



# Community Fire Safety Improvement Plan Year Two Action Plan

Community Fire Safety

Newsletter Date  
October 2004

## Information Leaflet



## Achieving a modern Fire & Rescue Service

Driven by Central Government, the British Fire and Rescue Service is undergoing significant change both in terms of its infrastructure and the way front line services are applied. Established principles for determining levels of risk and response have been recognised as being outdated and not reflective of actual risk to life. Similarly, established shift patterns do not offer the necessary flexibility to match resources against variable levels of need.

Early in 2003, Fire Authorities were advised by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) via Fire Service Circular 7/2003, of the requirement to prepare and consult on a plan for achieving a fire service capable of meeting locally identified needs. Implementation of these plans was to commence by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. The process for this is referred to as Integrated Risk Management Planning.

The key objectives of which are explained in ODPM guidance as being to:

- Reduce the number of fires and other emergency incidents occurring.
- Reduce loss of life in fires and accidents.
- Reduce the number and severity of injuries at fires and other emergency incidents.
- Reduce the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents.
- Safeguard the environment and heritage (both built and natural).
- Provide value for money.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service's IRMP (Community Fire Safety Improvement Plan), underwent widespread consultation over a 12-week period and was adopted as part of Northamptonshire County Council's policy framework by the full council in March 2004. (The full document can be viewed at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk)). The plan details our strategy for improving community safety and delivering an effective and efficient service.

## Did You Know?

- In 2003/4 ...  
We attended 12,500 incidents
- Over 80% of injuries from fire occurred in the home
- 48% of all house fires started in the kitchen
- Only 50% of homes affected by fire had working smoke detectors
- Arson accounted for 59% of fires in school buildings
- Over 40 people were rescued or led to safety by Northamptonshire fire-fighters
- We attended over 150 road traffic accidents, involving people trapped.
- Deliberate secondary fires (grass & rubbish etc) increased to over 3800
- We attended over 2700 calls as a result of false Automatic Fire Alarm activations
- NFRS cost less per head of population than any other brigade in England and Wales

## What progress are we making?

Since April of this year, we have been working on implementing the actions contained in our 2004/5 action plan. Examples are:

- Introducing a programme of Home Fire Safety Checks to reduce the risk of fires occurring in the home
  - Forming an Arson Task Force in conjunction with Northamptonshire Police, to reduce the number of deliberate fires
  - The introduction of District Liaison Officers to form closer links with local communities
  - Relocating the hydraulic platform from The Mounts fire station to Moulton fire station.
  - In November we will reduce the number of fire appliances we send to automatic fire alarm activations
  - We are improving our call screening to reduce attendance to hoax calls
  - Introducing a risk based fire safety inspection policy
  - Introducing an outreach worker to reach under represented parts of the community
- And many more.

## Your views matter



Each year we will build upon the work being undertaken in support of our aims for building safer communities. We will do this by producing an annual action plan. Before we make any changes however we consult with all of our stakeholders and staff to ensure that we take account of all views.

We are now in the process of developing our plan for next year.

The consultation draft of the year two action plan is now undergoing stakeholder consultation until 31st December 2004. We are working to meet the expectations of Government in achieving a modern service, but this is your fire and rescue service and we want your views.

View our consultation Draft Year Two Action Plan at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk) Or telephone 01604 797000 for a hard copy or email [IRMP.IRMP@northantsfire.org.uk](mailto:IRMP.IRMP@northantsfire.org.uk)

## The Year Two Action Plan

The Year Two Action Plan (2005/6) proposes the following actions:

Action	Description
The Service will implement the outcomes resulting from the Year 1 review of the use, location and crewing arrangements for special appliances.	'Special appliances' are vehicles other than fire engines. In this case they include Emergency Tender, Water Carriers, Command Unit, etc.
The Service will implement the outcomes resulting from the Year 1 review of arrangements for dealing with road traffic accidents.	The review will assess our current response provision and we will put in place any resulting recommendations.
The Service will implement the recommendations resulting from the Year 1 action to investigate the appropriateness of "blue light" mobilising to incidents.	Responding at high speed on 'blue lights' potentially increases risk to crews and other road users. We need to assess whether a 'blue light' response is appropriate in every instance e.g. small rubbish fires etc.
The Service will change the staffing arrangements at Daventry and Rushden Fire Stations, to provide a station based response during the day on weekdays and an off-station response at other times.	A review of current duty systems has identified that alternative staffing arrangements would provide efficiency savings for reinvestment in other community safety activity.
The Service will identify the most appropriate sites for the relocation of Brackley and Kettering Fire Stations.	There are accommodation and access issues with the current position of these stations. We will conduct a risk-based assessment on the impact of moving these stations.
The Service will review the actions delivered under the Year 1 Action Plan.	The IRMP process is incremental. We need to ensure that we are including any new developments or lessons
The Service, in association with the Two Shires Ambulance Service, will review the outcomes of a pilot scheme for co-responding to ambulance emergencies, with a view to exploring the opportunities of extending the scheme to	We are seeking to contribute to community safety wherever possible through partnership working. Co-responder schemes offer improved response options for certain types of medical emergencies in rural
The Service will review its Retained Service .	We need to ensure that we maintain an effective and efficient retained service, ensuring an appropriate remuneration
Through development of the risk profile of Northamptonshire and using datasets and risk information from internal and external sources, the Service will determine its operational response standards for all identified risks.	As we use information and systems to improve our knowledge of the risks within the county, we will assess and determine appropriate response standards.

The full plan can be viewed at [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk) or call NFRS on 01604 797000 or email [IRMP.IRMP@northantsfire.org.uk](mailto:IRMP.IRMP@northantsfire.org.uk) and request a hard copy by post.

For information on how to arrange a free Home Fire Safety Check on your home call 0800 389 9950

## Help us decide



Please let us know your views by completing this questionnaire and returning it to the freepost address overleaf to arrive **no later than 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004**. Your views and comments are important to us.

- How satisfied are you with the level of service provided by Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service?  
      
Very satisfied    Satisfied    No Opinion    Dissatisfied    Very dissatisfied
- What do you consider is an appropriate response time for the fire service to attend road traffic accidents?  
     
Less than 10 minutes    10-15 minutes    15- 20 minutes    20-30 minutes
- What do you consider is an appropriate response time for the fire service to calls to property fires?  
     
Less than 10 minutes    10-15 minutes    15- 20 minutes    20-30 minutes
- Which, if any, of the following incidents would you consider it appropriate for the fire service to respond to at normal road speeds (I.e. without the use of blue lights and two-tones)?  
     
Road traffic accidents    Building fires    Vehicle fires    Rubbish/grass fires  
     
Automatic fire alarms    Chimney fires    Lift releases    Animal rescues
- We believe that 'prevention is better than cure' and our work should reflect this. Please indicate to what extent you agree with this.  
      
Strongly agree    Agree    No Opinion    Disagree    Strongly disagree
- Do you agree that the Service should provide a joint approach response with the ambulance service to certain medical emergencies when fire service resources can reach the casualty sooner?  
      
Strongly agree    Agree    No Opinion    Disagree    Strongly disagree
- To what extent do you agree that it is important to improve service delivery and increase efficiency through collaboration between different fire and rescue services?  
      
Strongly agree    Agree    No Opinion    Disagree    Strongly disagree
- If you would like to comment on any of the proposals of the Draft Year Two Action then please do so in the space provided below.

Please tick as appropriate:  Member of Public     NFRS Staff     NCC Staff

Optional:

Name:

Address:

Post Code:

FREEPOST  
No Stamp  
Required

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