

Slough and Langley Local Safety Plan

2020 - 2021



CURVE



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* Detailed explanations to support the performance targets infographics can be found in the [appendix](#) at the end of this document



Introduction

This Local Safety Plan for Slough Borough explains how we identify local risk, the actions we will take to mitigate and respond to that risk and how we measure our performance.

Our East Community Safety [Hub](#) manages the local fire safety resources in Slough and Langley, alongside our resources in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, delivering services in three key areas, whilst ensuring that RBFRS provides good value for money:

- Preventing fires and other emergencies;
- Ensuring buildings conform to fire safety legislation; and
- Responding effectively to emergencies when they happen.

In addition to the three key areas of Service Delivery, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a broader safety, health and wellbeing agenda across the unitary authority.

Slough Borough has a long history of ethnic and cultural diversity and is known to be one of the most ethnically diverse local authorities outside London. 45% of the population is white or white British, 40% is Asian or Asian British and 15% black or black British, mixed race or other ([Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 2020](#)). We recognise the importance of understanding the cultural diversity in Slough Borough, so that the services we deliver are tailored according to specific needs across the area.

Our Local Safety Plan links directly to the [strategic commitments](#) set out in the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) [Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-23](#) and the annual objectives and performance measures published in the 2020-21 [Annual Plan](#). It also represents our commitment to knowing and working in partnership with our diverse communities, in order to understand their needs and improve the service we provide. We work closely with other emergency services and partners within the local authority to ensure we target our resources most appropriately.

This Local Safety Plan was originally drafted in February 2020, before the Covid-19 pandemic. In mid March 2020 RBFRS, in line with government guidance, stopped non-essential work in order to protect the community. Although at the time of writing, restrictions are starting to be eased, it is clear that some of our work will be impacted for some time to come.

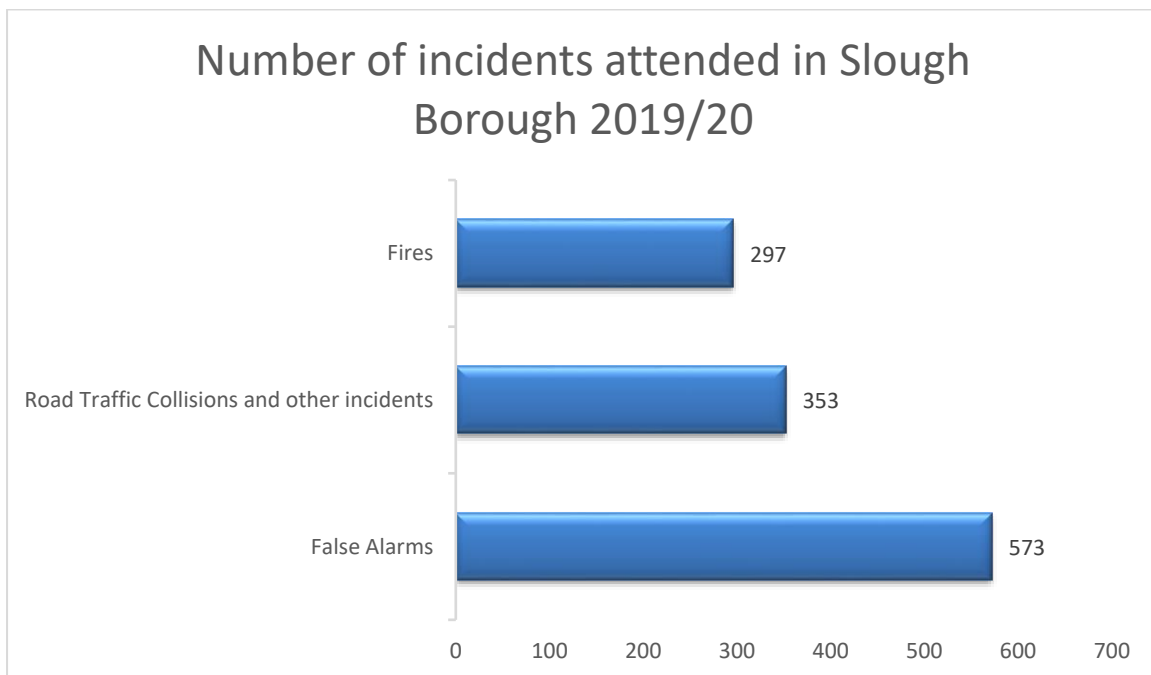
Social distancing and shielding restrictions have reduced our ability to work with vulnerable individuals in their homes, with children in schools, and with communities at events. Business closures have meant we cannot carry out Fire Safety Audits in the usual way.



Our local aims remain and we continue to deliver our services through alternate means when necessary, however, due to the significant impact of Covid-19 we have been forced to acknowledge that the high targets we originally set for ourselves back in February 2020 will be difficult to achieve.

We will, through our performance management processes, track and monitor the continued impact of the pandemic on our performance against our aims. We will adapt our plans to ensure we are responding to the highest local risks.

In 2019/20, we attended 1,223 incidents in Slough Borough. These are broken down into the following headline areas: fires, road traffic collisions and other incidents, and false alarms.



These figures help us plan our service for the next year to ensure we are correctly addressing risk in our communities.



Map

The map below shows the fire stations in Slough. A wider map of the county can be found on page 4 of our [Annual Report](#)



>> KEY

-
- On-call
 - ▲ Wholetime/On-call
 - Wholetime



Preventing Fires and Other Emergencies in Slough Borough

Our priority is always to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place. We deliver a wide range of education and prevention activities and initiatives often in partnership with other agencies.

Preventing Accidental [Fires in the Home](#)

A key purpose of our prevention activity is to reduce the risk of fire. As such, we target our preventative work based on potential risks that are specific to communities within Slough and Langley.

Prevention of accidental fire deaths is our number one priority. We use our programme of targeted [Safe and Well](#) home visits to make sure we are visiting those most at risk e.g. those above 65, who are often living alone, or those with sensory (hearing and/or sight) or mobility needs. The number of people in this age range is expected to rise by 25% over the next decade. This has been recognised by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) and we will continue to target these groups in the next 12 months. These visits are predominantly carried out by our fire crews, with more complex cases being addressed by our Safe and Well Technicians.

The area covered by Slough Borough is also known to have a number of households facing multiple socio-economic challenges, such as overcrowding. Our evidence indicates that some people facing such challenges are more likely to experience an accidental fire in the home and so we will target a number of Safe and Well visits to these households.

Not only do we focus on residents at greater risk of fire death, but also on the common causes of accidental fires in the home and related injuries. There were 55 accidental fires in the home leading to eight people being injured in Slough Borough during 2019. In Slough, the most common cause of injury from accidental fires in the home is cooking related activity, which will be an area we will continue to focus on during 2020/21. We also know that candles and naked flames see increased use by sections of the community at certain times of the year. We are now concentrating on highlighting the dangers of these fires when undertaking Safe and Well visits with residents at greater risk of experiencing an accidental fire in the home.

We balance our resources across the county in consideration of risk and demand. This means we sometimes undertake differing levels of activity across our communities. We regularly review the targeting of our prevention work in response to any changes in community risk.



We will reduce the number of accidental fires in the home in Slough Borough by:

- Continuing to deliver our successful programme of Safe and Well home visits to those most vulnerable and those most at risk of an accidental fire in the home, altering our delivery methods where necessary to meet Covid-19 restrictions.
- Prioritising Safe and Well visits based on risk factors such as age, mobility and health.
- Working with partner agencies to ensure we are targeting those most at risk via our [Adults at Risk Programme](#), and increase the number of referrals we receive.
- Using targeted campaigns, community based events, local media and social media to promote messaging intended to reduce the number of casualties from cooking and electrical related fire injuries.
- Increasing the number of referrals we make to partner agencies for additional support for vulnerable people.
- Providing specific advice relating to candles, naked flames and cooking fires when undertaking Safe and Well visits and using local and social media.
- Working with partner agencies on joint initiatives which effectively contribute to reducing accidental fires in the home, whilst addressing wider health and wellbeing concerns.
- Hosting drop in sessions with Trading Standards where the public can have electrical appliances safety tested where Covid-19 restrictions allow.
- Working with head teachers to increase our access to schools and exploring other means of delivering fire safety education to year 5 pupils given the restrictions placed upon us by Covid-19.

See our performance scrutiny section for details on how we quality assure our prevention activities.



Performance Targets for 2020/21



Safe and Well visits delivered to those at heightened risk of dying in an accidental fire in the home



Safe and Well visits delivered to those at heightened risk of having an accidental fire in the home



100%

of Safe and Well visits for individuals referred to us completed within agreed timescales

Increase the number of referrals for Safe and Well visits from other agencies

Zero deaths in accidental fires in the home and a reduction in the number of injuries



Offer fire safety education sessions to school children in Year 5



Promote the NFCC monthly campaigns through community events and social media



Deliver initiatives in support of **Candle Fire Safety Week**

Support community based events to promote safety messages to reduce accidental fires in the home - particularly **cooking** related fires

Increase the number of referrals we make to partner agencies



Reducing Deliberate Fires

Compared to other parts of the county, the number of deliberately set fires in the borough is quite high. Deliberate fires involving vehicles and rubbish / refuse fires are, by far, the main source of this type of incident. Over the past 5 years, there have been 96 vehicle fires and 160 refuse fires.

Arson can have links with other anti-social behaviour and we work in close partnership with colleagues in Thames Valley Police and the local authority to tackle these issues. Where the suspected cause of a fire may be arson, the police are informed at the time of the incident. We monitor data on deliberate fire-setting, sharing intelligence with the police to assist investigations, prosecutions and prevention. Where there is a specific threat of arson, we work with colleagues in Thames Valley Police to proactively reduce the risk. In such cases, our fire crews or a Safe and Well Technician will visit the relevant person or premises as a matter of priority to put in place additional prevention measures balancing the risk against that posed by Covid-19.

We will achieve a reduction in the number of deliberate fires by:

- Sharing information with local authority and emergency service partners to address common problems and limit the number and impact of deliberate fires. Where we have known problems we will pre-plan and work with local partners on joint targeted campaigns.
- Continuing to react swiftly to high priority arson referrals from Thames Valley Police with a focused Safe and Well visit.
- Focusing attention on monitoring deliberate vehicle fires, and similar types of incidents, to identify trends and work closely with the police and other partners to reduce their impact and identify perpetrators.
- Continuing our commitment to working with fire setters in a structured programme, which has shown that early intervention and education can help to address the issues of fire-setting behaviours.
- Supporting investigation and successful prosecution of arson perpetrators.
- Where we have repeat offences in a geographic area, we will erect Arson awareness boards in order to raise the consciousness of the local community and deter further repeat activity.



Performance Targets for 2020/21



Reduction in the number of deliberately set fires in Slough



Increase public engagement to report deliberate fires, by highlighting the issue on local social media channels

100%

Completion of Safe and Well visits where there has been a threat, or incidence of arson, within **48 hours** of being informed by Thames Valley Police





Preventing Other Emergencies

We respond to a wide range of incidents, beyond those just involving fire. These range from water rescues involving people and animals, to incidents involving hazardous substances.

One key role is to respond to Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs). In 2019, we attended 64 RTCs in Slough Borough. The rate of RTCs in Slough Borough is similar to the average across Berkshire as a whole.

To tackle this potential risk, Slough and Langley firefighters offer all year 7 school age children road safety advice. Hub managers are also involved in [Safe Drive Stay Alive](#), a road safety programme concentrated on new and prospective drivers in the age range of 15-17. Over 30,000 young people across the Thames Valley are reached by this initiative every year.

Additionally, as part of our overall road safety strategy, RBFRS intends to target prevention activities towards motorcyclists. Our 2018 data shows that motorcyclists made up 22% of road casualties, despite only accounting for approximately 2% of the population. We will look for opportunities to engage motorcyclists at a local level.

Whilst the number of water-related incidents is thankfully low, the Slough Weir within the Jubilee River is an identified risk. Sadly, over recent years, this location has seen a number of people lose their lives as a result of entering the water, or accidentally falling in. Around 400 people accidentally drown annually in the UK. In 2019, we attended 31 water-related incidents across Berkshire. The Service has pledged to support the [UK Drowning Prevention Strategy 2016-26](#), which aims to reduce drowning incidents by 50% by 2026.

We will reduce the risk presented by other emergencies by:

- Offering water and road safety education sessions to every secondary school across Slough Borough and working with schools to improve access.
- Working alongside other agencies in the delivery of the Safe Drive, Stay Alive campaign.
- Working with and through partner organisations to engage motorcyclists and offer safety education.
- Supporting and participating in national campaigns to reduce other emergencies including water-related incidents and RTCs.
- Delivering local road and water safety campaigns, including direct advice and guidance to the public in areas where we know there are high risks.
- We will work with Local Authority partners and other agencies to ensure communities are aware of wide area flooding guidance.



Performance Targets for 2020/21



Water and road safety education engagement offered to all school students in Year 7

Targeted activity with partners in summer months to provide advice around water safety



Increase engagement to local social media to promote safety messaging around road and water safety



Encourage engagement with the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign



Fire Safety Standards in Buildings

Our approach to Fire Protection centres on enforcement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. We enforce the order by undertaking an annual risk based inspection programme of business premises and auditing the safety arrangements they have in place. Premises are included in this programme based on the risk they present to those that work in or visit them.

Our specialist team of Fire Safety Inspecting Officers (FSIOs) will support local businesses in complying with the law, and will enforce such compliance where necessary.

We increase the safety of the people who live and work in Slough and Langley, by targeting our inspection, regulation and enforcement activities on those places which are less likely to comply with the law and may present a greater risk to public safety. These include Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), licenced premises providing accommodation and where accommodation is linked to commercial premises.

RBFRS are fully committed to ensuring that we learn the lessons from the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Across the Slough Borough there are a number of high rise buildings. The vast majority of these meet the required fire safety standards. However, our protection officers are currently working very closely with partners in local authority to identify any shortfalls and support the building owners to undertake remedial works and providing advice on appropriate interim arrangements. Where we identify unacceptable risk, we will enforce and prosecute in order to ensure the safety of residents.

Like many other towns along the 'M4 corridor', Slough and Langley are situated in good locations with excellent transport links and a thriving commercial environment. The towns and surrounding areas are currently undergoing a series of regeneration works, linked with the forthcoming arrival of 'Crossrail' and, following this, the expansion of Heathrow Airport.

Our FSIOs can enforce the right standards under the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005 \(FSO\)](#). They achieve this through a range of planned and reactive works. These include inspections of premises, investigating fire safety concerns raised by members of the public, and responding to local authority building consultations and licensing requests. They will also undertake investigations following a fire where we have concerns about a breach in fire safety measures. As well as reducing the risk of fire, their work ensures that our crews are fully informed of relevant risks when responding to any incidents in commercial premises.



We will improve fire safety standards in buildings by:

- Actively targeting higher risk premises more likely to be contravening the fire safety regulations. To do this we use our risk based inspection process to target certain high risk buildings, including [houses in multiple occupation \(HMOs\)](#), complex licensed premises and premises providing accommodation above businesses.
- Undertaking a specific piece of work across RBFRS dedicated to ensuring HRRB's are compliant with legislation. Where we identify non-compliance we will act swiftly in conjunction with local authorities and landlords to reduce risk.
- Conducting post fire building inspections and analysing fire risk data to identify any emerging trends which might influence our local strategy.
- Responding swiftly to complaints we receive from the public regarding fire safety in buildings.
- Providing advice to business and property owners to encourage self-compliance with fire safety legislation.
- Working with building occupiers to reduce the numbers of unwanted fire alarm activations that occur.
- Working with other agencies to identify premises that fall under fire safety legislation e.g. Local Authority, Care Quality Commission.
- Undertaking additional seasonal activity. For example, checking shops at Christmas for stock blocking fire exits.

See the Performance scrutiny section for information on how we quality assure our Protection activities.



Performance Targets for 2020/21



Fire safety audits
conducted across Slough



60%

Maximum percentage of
completed fire safety audits in
premises found to be broadly
compliant with fire safety
legislation



**Working in partnership with local authority, we will respond to
outcomes of Grenfell and closely manage high risk residential
premises within the Slough/Langley areas**



Business events carried out to
improve legislative fire safety
responsibilities and in turn help
reduce the social and economic costs
of fire for businesses and local
employment



95%

of consultations
completed within the required time
frame



Responding to Incidents

Although prevention is a priority, we recognise that fires and other incidents, such as road traffic collisions, will still occur and require a swift and effective response. Our approach to emergency response is to ensure we have the right numbers of firefighters and fire engines, at the right place at the right time, delivering the right standard of response.

There are two wholetime fire stations in Slough Borough, based at Slough and Langley, with Slough crewing two fire engines and Langley one. Both stations provide 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year.

In 2019, we attended 1,223 emergency incidents in Slough and Langley. 24% of these were fires, 47% were [false alarms](#) and 5% were road traffic collisions, with the remaining 24% including special services such as water and animal rescues, and assisting other agencies. We will work to reduce the demand of false alarm calls to reduce the impact on the availability of our resources for important prevention activity and emergency incidents.

Across Berkshire, our target is to arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes of the initial call on 75% of occasions. To achieve this, our Thames Valley Fire Control Service will send the fire engine that can get to an emergency in the quickest time.

In addition to responding to fire service incidents, RBFRS supports South Central Ambulance Service and Thames Valley Police in responding to emergency calls. This underpins our commitment to work collaboratively, supports the wider health and wellbeing needs of our communities and builds the joint operational working already undertaken across a range of incidents with our emergency service partners.

We will continue to plan, prepare and train to ensure our teams can provide an effective response to all incidents and be able to work well with colleagues across all the emergency services and other organisations. Over the coming year we will undertake a range of assurance activity to support learning and continually improve our response delivery.



We will improve our response to emergency incidents by:

- Striving to improve the response performance at Langley and Slough Fire Stations, reducing the time it takes to mobilise a fire crew and reach the scene of an emergency incident.
- Undertaking targeted activity to reduce false alarm calls.
- Continuing to provide an 'effecting entry' service to Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service where immediate entry to a premises is required to deal with a medical emergency.
- Ensuring our crews have access to key information relating to medium and high risk premises.
- Increasing the frequency of joint training with neighbouring fire and rescue and other emergency services.
- Focusing on training and retaining our new and existing firefighters.
- Maintaining and further developing operational assurance processes and learning.



Performance Targets for 2020/21



100%

Wholetime Duty System fire engine availability

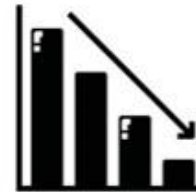
60%

Increase the hours where there is adequate crewing for on-call frontline fire engines towards our Service target of 60%

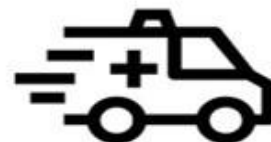


10 minutes

Increase the % of occasions where the first fire engine arrives at an emergency incident within 10 minutes of the call being answered



Reduce false alarm calls using social media channels and a targeted activity



Increase the frequency of joint training with neighbouring fire and rescue services and other blue light partners



Community Engagement

RBFRS recognise the importance and value of knowing and being known within the communities we represent. Through a range of community engagement events we will ensure that our fire stations, people and resources are a focus for activity in local communities.

The range of events that we will deliver over the next year will not only provide a great opportunity to connect with our diverse communities, but will also provide opportunities to deliver important prevention messages. Our ability to deliver against the following objectives will be impacted to a great extent by Covid-19.

During this period we will strive to:

Continue delivering Fire Cadets

Fire Cadets is a youth initiative run by staff at RBFRS, with educational support from RBFRS's Prevention department. Working as a team, Fire Cadets take part in practical and theoretical fire service activities, including hose drills, breathing apparatus procedures and fire safety awareness sessions. The scheme also teaches young people essential life skills such as self-discipline, confidence and leadership. For further information, please see our [website](#).

Continue to host station open days

We plan to continue to host open days at stations across the Borough. The aim of these days is to engage with the community, raise public awareness and understanding of the work of RBFRS, and to deliver key prevention messages to members of the community.

Continue to deliver charity car washes

We intend to deliver charity car washes at stations across the Borough, using this as an opportunity to engage with the community and deliver key prevention messages, whilst raising money for local and national causes.

Continue to deliver "Have a Go" days

In line with our [People Strategy](#), RBFRS are keen to attract new talent to the Service. "Have a go" events offer those who are interested in joining RBFRS as a retained (on-call) firefighter the opportunity to talk to firefighters who are already in the role, learn about the recruitment process, and have a go at some of the fitness tests and day-to-day challenges that firefighters face.

Continue to deliver blood donation sessions

To support the National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service we host routine blood donation sessions at Fire Stations. We plan to add value to these sessions by offering a range of safety guidance to blood donors.



Other community activities

Finally, we will seek to explore opportunities to deliver other community-based events and activities, in line with local and national campaigns. These events and activities will allow us to reach our diverse communities, in order to deliver targeted prevention messages in relation to areas of local need or risk.

Performance Scrutiny

It is important to us that you receive the services we have set out to deliver and that these services are delivered to a high standard.

We have a number of ways we monitor and manage our performance. You can see our Strategic Performance Report as scrutinised and approved by the Fire Authority's Audit and Governance Committee by visiting the [RBFRS website](#).

At a local level, there is a performance management structure built into our service delivery model. We have a Service Delivery Management Team, who meet monthly to scrutinise performance against the Hub-level targets set out in this, and the other, Local Safety Plans. This allows us to ensure the Service is accountable at a local level for driving performance and quality in all we do to serve the people of Royal Berkshire, whilst also allowing us to direct support to where it is needed.

During the restrictions of Covid-19 we will ensure activities are maintained as much as appropriately possible and postponed or replaced with an alternative whenever necessary.

Contact Us

Email East Hub Team: hollandc@RBFRS.co.uk

Call RBFRS and ask for the East Hub Management Team: 0118 945 2888

Website: rbfrs.co.uk



Appendix

Fires in the home

Otherwise referred to as a 'dwelling fire'. 'Dwelling' means a property that is a place of residence i.e. places occupied by households, excluding hotels, hostels and residential institutions including university halls of residence. Includes non-permanent structures used solely as a dwelling, such as houseboats and caravans.

Integrated Risk Management Plan

A document that details the plans of Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service for the next four years from a high level, strategic perspective.

Hub

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service operate what is called a 'hub model', whereby the whole area of Berkshire is split into three separate hubs: East (Slough and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), West (West Berkshire and Reading) and Central (Bracknell and Wokingham). These hubs are then able to tailor their services of prevention, protection and response to meet the needs of the local area.

Safe and Well

Safe and Well visits are conducted by either firefighters or Safe and Well Technicians to the homes of people who may be vulnerable. These visits are targeted based on various factors such as age, mobility, or sensory (hearing and/or sight) needs.

Adults at Risk Programme

A programme run in conjunction with Adult Social Care that provides free training and resources for the protection of adults at risk from fire. This training is available to anyone involved in the care of adults in the community.

At its core, this programme is training people to recognise when a referral to RBFRS is appropriate, and how to make this referral. This helps us target our prevention activity to those who are most at risk.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)

A house in multiple occupation (HMO) is a property rented by at least three people who are not from one 'household' (for example a family), but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen. It's sometimes called a 'house share'.



Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO)

Sets out the fire safety requirements for all non-domestic premises. It does not apply to people's private homes, including individual flats in a block or house.

Licensed premises providing accommodation

A premises that has a license to sell alcohol and also offers accommodation. One example would be a pub with rooms to rent.

False alarm

Where we attend a location believing there to be a fire incident, but on arrival discover that no such incident exists, or existed. If the appliances (fire engines) are 'turned around' by Thames Valley Fire Control before arriving at the incident – then the incident is not classed as having been attended and does not need to be reported.

Infographics supplementary details

The number of formal and informal fire safety activities

This is the total number of formal or informal fire safety activities that have been issued one of the below:

- Action plan
- Deficiency Notices
- Enforcement Notice
- Prohibition Notice
- Alternations Notice
- Voluntary Restriction
- Formal Caution
- Prosecution Notice

Number of Safe and Well visits delivered to those who are at heightened risk of having an accidental dwelling fire and being injured as a result

Research has shown that certain groups of people are at heightened risk of having an accidental dwelling fire and being injured as a result. Safe and Well visits will be targeted towards these groups.



Number of Safe and Well visits delivered to those who are at heightened risk of dying in the event of an accidental dwelling fire

Research has shown that certain vulnerable groups are at heightened risk of dying in an accidental dwelling fire. Safe and Well visits will be targeted towards these vulnerable groups.

Number of deaths in accidental fires in the home

Referred to in the annual plan as “number of fire deaths in accidental dwelling fires”. The total number of deaths that occur as a result of an accidental dwelling fire. This includes a person whose death is attributed to an accidental dwelling fire, even when the death occurs weeks or months later.

Total number of fire safety audits carried out

This is the total number of full fire safety audits carried out in premises in Berkshire. This is calculated once the audit has been closed by RBFRS and only includes the initial fire safety audit. A fire safety audit is carried out to enforce the Regulatory Reform Order (RRO) 2005, which applies to virtually all non-domestic premises and covers nearly every type of building, structure and open space.

% of statutory fire safety consultations completed within the required timeframes

Statutory fire consultations have a set timeframe in which they must be completed and include:

Licensing

Building regulations

Building regulations approved supplier

% of hours where there is adequate crewing on retained frontline pumping appliances

This is the percentage of hours where there is sufficient minimum qualified firefighters (four personnel) on retained pumping appliances (fire engines). Retained frontline pumping appliances are crewed mainly by on-call firefighters who are based at stations in more rural locations, and are ready to leave their place of work or home when alerted by pager to attend emergencies from the local on-call station, when they receive the call.



% of occasions where the first fire engine arrives at an emergency incident within 10 minutes from time the emergency call was answered

This measure looks at the time taken from when the Fire Control Room Operator answers the phone, until the time the first fire engine (appliance) arrives at the scene of the emergency incident, and the percentage of occasions RBFRS does this in under 10 minutes.

