

## FIRE SAFETY

According to the British Crime Survey, it is estimated that Fire Brigades in the UK attend less than one in five fires.

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service covers the local authority areas of Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen City and Moray, an area approximately 3,360 square miles with a population of around 523,000. Over 800 people in full and part time posts are employed throughout this area in 40 fire stations.

The data received from Grampian Fire and Rescue Service covered calls within the Aberdeenshire boundaries, covering the past three financial years, that is, 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04.

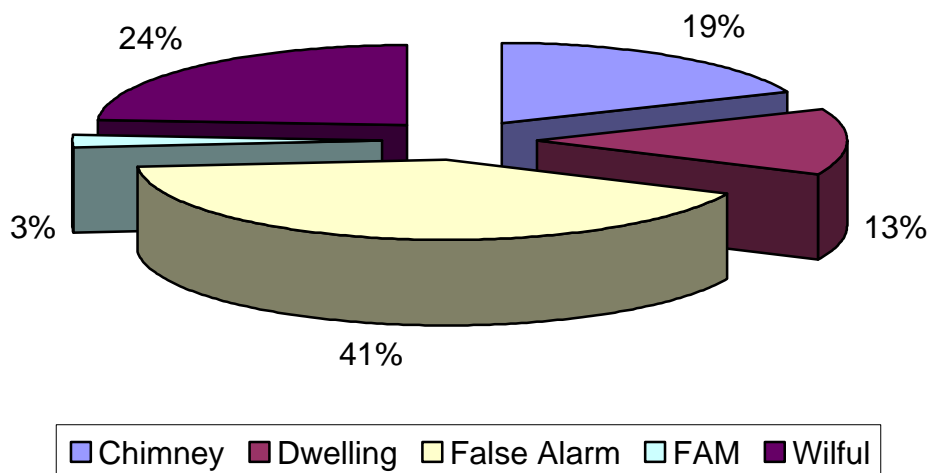
The information received covered the following:

- ✦ Reported accidental dwelling fires
- ✦ Malicious false alarm calls
- ✦ False alarm calls
- ✦ Reported wilful/malicious fires
- ✦ Reported chimney fires
- ✦ Casualties resulting from fires.

### Reported Accidental Dwelling Fires

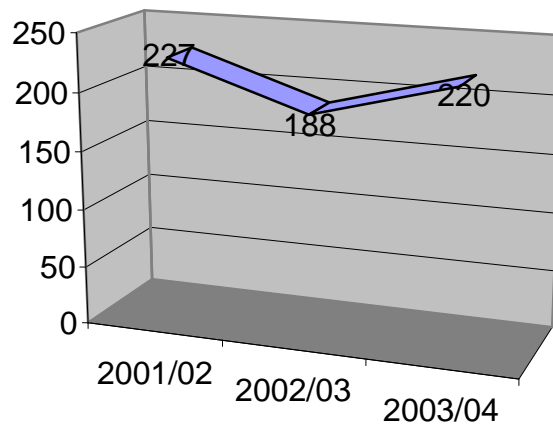
Reported accidental dwelling fires accounted for **13%** of all calls made to Grampian Fire and Rescue Service within Aberdeenshire over the three-year period analysed in the Audit.

**Percentage of Calls made to Grampian Fire and Rescue Service regarding Fires in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period between 2001 and 2004.**



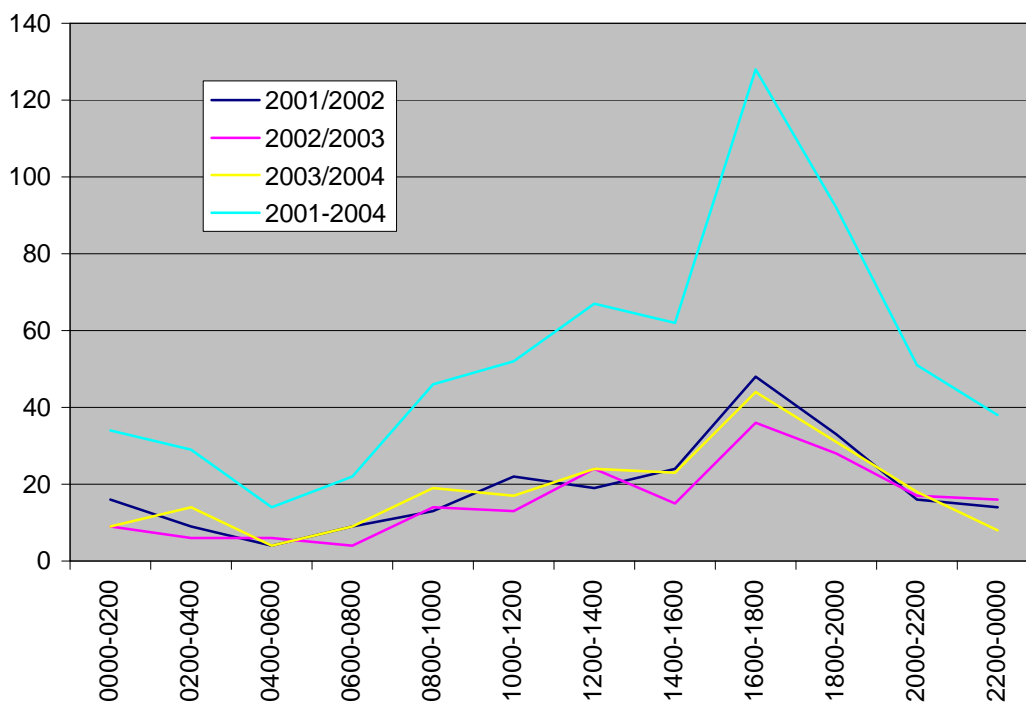
The total number of all fires in Aberdeenshire has **decreased (3.1%)** over the three-year period. In 2001/02 there were **227** dwelling fires in Aberdeenshire, during 2002/03 this figures decreased to **188** fires, which is the lowest figure recorded for this type of fire by both community safety audits. During 2003/04, the number of fires increased to **220** fires.

**Reported Dwelling Fires in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period between 2001/02 and 2003/04**



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

**Time of day of Reported Accidental Dwelling fires in Aberdeenshire for 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004, including the three-year total**



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

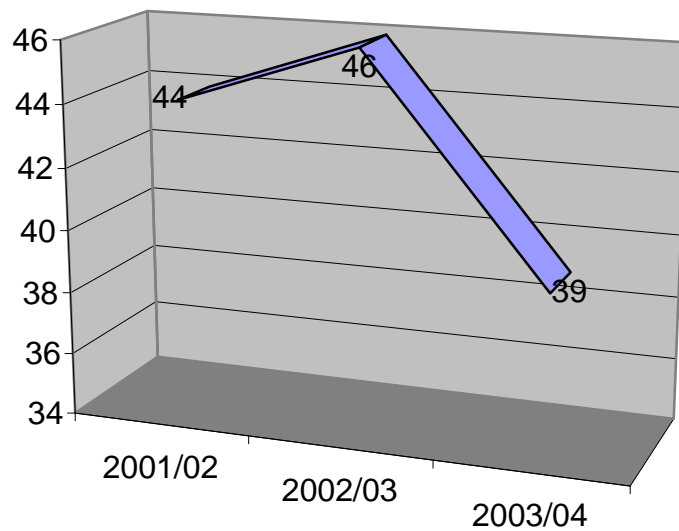
As can be seen above, there was a clear peak in the number of reported accidental dwelling fires in Aberdeenshire between the times of **1600-1800**.

There were also more fires between the times of **1400-2200** than any other time of day.

### Malicious False Alarm Calls

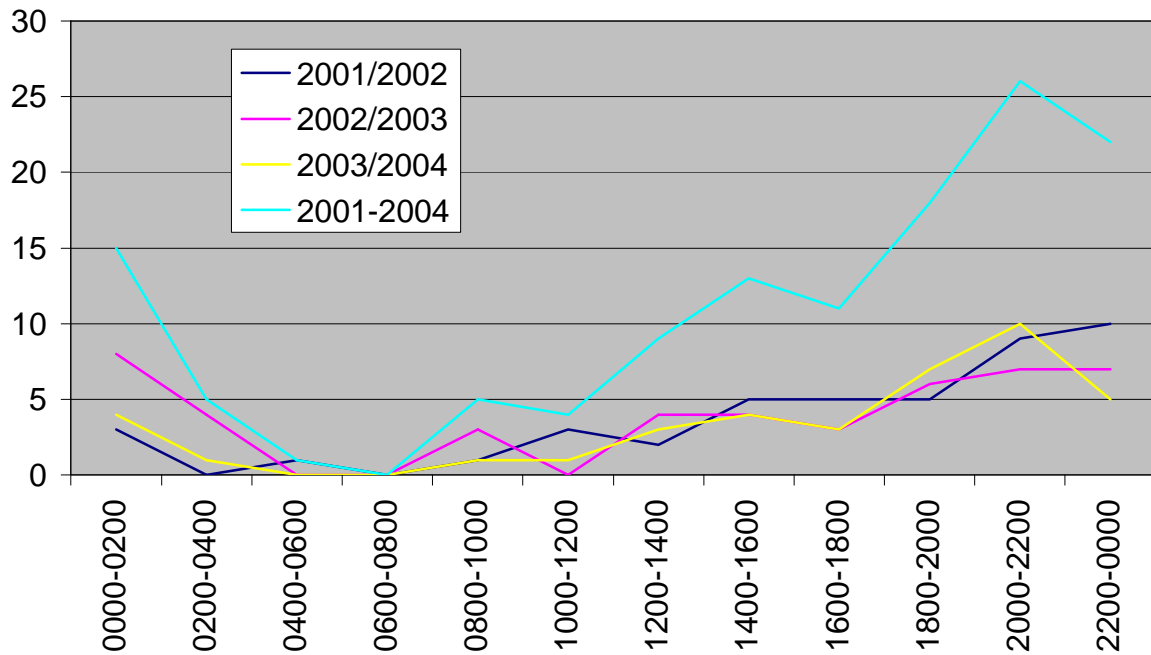
Malicious false alarm calls made up **3%** of all the calls made in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period. Previously the figures have stayed constant at about 44 throughout the three-year period, this year's figure has **decreased** by **15.2%**, which gives a decrease of **11.4%** in the total number of Malicious False Alarms.

#### Malicious False Alarm Calls in Aberdeenshire in the three-year period.



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

### Time of Day of Malicious False Alarm Calls for, 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 including a three-year total



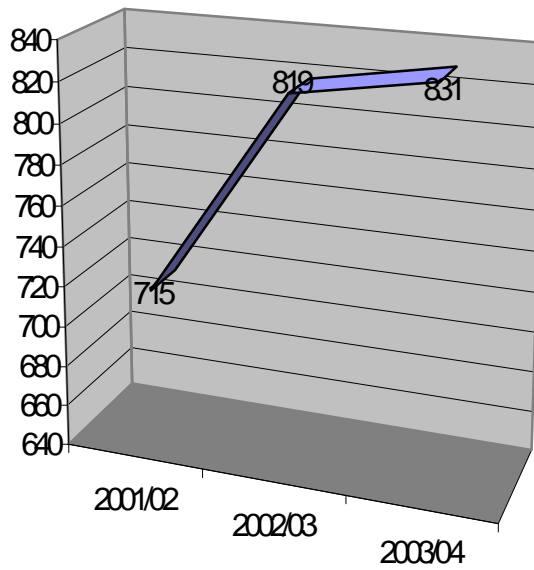
Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

As can be seen above, the highest number of malicious false alarm calls in Aberdeenshire was made between **2000-2200** hours. There were also significantly more calls made during the times of **1800-2000** and **2200-0200** hours than at any other times.

### False Alarm Calls (excluding Malicious Calls)

False alarm calls (excluding malicious calls) made up **41%** of all calls made in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period. This is a **16.2% increase** in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period. In 2001/2002 there were **715** false alarms in Aberdeenshire. This figure increased to **819** during 2002/2003 and has increased further to **831** during the period 2003/2004.

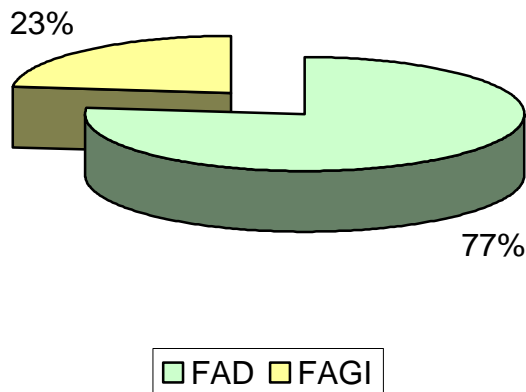
### False Alarm Calls in Aberdeenshire in the three-year period.



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

The majority of false alarm calls were due to fire detector systems, which accounted for 1841 (79%) of the false alarm calls, with false alarm calls with good intent accounting for the other 483 (21%).

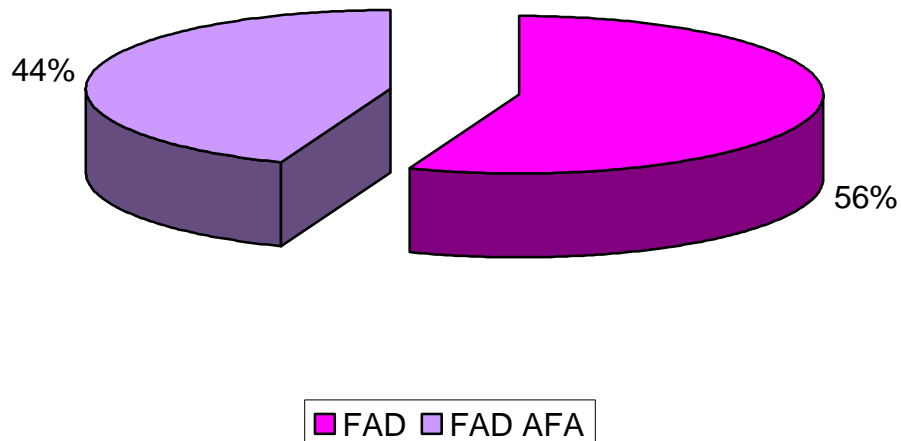
### False Alarms (Excluding False Alarm Malicious) in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

Of the 1812 calls due to detector systems, automatic fire alarms were responsible for 44% of these calls. The number of false alarm calls attributable to automatic fire alarms increased between 2001/02 and 2002/03 by 16.7%. However, it then decreased by 13.0% between 2002/03 and 2003/04.

## False Alarms Calls due to detectors in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period

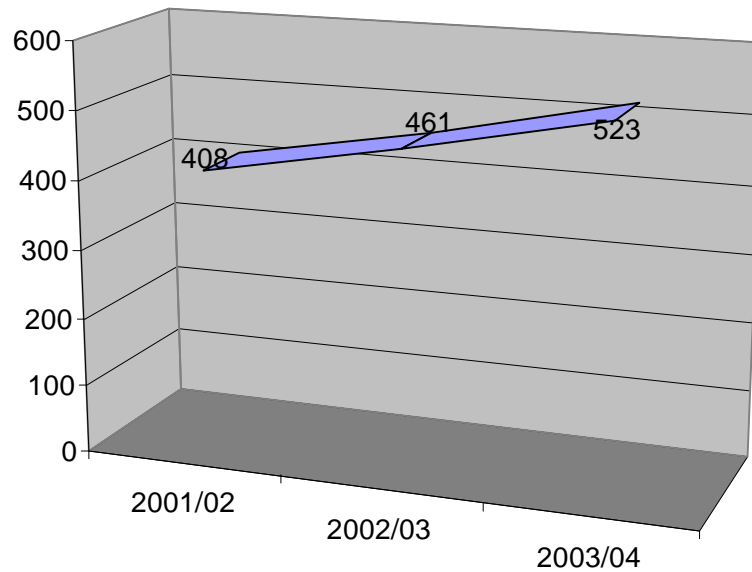


Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

### Reported Wilful Fires

There were **1158** wilful fires in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period, accounting for **24%** of all the reported fires in Aberdeenshire. This figure has increased by **20.2%** in the three-year period; the actual number of reported wilful/malicious fires has increased by **234** incidents during the three-year period. There was an increase of **13.0%** between 2001/02 and 2002/03 and a further increase of **13.4%** between 2002/03 and 2003/04. In total, there was a **28.2%** increase in the number of reported wilful fires during the three-year period.

### Wilful Fires in Aberdeenshire in the three-year period.



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

### **Wilful Fire Raising Sub Group**

Throughout Aberdeenshire there is an increasing trend of wilful fire rising, particularly in relation to our school buildings. The Wilful Fire Raising Sub Group (a sub group of the Aberdeenshire Community Safety Partnership) has been formed as a result of the increasing number of wilful fires occurring in Aberdeenshire. On average, each day in Aberdeenshire, a fire is deliberately lit. These fires may be a result of youth disorder in the form of vandalism, criminal intent, to cover up another crime such as joy riding, or malicious intent against an individual, institution or society.

The cost to Grampian Fire and Rescue Service in monetary terms is currently £1 million per year, 22% of the contribution paid by the Aberdeenshire Council to the Service. This figure represents only the response costs associated with wilful fires, such as the wages paid to crews dealing with these incidents. It does not include other expenses such as fuel for the fire appliances, depreciation of equipment & protective clothing.

The aim of the sub group is to reduce the instances of wilful fires using a multi agency approach, utilising the skills and expertise that already exists in the partnership. Regular meetings take place between officers of the council, Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Grampian Police to ensure a more proactive approach to tackling the problem.

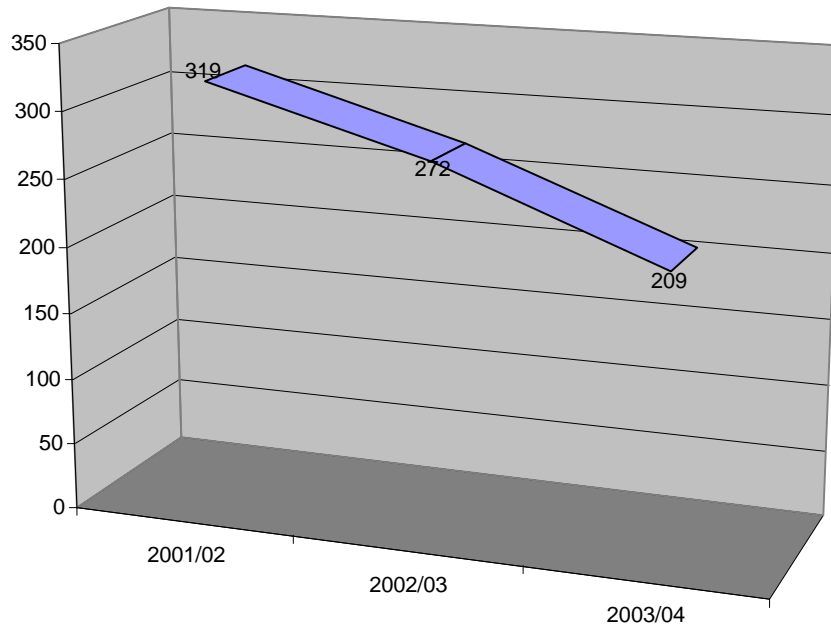
The sharing of data and exchange of information will play a significant part in the process by highlighting instances and particular areas of activity. Having identified the specific areas of concern and agreeing on the action that needs to be taken, appropriate resources are deployed to address the issues.

Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service and Aberdeenshire Council, Education and Recreation.

## **Reported Chimney Fires**

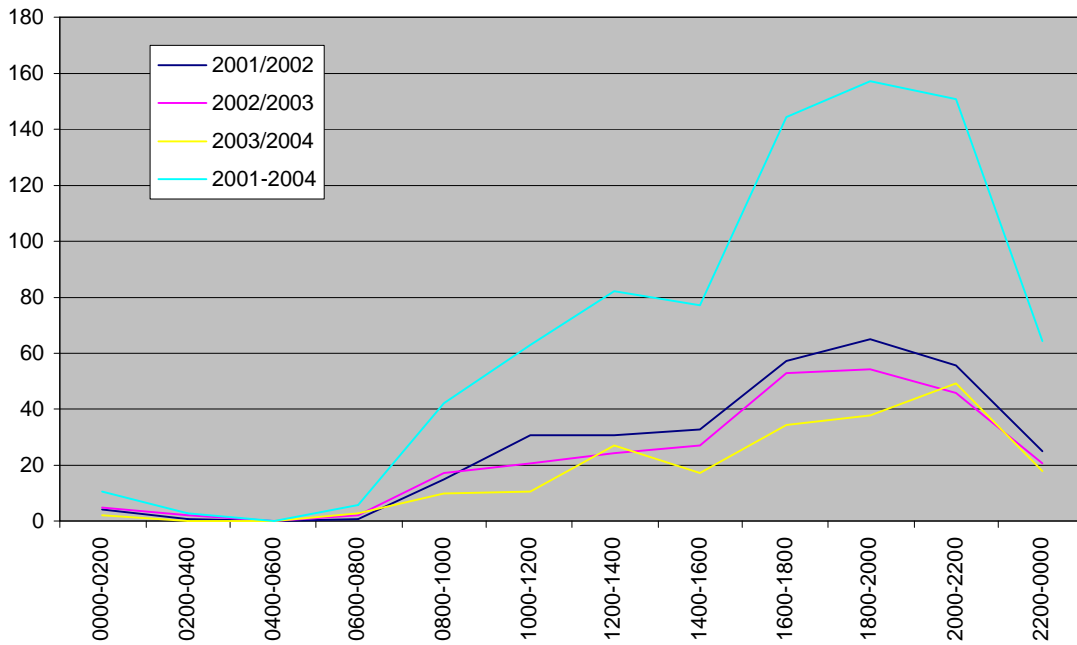
There were **800** Chimney fires in Aberdeenshire over the three-year period, accounting for **19%** of all the reported fires in Aberdeenshire. There was a decrease of **14.7%** between 2001/02 and 2002/03 and a further decrease of **23.2%** between 2002/03 and 2003/04. In total, there was a **34.5%** decrease in the number of reported chimney fires during the three-year period.

### Chimney Fires in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period.



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

### Time of Day of Chimney Fires for 2000/2001, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003, including a three-year total



Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

The above chart shows that there were more chimney fires in Aberdeenshire in the three-year period between the times of **1600-2200**. With the highest amount of calls being recorded between the times **1800-2000**. A very small amount of fires occurred between **0200-0800**, with no fires at all being recorded between **0400-0600**.

### Casualty Count

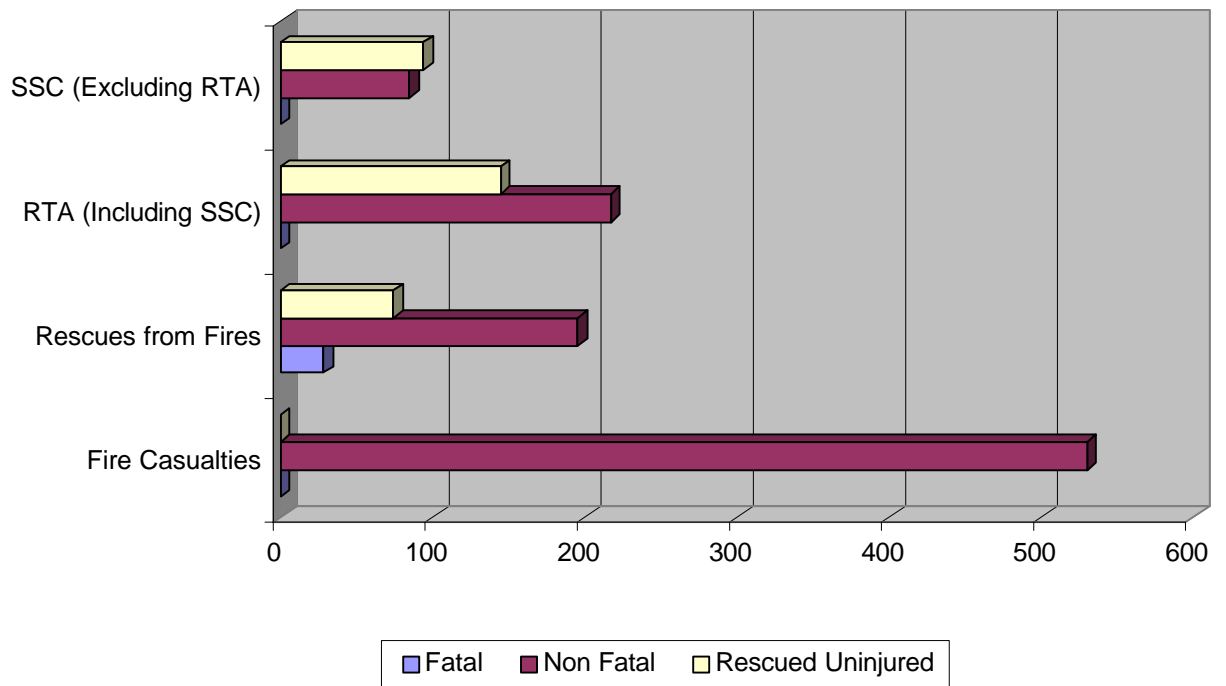
Of the **8675** incidents attended by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service in Aberdeenshire in the three-year period, there were **28** fatalities, **530** fire casualties left the premises unaided, **547** were rescued who had sustained injuries as a result of the fire and **219** were rescued who had not sustained injuries as a result of the fire. This is roughly **1** casualty for every **6** incidents in Aberdeenshire. This year's figures are different from other years figures because the Fire and Rescue Service have changed the way they record the data. The number of actual casualties has increased over the three-year period. There was a increase in the number of total casualties in Aberdeenshire by **1%** between 2001/02 and 2002/03, and a further increase of **16.2%** between 2002/03 and 2003/04. There has been a **17.3%** increase in the number of casualties between 2001/02 and 2003/04.

#### Casualty Count in Aberdeenshire for 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04, including the three-year total

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2001-2004
<b>Fatal</b>	12	8	8	28
<b>Fire Casualties (Non Fatal)</b>	181	168	181	530
<b>Rescues (Non Fatal)</b>	158	170	219	547
<b>Rescue (no injuries)</b>	65	74	80	219
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>1324</b>

Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

## Casualty Count by Incident Type for 2001/02 – 2003/04



**SSC – Special Service Calls. This means that it is not a fire incident but the services of the Fire and Rescue Service are required**

**RTA – Road Traffic Accident**

Source: Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

## WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- Overall the amount of dwelling fires has decreased (**3.1%**) during the three-year period analysed during the audit. Majority of dwelling fires happen in the evening between the times of **1600-1800**.
- Malicious false alarm calls have decreased significantly by **11.4%** in total in the last three-year period. The highest number of calls was made between the times of **1800-0200**.
- False Alarm calls have increased by **16.2%**, this does not include malicious false alarm calls, this only includes property that have fire alarm systems in place within there building.
- Willful fire rising has in total, had a **28.2%** increased during the last three-year period.
- Reporting of chimney fires has decrease by **34.5%** during the last three-year period. The highest number of calls was made between the times of **1600-2200**.
- In total there was **8675** reported incidents that was attended by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service in Aberdeenshire during the three-year period.
- During the three-year period there was **28** fatalities, **530** fire casualties, **547** rescues of non-fatalities casualties and **219** persons rescued uninjured. This lead to an increase of **17.3%** overall in the last three-year period.