

Protection

Unwanted Fire Signals - 26.01.23



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FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**



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

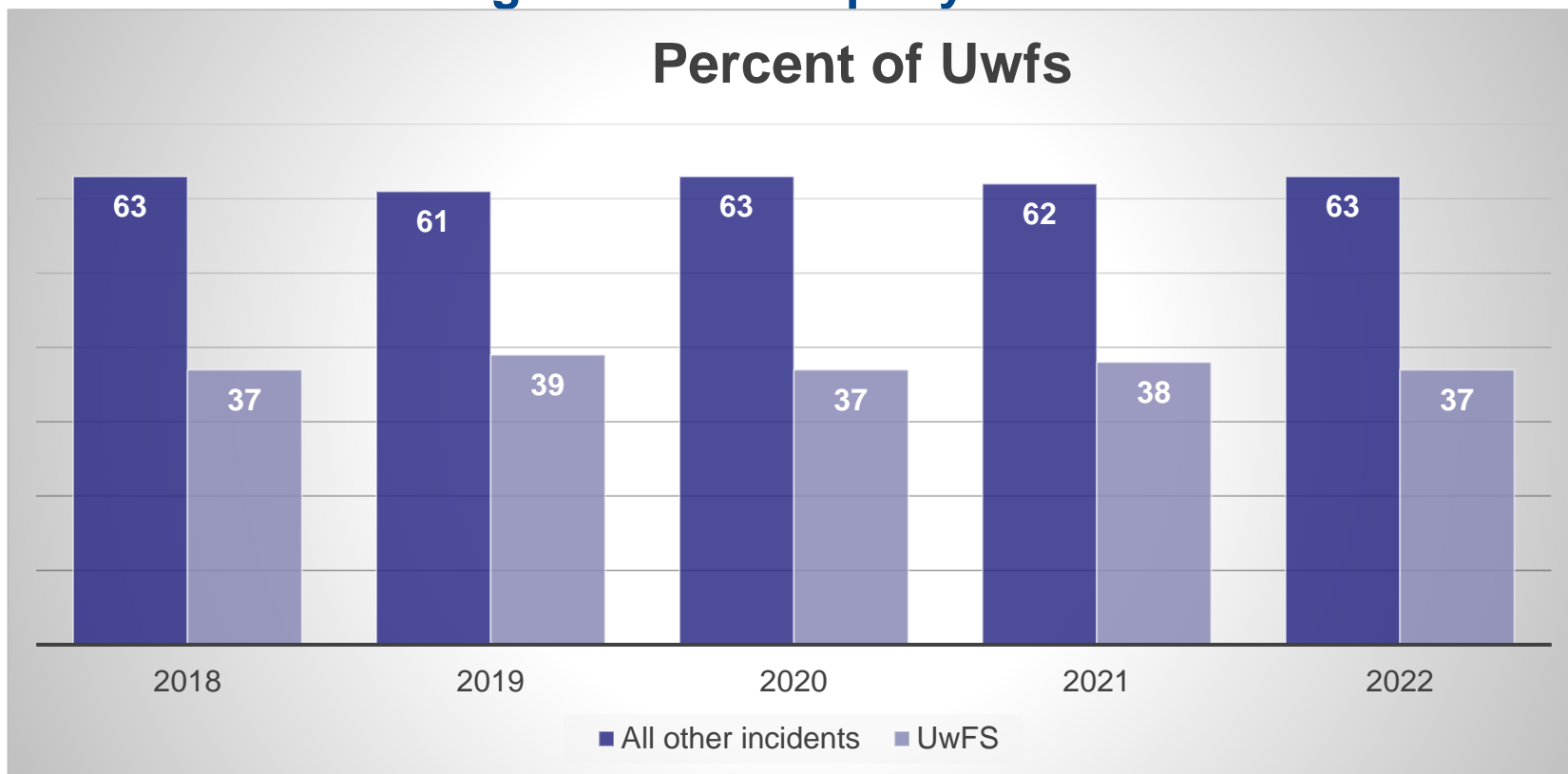


Response



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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



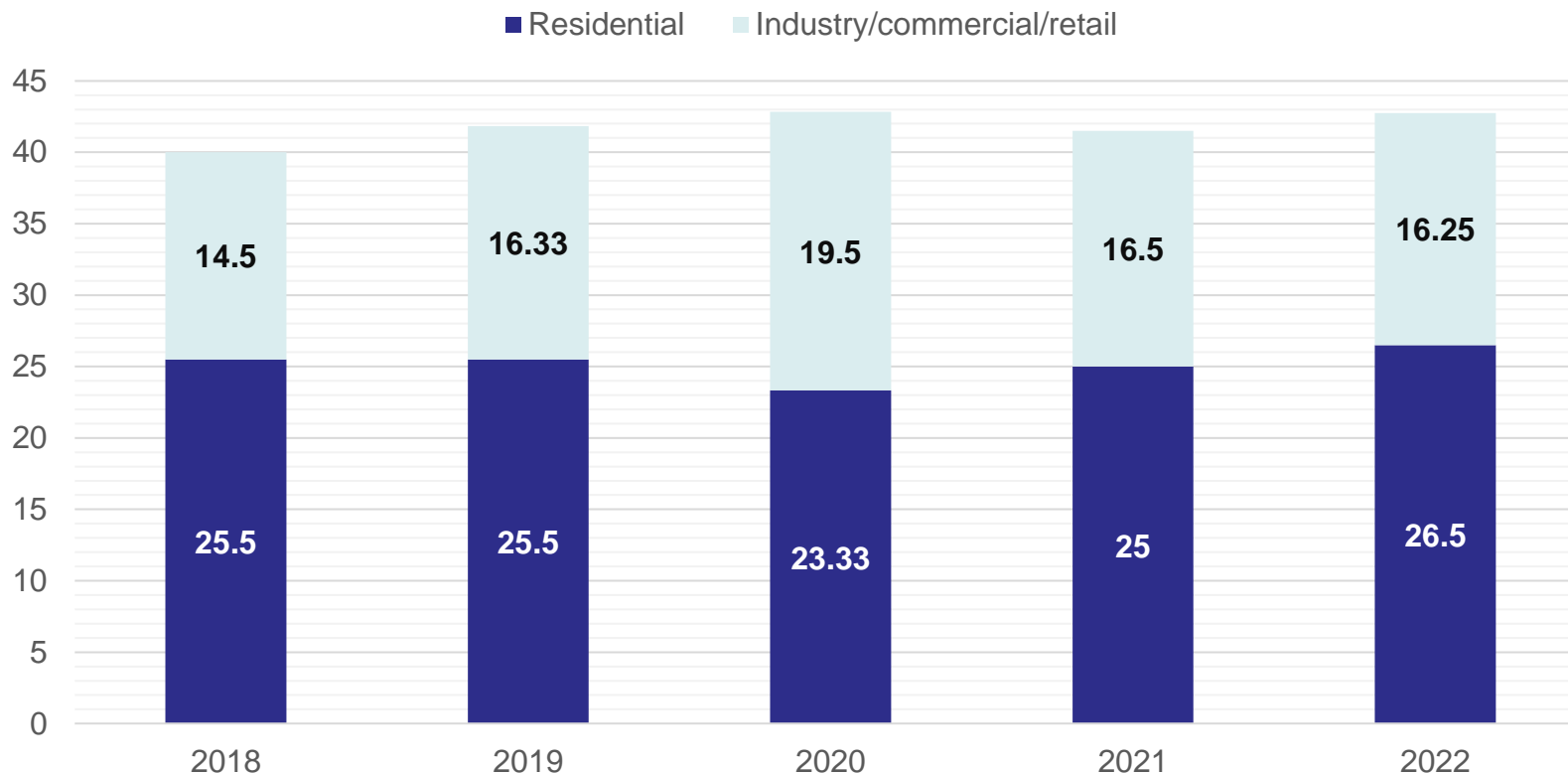
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Attendance Times



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UwFS attendance total in days



UwFS Reduction Policy

Commercial/Industrial/Residential - 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 change	 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.

SCAN ME

For further information view our website:
www.northyorksfire.gov.uk/business-safety/reducing-false-alarms

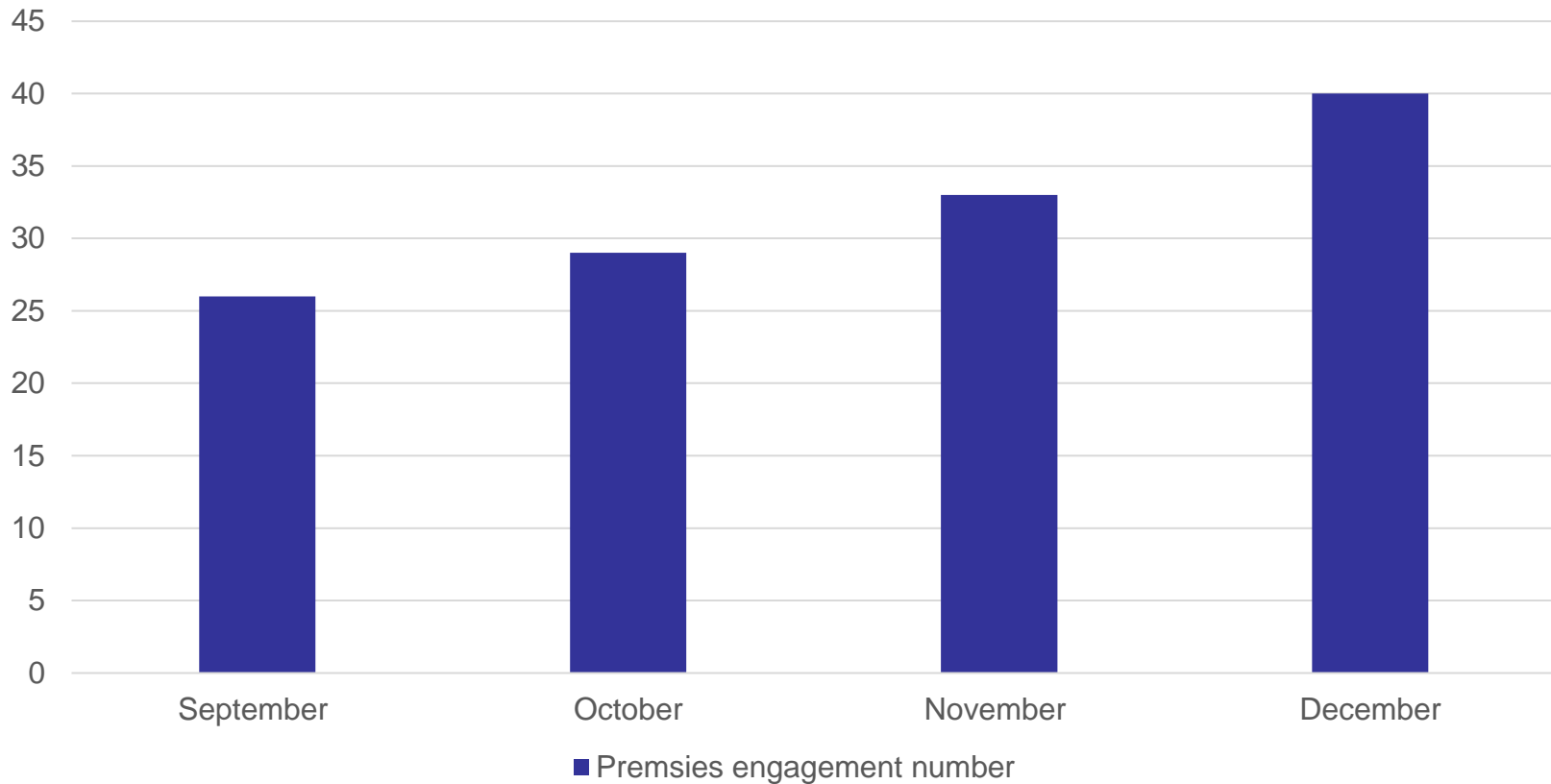
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Engagement Activity

Number of UwFS Engagements



Risk and Resource Model



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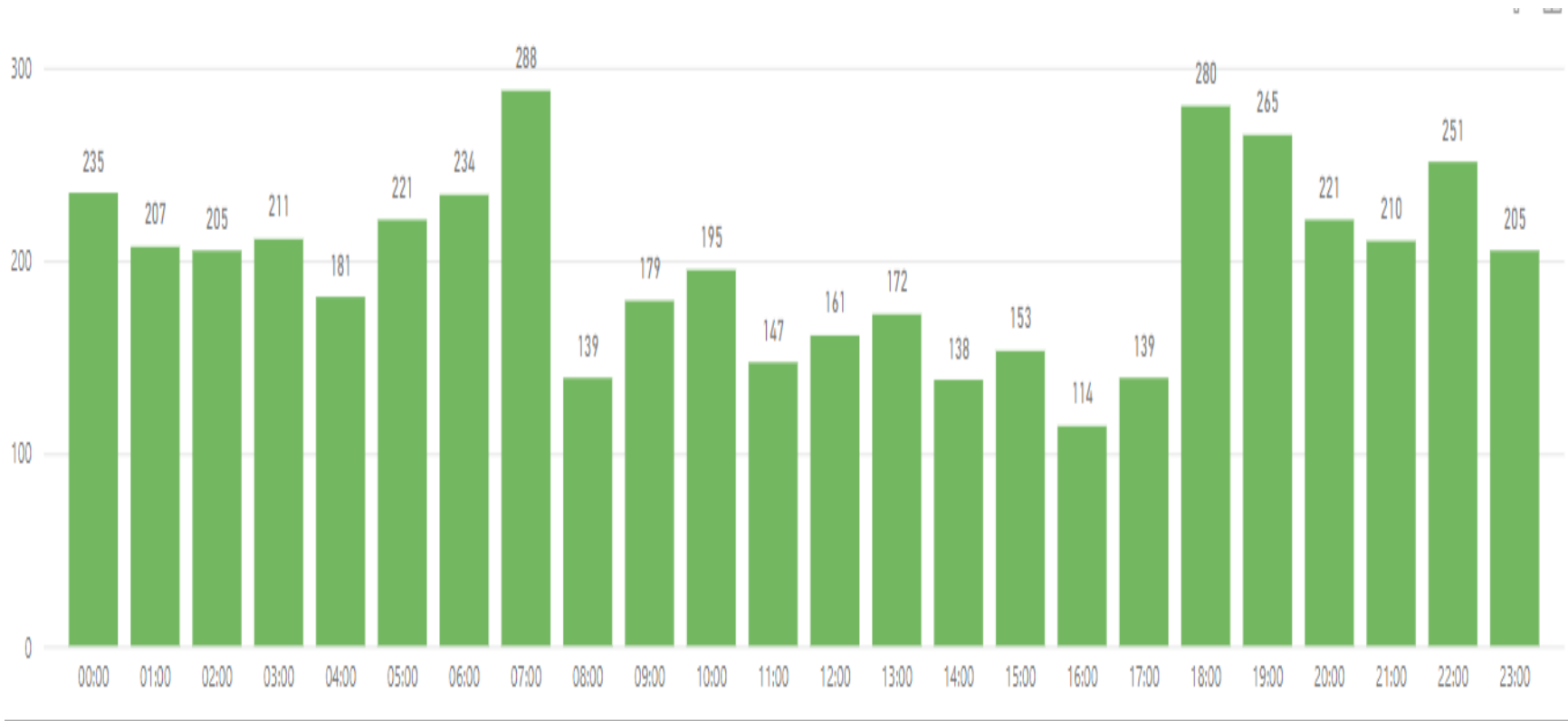


- Extend the Service's current Automatic Fire Alarm attendance policy from 08:00 – 18:00 to 07:00 – 19:00.
- Change the policy on response to automatic fire alarms at low-risk premises.
- Introduce the ability to charge for attendance to automatic fire alarms.

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.

Removing the premises where we have assessed the risk to firefighters and this is not high, we could reduce the number of UWFS we attend by over 5% each year.

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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 Prevention and Protection, our key areas of focus are;

- Our Performance.
- How we are perceived by the public.
- Do our activities lead to any behavioural change?
- How do our activities align with our Community Risk Profile?
- Barriers to any success.
- Qualitative case studies on successful engagements.
- Ensure we improve our accuracy for recording and reporting purposes.
- Use of logic pathways to show our inputs and activities, and how they influence the outcomes to a community.