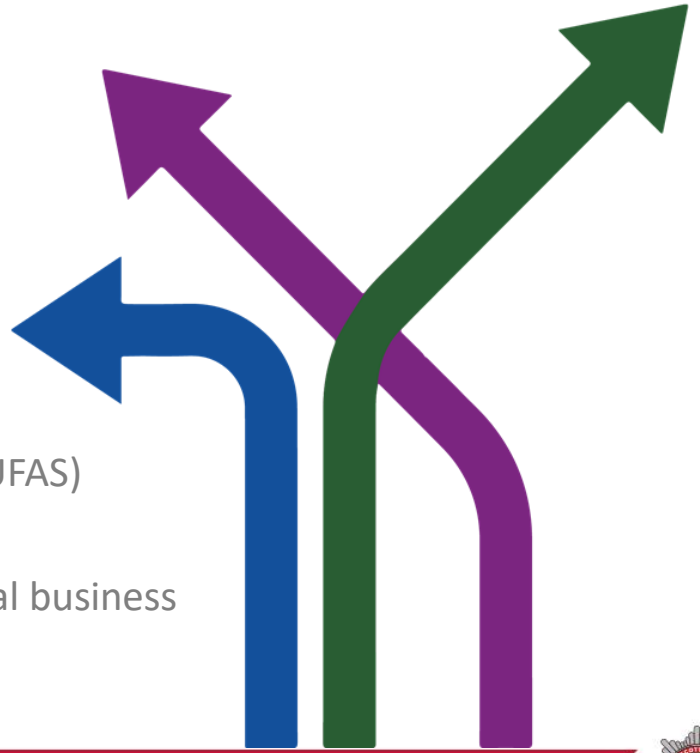
Item 4 (b)

16th March 2023

TIME FOR CHANGE



Reducing Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals (UFAS)

Our response to fire alarms in commercial business and workplace premises is changing

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

BACKGROUND

- Current Position
- Options Appraisal Process
- Public Consultation
- SFRS Board Decision

NEW AFA RESPONSE MODEL

No attendance to AFA activations in commercial and workplace premises unless backed up by a call confirming fire or signs of fire

This change does not apply to sleeping premises, such as hospitals, care homes, hotels or domestic dwellings who will receive the full pre-determined attendance (PDA).

EXEMPTIONS

2 appliance attendance regardless of time of day to;

Residential Care Home

- Residential Nursing/Care Home
- Children's Residential Home
- Retirement/Elderly Residential Home
- Sheltered Housing – not self contained
- Other Residential Home

Hospitals

- Ward Areas
- Theatres
- Other Sleeping Risk Areas

SIGNS OF FIRE

Smoke detectors are known to be more prone to generating false alarms and are not considered to be a reliable single method of confirming a fire.

A ‘sign of fire’ may be where the source of an AFA system activation originates from;

- **Heat detector**
- **Multi-criteria detector**
- **Manual call point**
- **Sprinkler head activation**
- **Multiple head/zone activation.**

CALL CHALLENGE

Call challenge is the process SFRS control operators will undertake to establish the premises type and circumstances of activation to reach an informed decision to mobilise appliances or not.

Alarm Receiving Centres will be encouraged to implement a similar arrangement, called call filtering, prior to passing calls to SFRS Operations Control.

BENEFITS

- Reduce unnecessary disruption to businesses
- Improved availability of resources and more time to focus on upskilling, training and prevention work
- Reduction of blue light journeys, improving firefighter and community safety and reducing environmental impact
- Reduced disruption to primary employers of on-call firefighters.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- SFRS has no statutory requirement to investigate alarm actuations
- Part 3, Fire (Scotland) Act 2005
- Part 3, Fire Safety (Scotland) Regulations 2006
- Fire safety - existing non-residential premises: practical guidance

DUTY HOLDER ACTIONS

- Identify relevant premises
- Review fire risk assessments (FRA) for these premises
- Review fire safety management arrangements, including staff training, to reflect outcomes of FRA
- If the workplace alarm system is linked to an alarm receiving centre (ARC), liaise with the ARC to ensure the use and contacts of the workplace held on their systems are up to date and accurate
- Ensure staff and relevant persons do not rely upon an alarm system to alert the SFRS to any fire event. Always call 999 even if the alarm is sounding
- Ensure appropriate strategies are in place to prevent false alarms from happening.

ANY QUESTIONS?