



Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service

preventing • protecting • responding

PRESS RELEASE

Family escape serious house fire in the Scottish Borders

1st March 2010

A family in Bonchester Bridge, Hawick, managed to escape from a serious blaze in their home after being woken by their smoke alarm on Saturday 27th February.

Stuart Stevens, Group Manager for Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service was the officer in charge at the incident, he said:

“The family were very lucky to escape such a serious house fire. From what we understand the parents were woken from their sleep by the smoke alarm. This early warning gave them enough time to get themselves and their children out of the house safely and away from danger. Without the smoke alarm the consequences could have been very severe.”

Three fire engines were called to the incident, which was reported at 10.27pm, The fire was extinguished using four high pressure hose reels and two main jets. The two-storey house was almost completely destroyed in the fire.

Stuart Stevens added: “This case highlights how important it is to have a working smoke alarm in your home. It’s a simple step to take and it really could save your life and the lives of your family.

“We are keen to remind residents in the Borders that they can arrange a free home safety visit through the Service. Firefighters will come to your home, fit a free smoke alarm and also give you valuable fire safety advice and check for any fire hazards in your home. Take the time to make an appointment today – it could be the most valuable call you’ll make all year.”

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