusiastic and competent Section.

20. This year has seen the Rugby Section have a few poor attendances, which has resulted in a decrease in the number of games being played. The Rugby Section officials are currently addressing this situation and it is anticipated this trend will be reversed in time for the next season of play.

21. The Swimming Section still continues to take major medals at UK national level. The team won Silver and Bronze medals at the National and Masters events held in Stockport, England against a competition of 25 other Brigades competing.

National Fire Safety Youth Quiz

22. The Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association in conjunction with the Fire Protection Association sponsor the National Fire Safety Youth Quiz with the aim of bringing the fire safety message to youths between the ages of 11 and 14.

23. Participating schools and youth groups receive tuition from Brigade personnel and study a wide range of fire safety topics. This culminates in a number of exciting quiz competitions, with competitors showing solid understanding of basic fire safety principles.

24. This year's district final held at Grampian Fire Brigade was won by Methlick Scouts. They will now go forward to the national finals at the Fire Service College to be held in May 1999.



Section I
**Report of the Lay Inspector
of Fire Services**



Introduction

1. The main focus of the lay inspector were those areas of most direct interest to members of the public, such as: how efficiently and sympathetically do firefighters deal with victims of house fires and road accidents and how do Brigades help the public to become more aware of fire safety in the home, in hotels and guest houses and in the workplace? Public opinion was measured to some extent from face-to-face interviews and through a perusal of Brigade complaints and commendation files. Other areas of interest to the lay inspector included the education and training of firefighters and their progress in both the Statutory Examinations as well as their aspirations in higher education. In addition, the relationships of all brigades with the media were studied from the standpoint of efforts to ensure a better understanding of fire safety and the high risks of fire in domestic premises where there are no smoke alarms or where batteries have been removed from smoke alarms.

Complaints and Commendations

2. All brigades were found to be acutely conscious of the need for good customer relations. Special attention is given to dealing with complaints from members of the public and many hours are spent by officers in doing their utmost to satisfy complainants. All Brigades have developed fully comprehensive complaint procedures, which are revised regularly. In general, officers try hard to avoid unpleasantness during the statutory inspection process of premises which are accessible to the public. In a small minority of occasions their recommendations are the subject of disagreements which are mainly due to the costs involved in making alterations to meet the requirements of fire safety and result in allegations of exaggerations and rudeness against a Fire Officer. Invariably such complaints are handled tactfully whilst ensuring that the fire regulations are complied with. Some complaints alleged unsafe driving by the drivers of appliances en route to emergencies. In most cases the complainants were satisfied with the explanations of a visiting officer. Other complaints were made about noise or nuisance, damage to property, conduct of firefighters and parking. In all cases apologies were given where they were due and disciplinary action was taken where appropriate. In all but one case complainants were satisfied with the action taken.

3. A total of 77 complaints were received by Brigades throughout Scotland and by contrast over 300 letters of commendation and gratitude were received for the excellence of rescues from fires and road accidents as well as talks and visits to stations, etc.

Media Relations

4. Representatives of the media - newspapers, magazines, television companies - are given immediate and direct access to information about the location of fires and road accidents through their contact with Brigade Press Officers and Control Room staff but of course the causes of fire and of road accidents and names and addresses of victims are withheld.

5. Some Brigades provide professional photographic and video services to the media free of charge which in turn results in good coverage for fire safety messages such as the essential need for smoke alarms, 'don't drink and fry' and other fire safety campaigns. Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade routinely provide computer printouts

of incidents to all daily and weekly local and national newspapers. Training of this Brigade's staff by a professional TV journalist and a film cameraman is complemented by allowing them to accompany Brigade Officers to emergency call-outs to unsupervised and potentially dangerous bonfires during Guy Fawkes celebrations.

6. Perusal of the press cuttings books of all Brigades revealed a total of over 3,500 press cuttings covering such as house and industrial fires, road rescues, 'fire safety weeks' and other fire safety campaigns including Guy Fawkes bonfire safety, fire related vandalism, attacks on firefighters, presentations and awards to firefighters and civilians, Brigade budgets, etc., all of which gave ample evidence of excellent relations with the media.

Community Education

7. All Brigades give serious attention to community education, which concentrates on fire safety at home, in hotels and guest houses and in industrial and commercial premises. The elderly and disabled receive talks and demonstrations in their residential homes where members of staff also receive instruction in fire safety and emergency procedures. Resources do not always permit pro-active provision and some Brigades simply react to requests from schools and residential homes. Lothian and Borders, Strathclyde, Grampian and Central Scotland Fire Brigades target schools in areas which are considered to be in greatest need, that is those in which there is the greatest incidence of malicious fire raising and hoax calls. These Brigades have also engaged the assistance of school teachers to assist with the production of visual aids and other materials suitable for primary and secondary school pupils. In addition they have built mobile units which have been equipped with a series of likely fire hazards in the home, video and other visual aids for easy and enjoyable learning. One of the many aims of Community education in schools is the reduction of hoax calls and in this respect Brigades have achieved vitally important successes thus allowing genuine emergency calls to be answered more speedily.

8. The Young Firesetters programmes have proved exceptionally successful. Many firefighters have volunteered their services to counsel young firesetters who with the permission of their parents have been referred to Brigades by Social Work Departments. All Brigade counsellors have trained at the Redcar and Cleveland Psychological Training centre at Newton Aycliffe.

9. Other initiatives which involve local communities include electric blanket safety days during which any member of the public can have their electric blankets tested free of charge, 'Fire Sharp' scenarios in which fire risks are displayed, the free issue and fitting of smoke alarms for the elderly, the use of fire stations' meeting and lecture rooms for community group meetings, a fire safety poster competition for schools, participation in multi-service events such as 'Crucial Crew', 'Hazard House', 'Safety Siders' and 'Operation Safety' which are two-week events open to all schools.

10. Most Brigades issue quality service questionnaires and customer satisfaction leaflets in order to obtain useful information from those who have been victims of fire or road accidents and to gain opinions about the efficiency and courtesy of fire officers engaged in fire safety inspections.

Statutory Examinations

Pass rates for those who passed all papers at one sitting in 1998 were:

Examination	Scottish Pass Rate	UK Pass Rate
Leading Firefighter	45.6%	45.3%
Sub-Officer	42.2%	41.7%
Station Officer	28.9%	30.8%

11. All Brigades perform best in the first stage examinations at Leading Firefighter level and consistently exceed the UK pass rate. This is due to the fact that candidates at this stage have most recently passed through the 16-week Recruits' Training Course at the Scottish Fire service Training School at Gullane. Generally candidates for the most senior levels of Sub Officer and Station Officer perform marginally below the UK pass rate. Their preparation is largely a personal initiative and is often spasmodic rather than systematic. Brigade Training Departments offer material assistance but little or no tutorial or mentorship help to their candidates. Training lectures for firefighters rarely include any written work with the result that candidates have little practice in answering questions in written form. Brigade instructors tend to concentrate on that at which they perform best which is predominantly practical work.

12. Results in individual papers in which candidates have elected to sit the examinations in two or more parts were as follows:

Examination	Scottish Pass Rate	UK Pass Rate
Leading Firefighter	61.9%	61.6%
Sub-Officer	49.5%	46.5%
Station Officer	51.2%	52.5%

13. Candidates who take the examinations in parts rather than at one sitting clearly obtain better results. However, at Sub Officer level the results are still below the national average. It is clear that candidates could benefit greatly from studying techniques of writing and note taking skills.

Higher Education for Fire Officers

14. All brigades continue to encourage both uniformed and non-uniformed staff to improve their qualifications at all levels from PhD, Masters degrees, Bachelor degrees, Diplomas, certificates, professional qualifications and Scottish Vocational Qualifications, all of which lead to better informed staff with improved reasoning qualities in dealing with complaints from the public and in negotiations with professionals from other disciplines such as architects, educationalists, media personnel, Council colleagues and many others. Most Brigades give full or partial financial assistance towards university and college fees and all Brigades allow flexible working arrangements so that personnel may attend classes.

Commendable Practices

15. Particularly commendable practices observed have been the following:
- ◆ The voluntary work of Firefighters and Officers in providing the Firesetters Education and Counselling services to many young people, with the permission of their parents. These have been so successful that none have re-offended.
 - ◆ The work of Brigade Occupational Health Units (especially that of Central Scotland Fire Brigade) in monitoring and advising on the health of all Brigades employees.
 - ◆ The efforts in promoting a good public image through the media, community education programmes, open days, visits to stations, voluntary community services, sporting events, sponsored events to raise money for charities, talks and demonstrations to industrialists, the staff of residential homes, which have involved tens of thousands of people.
 - ◆ The free provision and fitting of smoke alarms for the elderly and disabled through sponsorship - a particularly valuable voluntary service on the part of many Brigades.
 - ◆ The introduction of 'child safety lighters' to homes in preventing accidental house fires.

Conclusions and Recommendations

16. Firefighting and road traffic accident rescues whilst retaining the highest priorities of training and efficiency have now been joined by community education in fire safety awareness. All Brigades continue to demonstrate their understanding of the importance of preventative action particularly for the young and the most vulnerable in the community by the increases in staffing and resources in this important area of work. This preventative action undoubtedly saves lives and money, the latter not only in the savings due to the reduction in malicious fire raising and call-outs for hoax calls but also in the enormous costs of fire damage.

17. One area of increasing concern is the vulnerability of those who have been released from institutional care into the community. This is an example of where Brigades need to partner other local government or responsible organisations to help improve overall community safety with equal emphasis to that given to fire safety awareness to children. In addition, all Brigades should arrange with their Social Work Departments to ensure that all Home Helps are given annual instruction in fire safety awareness. Records should be maintained to show that this is achieved.

18. Brigade training lectures could be restructured to include some written work in order to give firefighters practice in writing and drawing skills which instructors generally ignore. All instructors in all Brigades who give lectures during training periods should attend a short course on tutorial methods, the introduction of written work into lectures and peer group assessment techniques.

19. Candidates for the Sub Officer and Station Officer examinations could benefit greatly from (i) access to a Brigade mentor to advise, assist and encourage them in their studies and (ii) providing written answers to questions during lectures.





Annex A
**Examples of Fire Safety Initiatives
carried out by Scottish Brigades
1998-99**



Central Scotland Fire Brigade

Heavily involved in the National Fire Safety Campaign that ran from 28 September to 3 October including the following initiatives:

Primary 1 and 2 Project

Fire Safety Officers based at the Brigade's wholetime stations approached primary schools in their area with a view to educating Primary 1 and 2 pupils about the dangers of playing with matches. Pupils were shown a video and each child given an appropriate Child Safety booklet. A total of 6,467 children participated in the project made up by 1,570 from Clackmannanshire District, 2,174 from Stirling District and 2,723 from Falkirk District.

Press Publicity

The fire safety theme was publicised by articles in all the local newspapers based within the three districts making up Central Scotland Fire Brigade area, with an emphasis on home fire safety and the need for a fire plan. Prizes were used in some instances to generate additional interest in the fire safety articles.

Radio Broadcast

A pre recorded radio interview on the subject of home fire safety was broadcast throughout the week on the local radio station with a fire safety question posed at the end of each broadcast. A smoke alarm was given as a prize to the first correct answer phoned in.

Fire Safety Information Packs

Following fire safety talks delivered by Community Education staff appropriate leaflets were handed out in addition to information packs for Primary 6 children for use beyond Fire Safety Week. The opportunity was also taken to issue a further fire safety pack specifically targeted for parents.

Fire Safety Youth Quiz

In conjunction with Grangemouth Rotary, a Fire Safety Youth Quiz was held for the four primary schools located in the town. The schools were invited to enter a team of three contestants and a reserve who were given an initial fire safety input by a Fire Officer and thereafter given a fire safety pack for further reading. The quiz was hosted by Moray Primary School and after a keenly contested fight Moray Primary finished up the proud victors.

Community Protection

The Fire Brigade has laid aside a small budget for the specific purpose of increasing smoke detector ownership and to provide advice and specialist equipment in a way that complements councils' initiatives. A total of 73 households have benefited from this scheme with the homes being provided and fitted with a special smoke alarm to meet residents' special needs. In addition 60 ordinary smoke alarms were also distributed through the Brigade's School Education and Fire-setters Programme.

Sponsored Initiatives

Private companies have once again been instrumental in assisting the Brigade through direct financing or by donating their products for a number of initiatives undertaken during the year. These were;

- (a) The provision of 5000 printed assignment sheets used as part of the Brigade's schools 1st Year Secondary Education Programme. (E.I. Smoke Alarm Suppliers)
- (b) The provision of Smoke Alarms to families who have been identified as having no smoke alarms in their home. (E.I. and Homewatch)
- (c) The donation of two special Smoke Alarms for the deaf given to people with special needs. (Forth Valley Industrial Fire Association)
- (d) The provision of two robust Fire Engine Play Stations and an activity pack for use in primary schools. (Factory Mutual System, Godiva Limited, Richards Hose and In Shops Falkirk)
- (e) The Brigade's Community education staff have been able to enhance their hand out packs for Primary 6 pupils with the following; safety information packs (Kidde Safety), Rulers (Thistle Marches), Pencils (M.S.T.I. Aberdeen), Folders (First Alert).
- (f) Competition prizes accompanied some newspaper articles. These prizes consisted of Fire Safety Kit's and Smoke Detectors (E.I.), Portable Escape Ladders and a Fire Extinguisher for the home. (Kidde Safety)

Press Releases

Public safety information was circulated for dissemination by the local press and the local radio station on the following:

- (a) Smoke Alarms and Fire plans
- (b) Child Safety Week
- (c) National Fire Safety Week
- (d) Fireworks and Bonfire Safety
- (e) Christmas Fire Safety
- (f) Safety with Chip Pans
- (g) Ban the Pan
- (h) The Safe use and Disposal of Smoking Materials
- (i) Fire-watch Campaign

Fire Safety Youth Training Programme - 1st Year Pupils

This programme has achieved a 100% uptake by all the secondary schools where it has been offered. Schools are given the opportunity to have a Fire Safety Officer deliver a talk to all their 1st year pupils and thereafter a class assignment is programmed, which is administered by the school. This year 2,926 first year pupils participated in the programme.

Fire Safety Package for Schools - 3rd Year Pupils

This is the second year that this particular Fire Safety Package has been running with most high schools integrating its contents into the school curriculum while others have adapted the package to suit their needs. The package which has specific learning outcomes was administered and delivered by the school and comprises educational videos and class assignments and this year has reached a total of 2,855 pupils.

Ban the Pan

The Brigade took part in this National initiative during February, extended locally to March, which was aimed at reducing the ownership of chip pans. Householders were asked to exchange their chip pans for money-off tokens against the purchase of a deep fat fryer from two national electrical retail stores. This campaign resulted in a total of 30 chip pans being handed in.

Dumfries and Galloway Fire Brigade

The Brigade visited every school in their area within the reporting period to teach fire safety education to Primary 6 pupils. Other ventures were to extend the same message into Limited Ability Groups in addition to an involvement with both Area Community groups and Pre-school Groups, the latter being on request only. It is interesting to note that the brigade has also carried out visits to the more remote rural parts of their area to make the community more aware of the potential hazards that would arise in the event of fire breaking out.

Training and Information.

The Brigade were also involved with four Fire Protection Association training courses held locally and also Commercial fire training throughout the year where both the proper selection of and practical skills involved in fighting fire with hand held extinguishers were taught. The brigade has created an internet web site in addition to a local intranet link which they regularly service by providing information updates.

General

Part of the overall education of the public in Dumfries and Galloway is attained by attendance at local shows, exhibitions, fetes and galas to put over the fire safety message and increase the awareness of the dangers of fire. This motive is the driving force behind the CACFOA Youth Quiz which is another well attended event held in the brigade and the ever popular Crucial Crew event where large numbers of school children are instructed in the dangers arising from a selection of sources in every day life.

Fife Fire and Rescue Service

The Service continued to provide material for the media within Fife and with the advent of a new radio station "Kingdom FM" a series of interviews were broadcast using both Community Education Officers and Fire safety Officers to promote the home fire safety message. A competition was run in conjunction with the broadcasts with the prizes being donated by Companies specialising in the manufacture and sale of domestic fire safety materials. It is pleasing to note that the response to the competition was above the average experienced for this type of broadcast.

National Fire Safety Week was well supported with fire safety competitions being held in the local press and at various venues within the brigade area including Galas and Fetes. At such venues a questionnaire was issued to members of the public that would assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the brigade's efforts in community education and the design of future campaigns. Over 10,000 Primary 6 and Senior 1 level school children received an input on Fire safety in the home with a further 31 schools assisting with the "People Who Help Us" project. Finally in conjunction with Fife Constabulary, 8 child safety days were organised and participated in.

Grampian Fire Brigade

Community Fire Safety activities during 1998-99 can be broken down into 5 main categories:

- ◆ Schools Programmes
- ◆ Operational Fire Station Participation
- ◆ Sponsorships
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Operational Fire Station Campaigns

School Programmes

The schools programme involves 5 staff working on a daily basis under the supervision of one Assistant Divisional Officer and consists of 2 Sub Officers and 3 qualified teachers. The work carried out by the Sub Officers and the teachers has included the development of a new schools package for Primary 1 to 3 level (5-8 year old); the expansion of the primary 6 delivery; and the revamp of the first year secondary package. The same staff are also involved in other activities such as the Scottish Forum, campaign work, fire safety talks and learning new skills including sign language to increase the ability to reach all sections of the community.

The development of the new primary 1 to 3 resource was achieved with the support of the Education authorities who funded the initiative. The resource entitled 'Up in Smoke!' was a year in development and in total cost £7,400. The 10 packs produced have been distributed to the 3 unitary authorities operating within Grampian. The library resource centres have undertaken to manage the borrowing of the packs.

The primary 6 input is now delivered to 70% of all pupils in the Grampian area. An integral part of the primary 6 input is the use of an education unit, which simulates in a practical way the most common dangers associated with fires in the home. A second education unit with disabled access will be available for the school year 1999-2000. This will ensure that the expanding delivery of fire safety education to this age group is provided with the most effective equipment to support the education officer's input. An evaluation of the retention of the knowledge provided via the education officers has been conducted over the last year with extremely encouraging results. The first year secondary input is also delivered to 70% of all pupils in this age group throughout Grampian. During 1999-2000 a school leaver's pack will be developed completing the education strategy.

Operational Fire Station Participation

In February 1999 all the operational personnel at wholetime stations in Grampian were fully integrated into the pro-active delivery of fire safety advice. The objectives included making contact with Community groups in their station ground to offer

fire safety advice in the form of a talk or other suitable medium. A smoke detector survey aimed at determining the areas of concern in smoke detector ownership has been ongoing throughout the year. The information will be used to prepare smoke detector campaigns targeting problem areas.

Reducing automatic false alarm calls that have emanated from a careless practice or a fault in the system is the final target of the operational personnel. A system has been set up which ensures that every effort is made on the brigade's part to prevent a recurrence of the unwanted alarm. Monitoring of the effects of the operational involvement in this initiative will continue through 1999.

Sponsorships

The BT sponsorships, which commenced at the beginning of 1998, continued until February 1999. The production of a phone card depicting the folly of making malicious calls is continuing to be distributed to school children who are in receipt of the primary 6 programme.

The short story competition received a low level of response but produced several high quality entries. The winning school received an excellent multi-media package for the school. This initiative has contributed to a 20% reduction in malicious calls recorded in 1998 as compared to 1997.

Several companies have collectively provided finance for the production of a mobile, chip pan fire, demonstrator. This facility will be available for general use in the summer of 1999.

Partnerships

Partnerships with other agencies will form an increasing amount of the workload of the community fire safety education staff throughout 1999-2000. Following deliberations by the Social Work department in Aberdeen the proposal for a partnership has been agreed. This partnership will allow brigade staff to train certain groups within the social work department in basic fire safety in the home. The proposal will also see the brigade put in place a support system which will ensure that the highest quality of fire safety advice is available to Social Work clients at all times.

The drive towards Community Safety groups amongst unitary authorities has gathered much momentum during 1998 and the early part of 1999. Grampian Fire Brigade is an integral part of the development of these groups and will build upon the opportunities, which present themselves as the work of the steering groups and task groups unfold.

Chimney fires, firework and bonfire safety and work with other groups in contact with vulnerable members of the community are other examples of partnerships that will be developed during 1999-2000.

Campaigns

Campaigns presently running within the reporting period will continue to run throughout 1999-2000. The smoke detector survey will be influential in determining the issues relating to this safety provision which and will be given priority attention. The results of the chimney fire safety campaign will determine whether the scheme is expanded to other areas within Grampian. Grampian Fire Brigade is committed to support all national campaigns to ensure maximum benefits are achieved including the work of the Scottish Forum. The Forum creates an

opportunity for brigades to share proven ideas and it has proved beneficial in the development of many new initiatives. One of the most notable developments in 1999, involving Grampian Fire Brigade, is the proposal for a Primary 6 fire-safety pack for use by all Scottish primary schools that could be used by either the class teacher or delivered by a visiting brigade representative.

Highlands and Islands Fire Brigade

The Brigade held open days at Fire Stations throughout their area involving the Mobile Display Unit to promote the use of smoke alarms and the benefits of adopting a fire action plan. The brigade were also involved throughout the Highland Districts in promoting Local Publicity Campaigns, organising stands at local exhibitions and a full participation in "Safe Highlander Week" where their main theme was to promote Fire Safety in the home.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade

During 1998-1999, the Brigade's Community Safety Group continued to expand its education programme for schools. Over the year, 312 schools participated in the Brigade's fire education projects, with over 20,000 children taking part. The Brigade has undertaken to directly teach fire safety education to every one of its area's 307 primary schools by the year 2000. As in previous years, the Community Safety Group participated in the child safety programme, Crucial Crew. Five events were attended over a combined period of ten weeks, during which a total of 3,650 children took part.

The Brigade's 'One-to-One Fire Education Programme' is directed at children whose behaviour with fire-play or fire-raising causes concern to parents or guardians. Fifteen children were helped under this programme during 1998/99.

Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade continues to play a central role in the development of community fire safety at a national level. Throughout the year, Lothian and Borders provided the Chairman and Secretary of the Community Fire Safety Working Group - a national committee within the structure of the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association (CACFOA). In addition, the Brigade also provided the Chairman of the Scottish Forum for Community Fire Safety - a CACFOA committee bringing together all of the Fire Brigades in Scotland.

On behalf of the Scottish Fire Brigades, Lothian and Borders, using considerable financial support from The Scottish Office, developed an Internet-based fire education programme for 10 year old children. The web site was constructed by an Edinburgh-based firm of web-consultants, through a project team which included the Brigade's Community Safety Group staff and IT specialists from Edinburgh's Department of Education. The Scottish Office Minister Henry McLeish launched the web site on 21 August 1998.

Strathclyde Fire Brigade

Under the stewardship of Assistant Firemaster Dr. R. W. Docherty, the Brigade's Director of Fire Safety, a wide range of CFS activity is carried out, with fire safety advice being available to all members of the community in a variety of formats and mediums. Having been particularly proactive in terms of CFS for a number of years, a dedicated CFS department exists at brigade headquarters, staffed by Community Fire Safety Advisors (CFSAs), which complements the command based community firefighters.

Examples of the department's diverse workload include:

- ◆ Statistical information gathering;
- ◆ Developing CFS presentations;
- ◆ Attending exhibitions;
- ◆ Designing CFS leaflets and posters;
- ◆ Liaison with representatives from other agencies; and
- ◆ Developing CFS projects and initiatives.

A Multi Agency Approach

The department has continued to foster a multi agency approach, strengthening working relationships with local authorities, the Police and safety organisations such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and the Scottish Accident Prevention Council. In addition, an active role is played in the CACFOA Scottish Forum for Community Fire Safety which reports to the CACFOA No.7 District Fire Safety Committee.

Examples of brigade headquarters CFS projects and initiatives are detailed below.

Domestic Sprinkler Project : Forgewood

The Brigade entered into partnership with Wormald Fire Systems, Scottish Homes, the Forgewood Housing Co-operative and Beazer Homes to install sprinkler systems in new build timber framed houses in the Forgewood area, just outside Motherwell. Systems were provided in 4 family homes, with sprinkler heads being fitted in each room in addition to roof spaces and walk-in cupboards.

Each system is fed with water from the towns mains and controlled by an arrangement of control valves, concealed within a cupboard in each house. The systems are provided with a range of safety features, including:

- ◆ a water flow test facility;
- ◆ a water pressure gauge;
- ◆ a secure, lockable cabinet housing the control valves (the cabinet door cannot be closed if the sprinkler stop valve is in the off position);
- ◆ a water flow switch which triggers an audible alarm when the system is operational;
- ◆ an alarm sounder located at the top of the stairs in each house; and
- ◆ an external mounted alarm with flashing light.

The sprinklers are of the quick response type and operate when a temperature of 68°C is reached. Whilst a substantial reduction in fire deaths as a result of smoke alarms is evident, these alarms do not prevent the spread of fire. A sprinkler system will raise the alarm and control the fire with the application of a water spray and as such, sprinklers represent an important contribution to the protection of life and property from fire.

The Brigade argues that, should this type of protection be introduced into the housing stock of Scotland, unnecessary fire deaths and injuries will be reduced, as will damage to property by fire, heat and smoke. In addition, since sprinklers help prevent flashover and backdraught, they do help reduce the attending risks associated with firefighting. Domestic sprinkler systems, together with smoke detection and

safe housekeeping practices, are therefore seen by many in the fire service as providing the householder with a very high standard of protection from fire in the future.

Currently, brigade personnel are considering the next domestic sprinkler project.

Festive Fry Wise

The theme of Strathclyde's Christmas fire safety campaign was "Safe Frying Prevents Dying". Chip pan fires account for more than half of all house fires and this proactive education campaign set out to reinforce the safety message across West-Central Scotland. With the emphasis on busy shopping centres in the weeks immediately prior to Christmas, firefighters and fire safety officers issued Christmas shoppers with copies of the new Scottish Fire Services leaflet on chip pan fires, together with an assortment of general fire safety leaflets.

Working in partnership with British Energy, a number of thermostatically controlled deep fat fryers were purchased and these were gifted to members of the public at the Sauchiehall Shopping Centre in Glasgow, during the campaign launch.

At command level, a total of 16 Community-firefighters deliver fire safety advice and liaise directly with members of their local community on a day to day basis.

West Command

Making our Voice Heard

Community-firefighters play an active part as members of various local authority committees, reporting specifically on local fire safety issues and providing statistics on fire incidents to elected members.

Personnel are shortly due to commence a course on sign language, organised by North Ayrshire Council's Social Work Department. The course, which will be held at Kilwinning Fire Station, is designed to allow personnel to communicate at an elementary level with those sections of the community who have hearing difficulties.

The Phoenix is Rising

The Phoenix Community Fire Safety Partnership Project has been set up to raise the CFS profile in North Ayrshire. Command personnel have contributed significantly to the preparation of a computer programme designed to provide interactive involvement for children and adults in fire safety learning.

Plans are currently underway to identify suitable sites within West Command fire stations to establish fire safety activity rooms or alternatively, "hazard houses". Whilst this project will take some time to complete, some interest has already been forthcoming from other local safety organisations and it may be possible that partnerships will result between West Command and those organisations, to facilitate their introduction into stations.

Central Command

Strathclyde Fire Brigade and Greater Glasgow Health Board

Central Command entered into partnership with the Greater Glasgow Health Board to highlight the dangers from chip pan fires, "dropped lights" and the relationship between excessive alcohol consumption and dwelling house fires. The campaign

involved newspaper advertisements, fire safety beer mats and fire safety messages printed on hot food take away lids. In addition, an advertising campaign was undertaken both on buses and bus shelters.

Junior Home Safety Wardens

This initiative is designed to raise the fire safety profile among primary 5-7 schoolchildren. Participating children are given a torch, a T-Shirt and fire safety folder. The project, which originated in the Gorbals area of Glasgow, has now been extended to Easterhouse, with both communities benefiting from an increased awareness of safe practices in the home.

Fire Safety Course for Youths/Adults

A course has been developed for secondary school-children which is capable of being adapted for adults. The input is based on a maximum of 20 participants attending their local fire station one evening per week, for 6 weeks. Participants will receive fire safety advice and take part in team building exercises. It is proposed that the Police and the Red Cross will assist, by delivering general safety and first aid messages respectively.

North Command

Crucial Crew

Of special note was the "crucial-crew" type event which was held in the Territorial Army halls in Dumbarton. Approximately 2,500 children attended. As part of the event, each child was given a special "fire-cadet" checklist to take home. This is to allow them to carry out an initial and ongoing fire safety check of their own home. The event was funded and run by West Dunbartonshire Council whose Anti Vandalism Committee provided "checklists" for the event.

East Command

Hazard House-Forth, Lanarkshire

Worthy of special mention, the above project again served to highlight the benefits of a multi-agency approach in teaching personal safety. East Command personnel worked closely with the other agencies including the Police and a local drugs awareness volunteer group, to raise the community-safety profile amongst members of the public in the Forth area, near Carluke in Lanarkshire.

The undernoted list identifies the wide range of projects and initiatives which were undertaken by all personnel during the reporting period, in addition to those mentioned above:

Brigade Fire Safety Campaigns and Initiatives

- 1 Fireworks Fire Safety
- 2 Cigarette Lighters
- 3 Islands Fire Safety
- 4 Grass and Forest Fires
- 5 Fire Safety Advertising Boards
- 6 Fire Safety for Special People
- 7 Minority Groups
- 8 Fire Safety for Schools
- 9 CACFOA National Fire Safety Youth Quiz
- 10 Firesetters
- 11 Attacks on Fire Crews and Misuse of Hydrants
- 12 Malicious Calls and Unwanted Fire Signals
- 13 Community Fire Safety - Measuring for Success
- 14 Advertising through Generic Leaflets and Posters

Local Command Fire Safety Campaigns and Initiatives

- 1 Paisley Initiative
- 2 Health Fayers
- 3 Static Displays
- 4 Experiential Learning
- 5 Station Visits, Youth Clubs & Outside Organisations
- 6 West Dumbartonshire Anti Vandalism Group
- 7 Smoke Detector Survey
- 8 Chimney-Fire Advice
- 9 Sheltered Housing Complexes
- 10 Community Departments Liaison
- 11 Housing Office Safety Advice Shop
- 12 Health Board Campaign
- 13 Fire Safety Workshops (through Criminal Justice Dept.)
- 14 Supervised Attendance Order Scheme
- 15 Home Fire Safety Courses - Various Groups
- 16 Safety Weekend -Maritime Museum

Community Fire Safety for the Future

Work is ongoing to review the brigade community safety strategy and implementation plan. The strategy and plan will help maintain a structured, co-ordinated approach to CFS and ensure that work continues within the terms of “best value”, utilising brigade resources in an effective, efficient manner.

Tayside Fire Brigade

The Brigade was again involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme by training participants in fire theory and procedures. The brigade was able to assist with 6 Gold, 13 Silver and 62 Bronze award passes. In addition the brigade again ran two basic youth fire training courses and hosted 2 young work experience candidates in the fire safety department.

Crucial Crew

The ever popular "Safe Taysiders Crucial Crew" scenario allowed 2,700 children to experience at first hand the dangers associated with fire and the lessons learned therein that will hopefully stand the children in good stead for the future.

Fire Safety Week

The brigade mounted Fire Safety Displays in Dundee, Perth and Arbroath and organised a fire safety leaflet drop in selected housing areas. Other promotional aids included the insertion of 9 fire-related articles in local newspapers and three interviews on local radio. In addition brigade personnel delivered a total of 77 Fire Safety talks. A children's fire safety competition that attracted 2000 entries was run in conjunction with a fire safety message aimed at and being delivered to 25,500 of the working population through inclusion on their wage slips.

Ban the Pan

The Brigade took part in the National initiative hosted by the TV personality Esther Rantzen aimed at reducing the ownership of chip pans. Householders were asked to exchange their chip pans for money-off tokens against the purchase of a deep fat fryer from two national electrical retail stores. In Tayside this resulted in over 100 chip pans being exchanged.



Annex B
**Construction and Maintenance of
Premises by Brigade in 1998-99**



Central Scotland

1. Construction work has now commenced on the replacement building for Falkirk Fire Station that is seen as being an essential element of the forward planning of operational stations in the Brigade area. It has been identified in the Brigade's capital plan at a cost of £2.1m.
2. During the year under review construction work was commenced on both Crianlarich Volunteer Station at a cost of £72,000 and additional garage accommodation at Brigade Headquarters at a cost of £50,000. Both projects have been successfully completed within the reporting period.

Dumfries and Galloway

3. Within the year under review the Brigade has altered their headquarters premises by refurbishing the main entrance and reception at a cost of £6,000 and by a conversion of the first floor stores area at a cost of £4,000. The Brigade has recognised for some time that there is a need to provide adequate accommodation for the 2 volunteer units serving the remote parts of the Brigade and it is understood that an area of ground has been identified for the construction of one of the units at Drummore. The provision of these facilities is included in the Brigade's forward plan and so they are seeking funding for this purpose.

Fife

4. Work has progressed at Rosyth and Glenrothes Fire Stations with a total refurbishment of the kitchen area plus decoration of the dining room at each location. A mezzanine floor area is also being commissioned as a fitness area along with additional storage facilities. In addition gas central heating at both these stations is to be provided.
5. The original brick constructed Firehouse at Thornton that was declared unstable has now been demolished. The replacement for this facility has been constructed and is presently at the fitting out stage. The facility contains 2 Liquefied Petroleum Gas fireplaces. One fireplace is in the form of a settee which will be utilised to simulate a living room fire, whilst the second fireplace has ground and high level burners which enables a "roll-over" flame to be created at ceiling level. Both systems will be utilised to enable firefighters to be taught techniques of self-protection and effective firefighting. The HQ building is scheduled for major renovation through the alteration of the mezzanine floor to provide office accommodation, the provision of a security/door entry system at the main reception area, replacement glazing and the erection of perimeter security fencing.

Grampian

6. Aberdeen Central Fire Station at Mounthooly Way has now been completed and fitted out and is undoubtedly the major item of expenditure within the reporting period, running at over 41% of this particular budget. The main building, which was formally opened on the 30 July 1998 by the Provost of Aberdeen Mrs Margaret Farquhar, consists of a 4 bay appliance room with an adjoining area comprising a muster bay, offices, operational support areas, fitness room, lecture facilities, kitchen, mess room, dormitories and recreation area. A training building has been included within the complex which has been designed to simulate a range of operational scenarios, with various roof pitches and window configurations, crawling galleries, removable partitions, stairs and ladders.

7. Opposite the fire station complex is a 3-storey office block, which is now being utilised by the Fire Safety Inspecting Officers and Community Education Staff and comprises office accommodation, meeting rooms, ancillary central filing system and computer aided drawing facilities.

8. A number of other large expenditure projects on premises have been carried out and include an extension/refurbishment of Ballater at a cost of £83,000 and a refurbishment of Dufftown, including the provision of a drill-tower, at a total cost of £55,000. Third bay extensions of the appliance room at Inverurie at £41,000 and at Stonehaven at a cost of £29,000 are well in hand. A replacement drill-tower costing £40,000 has been scheduled for Fraserburgh. The refurbishment of Dyce and Fraserburgh fire stations is still high on the Brigade's forward planning projects with funding for these items being actively pursued at Grampian Joint Board level. Additionally the Firemaster is seeking permission from the Board to enter into an agreement with the Scottish Ambulance Service for the joint utilisation of Fraserburgh Fire Station - this will require an extension to the current station. The proposed joint use, via a lease agreement, will result in an efficient use of resources within the community and is to be commended.

Highland

9. The ongoing Brigade renovations including the conversion of a loading bay to office accommodation at Inverness Fire Station, the fitting of a pitched roof to Invergordon Fire Station and an extension of Kirkwall District Office have now been completed at a total cost of £87,000. These alterations have added to the efficiency and comfort of the personnel using the buildings and provide both much needed and improved facilities. Work has started and will be completed within this calendar year on the replacement building at Fort Augustus and Strontian, both buildings being consequential upon the upgrading of the existing volunteer unit to retained status. The combined estimated cost of these buildings is £1.15m. and they comprise a single appliance bay, an office, a general-purpose room and toilet accommodation. In addition a site has been acquired at Kinlochbervie for a similar upgrade to take place in the future.

10. The Brigade has identified and prioritised 3 further existing volunteer units that in its view also require upgrading to retained status without actually being legally committed to the projects at this time. They are situated at Castlebay, Tarbert and Lochinver. Also the Brigade hope to replace Lerwick, Portree and Mallaig, due to poor location and total lack of training facilities with no drill towers provided and all training having to be carried out off site.

11. The fabric of the building at Fort William continues to deteriorate and as reported previously will ultimately lead to considerable expenditure because of its sub-standard nature. Additionally the poor location of the station leads to personnel having extreme difficulty in responding to incidents within the prescribed timescales. These premises are included within the future capital programme but are not as yet legally committed.

12. The ongoing replacement of volunteer units is still a Brigade priority with both South Lochs and Scalpay being completed within the reporting period at a cost of £59,000 and £49,800 respectively. The replacement building for Rousay at £34,000 is not expected to be complete until the end of 1999. It is recommended that the programme of replacing volunteer garages be maintained in the foreseeable future.

Lothian and Borders

13. The Headquarters building at Lauriston Place, Edinburgh was constructed in 1900 and due to its historic design is categorised as a Grade A listed building. A previous independent space audit concluded that the continued use of the existing Headquarters building, subject to both extensive internal and external refurbishment, was the most economic and satisfactory solution to meet the Brigade's accommodation needs. A capital sum of £1.6 million was identified as being necessary to carry out this work and provision was made in the capital programme for 1997-98 and 1998-99 and through to 1999-2000.

14. One other Edinburgh City fire station, at Crewe Toll, is being renovated to accommodate a new kitchen, muster bay, fitness room, lockers, shower facilities, lecture and recreation room at a cost of £550,000.

15. The renovation and construction of Duns Fire Station to form an extension to the kitchen along with the installation of shower facilities, drying room, dirty room and office has been completed at a cost of £75,000. An alteration of accommodation at Musselburgh and Dalkeith Fire Stations to form female toilets has been completed at a cost of £5,000 and £4,500 respectively. Necessary repairs have been carried out to the "training ship" at McDonald Road at a cost of £35,000 along with the provision of office accommodation and a fitness room at Marionville costing £17,000.

Strathclyde

16. Nineteen volunteer stations have been identified as requiring upgrading to provide suitable accommodation to meet the Breathing apparatus requirements of the COSHH Regulations and are mainly located in Argyll with one unit situated in the Leadhills. Two retained stations at Cove and Lamlash are also considered as essential for replacement due to their obsolete nature. Additionally Clydebank and Ardrossan wholetime stations along with Oban and Cumnock retained fire stations are considered to be desirable for replacement when circumstances permit.

17. In addition to the foregoing replacement proposals, building works have progressed within the reporting period at Colonsay, Dalmally and Minard Volunteer Units, along with a new £2.02m Command and Control Centre at Johnstone. Two major extensions have also been started this year at Brigade Headquarters and Lochgilphead Fire Station.

Tayside

18. At the time of the inspection the Brigade Headquarters building was some 8 weeks into a major upgrade of electrical and heating systems which include energy saving features that will undoubtedly prove to be cost effective in the long term.

19. Following on from the completion of the Forfar station in May 1997 at a cost of £1.1m the general upgrading of Kirkmichael and Kinlochranoch was also completed within the reporting period at a cost of £151,000 and £96,000 respectively. The refurbishment of these stations includes the provision of an appliance bay suitable to house a standard water tender ladder and the provision of a kitchen, shower/toilets and a general office.

20. A site has been identified for the provision of a new station at Glenshee and construction work commenced on 7 December 1998 with a completion date due around the Spring of 1999. It is noted that due to planning requirements concerning the type and finish of materials used, the cost of this station is likely to be in the region of £190K.



Appendices



Appendix 1 Scottish Fire Brigades 1997-98

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Fire Brigade	Area		Population June 1998 (estimated)		Uniformed Personnel Establishments as at 31 March 1999				Fire Stations and Volunteer Units			Operational Fleet			
	km ²	% of Scotland	'000	%	Wholetime	Control	Retained	Volunteer	Wholetime	Retained	Volunteer	Pumping Appliances	Aerial Appliances	Rescue/Emergency Tenders	Other Special Appliances
Central Scotland	2,652	3.4	276	5.4	243	17	170	24	4	11	3	27	1	1	6
Dumfries & Galloway	6,396	8.2	147	2.9	99	15	191	9	1	15	1	25	1	-	9
Fife	1,308	1.7	349	6.8	382	22	112	0	6	8	-	26	2	1	5
Grampian	8,702	11.1	525	10.3	336	22	466	32	*6	32	2	61	3	-	18
Highland & Islands	31,348	40.1	279	5.4	132	18	558	882	1	33	92	54	1	1	6
Lothian & Borders	6,430	8.2	880	17.2	764	30	310	0	13	23	-	54	5	3	2
Strathclyde	13,851	17.7	2,274	44.4	2,209	67	678	257	38	44	31	167	12	8	11
Tayside	7,501	9.6	390	7.6	409	18	276	36	6	15	4	44	3	6	9
SCOTLAND	78,188	100	5,120	100	4,574	209	2,761	1,240	75	181	133	458	28	20	66

* includes 2 'day-crewed' stations

Establishment and Strength of Fire Brigades as at 31 March 1999

	Central Scotland		Dumfries & Galloway		Fife		Grampian		Highland & Islands		Lothian & Borders		Strathclyde		Tayside		Scottish Total							
	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment	Actual Strength	Estab- ishment					
																				Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Wholtime Operational																								
Firemasters	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	7	0				
Assistant Firemasters	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	6	5	1	1	1	16	15	0				
Senior Div. Officers											4	4	9	9				13	13	0				
Div. Officers I			1	1	2	2	4	4	1	1	12	12	6	6	5	5		19	19	0				
Div. Officers II	5	5	3	3	2	2			5	5			6	6	1			34	33	0				
Div. Officers III			1	1	3	3	6	6	2	2			14	14	8	6		34	32	0				
Ast. Div. Officers	11	11	9	9	9	9	15	18	16	16	20	20	47	43	13	11		140	137	0				
Station Officers	23	22	8	7	37	38	38	33	15	13	59	59	192	195	37	35		409	402	0				
Sub-Officers	28	29	10	10	29	30	24	23	12	9	74	73	221	213	36	37		434	424	0				
Leading Firefighters	25	26	13	13	64	64	59	55	23	23	95	77	229	220	44	46		552	524	0				
Firefighters	148	139	52	50	234	227	2	187	56	55	1	497	471	1,478	1,470	5	263	258	7	2,915	2,859	41		
TOTALS	243	235	99	95	382	377	2	*336	132	126	1	764	719	2,209	2,182	5	409	400	7	4,574	4,465	41		
Control Room Staff																								
PFC Officers																								
GFC Officers	1	1																						
FC Officers			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
SFC Operators	4	2	1	1	4	1	3	5	5	5	4	4	8	3	5	4	1	3	35	7	28			
LFC Operators	4	1	3	4	8	2	6	4	4	4	4	4	8	2	5	4	1	2	40	6	32			
FC Operators	8	2	6	9	9	9	9	12	8	9	16	3	13	44	6	42	9	2	9	115	107			
TOTALS	17	6	11	15	22	4	18	22	18	0	19	30	3	67	12	58	18	5	14	209	32	181		
Part-Time Retained																								
Station Officers					2	2	11	12	13	13	4	4	9	10	7	7								
Sub-Officers	12	12	16	16	8	8	35	30	56	54	26	25	53	51	19	17								
Leading Firefighters	20	20	20	20	10	11	81	74	90	83	37	37	87	59	29	35								
Firefighters	138	122	8	153	5	92	78	3	339	285	11	243	211	9	529	485	16	221	189	11	2,116	1,868	77	
TOTALS	170	154	8	191	5	112	99	3	466	401	11	310	277	10	678	605	17	276	248	11	2,761	2,468	79	
Part-Time Volunteer																								
Ast. Div Officers									6	3														
Station Officers																								
Sub-Officers					2	2	2	2	68	66	4													
Leading Firefighters	3	2	1	1	4	4	4	4	68	70				17	1	4	4	4	4					
Firefighters	21	7	1	8	26	19	7	740	686	35				257	218	19	32	38	3	1,084	976	65		
TOTALS	24	9	1	9	32	25	7	882	825	39	0	0	0	257	235	20	36	42	3	1,240	1,145	70		
Wholtime	243	235	99	95	382	377	2	336	132	126	1	764	719	2,209	2,182	5	409	400	7	4,574	4,465	41		
Control Room Staff	17	6	11	15	22	4	18	22	18	0	19	30	3	67	12	58	18	5	14	209	32	181		
Part-Time Retained	170	154	8	191	5	112	99	3	466	401	11	310	277	10	678	605	17	276	248	11	2,761	2,468	79	
Part-Time Volunteer	24	9	1	9	32	25	7	882	825	39	73	1,104	999	53	3,211	3,034	100	739	695	35	8,784	8,110	371	
GRAND TOTALS	454	404	25	314	294	23	516	480	23	1,590	1,446	73	1,104	999	53	3,211	3,034	100	739	695	35	8,784	8,110	371

* 40 posts are at day crewed stations where there is an additional contractual part-time commitment.

Appendix Major Fires in 1998-99**5**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Brigade</i>
1998			
May			
5	Caberboard, Cowie	Industrial Building	Central
25	Arnage Castle, Ellon	Dwelling	Grampian
June			
4	Old Peatworks, Off A80 Moodiesburn	Heath	Strathclyde
27	North Deeside Road, Banchory	Recreational	Grampian
July			
4	Glomar Artic IV, Prince Charles Wharf, Dundee Harbour	Oil Drilling Platform	Tayside
8	70 St Vincent Terrace, Glasgow	Dwelling	Strathclyde
18	St Leonards School, 62 Lochend Road, Glasgow	Unoccupied School	Strathclyde
August			
17	Forth Rail Bridge	Workman's Hut	Fife
18	Afton Electric, Nile Court, Ayr	Commercial	Strathclyde
26	Shore Porters, Virginai Street, Aberdeen	Warehouse	Grampian
September			
1	Glen Hotel, Main Street, Chapelhall	Hotel	Strathclyde
3	Spiers Wharf, Glasgow	Dwelling	Strathclyde
27	Alexandra Hotel, Fraserburgh	Hotel	Grampian
October			
3	St Philips Church, Abercorn Terrace, Edinburgh	Church	Lothian & Borders
November			
21	100 Queens Road, Aberdeen	Dwelling	Grampian
21	21 Winton Street, Ardrossan	Dwelling	Strathclyde
24	100 Duke Street, Glasgow	Hostel	Strathclyde
25	6 Renfield Street, Glasgow	Commercial	Strathclyde
December			
3	Caledonian Brewery, Slateford Road, Edinburgh	Brewery	Lothian & Borders
9	Sorn Hotel, Main Street, Sorn	Hotel	Strathclyde
1999			
March			
9	Lancefield Street, Glasgow	Commercial	Strathclyde
14	Clydebank High, Shelley Road, Clydebank	School	Strathclyde
27	Tillyneckle, Torphins	Farm Building	Grampian

Appendix

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KPI 1: The percentage of fire calls where the speed of attendance and number of appliances met set criteria

Percentage of total where standard was satisfied	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
Category A	60.0	*	*	90.1	*	94.1	87.0	96.7
Category B	76.8	93.5	60.0	90.2	74.0	94.0	88.0	94.6
Category C	96.8	97.3	96.7	98.6	95.9	97.7	97.0	97.3
Category D	95.0	99.4	98.6	99.8	77.5	97.9	97.0	96.0
Total	92.3	98.5	91.5	97.5	89.4	96.3		

* No Category A risk areas

KPI 2: The percentage of shift rider and day crew rider shifts lost due to sickness and light duties

Percentage of shift rider and day crew rider shifts lost	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
To all sickness	6.30	8.30	9.70	5.22	4.84	5.85	8.16	4.56
To short-term sickness	2.78	3.40	3.80	3.90	3.14	2.82	3.83	4.30
To long-term sickness	3.52	4.90	6.00	1.32	1.70	3.03	4.34	2.36
Lost due to service	0.52	0.00	0.70	0.08	0.93	0.41	0.86	0.79
Lost not due to service	5.78	8.20	9.00	5.14	3.92	5.44	7.30	5.87
Lost due to light duties	0.00	4.10	2.00	0.62	0.97	0.78	0.05	0.22

KPI 3: The average time taken to handle calls to incidents and percentage handled within certain time periods

Percentage of total where standard was satisfied	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
Average handling time	49.1	40.0	53.0	51.0	61.0	55.0	63.0	57.6
Percentage of calls handled in								
Less than 1 minute	76.5	78.6	67.1	73.2	59.0	70.5	59.0	65.0
Between 1-2 minutes	20.5	17.9	29.0	24.0	35.6	26.0	35.0	32.0
2 minutes or more	3.0	3.5	3.9	2.8	5.4	3.5	6.0	3.0

KPI 4: The average time (days) between receipt of an application for a fire safety certificate and the issue of either a fire certificate or a notice requiring upgrading

	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
Average time between receipt and issue in days	244	92	57.5	32	52	157	916	126

KPI 5: Number of deaths and other fire casualties per 10,000 population (expressed as the average number over the previous 5 year period)

	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
Average number of deaths per 10,000 population	1.66	1.51	1.76	2.37		2.71		

KPI 6: Number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population (expressed as the average number over the previous 5 year period)

	Central Scotland	Dumfries & Galloway	Fife	Grampian	Highland & Islands	Lothian & Borders	Strathclyde	Tayside
Average number of accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	11.56	11.50	11.09	11.66		14.38		

Note
 Not all the figures in this table are final figures. However, they do reflect the information received to date by the Inspectorate

Appendix Financial Returns 1998-99

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Fire Brigade	Revenue £ Expenditure	Income £	Capital £ Expenditure
Central Scotland	10,450,300	945,583	1,260,690
Dumfries and Galloway	6,104,200	23,761	479,000
Fife	13,959,935	1,329,879	958,000
Grampian	16,899,000	1,130,000	1,438,000
Highland and Islands	9,132,146	64,218	1,550,174
Lothian and Borders	29,157,592	820,000	2,481,000
Strathclyde	85,582,890	6,185,000	5,749,949
Tayside	17,180,000	1,332,000	1,031,000
TOTAL	188,466,063	11,830,441	14,947,813

NOTE

The above table provides an indication of the financial position of each brigade obtained from estimates of expenditure. They are unaudited and may vary in the method of accountancy practice used by individual brigades. They should be treated as general indicators only.

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