

Oxfordshire County Council
Fire and Rescue Service

365alive
think safety
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Community Risk Management Action Plan

2015-16



Securing a safer Oxfordshire

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Welcome and forward



Councillor Rodney Rose
Cabinet Member for the Fire and Rescue Service



Chief Fire Officer David Etheridge

Welcome to Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Action Plan for 2015-16 which highlights the four main projects we will be undertaking during this period, which will lead to a safer county.

We have already exceeded the targets set in our 365alive 10 year vision 2006-16. Not only has this resulted in significant financial savings to the public of Oxfordshire, it has kept more people safe in their own homes, at work and on the county's roads.

The service will ensure we maintain an effective response in our life-saving role. We will strive to mitigate the social, economic and environmental consequences of incidents.

We are also committed to delivering an integrated, high performing fire and rescue service which provides excellent value for money to the tax payers. Our integration within the wider county council enables us to ensure that we are joined up in delivering solutions to the key issues affecting our communities, such as safeguarding vulnerable people, whilst providing the economic benefits of a shared services approach.

The pace of change in the county is increasing and this Community Risk Management Action Plan will assist us to meet the challenges ahead. We are very proud of Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service and of our achievements during recent years on keeping people in the county safe in their homes, at work and on our roads.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Introduction

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework to which fire authorities must have regard when discharging their functions. The 2012 framework requires each fire and rescue authority to produce a publicly available Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). Within Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS) we have called this our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) to make it more meaningful to the public.

Each fire and rescue authority should ensure that the IRMP:

- Is regularly reviewed and revised and reflects up-to-date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes.
- Has regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums including those reported in external Community Risk Registers (CRRs) and internal risk registers, to ensure that civil and terrorist contingencies are captured in their IRMP.
- Reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and stakeholders.
- Demonstrates how prevention, protection and response activities will be best used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way.
- Provides details of how fire and rescue authorities deliver their objectives and meet the needs of communities through working with partners.
- Has undergone an effective equality impact assessment process.

The framework also states that fire and rescue authorities should review the effectiveness of 'cross-border' integration arrangements with neighbouring authorities and set these out appropriately in their IRMPs.

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service published its strategic CRMP in April 2013 providing the strategic direction for the next five years. This document is subjected to annual review and updated and amended as required. The current strategic IRMP requires no amendment for the fiscal year 2015-16.

If you have any questions on the CRMP process or have any suggestions to make then please contact the team on: crmpteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk or by telephone: 01865 842999 or in writing to: Fire Service Headquarters, Sterling Road, Kidlington, Oxon, OX52DU.

365alive – Our strategic vision and targets



365alive is an Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service initiative which aims to promote a safer community for everyone through safety education and prevention work. 365alive is our 10 year vision which was launched in October 2006.

This sets three challenging targets for us.

By 2016, thanks to the emergency response and the community and partnership work we have carried out, there will be:

- 365 more people alive¹
- £100 million saved for the economy of Oxfordshire²
- And 840,000 safety messages delivered to the community.

By year eight of our ten year initiative we had already achieved our targets. We didn't want to be complacent with that so have set ourselves further stretch targets for the final two years. These are as follows:

- save an extra 11 lives per year
- save an additional £2.5 million per year
- make an extra 20,000 people safer

We are confident we can rise to this challenge as well as knowing this contributes to making those who work in, live in and travel through Oxfordshire safer. All of our projects in this plan aim to reduce risk and meet our strategic vision.

¹ By looking at the reduction in the number of people who die as a result of fires and road traffic collisions and the number of rescues we perform, we calculate the number of people who are still alive as a result of our work.

² By looking at the number of deaths and injuries to people from fires and road traffic collisions and the number of fire damaged homes and businesses, we calculate the amount of money we have saved the economy as a result of our work

The diagram outlines our full planning process



Projects

The following projects were proposed to be included within the fire authority's CRMP for the fiscal year 2015-16:

- Project 1: Implement Emergency Medical Support Services in collaboration with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).
- Project 2: Review adverse weather resilience arrangements with the emergency planning team and other partners.
- Project 3: Trial emergency cover review recommendations in the Carterton area.
- Project 4: Identify opportunities to work with partners to improve health, safety and wellbeing in local communities.



The project proposals were presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 25 September 2014. The agreed proposals within the action plan for 2015-16 have been subjected to full internal and external consultation for a period of 12 weeks.

Cabinet approved the proposed action plan on 24 February 2015.

Our medium term financial plan and supporting business strategy underpin the proposals within our CRMP action plan.

Consultation and responses

Consultation on the draft Community Risk Management Action Plan 2015-16 commenced on 10 October 2014 and concluded on 2 January 2015. In order to obtain the widest spectrum of responses, several different means of capturing opinions and ideas were used in the consultation process:

- Oxfordshire County Council E Consult – Internet based software to survey a database of interested parties.
- Letters were sent to
 - all Oxfordshire County Councillor's
 - district, town and parish councils
 - representative bodies
 - surrounding fire and rescue services.
- Focus groups were held with operational firefighters both whole-time and on-call.
- An invite to participate in the consultation was promulgated in Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service weekly newsletter (Routine Orders).
- All fire & rescue staff were emailed with an invite to participate in the consultation.
- The consultation document was published on both the Intranet and Internet.

A total of 73 responses were received and are broken down as follows:

- 11 anonymous responses via E Consult
- 1 response via E Consult from Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service
- 2 external emails
- 1 Middle manager focus groups (involving 12 group and station managers)
- 3 Whole-time station focus groups (involving 15 personnel)
- 3 On-call station focus groups (involving 30 personnel)
- 1 internal email from operational watch manager
- 1 internal email from an operational firefighter.

A full report detailing the consultation and management responses can be found on the web page:

[Community Risk Management Plan Consultation Responses](#)

Project 1: Implement Emergency Medical Support Services in collaboration with South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)

Responsible manager:

Area Manager - Operations and Resilience.

Objective:

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) and Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS) have entered into a partnership agreement to offer an initial emergency response to agreed categories of medical emergency at the request of SCAS using First Person on Scene (FPOS) qualified fire and rescue personnel.



OFRS's vision is to make life safer in Oxfordshire. Carrying out first responder duties is one way in which we achieve this aim. SCAS works to provide excellent patient service, saving more lives and improving health. The 'First Responder' initiative is an efficient and effective way of both parties jointly achieving this aim.

The implementation of professional first aid and trauma care training to our firefighters is essential to ensure they can provide medical assistance to both local communities and their colleagues at a wide range of emergency incidents.

FPOS provision forms part of the wider framework OFRS provides to ensure we meet our legal, moral and financial obligations. Following initial trials with the fire station in Thame, OFRS would like to extend this capability to other stations throughout the county.

Project 2: Review adverse weather resilience arrangements with the emergency planning team and other partners

Responsible manager:

Area Manager - Operations and Resilience.

Objective:

During the last decade Oxfordshire has suffered several instances of extreme weather including two substantial floods and a period of unprecedented snow fall. The emergency services have worked hard to save lives, protect property and facilitate a return to normality.

Due to the increasing likelihood that this type of event will occur in both greater magnitude and frequency OFRS would like to work more closely with partner agencies in order to ensure a better coordinated response to all such incidents, seeking improvements wherever possible.



Project 3: Trial emergency cover review recommendations in the Carterton area

Responsible manager:

Area Manager - Operations and Resilience.

Objective:

The Service has undertaken detailed risk modelling of the county including the developing risk profile of areas over the next 10-15 years which indicates accelerated growth in the Carterton area.



In the first instance, any changes to emergency response cover would have to be supported by using full-time firefighters, as it could take three to five years for a competent on-call crew to be established. The call rates in the area would not warrant permanent use of a full-time fire crew, compared with other similar areas of the county.

Introduction of additional emergency cover in Carterton has the potential to improve the overall response time standards for the area.

The project will redistribute existing resources to more effectively and efficiently cover the growing risks in the West Oxfordshire District area by using a staffing model that is already well established and performing in areas with similar risk profiles in the county.

In addition, it has the potential to improve the operational support for larger incidents in the West Oxfordshire area, as more resources will be available across the district.

In addition to these extra emergency response resources, on-going targeted prevention and protection activities will continue to be used to drive down emergency incidents, particularly within vulnerable groups, and will continue to help mitigate and reduce any increased risks that result from community development and population demographics.

Project 4: Identify opportunities to work with partners to improve health, safety and wellbeing in local communities

Responsible manager:

Trading Standards Community
Safety Manager

Objective:

This project aims to identify opportunities to formalise work with partners and, in particular, public health to improve health, safety and wellbeing in local communities.



OFRS have been very successful for many years in fire prevention, safeguarding and educating the public about the dangers of fire, and more recently this has expanded to include road safety education, training and publicity. Nationally and locally, fire and rescue staff are held in high regard by the public, being seen as strong role models.

The 2014-15 Community Risk Management Action Plan includes exploring opportunities to further integrate our work into the public health arena to support other teams within Oxfordshire County Council and make our communities safer and healthier.

Do you want to become an on-call firefighter?

There is currently a shortage of on-call firefighters at some fire stations in OFRS. This is particularly the case in our small towns and rural areas because today there are fewer people who live and work in their local towns and villages. You might be just the person to fill the gap.

Where do you work?

First of all, you need to live or work near to a fire station because you have to be able to get there within a few minutes of a call. Secondly, because we can't predict when you'll be called out, you have to be flexible in your work. The chances are that you'll be working at home, self-employed or for a community-minded employer who can let you off from time to time.

Are you fit for the job?

To apply to join the fire and rescue service you don't need any formal qualifications. You must be at least 18, with good all-round fitness. You will be asked to take a straightforward physical test as part of the process, and just as important are qualities like common sense, commitment and enthusiasm.

How often will you be needed?

On average, you will be called out two or three times a week for a couple of hours. If you cannot be available all the time, that's not a problem. You can be paid for being "on-call" for only part of the day or week. There is a particular shortage of people who are available during weekends, but you would have some evenings and weekends free if you need to, and still do a valuable and worthwhile job. If you really can't be on-call - for example because of a holiday or a deadline at work - you can take time off.

What do you get out of it?

Apart from the excitement, the challenge and the satisfaction of a job well done, your on-going training will assist you in becoming more self-reliant and confident. After all, if you can cope in a real emergency, you are ready for anything else which life might throw at you. You will meet a lot of people in your local community and earn their confidence and respect. You will also get continual, on-going training in the use of equipment and in other more general life skills including first aid. Added to all this, you get paid! You get paid a basic retainer, plus a fee for call-outs and another fee for going into action. You also get paid for training and duties like equipment maintenance.

If you think you've got what it takes to join the team, contact your local fire station for further information, or check out our vacancies pages which can be found on the fire and rescue service pages on oxfordshire.gov.uk.