

WATER SAFETY

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
Working together for a safer Scotland

Please use this template to provide information on any Water Safety initiatives you are doing within your area. Please provide as much relevant information as possible.

if you require any assistance or support in completing this template please contact Bernadine Blair, Evaluation, Funding and Initiatives Officer:
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LSO AREA

North SDA (Aberdeenshire/Moray)

Author and Contact Details (add a contact email or phone number),

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What is the Title of the Initiative?

GANNOCHY BRIDGE AND THE SHAKIN BRIG, EDZELL

Summary

Improved engagement with the community to highlight the Water Safety, particularly with the young people within the area following a spike in recent water incidents within an area which attracted young people due to good weather/staycations. (see pictures below)

Need for Initiative

Following a rise of water rescue incidents both nationally and locally, LALO Duncan, WC Matty Crabb and WC Michael Annal recognised that it was important to push out the SFRS Summer Thematic Action Plan (TAP) initiative and water safety advice at an area that had witnessed a spike in recent incidents. They made initial contact with SC Craig Shand to address this concern and progress this initiative.

One particular incident on 09/08/2021 involved two teenagers getting into difficulty in the water, they suffered injuries and required rescuing by SFRS and specialist rope teams.

Crews were also aware that there was a noticeable increase in the amount of people in the water over the summer due to the staycation aspect of COVID.

Aims and Objectives

In accordance with the UK National Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016-2026 we aim to reduce the number of accidental drowning by 50% by 2026 and reduce danger amongst the highest risk groups and communities.

The main objectives of this initiative are:

Improved engagement, support and provision of advice to young people who are unaware that death by drowning is the third highest accidental cause of death in the UK.

Develop further partnership working/collaboration including local community groups

Reduce anti-social behaviours

Delivery/Activities

Prior to this initiative, local schools were sent water safety information by email, requesting that they release this to both pupils and parents. LALO Duncan, WC Matty Crabb, WC Michael Annal who were in regular contact with the schools advised them that local crews would be attending popular walking/swimming spots at Gannochy Bridge, Edzell and the Shakin Brig, Sunday 5th September and would engage with the community with regards to water safety.

Crews would also be engaging with families attending local beauty spots and dog walkers using the local paths about staying safe around water.

Resources (What resources does the project require? Does the project rely on any other resources, such as staff from other organisations or premises owned/managed by other organisations? What social media platforms were used to promote it?)

Local Crews, Fire Appliance, Rural Support Watch Commander, Support from Local Community Safety Partnerships, leaflets.



water-safety-stayin
g-safe (1).pdf



watchoutinwaterfa
ctsheets (1).pdf

Partner Agencies (include contact details)

Education Department
Edzell Village Improvement Society

Successes and Challenges

Personnel engaged with the lead of the Edzell village improvement society who are now looking to fund buoyancy aids and signs for these nearby tourist attractions.

Impact/Change/Outcomes (has anything changed because of the project? What impact has the project had on participants, the wider community and your area? Have you produced anything as a result of the project (i.e. reports, guidance etc.)? Were there any unexpected outcomes?

On the day of the event, Crews engaged with 69 people, detailing the risks and dangers of not just the water but the landscape of the surrounding area. Many informative leaflets were provided to the public promoting summer safety and water safety, these were national leaflets, stats below:

Adults	44
Youths	12
Children	13

Watch out in water leaflet	11
Staying safe in Scotland's Water	14
Summer safety	1

A crew member from Brechin used his drone and this was highly effective as it showed a family close to the water's edge with a young child, the family have given permission to use this footage to be used in future safety presentations (copies of pictures below). The drone was able to take an overall picture of the area where it is hoped that we can use this for the Ops Intel tablets for RVP to highlight danger areas and landing areas for Air Ambulance/Coastguard.

The crews also engaged with the community within Edzell and were approached by the lead of Edzell Village Improvement Society. Watch Commander Lewis Duncan and WC Matt Crabb spoke to Alison Farrell who is the chair of the group and they are planning to arrange for signage and throw lines to be placed at the Shakin Brig area.

Reflections

Due to the number of Water Safety fatalities this year in Scotland, people having 'staycations' and the better weather, it is essential that planning community safety engagement in areas with bodies of water which may attract swimming etc., particularly by young people gathering in these areas is extremely important. Local knowledge by the crews is crucial as is collaboration with local community groups and partners to target those areas which may attract visitors/young people and making them safer.

Personnel report that overall this has been a very worthwhile event from a community safety perspective but also, it provided reassurance to the Community that SFRS were working towards enhancing the safety of everyone within the local area.

Next steps Will this project continue? What are the plans for the project in the future and what is needed for this to happen?

Local personnel will be working with the local community and partners to plan preventative measures of engagement in advance of Spring/Summer 2022. Water safety will be included in any presentations

which are given to local schools and personnel will continue to work with local groups who may be able to provide funding for local resources.

Personnel will be continuing to further collaborate with the Village Improvement Society and will pursue the purchase of Throw Lines via this group.

Additional Information (include any other relevant information, such as links to other websites or reports)

This example will be shared with the SFRS Water Safety Group as an example of Good Practice. Personnel completed a formal Evaluation PE Toolkit therefore an evaluation report will be completed and included within in the Prevention and Protection Ihub within the Evaluation Section to be shared with areas across the service. This GP example will also be sent to the Scottish Community Safety Network to be shared on the Building Safer Communities Good Practice Exemplar section.

The pictures captured at the area, highlighting the obvious dangers will be included within SFRS National Water Safety Sharepoint site and may be used to highlight the dangers around Water in other Water Safety presentations.

Date: September 2021 **Signed: Station Commander Craig Shand**





