

# Protection

## Unwanted Fire Signals - 26.01.23



**NORTH YORKSHIRE  
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



[www.northyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk)

# What is an Unwanted Fire Signal?



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A false alarm results in a fire signal from a cause other than fire. If the fire and rescue service attend any automatic fire alarm that is not a fire, this is considered a false alarm or an unwanted fire signal (UwFS).

# Unwanted Fire Signal Types



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- False alarm apparatus
- False alarm good intent
- False alarm malicious

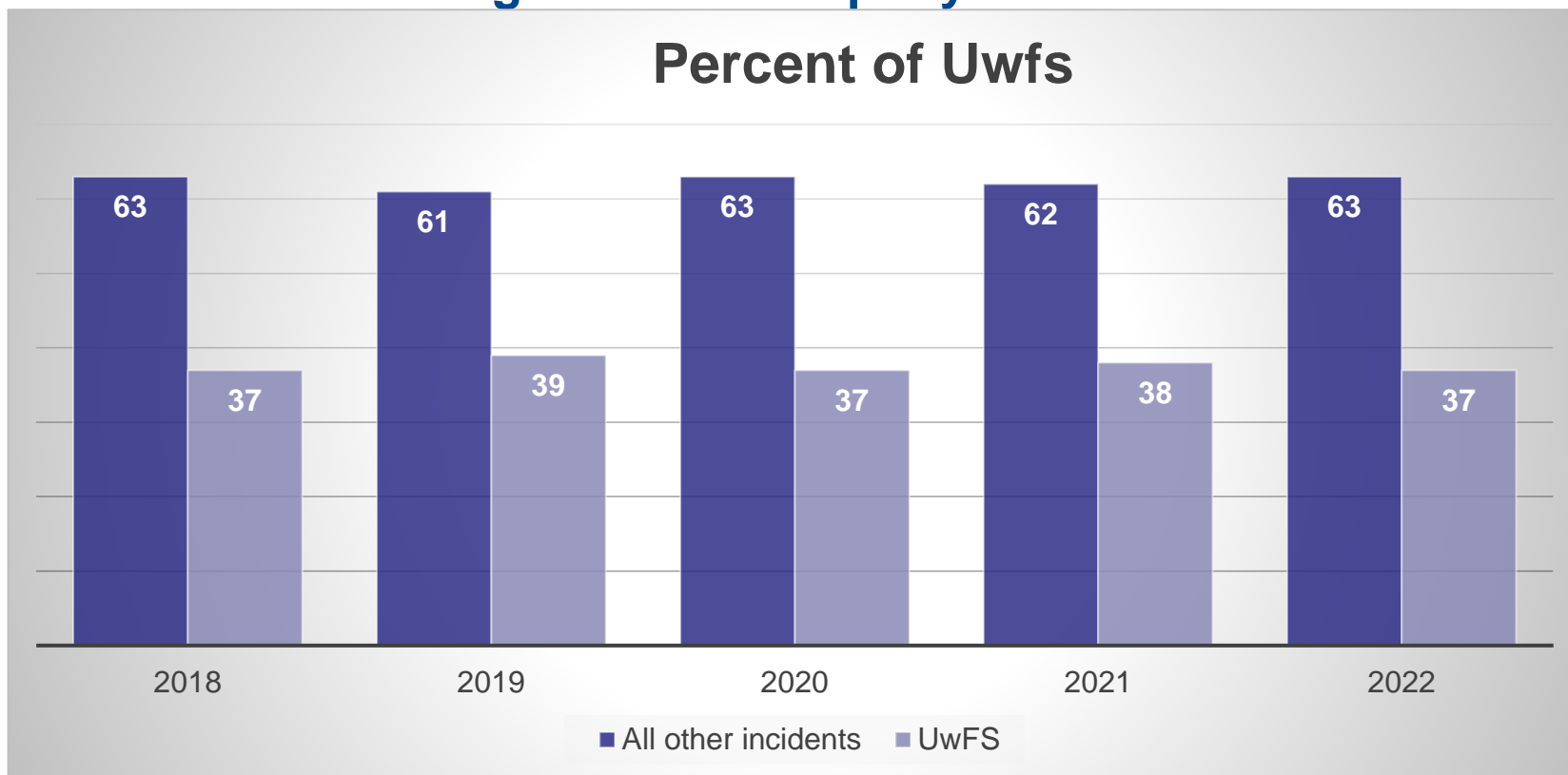


# Response



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**We attend on average 2550 UwFS per year.**



# Incident Attendance Breakdown



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Description	Residential (% total Res)	Commercial Industrial/Retail (% total Comm)
FAAP - Apparatus	93.5%	96%
FAGI - Good Intent	1.7%	1%
FAM - Malicious	1.5%	1.3%
Other	0.8%	0.1%
Fire	2.5%	1.6%

# Impact on Fire and Rescue Service



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## You've had an unwanted fire signal!

### This is a cost to you:

- Loss of production
- Staff complacency
- Enforcement action which could lead to prosecution

### This is the cost to the Fire Service and the public:

- It costs £350 per hour to attend a false alarm
- This diverts us from real emergencies and vital community work
- Unnecessary risk to fire crews and the public whilst responding



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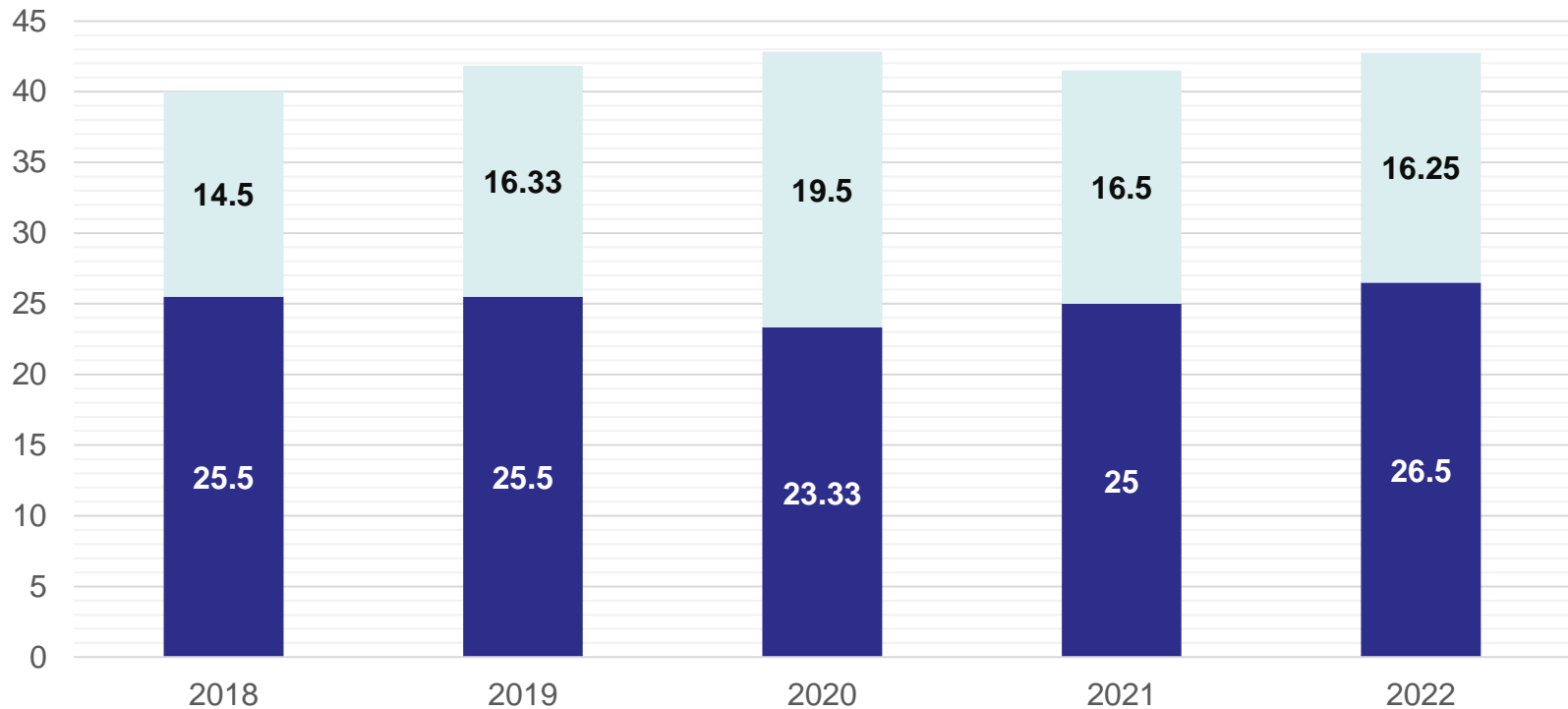
# Attendance Times



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## UwFS attendance total in days

■ Residential    ■ Industry/commercial/retail



# UwFS Reduction Policy



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Commercial/Industrial/Retail - 4 stage approach (implemented 2022).

- Stage 1 - ensuring advice note given and details gathered at every incident.
- Stage 2 – Business fire safety team send letter advising them to look at the number of incidents we have attended.
- Stage 3 – Fire Safety Audit carried out.
- Stage 4 – Consideration of full enforcement powers to be used.

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**Common causes of fire alarms...**

- Cooking fumes
- Steam
- Smoking materials
- Aerosol sprays
- Hotwork from cutting and welding
- Dust build up
- Humidity and temperature change
- Testing or maintenance
- Fire 'Break Glass' point damage

**How do I reduce false alarms?**

**Management**

- Keeping Automatic Fire Alarm(AFA) systems appropriately maintained.
- Record activations in your logbook and identify any trends.
- Creating an action plan to reduce the chance of any false alarm and update your Fire Risk Assessment.
- Educate staff and contractors about your AFD system.

**System**

- Review detector type and location.
- Is the system type appropriate for the risk?
- Fitting manual call points with protective plastic covers.
- Upgrade automatic fire detection systems considering multi-sensors.
- Contact your alarm engineer/fire risk assessor for advice and guidance.
- Pre warn your Alarm Receiving Centre(ARC) before testing or undertaking any maintenance.

For further information view our website:  
[www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/business-safety/reducing-false-alarms](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/business-safety/reducing-false-alarms)

SCAN ME

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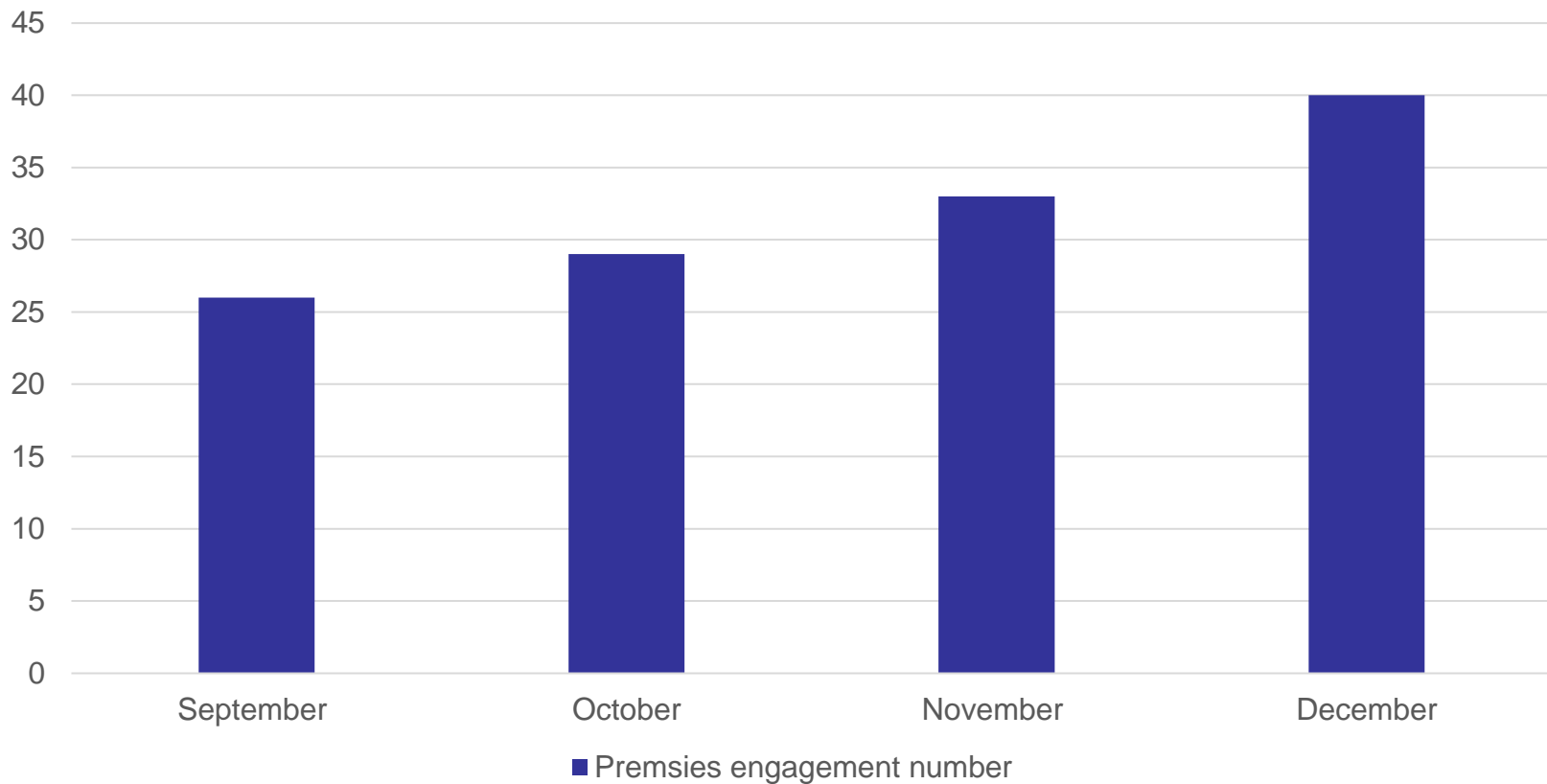




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# Engagement Activity

Number of UwFS Stage 2 Engagements



# Risk and Resource Model



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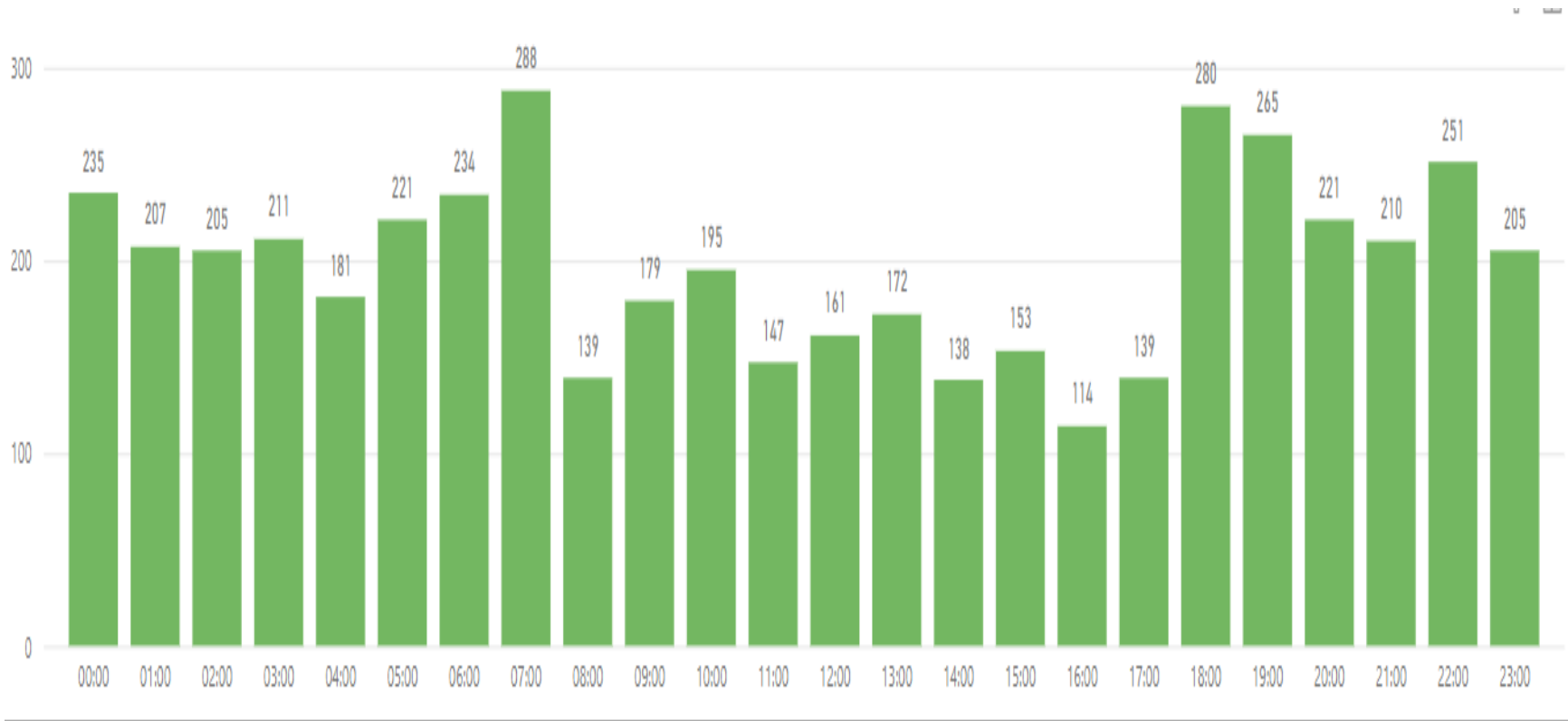


- Extend the Service's current Automatic Fire Alarm attendance policy from 08:00 – 18:00 to 07:00 – 19:00.
- Change the policy on response to automatic fire alarms at low-risk premises.
- Introduce the ability to charge for attendance to automatic fire alarms.

# Extension of Automatic Fire Alarm Attendance Policy 0700 - 1900



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# Change Response to Lower Risk Premises



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We hold risk information on over 1200 buildings across the service area.

Currently we attend any activation to premises we hold risk information on.

By the removal of responding to activations at Lower risk premises we could reduce the number of UWFS attended by 5% each year.



# Introduce Ability to Charge for Unwanted Fire Signal Attendance



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- Stage 1 - ensuring advice note given and details gathered at every incident.
- Stage 2 – Business fire safety team send letter advising them to look at the number of incidents we have attended.
- Stage 3 – Fire Safety Audit carried out.
- **Stage 4 – Introduce ability to charge businesses who do not work to reduce the number of activations.**
- Stage 5 – Consideration of full enforcement powers to be used.

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# Evaluation

We now evaluate our areas of Protection, our key areas of focus are;

- Our Performance - Dashboards
- How we are perceived by the public – Engagement activity
- Do our activities lead to any behavioural change? – Campaigns, Stage 1-5
- How do our activities align with our Community Risk Profile? – Cross county use of PIE, identifying vulnerabilities
- Barriers to any success – Non engagement, Non conformity leading to increased regulatory enforcement
- Qualitative case studies on successful engagements – Brings P&P activity closer (Flats, HMO, Partnership working)
- Ensure we improve our accuracy for recording and reporting purposes –Clear communication for accountability and thorough evaluation for future reductions in UwFS.