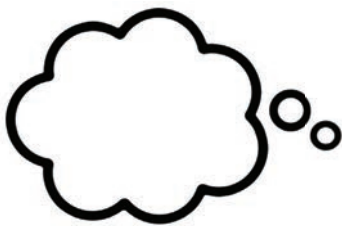




Automatic Fire Alarms 2024

Our ideas for changing the way we work



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Who we are and what we do



We are Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.



Our job is to keep people in Berkshire safe from fire. Some of the ways we do this are:



- sending a fire engine straight away if someone phones 999 to tell us about a fire



- giving training to organisations to show them how to keep people safe from fire



- visiting communities and talking to people about how to keep themselves and others safe from fire



- checking if we need to go to a **Automatic Fire Alarm Notification**

An **automatic alarm** means an alarm tells the computer there is a fire. Then the computer tells us.



We then contact the person in charge of the building to see if we need to send a fire engine.



A person doesn't need to call phone 999 to tell us about a fire.



Building like schools, shopping centre and some offices have these types of fire alarms.

Problems with automatic fire alarms



A lot of the time when these alarms go off, it is a false alarm. This means there is no fire.



Something else could have set the alarm off. Things like:

- steam from cooking



- spraying cans like deodorant or hairspray



- the alarms have not been looked after properly



Going to false alarms wastes a lot of time.

Changing the way we work



Sending fire engines to all fire alarms takes a lot of time.



We could spend that time doing other important work to keep people safe.



We want to change the way we work when there is an automatic fire alarm from a building.



We have 3 ideas about how we can change how we work.



We have not decided what is going to happen yet. We want to know what people think about our ideas.



After you have read this booklet we would like you to answer some questions.



You can find a copy the easy read questionnaire on our website:
rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay



You must tell us what you think before **13th May 2024.**

What we do now



We always send a fire engine to all fire alarms from buildings where people sleep. Places like care homes.



If we get fire alarm from other buildings, we phone the person in charge of the building.



If the person in charge tells us there is a fire, we send a fire engine.



If the person in charge of the building does not answer the phone, we still send a fire engine.

About our 3 ideas

Our ideas are mainly about:



- what happens if the person in charge does not answer the phone

and



- what we do at different times of day and night

For all of our 3 ideas:



We will always send a fire engine if someone phones 999 to tell us about a fire.



We will still always send a fire engine to fire alarms from buildings where people sleep. Places like care homes and hotels.



We will contact the person in charge of the building when we get a fire alarm from a building.



If the person tells us there is a fire, we will always send a fire engine.

Idea 1

Idea 1 affects alarms from buildings like:



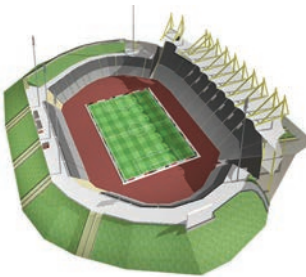
- cinemas



- universities



- shops



- sports stadiums like football grounds

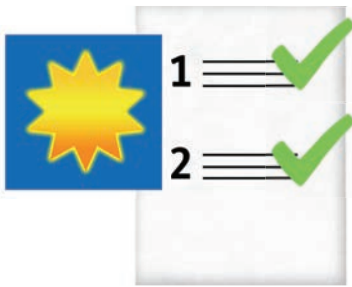


If the person in charge **does not** answer the phone, we will not send a fire engine.



This will happen in the day time and at night time.

Idea 2



Idea 2 is doing the same things as idea 1 for alarms that happen in the daytime.



But at night we will still send fire engines to some building if the person in charge does not answer the phone.



We will still go to fire alarms from buildings like:

- libraries



- schools



- GP surgeries. This is your local doctors

Idea 3



We will not send a fire engine to any fire alarm from a building, until we have phoned the person in charge of the building.



If the person does not answer the phone we will not send a fire engine.



This would be at anytime day or night.

What happens next



We will talk to the people in charge of the buildings in ideas 1, 2 and 3.



We will support them to make their buildings as safe as possible before we change anything.



In June, we will look carefully at what everyone has told us.



We will decide which of the 3 ideas should happen and make the changes.



After 1 year, we will check how things are working.

Contact us



Contact us if you have any questions about our ideas and filling in our questionnaire.



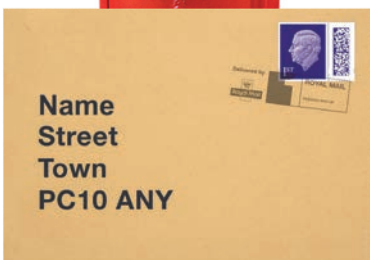
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