



## **Easington District**

## **Community Risk Profile**

**2018 – 2021**

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## Introduction

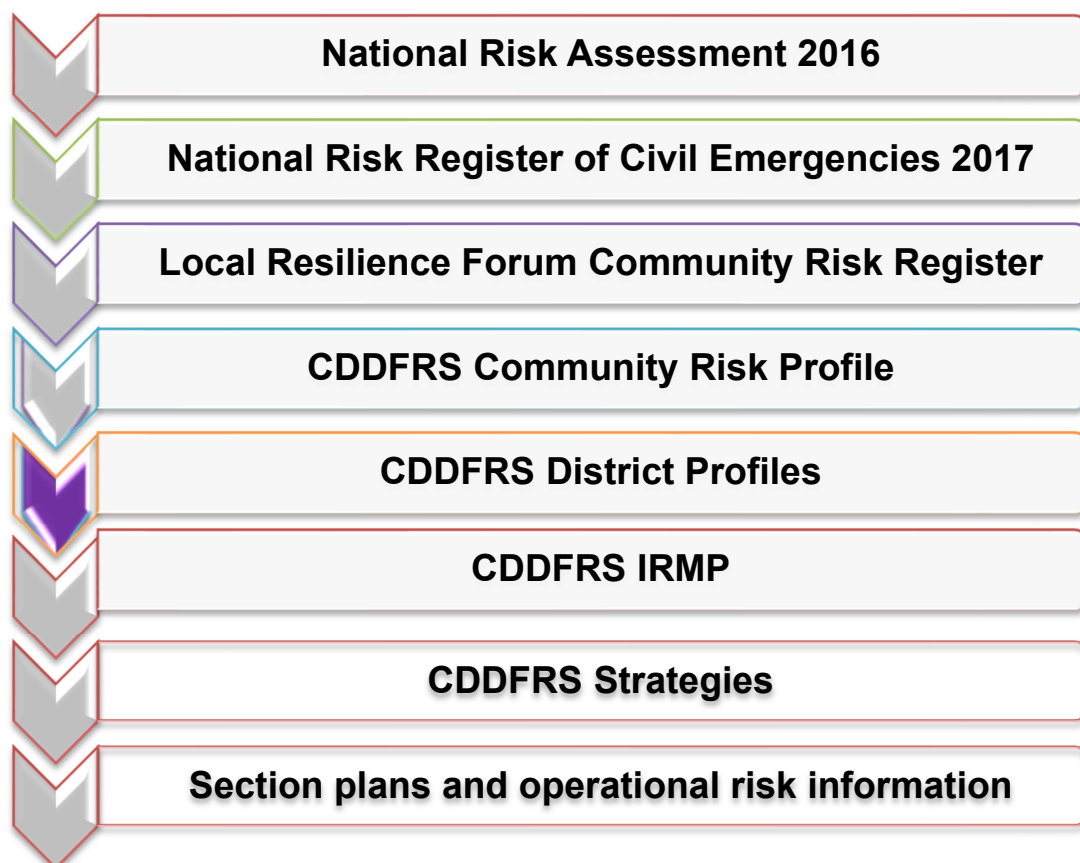
This district profile covers Peterlee, Seaham and Wheatley Hill fire stations and sets out our approach to the risks and challenges we face, to ensure the people who live and work in, or visit Easington, are the safest people in the safest places.

As part of the County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service (CDDFRS) 'Community Risk Identification Process', both the National Risk Register (NRR) of Civil Emergencies 2017 and the Community Risk Register (CRR) for County Durham and Darlington produced by the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) have been considered.

Details of the risks identified by the National Risk Register of Civil emergencies can be found in our [Community Risk Profile](#) document or via the following link: [National Risk Register](#).

The risks identified by the County Durham and Darlington Risk register can be found via the following link: [County Durham and Darlington Risk Register](#)

### CDDFRS 'Community Risk Identification Process'



## Risk Assessment Methodology

The first stage of our risk assessment methodology is to identify incidents that can cause harm to the people, environment and economy within the community that CDDFRS serve. We then identify who or what is at risk of harm from the incidents. Once the incidents and anyone at harm have been identified the District based community risk profile will be used to decide how CDDFRS address the issues identified depending upon the overall risk rating.

Likelihood (Demand):

Our likelihood assumptions are based on incidents attended over the previous 3-year period and national risk level against the population estimates for each station area as well as a high level of local knowledge and professional judgement.

Consequences (Risk):

The consequences taken into consideration alongside professional judgement will include:

|  |
|--|
| <b>Loss of life</b> - this reflects the number of people killed at an incident.              |
| <b>Injury</b> – this cover those requiring medical intervention resulting from an incident.  |
| <b>Economic impact</b> – this includes property damage, heritage loss & business disruption. |
| <b>Environmental Damage</b> – this includes all types of pollution to the environment        |
| <b>Social Disruption</b> – this includes transport, utilities, finance and communications.   |
| <b>Psychological impact</b> – this includes public outrage and anxiety.                      |
| <b>Impact of wellbeing of firefighters</b> – this covers operational incidents.              |
| <b>Wider impact</b> – this refers to national and international impact.                      |

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England states that authorities are to “identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks their areas are faced with”. Therefore, the potential consequences listed above play a part in the assessment of risk, as will a high level of local knowledge and professional judgement to come to a definitive score. The methodology used to calculate future risk is based on:




**The average number of incidents attended over the previous three years against population estimates for each station area.**

**X**




**The risk of future incidents occurring through a combination of the listed consequences and a data led approach with a high level of local knowledge and professional judgement.**

## Risk Assessment Matrix

The risk assessment matrix utilised within this document is based on a reasonable worst-case scenario, with an assessment of a possible upper and lower range. This demonstrates alternative indicators of the risk levels which have been considered during the risk assessment process. The matrix below illustrates the use of ranges, with the reasonable worst case in the centre, the “upper range” being a more impactful but less likely scenario and the “lower range” being a less impactful but more likely one.

|   |             |   |                       |   |             |
|---|-------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------|
|  | Upper range |  | Reasonable worst case |  | Lower range |
|---|-------------|---|-----------------------|---|-------------|

|                     |                  |                   |   |   |   |          |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| <b>Consequences</b> | Catastrophic (5) |                   |   |   |   |          |
|                     | Significant (4)  |                   |  |   |   |          |
|                     | Moderate (3)     |                   |   |  |   |          |
|                     | Minor (2)        |                   |   |   |  |          |
|                     | Limited (1)      |                   |   |   |   |          |
|                     |                  | Low (1)           | Medium Low (2)  | Medium (3)  | Medium High (4)   | High (5) |
|                     |                  | <b>Likelihood</b> |   |   |   |          |

The overall level of risk used within the risk assessment matrix fits into one of the following categories:

|   |
|---|
| <b>VERY HIGH (Red)</b> may have a high to medium-low likelihood of occurrence, but their potential consequences are such that they will be treated as a priority by CDDFRS and resources made available to combat the threat. |
| <b>HIGH (Amber)</b> during the strategic planning process careful consideration should be given to reducing or eliminating these risks.   |
| <b>MEDIUM (Yellow)</b> should be monitored to ensure appropriate measures are in place to enable an effective response.   |
| <b>LOW (Green)</b> should be managed using normal planning and response arrangements and appropriate levels of resources are maintained.  |

## False Alarms

In the last 3 years false alarms have accounted for 28% of all the emergency calls responded to by CDDFRS. Of these calls around half were due to apparatus and the other half were calls made with good intentions. On average the Service responds to less than 90 malicious 999 call each year. Whilst false alarms do not increase risk to the public, they do require an unnecessary response from the fire service and our vehicles usually respond. All the time we are attending false alarms, appliances are unavailable for real emergencies and prevention activities.

## Forward Look

When looking forward both Durham County Council (DCC) and Darlington Borough Council (DBC) are planning a significant number of changes that will inadvertently create additional demand on CDDFRS resources as well as creating a greater level of risk to the community.

This includes the potential for over 305 hectares of new land to be developed for business and industry as well as protecting over 1,500 hectares of existing business and industrial land to prevent any other use in County Durham. There are also plans to build 6,272 new homes across County Durham part of which will include a requirement that 10% of all homes on developments would have to be designed for the older population who are subsequently at greater risk of having a fire within the home.

In addition to the development of businesses, industry and new homes there are also plans to develop new infrastructure including relief roads to the north and west of Durham all of which have the potential to increase the risk levels posed by various incidents which are covered within this document.

## Executive Risk Assessment Summary: Peterlee

### Peterlee Station area risk rating

The 20 identified risks below are those identified, using the above information, local knowledge and professional judgement to be the most relevant to the Peterlee Station area.

| Risk Number | Risk Type                              | Overall Risk Rating |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 1           | Dwelling fires                         | Very High           |
| 2           | Other residential premises             | Very High           |
| 3           | Non-residential premises               | Very High           |
| 5           | Road traffic collisions (RTC's)        | Very High           |
| 8           | Malicious attacks/ terrorist incidents | Very High           |
| 15          | Secondary fires                        | Very High           |
| 16          | Primary fires (other than buildings)   | Very High           |
| 4           | Flooding                               | High                |
| 6           | Hazardous materials                    | High                |
| 7           | Industrial                             | High                |
| 9           | Air                                    | High                |
| 10          | Water (excluding flooding)             | High                |
| 11          | Height                                 | High                |
| 12          | Rail                                   | Medium              |
| 13          | Wildfires                              | Medium              |
| 14          | Building collapse                      | Medium              |
| 17          | Waste disposal site fires              | Medium              |
| 18          | Major public events                    | Medium              |
| 19          | Heritage risks                         | Medium              |
| 20          | Animals                                | Medium              |

## Executive Risk Assessment Summary: Seaham

### Seaham Aycliffe Station area risk rating

The 20 identified risks below are those identified, using the above information, local knowledge and professional judgement to be the most relevant to the Seaham Station area.

| Risk Number | Risk Type                              | Overall Risk Rating |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 1           | Dwelling fires                         | Very High           |
| 5           | Road traffic collisions (RTC's)        | Very High           |
| 8           | Malicious attacks/ terrorist incidents | Very High           |
| 15          | Secondary fires                        | Very High           |
| 16          | Primary fires (other than buildings)   | Very High           |
| 3           | Non-residential premises               | High                |
| 6           | Hazardous materials                    | High                |
| 9           | Air                                    | High                |
| 10          | Water (excluding flooding)             | High                |
| 11          | Height                                 | High                |
| 2           | Other residential premises             | Medium              |
| 4           | Flooding                               | Medium              |
| 7           | Industrial                             | Medium              |
| 12          | Rail                                   | Medium              |
| 13          | Wildfires                              | Medium              |
| 14          | Building collapse                      | Medium              |
| 17          | Waste disposal site fires              | Medium              |
| 18          | Major public events                    | Medium              |
| 19          | Heritage risks                         | Medium              |
| 20          | Animals                                | Medium              |



## Executive Risk Assessment Summary: Wheatley Hill

### Wheatley Hill Station area risk rating

The 20 identified risks below are those identified, using the above information, local knowledge and professional judgement to be the most relevant to the Wheatley Hill Station area.

| Risk Number | Risk Type                              | Overall Risk Rating |
|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 1           | Dwelling fires                         | Very High           |
| 5           | Road traffic collisions (RTC's)        | Very High           |
| 8           | Malicious attacks/ terrorist incidents | Very High           |
| 15          | Secondary fires                        | Very High           |
| 16          | Primary fires (other than buildings)   | Very High           |
| 3           | Non-residential premises               | High                |
| 6           | Hazardous materials                    | High                |
| 9           | Air                                    | High                |
| 10          | Water (excluding flooding)             | High                |
| 11          | Height                                 | High                |
| 2           | Other residential premises             | Medium              |
| 4           | Flooding                               | Medium              |
| 7           | Industrial                             | Medium              |
| 12          | Rail                                   | Medium              |
| 13          | Wildfires                              | Medium              |
| 14          | Building collapse                      | Medium              |
| 17          | Waste disposal site fires              | Medium              |
| 18          | Major public events                    | Medium              |
| 19          | Heritage risks                         | Medium              |
| 20          | Animals                                | Medium              |

## About the District

The District of Easington covers some 69 square miles of County Durham. The population of the District is circa 109,000 and is mostly concentrated into the three major centres of Peterlee, Seaham and Wheatley Hill.

The District was formerly dependent upon coal mining and steel making but in more recent times a more diverse economy has been created. Though regarded as predominantly rural; the area varies in character from a coastal setting with miles of coastal cliffs to small towns such as Peterlee and Seaham, surrounded by small villages that tend to accommodate former coalfield communities in the thousands rather than hundreds.



When developing the district profiles, central teams such as business fire safety officers, community safety officers and fire investigators offer vital support in order to find patterns and trends. This assists in the development of action plans aimed at reducing the number of incidents through prevention and protection activities. Information on the other individual district profiles can be found via the following links:

[Darlington District Local Risk Profile](#)

[Derwentside District Local Risk Profile](#)

[Durham District Local Risk Profile](#)

[Easington District Local Risk Profile](#)

[Wear and Tees district Local Risk Profile](#)

## **Peterlee**

The fire station is situated on Shotton Road situated close to Peterlee town centre in a central location to respond to both domestic and industrial incidents and provides good access to the A19. The station has two appliances with firefighting and rescue capabilities and a High-Volume Pump.

Peterlee response area covers an area of approximately 42 square miles including Peterlee town, approximately 6 miles of coastal cliffs and the villages of Hawthorn, Easington, South Hetton, Haswell, Shotton, Castle Eden, Hesledon, Station town and Hutton Henry.

Peterlee is a new town built in 1948 and has a current population of approximately 23,000. The residential areas are made up of predominantly social housing and private landlord properties located both in the Peterlee town area and ex coal mining pit village locations.

## **Seaham**

Seaham is a coastal town and the fire station is situated in Beaumont Street close to the town centre in a central location to respond to both domestic and industrial incidents. The station has two appliances with firefighting and rescue capabilities, and a level 3 rope rescue capability.

Seaham response area covers an area of approximately 13 square miles including the town of Seaham, approximately half a mile of coastal cliffs and villages of Seaton, Dalton-le Dale, Murton and Cold Hesledon.

Seaham has a population of approximately 21,500. The residential area again is predominantly made up of social and private landlord properties located in traditional coal mining pit villages.

## **Wheatley Hill**

The fire station is situated on Wingate Lane situated close to the centre of Wheatley Hill in a central location to respond to both domestic and industrial incidents and provides good access to the A19. The station has one appliance with firefighting and rescue capabilities, and a Prime Mover with our firefighter decontamination unit.

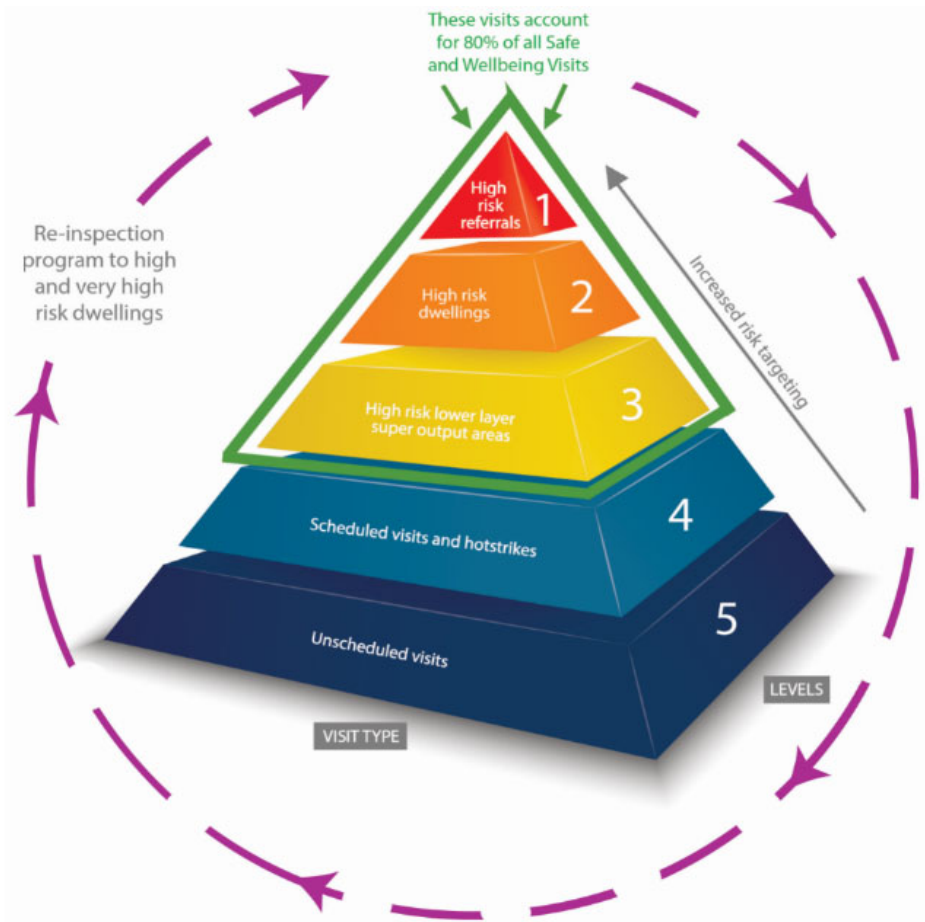
Wheatley Hill response area covers approximately 19 square miles including the villages of Wheatley Hill, Ludworth, Thornley, Wingate, Quarrington Hill, and the Trimdons.

Wheatley Hill has a population of approximately 3500. The residential area again is predominantly made up of social and private landlord properties located in traditional coal mining pit villages.

## **Service Risk 1. Dwelling Fires**

### **Dwelling Fire Risk Identification Pyramid**

To help tackle dwelling fires, all dwellings identified as being high or very high risk, following a SWV or partnership referral. This falls into a reinspection Programme where the properties will be revisited within a pre-determined time period.

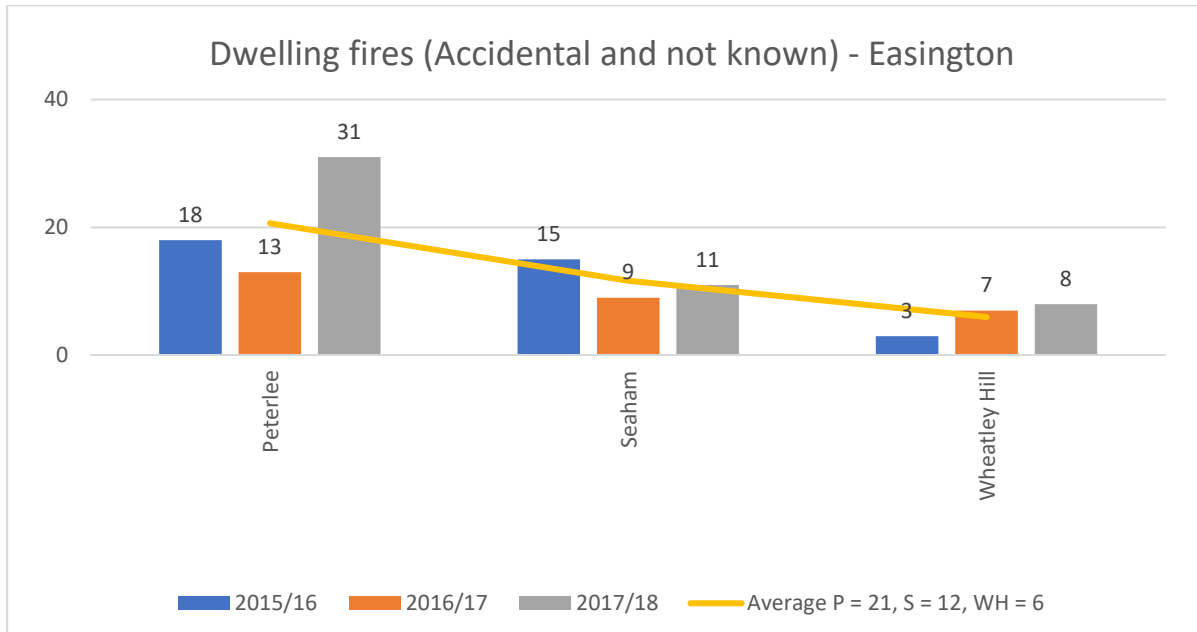


Further information on the risk methodology levels can be found in our [Community Risk Profile](#) document.

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years

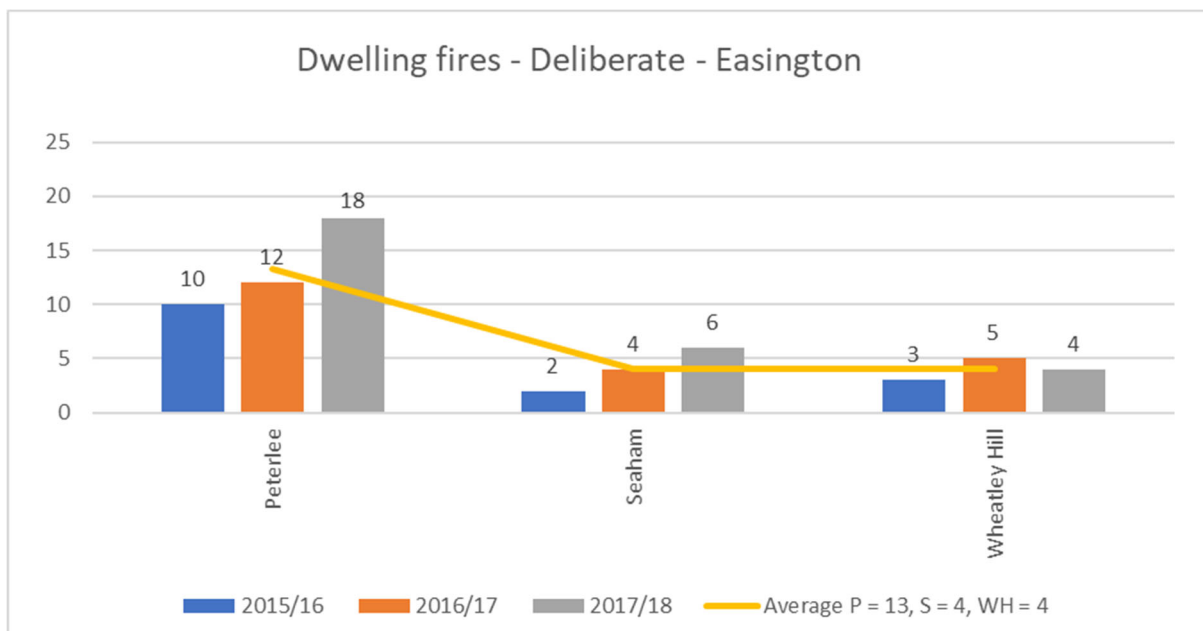
Dwelling fires have been divided into two separate incident types within this section: accidental and deliberate. This highlights the variance in the number, type, cause and location of incidents attended. For the purpose of this document, when establishing a risk score the likelihood and consequence relating to the total number of incidents is considered.

## Key demand information – Accidental dwelling fires (ADFs)



Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 39 incidents of this type. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. 22% or 11 of these incidents occurred in households of lone persons over pensionable age and 54% or 27 incidents involved cooking. 32 or 64% of affected properties had working smoke detection at the time of the fire.

## Key demand information – Deliberate dwelling fires



Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 21 incidents of this type. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. The level of deprivation and overall crime rates in Easington contribute to this statistic. Most deliberate dwelling fires occur in dwellings of single occupancy and involve deliberate ignition of furniture or other fixtures and fittings. A number of these fires occur in unoccupied rented properties and may be linked to burglary and theft.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| <b>Risk 1. Dwelling fires</b> | <b>Peterlee</b>  | <b>Seaham</b>    | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>             | Medium High      | Medium           | Medium               |
| <b>Consequence</b>            | Significant      | Significant      | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>     | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b>     |

To reduce accidental dwelling fires crews will carry out over 3000 safe and wellbeing visits targeted at the most vulnerable and high-risk households.

Crews will work closely with local authority and housing providers to provide further SWV's when tenants move into new properties or are identified as vulnerable.

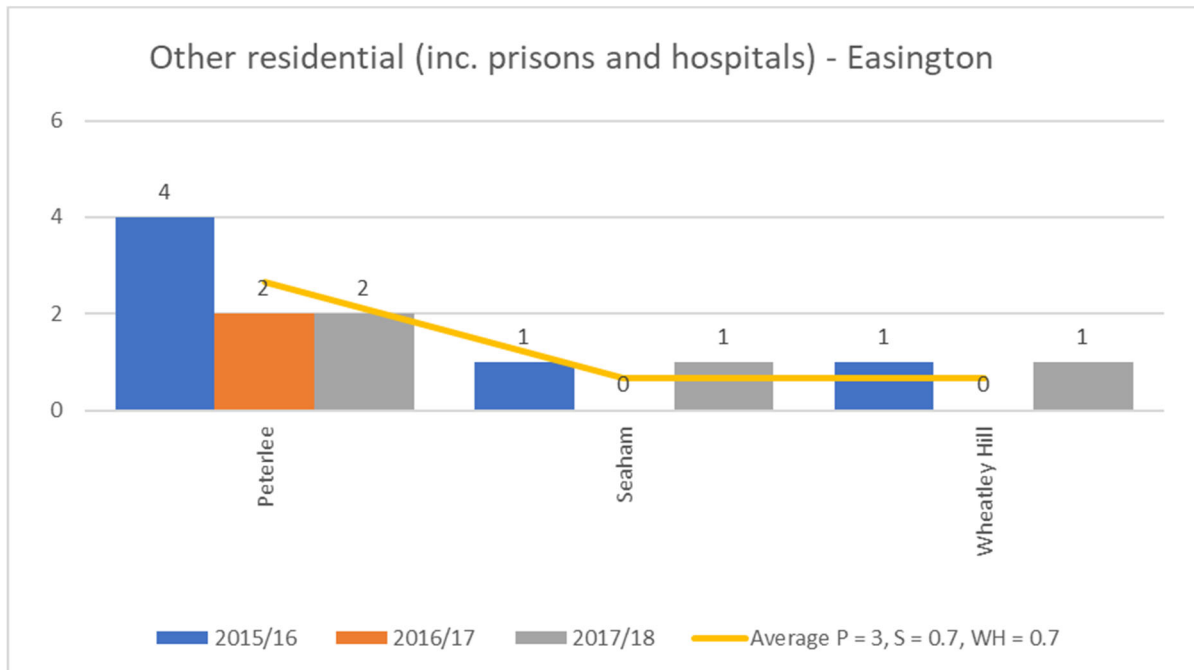
The highest risk people will be referred into the service specialist Community Risk Officers who will work with partner agencies to support those most at need to reduce the risk from fire.

## Service Risk 2. Other residential premises

The types of property considered in this risk include non-domestic properties such as: residential care homes; hotels; student halls of residence; prisons and hospitals. The frequency of incidents in properties in this category is relatively low compared to dwelling fires. The majority of these properties are covered under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) and therefore the fire authority is the enforcing agency for this legislation. Although prisons are crown premises, and therefore not covered by the FSO, they have been included in this category due to the risk and demand posed levels posed from these premises. There is the potential for a high number of fires to occur in these premises, both nationally and internationally which could lead to fatalities as a result.

There are 5 strands to the identification process adopted by CDDFRS when identifying businesses that require fire safety audits and inspections which is explained further in our [Community Risk Profile](#) document as is explained in page 29 of the CRP.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 4 fires in other residential premises. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Most incidents attended were properties such as hospitals, care and residential homes. The residents in these types of property tend to be vulnerable for various reasons whether that is due to age or a lack of mobility. It is also common to find hazards such as medical oxygen cylinders which contribute to the increased risk.

## Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

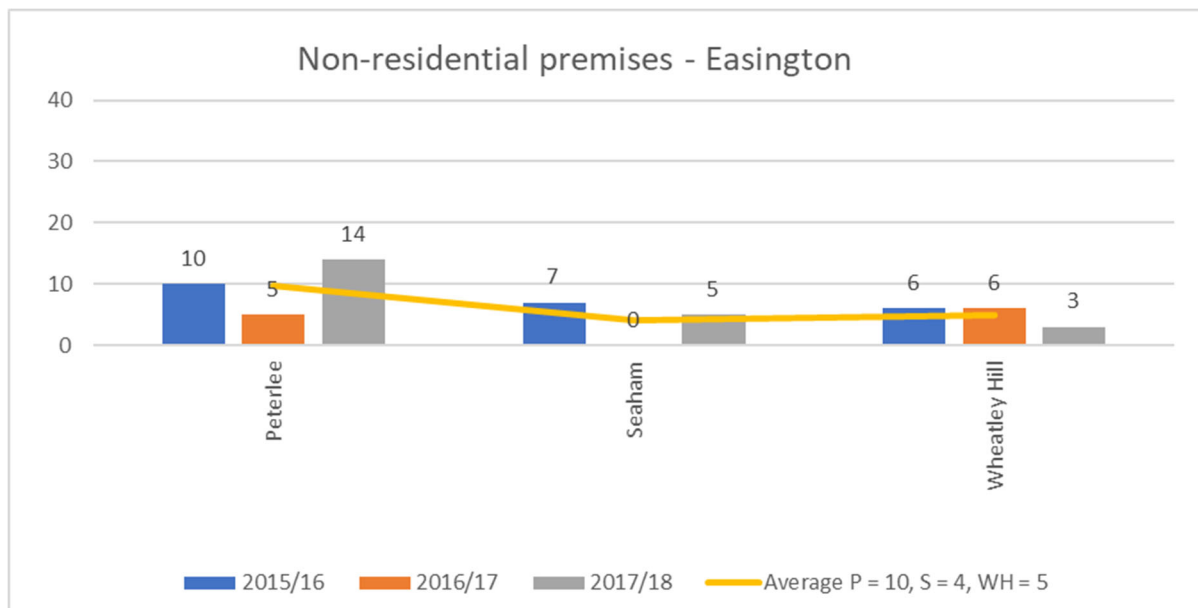
| <b>Risk 2. Other residential premises</b> | <b>Peterlee</b>  | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>                         | Medium           | Low           | Low                  |
| <b>Consequence</b>                        | Significant      | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>                 | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b>        |



### Service Risk 3. Non-residential premises

Non-residential premises fires occur in buildings that are mainly places like shops, factories, takeaways and agricultural buildings, many of which fall within the FSO. Half of this incident type are started by accidental causes; the other half are either deliberately started or the cause could not be established. There were 8,361 non-residential fires attended nationally last year.

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



#### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 19 fires in non-residential premises. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. We have seen a slight decrease in the number of incidents we are attending year on year. Brick built outhouses, private garages and sheds are common property types responded to within the district.

#### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

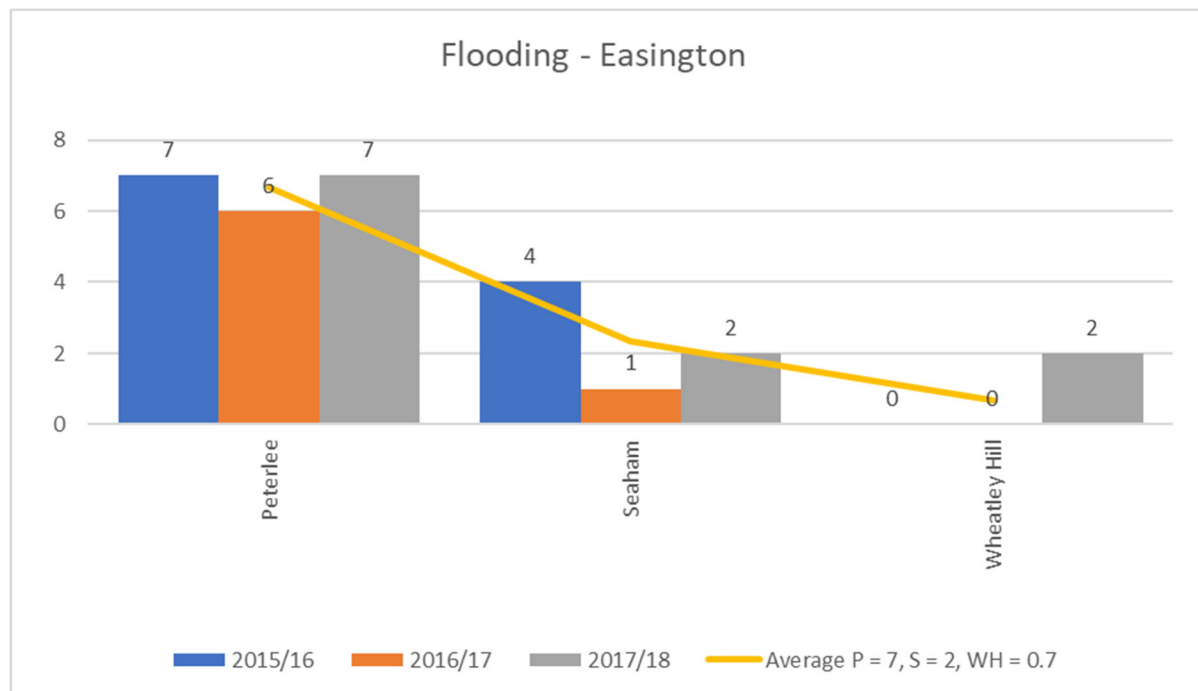
| <b>Risk 3. Non-residential premises</b> | <b>Peterlee</b>  | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>                       | Medium High      | Medium        | Medium               |
| <b>Consequence</b>                      | Significant      | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>               | <b>Very High</b> | <b>High</b>   | <b>High</b>          |

## Service Risk 4. Flooding

Although there is currently no statutory duty for CDDFRS to respond to flooding incidents, we know from experience that these incidents are likely to occur in our area and therefore the risk is reasonably foreseeable.

More information on flooding can be found here: <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx>

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 9.7 flooding incidents. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Many of these were localised specific to individual dwellings followed by highways, road surfaces and pavements.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 4. Flooding   | Peterlee    | Seaham      | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Likelihood         | Medium low  | Low         | Low           |
| Consequence        | Significant | Significant | Significant   |
| Overall assessment | High        | Medium      | Medium        |

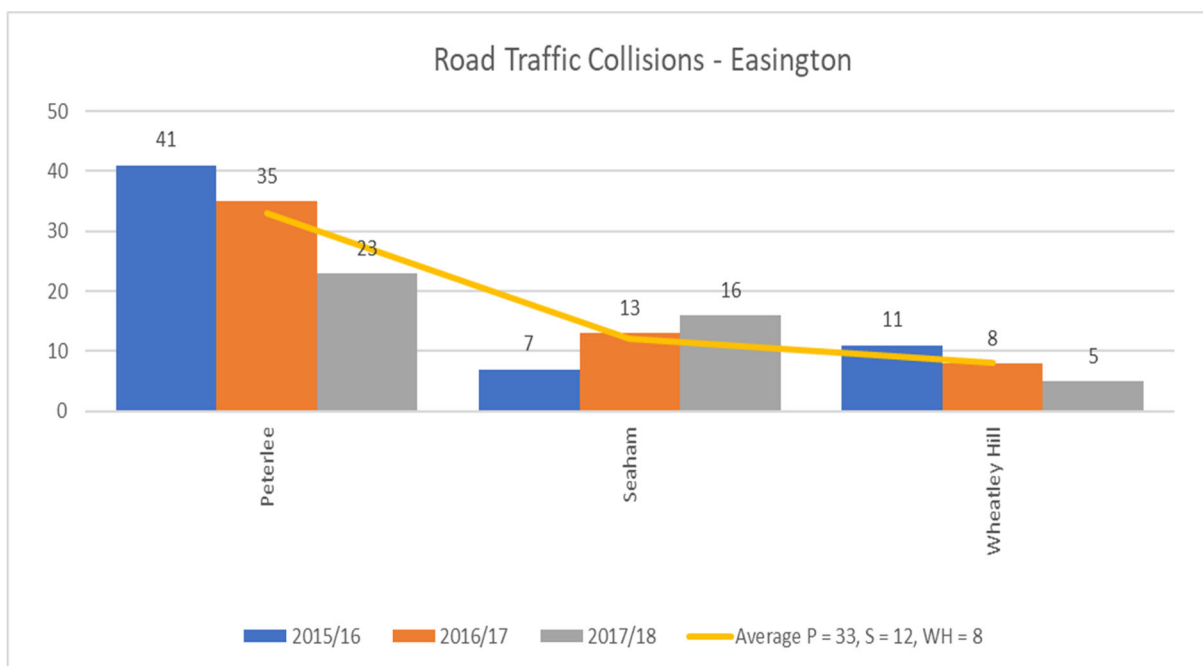
## Service Risk 5. Road traffic collisions (RTCs)

Nationally, RTCs are the most frequently attended non-fire incident by the FRS. Durham County Council are the only local authority in the North East with a higher than the national average number of casualties from RTCs. The area covered by CDDFRS is large and has a significantly high number of rural roads to the west. Car occupants are the most likely to be killed in an RTC followed by pedestrians, motorcyclists, and cyclists. Children aged under 15 are most likely to be involved in RTCs as pedestrians.

The main arterial route of the A19 runs through the district and involves over half of all RTC's within the district.

More information on road traffic collisions in County Durham and Darlington can be found here: <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2379/Road-safety-team>

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 53 RTCs in total. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Of the incidents attended most have involved either extrication of trapped individuals or making the scene and vehicle safe. Other types of work undertaken by operational crews at offering medical assistance and releasing of individuals where there was no requirement for an extrication to take place.

RTC's across the district show contradictory trends with reductions year on year over 3 years in Peterlee and Wheatley Hill station areas, while an increase year on year over the same period can be seen in Seaham.

## Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| <b>Risk 5. RTCs</b>       | <b>Peterlee</b>  | <b>Seaham</b>    | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>         | Medium High      | Medium           | Medium               |
| <b>Consequence</b>        | Significant      | Significant      | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b>     |

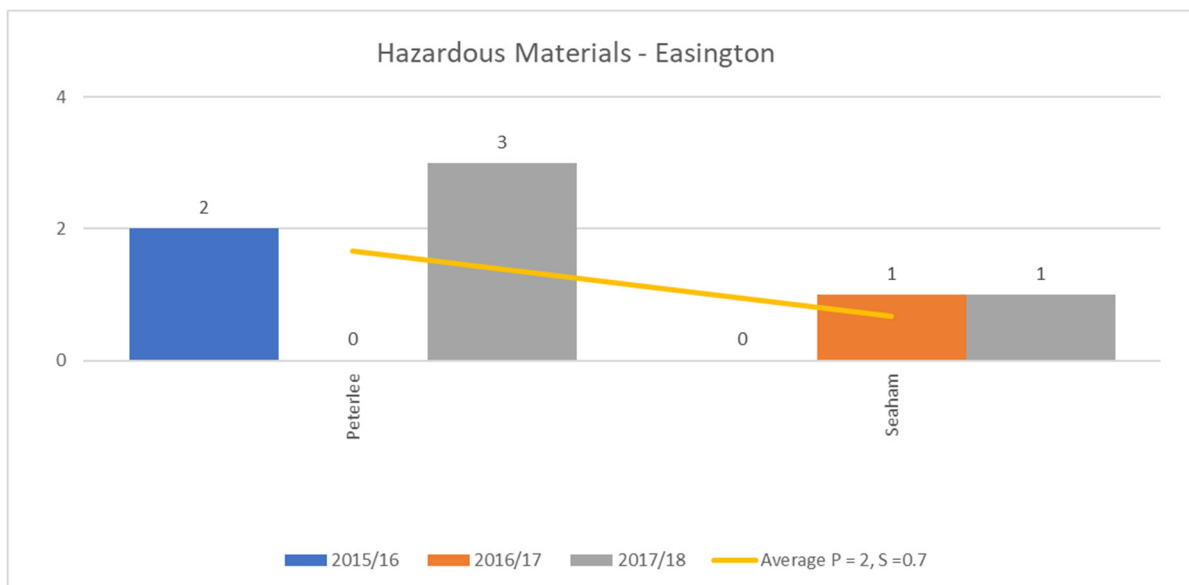
## Service Risk 6. Hazardous Materials

Dangerous hazardous materials are regularly transported through the Service area via rail along the East Coast mainline or road mainly along the A1M, A19 and A66.

There are a number of other associated risks that pose a risk from hazardous materials with some examples being industrial sites and farms especially in some of the more rural locations to the west of the Service area, waste sites and water treatment plants, some of which store large quantities of Chlorine.

There are also a number of high-pressure natural gas transmission pipelines crossing the region. This hazard arises from the high pressure and the possibility of fire and explosion from a release if one of the pipelines failed or were damaged.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 2 hazardous material incidents. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. A total of 7 hazardous material incidents were attended during this period with 4 involving gas detection in residential dwelling properties monitoring carbon monoxide levels involving suspected gas leaks from domestic appliances or defective log burners.

There are no COMAH sites within the district station area currently.

### Risk assessment

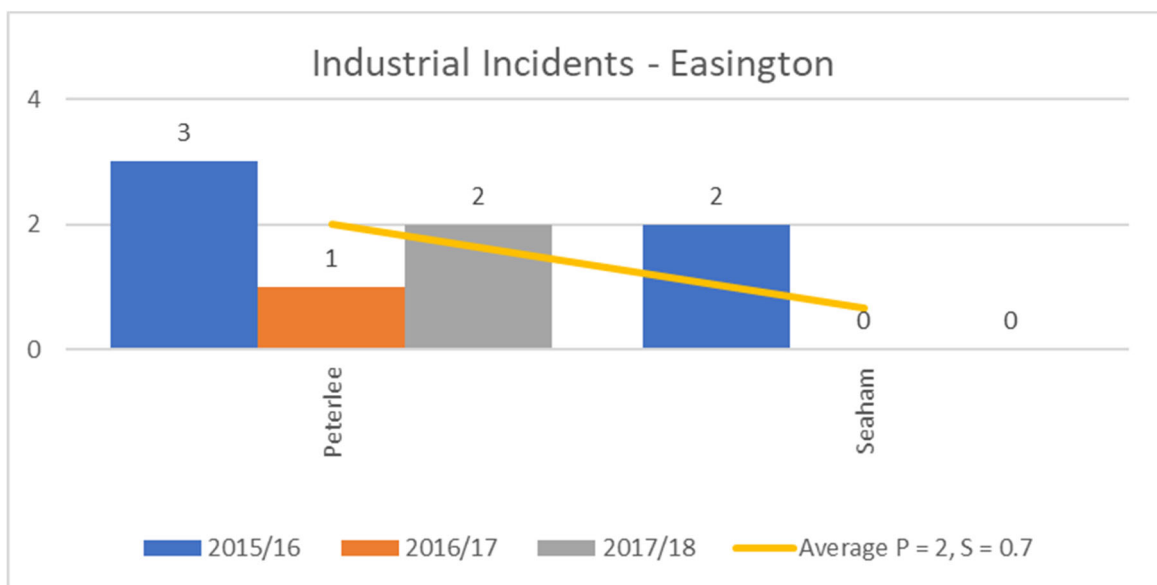
The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 6. Hazardous Materials | Peterlee     | Seaham       | Wheatley Hill |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Likelihood                  | Low          | Low          | Low           |
| Consequence                 | Catastrophic | Catastrophic | Catastrophic  |
| Overall assessment          | High         | High         | High          |

## Service Risk 7. Industrial

There are a number of industrial estates in our area that pose risks as a result of the diverse range of manufacturing and/or processes undertaken. The potential impact on our communities can vary considerably in both scale and nature. In some cases, these incidents will have very limited impacts beyond the immediate area and can be dealt with locally, although others can have cascading effects that may impact the wider community. The experienced level of demand remains relatively low at these premises due to the majority of sites being well protected from risk of fire and other incidents.

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 2.7 incidents in total. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Our crews generate and review risk information held on industrial premises and conduct approximately 500 fire safety audits under the Regulatory Reform Order annually. Additionally, tactical exercises and high-risk visits are conducted to familiarise operational crews with specific risks and test emergency plans.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 7. Industrial | Peterlee    | Seaham      | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Likelihood         | Medium Low  | Low         | Low           |
| Consequence        | Significant | Significant | Significant   |
| Overall assessment | High        | Medium      | Medium        |

## Service Risk 8. Malicious attacks/ terrorist incidents

The UK faces a serious and sustained threat from terrorism, including from international groups, domestic extremists and Northern Ireland-related groups. The current UK threat level for international terrorism is 'severe', which means an attack is highly likely. While the majority of incidents have occurred in and around major cities in the UK, it is vital that all emergency services are prepared to deal with an incident in their area.

For the purposes of this document, 'terrorist' refers to any individual or group seeking to use violence as a means of inflicting terror for political reasons. This includes a wide variety of individuals and groups of varying ideologies and backgrounds.

CDDFRS have had no attacks or incidents of a malicious nature in recent years although the risk of such incidents remains. We have attended white powder incidents, but none have been classed as malicious in nature therefore they are covered within the hazardous materials section of this document.

### Key demand information

There have been no incidents of this nature over the previous 3 years. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. As a result of the risk levels posed, CDDFRS took the decision earlier this year to implement an MTFA response capability across the Service.

For more information on Counter Terrorism see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of County Easington is:

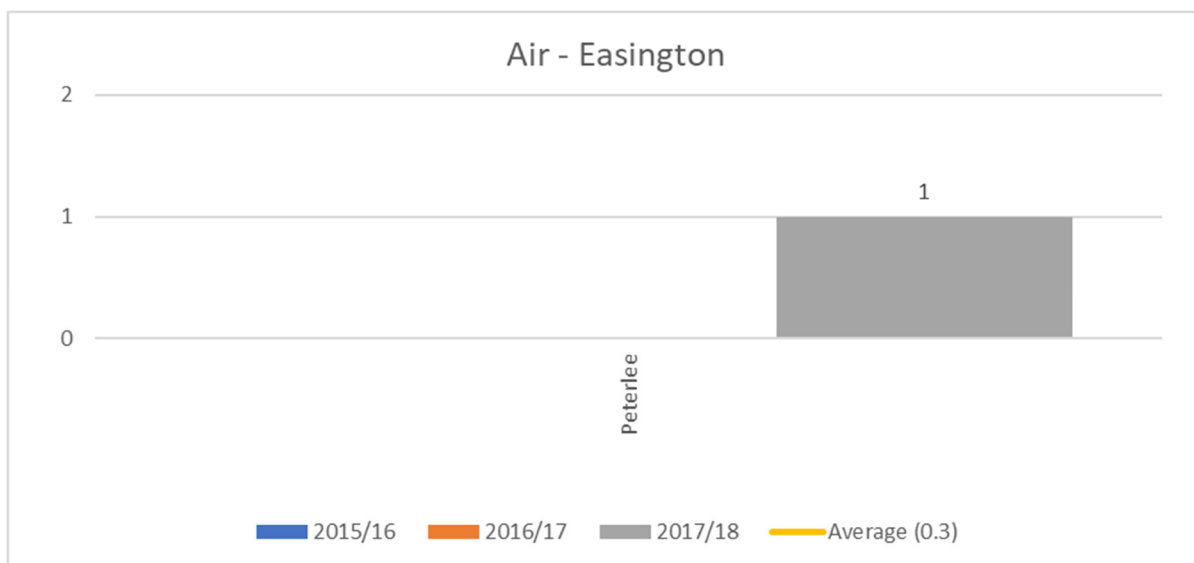
| <b>Risk 8</b>             | <b>Peterlee</b>  | <b>Seaham</b>    | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>         | Medium High      | Medium High      | Medium High          |
| <b>Consequence</b>        | Significant      | Significant      | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b>     |

## Service Risk 9. Air

Although one of the safest modes of transport there is, incidents relating to air travel are still present across the UK with most occurrences relating to smaller aircrafts such as microlights and gliders. Within County Durham and Darlington there are several airfields such as Durham Tees Valley International on the outskirts of Darlington, Catterick Garrison and RAF Leeming are both located just south of Darlington, whilst Newcastle International Airport is to the North.

There are also a number of other smaller scale airfields located at around the County with the smaller scale aircrafts and parachute companies operating out of these facilities.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

There has been one incident of this nature over the previous 3 years involving a light aircraft on a private airfield. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

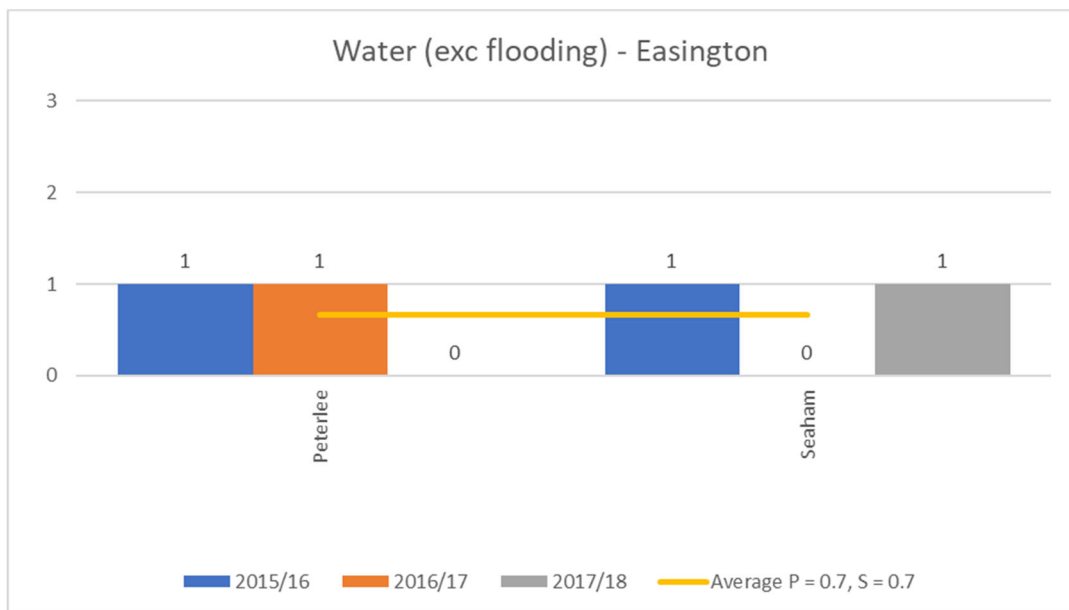
| Risk 9. Air        | Peterlee     | Seaham       | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Likelihood         | Low          | Low          | Low           |
| Consequence        | Catastrophic | Catastrophic | Catastrophic  |
| Overall assessment | High         | High         | High          |



## Service Risk 10. Water (excluding flooding)

There are a number of water related risks across County Durham and Darlington which include the River Wear, River Skerne and River Tees all of which pose their own risks. The risk of members of the public entering the water and getting into difficulty appears to be on the increase. County Durham has over 17kms of coastline and there are a number of lakes, reservoirs and other water bodies across the Service area that pose risks to the community. CDDFRS continue to prepare for water rescue incidents on a daily basis and provide an emergency rescue response 24 hours a day.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 1 water rescue related incidents in the Easington district. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Recent water rescue incidents have involved body recovery supporting police colleagues.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

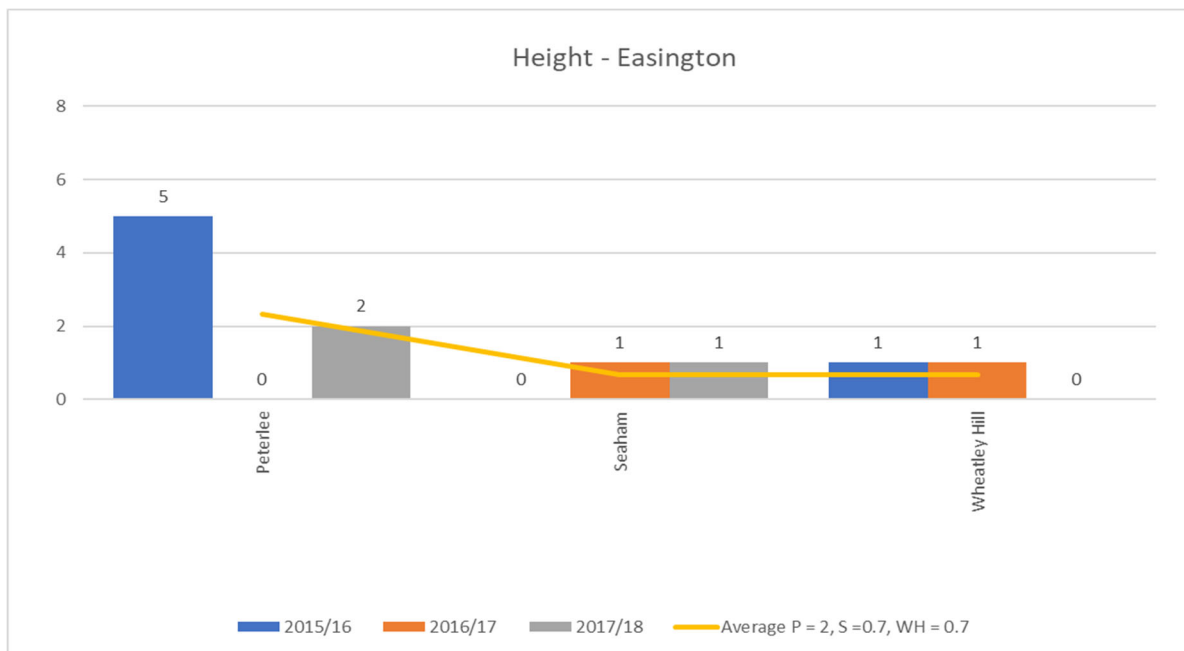
| Risk 10. Water (exc. Flooding) | Peterlee    | Seaham      | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Likelihood                     | Low         | Low         | Low           |
| Consequence                    | Significant | Significant | Significant   |
| Overall assessment             | High        | High        | High          |

## Service Risk 11. Height

Nationally, FRSs respond to a wide range of incidents at height involving a variety of environments, such as, above and below ground, industry, buildings/dwellings (including buildings under construction), open structures and natural environments (such as steep ground, rock faces, excavations or sink holes).

CDDFRS covers a wide geographical area including coastlines to the east and fells and dales in the rural regions to the west. We respond to incidents where people are stranded in inaccessible locations and where there is a high level of risk due to things such as the level of industry and confined space e.g. mine shafts across County Durham and Darlington.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 1 height rescue related incidents. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Recent incidents have involved using working at height equipment to effect rescues of dogs, dog walkers and ramblers from steep sided ravines in the dene and from coastal cliff locations.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 11. Height    | Peterlee    | Seaham      | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Likelihood         | Medium      | Medium      | Medium        |
| Consequence        | Significant | Significant | Significant   |
| Overall assessment | High        | High        | High          |

## Service Risk 12. Rail

Incidents on the railways can pose significant risks to the community. The East Coast mainline runs through our Service area with stations at Darlington, Durham and Chester-le-Street. Should an incident occur at any one of the stations or at any point along the network there is the potential for a significant impact on the local community. There has not been an incident involving a train derailment or anything else of this magnitude in the last three years, however, there have been several smaller incidents that have caused major disruption such as trains having to be stopped and or cancelled. If these lines were closed for any reason, there would be widespread impact on not only the local community and surrounding areas but also potentially the wider economy.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years

No rail incidents

### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years the service attended an average of 0.3 rail incidents. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Of these incidents none were related to the trains themselves but instead involved assisting other agencies.

Easington district have not attended any incidents involving rail however have the coastal railway line running through the district.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| <b>Risk 12. Rail</b>      | <b>Peterlee</b> | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>         | Low             | Low           | Low                  |
| <b>Consequence</b>        | Significant     | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b> | <b>Medium</b>   | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b>        |

## Service Risk 13. Wildfires

Nationally there have been a number of high-profile wildfire incidents with CDDFRS supporting the most recent fire in Lancashire by deploying a large number of personnel and equipment to support the efforts in bringing the fire under control and concluding the incident.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years

For the purpose of this risk assessment wildfires will be classed as incidents which covered more than 10,000m<sup>2</sup> and/or involved 4 or more appliances or vehicles and/or an incident that lasted more than 6 hours from the time of call to incident end.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years

No wildfire incidents

### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we have not attended any wildfire incidents however the sea cliff beach banks involve multiple smaller scale grass fires which have the potential to spread resulting in a wildfire. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

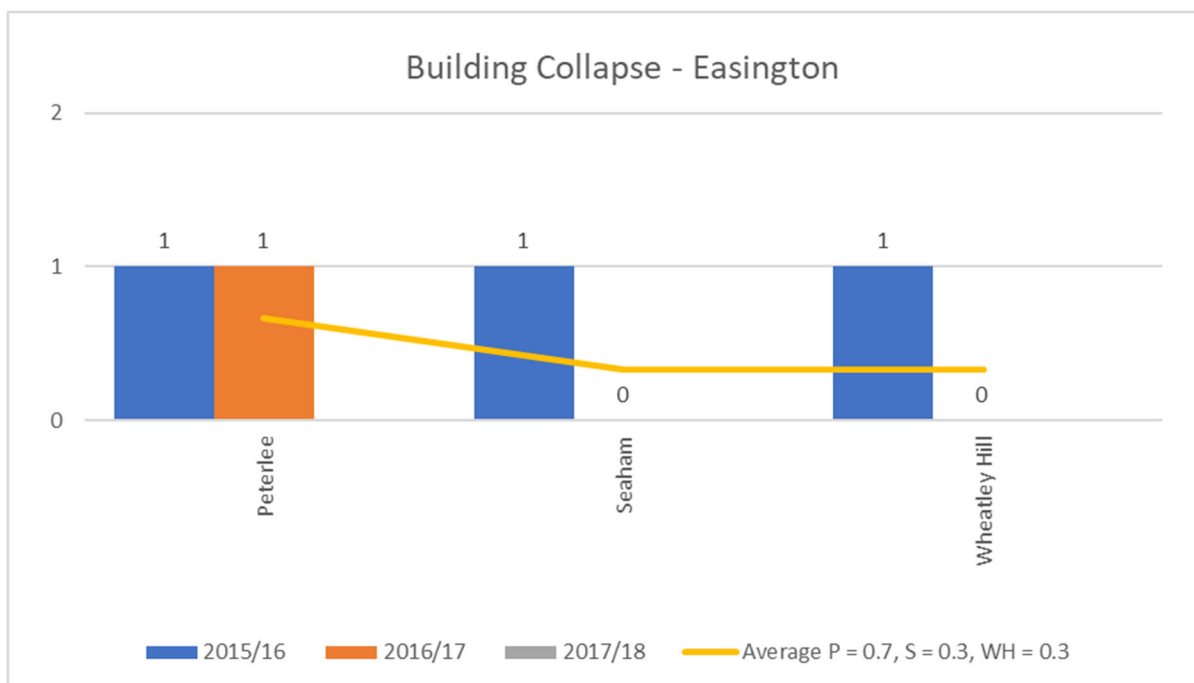
| <b>Risk 13. Wildfires</b> | <b>Peterlee</b> | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>         | Low             | Low           | Low                  |
| <b>Consequence</b>        | Significant     | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b> | <b>Medium</b>   | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b>        |

## Service Risk 14. Building collapse

When a building collapse occurs, there is the potential for a number of persons to be: killed or seriously injured; trapped or be classed as missing. There is also a risk of power loss and damage to other essential services; roads and access routes can be become blocked; all of which would impact greatly on the local communities. Depending on the size and construction of the building, and occupation rates, there will of course remain the possibility of fatalities or serious casualties.

Due to the makeup and diversity of the buildings and architecture within County Durham and Darlington there will always remain the risk of buildings collapsing; whether that be due to gas explosions, fire, age and construction type, structural defects or dilapidation. This is why CDDFRS feel it necessary to include such a risk within this document.

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 1 incident relating to building collapse. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

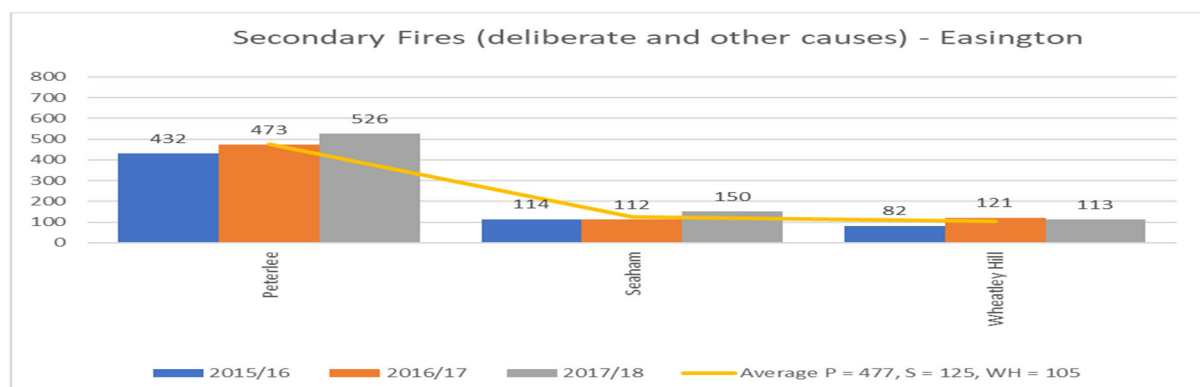
| Risk 14. Building collapse | Peterlee    | Seaham      | Wheatley Hill |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Likelihood                 | Low         | Low         | Low           |
| Consequence                | Significant | Significant | Significant   |
| Overall assessment         | Medium      | Medium      | Medium        |

## Service Risk 15. Secondary fires

This type of incident incorporates fires with no casualties, rescues or valuable property loss. These include outdoor fires and derelict property (together classed as ‘small fires’). Outdoor fires may include grass, refuse, wheelie bins and straw.

Although there may be less damage incurred and these incident types generally occur outdoor, the impact of deliberate secondary fires on CDDFRS is substantial. Secondary fires are one of the biggest burdens placed on our resources. As with primary fires the number of accidental secondary fires we experience is low in comparison to those set deliberately.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 707 fires of deliberate and unknown cause secondary fires. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. This demand is disproportionately high in Easington district and accounts for approximately a third of all deliberate secondary fires in the service. Loose refuse is the main item being set alight with other items including scrub land, wheelie bins and small refuse/ rubbish/ recycling containers. Deliberate fires have been agreed as a strategic priority of Safe Durham Partnership and a significant amount of work has been commissioned to reduce the impact on the community and partners. The service is also conducting a trial in conjunction with Crimestoppers, called Firestoppers, which is an innovative and anonymous reporting mechanism to report those responsible. Firestoppers is now being expanded across Tyne and Wear and Northumberland fire and rescue services due to its initial success.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

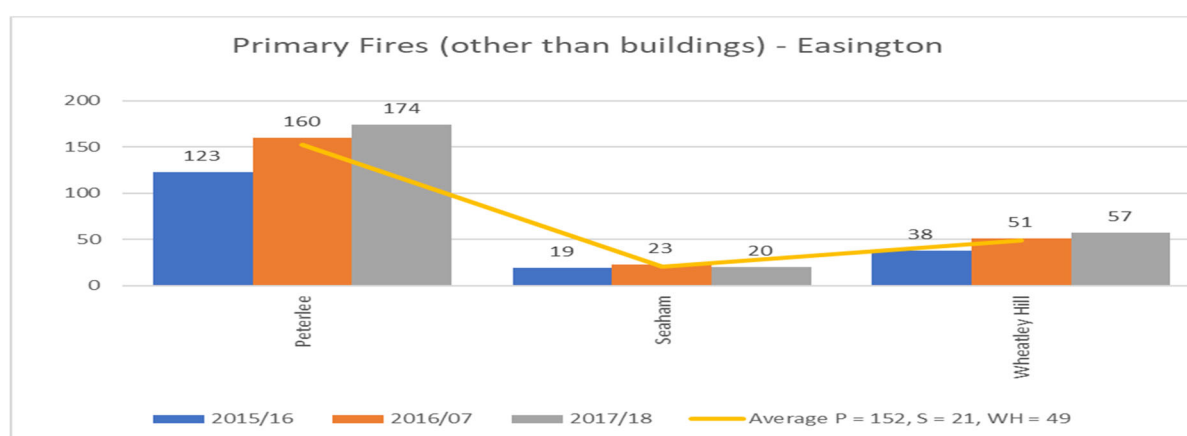
| Risk 15. Secondary fires | Peterlee         | Seaham           | Wheatley Hill    |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Likelihood               | High             | Medium High      | High             |
| Consequence              | Significant      | Significant      | Significant      |
| Overall assessment       | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> |

## Service Risk 16. Primary fires (other than buildings)

Primary fires are those that occur in a vehicle or outdoor structure, any fire involving fatalities, casualties or rescues or any fire attended by five or more pumping appliances. We have classified this section as “Primary Fires” (other than buildings) as many of the incidents for primary fires have already been covered within other categories due to them relating to premises.

Primary fires covered within this section predominantly relate to incidents involving road vehicles, but the category also includes agricultural equipment, garden sheds, garages and straw bales. Although these incidents do not involve properties, they do still have a value attached to the things involved in the fire.

Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 222 primary fires that did not involve buildings. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Again, this demand is disproportionately high in Easington district and accounts for over half of all deliberate primary fires in the service. Approximately 60% of these fires involve road vehicles and as with deliberate secondary fires these fires are included in the Safe Durham Partnership strategic priority to reduce the impact of deliberate fires on the community and partners. The Firestoppers trial also involves the reporting of deliberate primary fires.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 16. Primary fires | Peterlee         | Seaham           | Wheatley Hill    |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Likelihood             | High             | High             | High             |
| Consequence            | Significant      | Significant      | Significant      |
| Overall assessment     | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> | <b>Very High</b> |

## Service Risk 17. Waste disposal site fires

Waste disposal sites are recognised nationally as being susceptible to fires whether accidental or through negligence. Such fires are becoming more frequent and have the potential to impact upon resources and local communities for a significant period of time.

As well as the health risk to the residents of County Durham and Darlington and firefighters dealing with this type of incident, it also places a strain on partner agencies such as the police, EA, Public Health, Local Authorities and the site owners.

There are a number of waste disposal and recycling centres across the Service area which includes a mix of both local authorities-owned and privately-owned sites. The local authorities-owned sites are often regulated by regulatory bodies such as the EA and the private sites are regularly managed through unclear management structures.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years

No waste disposal incidents

### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years the service has only attended 2 overall with both occurring in Derwentside. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. The impact of these incidents on our resources related not only to equipment but also operational personnel being on scene for several hours.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| <b>Risk 17. Waste disposal site fires</b> | <b>Peterlee</b> | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|---|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>                         | Low             | Low           | Low                  |
| <b>Consequence</b>                        | Significant     | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>                 | <b>Medium</b>   | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b>        |



## Service Risk 18. Major public events

For the purpose of this document major events are defined as those incidents that require a significant response involving assistance from other emergency services at large scale events. In County Durham and Darlington each year there are a number of public events that attract large crowds of people into concentrated areas and this presents a significant level of risk. Examples of this include events such as Durham Pride and Skylive Airshow both of which host in excess of 20,000 people whilst events such as Kynren, Durham Miners Gala and Lumiere can host in excess of 100,000 people. The Emirates Riverside Cricket Ground, near Chester-le-Street holds various events that attract large crowds throughout the year.

These large-scale public gatherings and events have the potential to impact on local infrastructure, resources and emergency services should an incident occur, therefore, it is appropriate to include this risk within the document.

### Key demand information

During the previous 3 years there have been no incidents of any significance at major events across County Durham or Darlington. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. Although this is the case there remains the need to ensure appropriate levels of resources are made available to support these types of events and the high consequences should an incident occur.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 18. Major public events | <b>Peterlee</b> | <b>Seaham</b> | <b>Wheatley Hill</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>            | Low             | Low           | Low                  |
| <b>Consequence</b>           | Significant     | Significant   | Significant          |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>    | <b>Medium</b>   | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b>        |

## Service Risk 19. Heritage risks

The Service area has 111 Grade 1 listed buildings and 193 Grade 2\* listed buildings.

Peterlee whilst not a “Pit Town” in its own right, Peterlee being built as a new commercial and manufacturing centre for the area and to provide new housing for residents from the former pit villages, the Town’s culture and heritage was initially based on the mining heritage of the area. The closure of the mining industry and its related activities have encouraged many to work to ensure this heritage is not lost in the same way as the industry itself.

Seaham is home to the Durham heritage coast; a walking path traces the line of this designated historic coast with its wild cliffs and dunes. Seaham Harbour opened in 1831 and is home to East Durham heritage lifeboat centre and museum.

Wheatley Hill is an ex pit village surrounded by mainly rural farmland.

Some examples of listed buildings from our area:

- Apollo Pavilion Peterlee \*
- Shotton Hall Peterlee\*
- Bath Terrace Seaham
- Greystones Seaham
- Inner North Dock Walls\*Memorial to 1871 Colliery disaster\*
- Seaham Hall hotel \*

*Grade II\*: particularly important buildings of more than special interest.*

The destruction of any historic building represents a loss which is difficult to replace, so it is important that these buildings and their contents are protected from the damage that may result in a fire.

More information on heritage risk can be found here: <https://durham.gov.uk/conservation>

### Key demand information

There have been no incidents within grade 1 or 2\* listed buildings of any historical significance such as those listed above over the previous 3 years. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

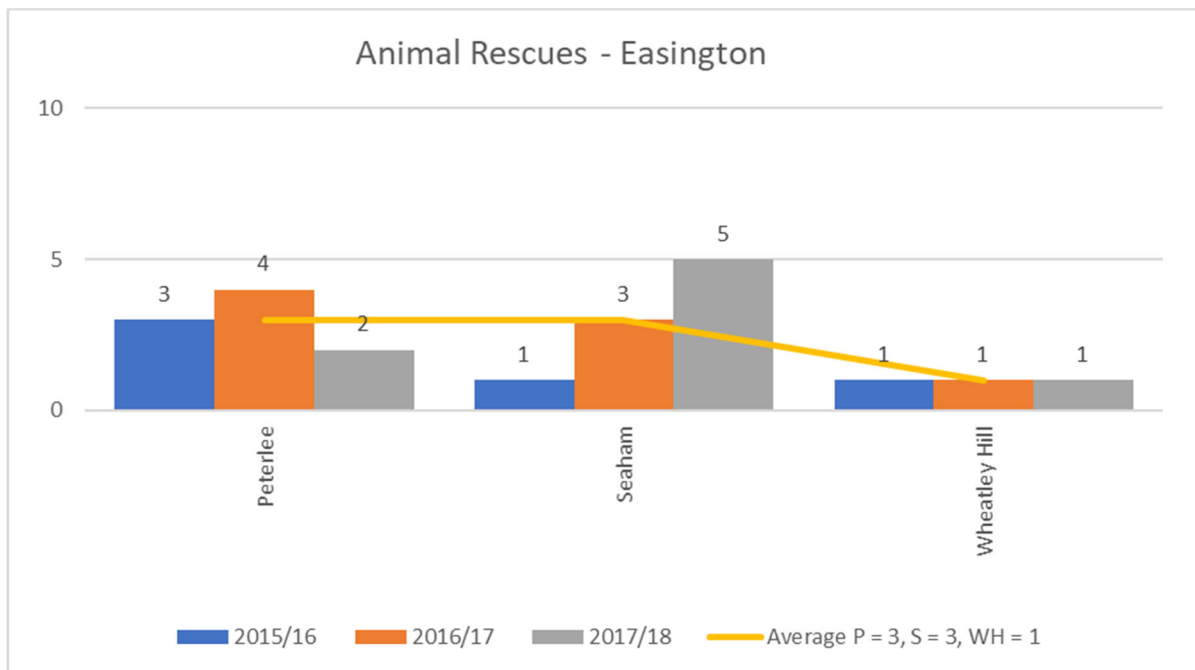
| <b>Risk 19. Heritage risks</b> | Peterlee      | Seaham        | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Likelihood</b>              | Low           | Low           | Low           |
| <b>Consequence</b>             | Significant   | Significant   | Significant   |
| <b>Overall assessment</b>      | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b> | <b>Medium</b> |

## Service Risk 20. Animals

For many years' firefighters have responded to a variety of incidents involving pets, livestock and wild animals. Animals in distress can pose a potential serious risk to the public, staff from other agencies and to firefighters. There is also an element of risk to members of the public from serious injury should they decide to attempt an animal rescue themselves.

As a predominantly rural area, CDDFRS inevitably respond to incidents where a range of animals are in distress and therefore have a range of resources available to deal with this risk including a specialist animal rescue provision based at Bishop Auckland.

### Number of incidents over the previous 3 years



### Key demand information

Over the previous 3 years we attended an average of 7 animal rescues per year. Across the district, individual station averages are detailed in the graph above. The main incident type attended involved rescue of dogs from the coastal cliffs in Seaham's and Peterlee's station areas. Our crews exercise and train with HM Coastguard and are supported in animal rescues by our specialist trained animal rescue crews from Bishop Auckland.

### Risk assessment

The risk to residents of Easington is:

| Risk 20. Animals   | Peterlee   | Seaham     | Wheatley Hill |
|--------------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Likelihood         | Medium Low | Medium Low | Low           |
| Consequence        | Moderate   | Moderate   | Moderate      |
| Overall assessment | Medium     | Medium     | Medium        |

## False Alarms

In the last 3 years false alarms have accounted for 28% of all the emergency calls responded to by CDDFRS. Of these calls around half were due to apparatus and the other half were calls made with good intentions. On average the Service responds to less than 90 malicious 999 call each year. Whilst false alarms do not increase risk to the public, they do require an unnecessary response from the fire service and our vehicles usually respond. All the time we are attending false alarms, appliances are unavailable for real emergencies and prevention activities.