

Supplementary written submission from Scottish Business Resilience Centre

As requested, I include some case studies on metal theft in Scotland—

Incident at Shieldhall Glasgow, November 2011. Thieves attempted to steal 2 x 132,000volt cables from a tunnel under the dual carriageway that runs parallel to the M8. Thieves set fire to the cables in the hope of fusing them. The knock on effect was as follows:

- Power loss to 50,000 houses
- M8 was closed for 4 hours creating a four mile tailback stretching passed Glasgow airport
- Areas within the Southern and General Hospital lost power
- 20 trains were cancelled or delayed due to a junction box being knocked out
- Fire Fighters were unable to fight this fire due to the extreme heat within the tunnel and the possibility of residual charge within the cable
- The road above the tunnel actually melted due to the heat, road was closed for months as there was a debate about who was responsible for it.
- A total of 16 appliances, 90 personnel attended this incident which lasted 22 hours
- Initial cost of incident was put at over £3 million

In 2014, thieves stole four meters of cable from an electrical substation in Gourrock. This resulted in loss of power to 280 houses. Due to the power surge four individual house fires were reported. One person was treated for smoke inhalation.

In 2012, an incident occurred at a category B listed building. The first crews to attend this fire reported quantities of stripped cable on the floors where the fire began.

- Giving a grand total of 685 personnel utilised throughout incident
 - 175 Police officers were utilised throughout the duration of this incident, including 2 chief inspectors, 6 inspectors, 12 sergeants, 137 constables and 18 control staff
 - 510 Fire and Rescue Service personnel were utilised, and there were 99 fire appliance movements to the incident during the course of the fire-fighting activities
- All surrounding properties including 90 residential flats were evacuated
- The entire incident lasted 51 hours from when the first emergency call was received
- Overall cost reported at £19 million

During the last few years, a number of incidents occurred involving the theft of dry riser outlets used for delivering water to upper levels during a fire in multi-storey buildings. Valves were stolen from 20-storey blocks in Kestrel Road and Lincoln

Avenue, each containing 114 flats, and two 24-storey blocks in Kirkton Avenue, with 138 flats in each.

- One month after the thefts were spotted, fire-fighters tackled a blaze on the 19th floor of one of the Kirkton Avenue block, in which a female resident needed hospital treatment
- Similar incidents have also occurred—
 - In 2012, 6 outlets were stolen from Kennishead Ave, Pollok
 - In 2013, 17 risers were stolen from Govan
 - In 2013, risers also stolen from Kings Court in Aberdeen
 - In November 2014, dry riser outlets stolen from multi-storey block in Cumbernauld
- Following these incidents, scrap metal sites were visited to raise awareness of the thefts, which resulted in a number of items being recovered
- The British Metals Recycling Association (BMRA) also has a website to alert scrap metal dealers to certain stolen items

One fatality in North Lanarkshire, in 2013, as a result of attempted theft of live overhead cables.