

Reading Borough Local Safety Plan

2021 - 2022



 RoyalBerksFRS  @RBFROfficial  RoyalBerkshireFire
 Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfrs.co.uk



CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
Introduction	3
Map.....	5
Preventing Fires and Other Emergencies in Reading Borough	6
Preventing Accidental Fires in the Home	6
Reducing Deliberate Fires	9
Preventing Other Emergencies	12
Fire Safety Standards in Buildings	15
Responding to Incidents.....	18
Community Engagement.....	21
Performance Scrutiny.....	23
Contact Us	23
Appendix	24

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

Photo credit: Ben Sutherland via [Wikimedia Commons](#)





Introduction

This Local Safety Plan (LSP) for Reading 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.

On 18 March 2020, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS), in line with Government guidance, suspended non-essential activities in order to protect our community, staff and our critical functions. Aside from our emergency response operations, which have continued throughout, social distancing and shielding restrictions have created an impact on other areas of our work, including reducing our ability to work with vulnerable individuals in their homes, with children in schools, and with communities at events. Business closures have meant we have had to take a flexible approach and introduce interim solutions to Fire Safety Audits.

Currently COVID-19 control measures continue and whilst there is still some uncertainty, our intention is to reintroduce a broad range of services in line with the Government roadmap.

Our West [Hub](#) manages the local fire safety resources across the Reading Borough delivering services in three key areas:

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

The demographics of the communities we serve are forever changing. We will look for new ways to best understand these changes and how our local areas are represented in terms of age, disability, ethnicity and religion. Working within the heart of these communities, our fire station teams will continue to work with our partners whilst engaging with these groups to effectively listen to their needs and understand how our approach to service delivery can be adapted to meet their needs.

The ethnic diversity of Reading has increased with the number of people from an ethnic minority group rising year on year. The latest Borough demographic data indicates that 25% of the community of Reading is made up of Black and minority ethnic groups. Reading is more diverse than ever and we will continue to review the way in which we deliver our services to best fit the requirements of those we serve.

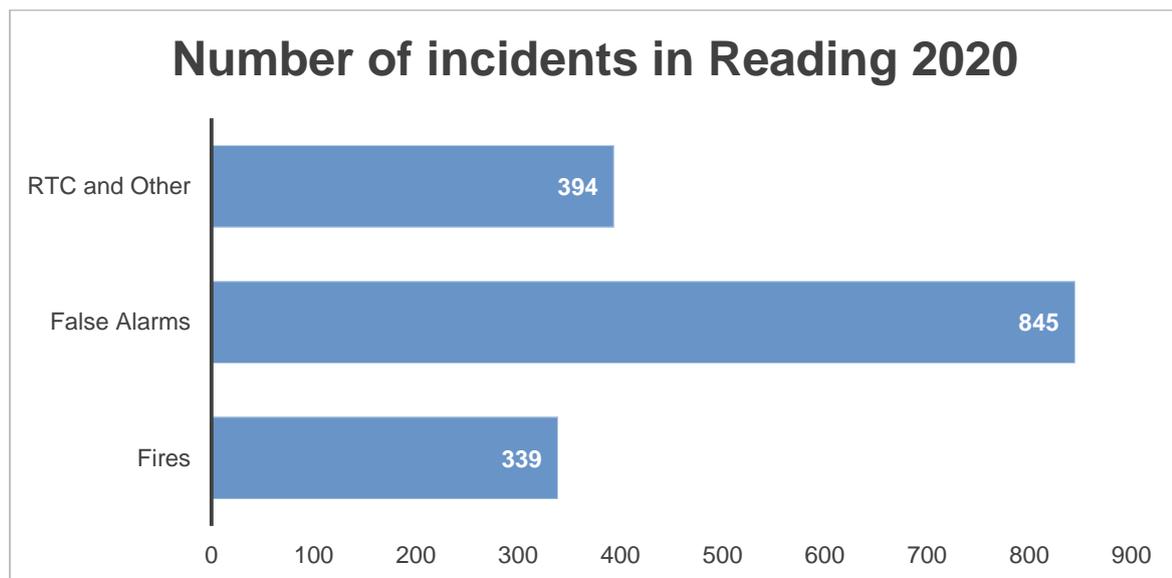
Reading has a lower proportion of people aged over 65 than the national average. However, this community group is predicted to see the largest long-term growth. The teams that work within the heart of our Reading communities will continue to work with our partners to understand the needs of our aging population, alongside that of our communities living with disabilities. We will also seek new opportunities to engage with and understand all of our community groups to shape our approach to delivering our service.



Following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017 and the outcomes of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, we have introduced a service wide Built Environment Programme (BEP). The BEP provides an organisational response to the 46 recommendations made in the inquiry report and is designed to improve overall Service Delivery activities in relation to complex buildings and future challenges of the built environment.

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 our 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; please refer to our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) objectives to find out more.

Between January and December 2020, we attended 1,578 incidents in Reading 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 Reading. A wider map of the county can be found within our [Annual Report](#).



» KEY

- On-call
- ▲ Wholtime/On-call
- Wholtime



Preventing Fires and Other Emergencies in Reading Borough

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 to those at an increased risk from fire.

Prevention of fire deaths is our number one priority. We use our programme of targeted [Safe and Well](#) Visits to make sure we are visiting the most vulnerable. The relative increase of vulnerable people within the population goes hand in hand with other factors affecting the risk profile of the Reading area, including the forecasted rise in those with dementia, living alone and those with sensory (hearing and/or sight) needs or a learning disability. This has been recognised by the Service, and we will continue to target this group 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.

Reading also includes a number of areas facing socio-economic challenges, such as overcrowding, with some falling into the bottom 10% of areas nationally according to the [Indices of Multiple Deprivation](#). Our evidence indicates that people and communities facing health, financial and housing challenges are more likely to have fires in their homes and become injured. We will target a number of Safe and Well Visits to these households. Our local area is also particularly diverse, with residents from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. It is recognised that language and cultural differences can affect access to advice and education on fire safety. Consequently, in striving to minimise the risks from fire for all, we will continue to explore how best to access these hard-to-reach sections of the community.

Over the next 12 months, we will deliver Safe and Well Visits across Reading to those at heightened risk of having a fire in the home. In 2020, we attended 66 accidental dwelling fires in Reading and we continue to work within the community to reduce the risk of fire to individuals and 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.

The most common causes of these fires in Reading continue to be cooking and electrical, and account for the majority of fire injuries in Reading. 41 people sustained an injury in accidental fires in the home over the last five years. 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.

Over recent years, a number of high-profile electrical product recalls associated with fire risk have highlighted the importance of registration of electrical appliances at, or after, purchase. Registering contact details with the appliance manufacturer enables the owner to be contacted and the problem rectified should a product recall be issued.

We continue to 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.

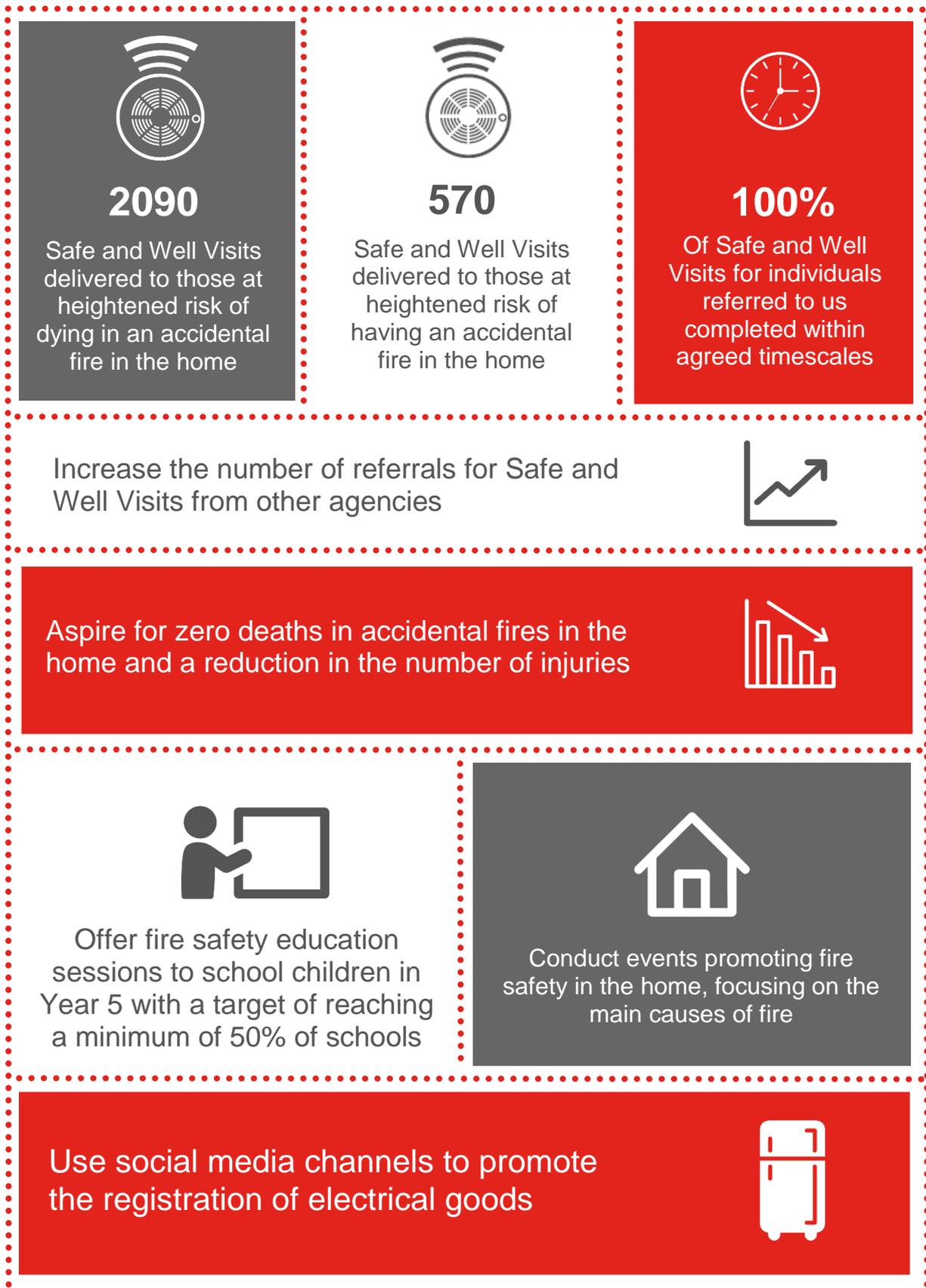


We will reduce the number of accidental fires in the home in Reading by:

- Continuing to deliver our successful programme of Safe and Well Visits to those most vulnerable and those most at risk of an accidental fire in the home, striving to meet our target of 2,660 Visits across Reading Borough spread throughout the year while working within COVID-19 control measures.
- Quality assuring the delivery of our Safe and Well Visits to ensure they continue to be focused and effective.
- Further strengthening our work 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 directly from other professionals working with vulnerable people.
- Working with head teachers to increase our access to schools and exploring a blended learning approach to delivering fire safety education aiming for more than 50% engagement from Year 5 pupils.
- Using targeted campaigns, community-based events and local social media to promote messaging intended to reduce the number of casualties from cooking and electrical related fire injuries.
- Continue to promote the registration of electrical appliances before or after purchase.
- Increasing the number of referrals we make to partner agencies, such as Age UK and Reading Falls Prevention Team, for additional support for the elderly.
- Providing specific advice relating to cooking and electrical fires when undertaking Safe and Well Visits and at other events such as open days, car washes and blood donation sessions where possible.
- Working with representatives of minority groups to ensure that delivery of our community safety initiatives are equally accessible to all.

Performance Targets for 2021/22*:

*Delivery of many of our local performance targets will be affected by the changes to our service as a result of COVID-19 control measures.





Reducing Deliberate Fires

In 2020 we attended 87 deliberately set fires across Reading. We categorise these fires as either 'primary', where structures or property are involved, or 'secondary', usually involving less valuable material such as bins, grass and scrubland.

The most common deliberate primary fire type we attended in 2020 were those related to vehicles. Of those vehicles, our fire investigations indicated that a significant proportion appear to have been stolen, abandoned and then set on fire.

Refuse fires make up the vast majority of other types of deliberately set fires across Reading, which can spread to property of value and potentially pose a risk to life. These fires are taken seriously and we work with communities, partners and schools to reduce them.

Deliberate fires often have links to other types of anti-social behaviour and we recognise that a partnership approach to tackling them can yield the best results. Working with colleagues from the local authority, police and other groups in the Multi-Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) environment we aim to maximise the capability of all services and community groups. As well as taking action to prevent deliberate fires, we monitor our incident data and identify trends and common factors. This has resulted in a reduction in the impact of deliberately set fires and on some occasions identification of the perpetrator.

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 preventative measures balancing the risk against that posed by COVID-19.

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

- Working within the multi-agency 'MAPS' environment sharing information with local authority, 'blue light' and other partners to address common problems.
- 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. We will then work closely with the police and other partners to help prevent vehicle thefts, reduce the impact of fires when they do happen 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.

- Erecting arson awareness boards at identified hotspots.



Performance Targets for 2021/22*:

*Delivery of many of our local performance targets will be affected by the changes to our service as a result of COVID-19 control measures.



Reduction in the number of deliberately set fires in Reading



Increase public engagement with reporting 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 referral from 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). RTCs are a societal risk and a preventable cause of death in young adults and other groups. In the years 2016 to 2020, the Service attended 236 RTCs across Reading.

Primarily, we address this risk through school education packages aimed at Year 7 pupils. Access to schools has been limited throughout the past year due to COVID-19 control measures. We will, therefore, explore other means of delivery to young people. Firefighters 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. We reach over 30,000 young people across the Thames Valley through this initiative every year.

With the River Thames running through Reading and the presence of other bodies of open water, the Service attends a higher number of water rescue incidents in this area in comparison with other areas of Berkshire. On average, we respond to nine water related incidents in the borough of Reading every year. The Service has pledged through its Integrated Risk Management Plan 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 secondary schools across Reading Borough aiming for more than 50% engagement with Year 7 pupils.
- Exploring other means of delivering water and road safety education to young people, such as giving direct advice to people swimming in open water in the spring and summer months.
- Working alongside other agencies in the delivery of the Safe Drive, Stay Alive and Biker Down campaigns.
- Delivering local road and water safety initiatives in support of national campaigns.
- Supporting the fitting of water safety boards at high risk locations along the River Thames.



Performance Targets for 2021/22*:

*Delivery of many of our local performance targets will be affected by the changes to our service as a result of COVID-19 control measures.



Water and road safety education engagement offered to all school students in Year 7 with a target of reaching a minimum of 50% of schools



Conduct events focused on water safety in the spring and summer months



Support initiatives promoting road safety messaging

Increase social media engagement with road and water safety messaging



Encourage engagement with the Safe Drive Stay Alive campaign



Fire Safety Standards in Buildings

Another element of our work is ensuring that businesses in the area comply with fire safety legislation. 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 recognise that sprinklers are the most effective way to ensure that fires are suppressed or even extinguished before the Fire Service arrives. Sprinklers can be included in the design of new buildings and retrofitted during the refurbishment of existing ones. Sprinklers save lives and reduce injuries, protect firefighters who attend incidents and reduce the level of damage to both property and the environment. Research has identified that sprinklers have been 100% effective in controlling and suppressing fires in converted and purpose built flats. We will therefore actively promote the installation of sprinkler systems in all appropriate new buildings and, where practical, retrofitting sprinklers in existing buildings.

Our FSIOs can enforce the fire safety standards under a piece of legislation called the [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005 \(FSO\)](#). They achieve this through a range of planned and reactive work. 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 proactively look at risks to identify and target premises or businesses which present the greatest risk to public safety. In 2019/20 this resulted in two successful prosecutions of the people responsible for a number of premises across Reading.

Following a fire in Bolton in November 2019, The Secretary of State for Education wrote to the vice-chancellors of universities across the country seeking assurances regarding fire safety in student accommodation. As a thriving town with a vibrant university community, Reading has a high concentration of premises used to accommodate students. We are working with the University of Reading's management to help them manage fire safety in their premises and others used to accommodate students.

Reading has a large number of residential high-rise buildings (buildings of six or more floors or over 18m in height). Since the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, we have prioritised the highest risk of these buildings for inspections to ensure fire safety is being effectively managed. In working with other teams, we will maintain our focus on these buildings in 2020/21 utilising a range of methods to reduce fire risk to occupants and firefighters.

The outcomes of our fire safety interventions, which include post-fire audits, responding to complaints and our risk-based inspection programme will continue to be monitored to identify trends in non-compliance in other types of buildings. Our fire safety work is impacted to varying degrees by COVID-19 control measures, but continues on a risk assessed basis.



We will improve fire safety standards in buildings by:

- Actively targeting at least 330 of the 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 complex licensed premises, premises providing accommodation above businesses and [houses in multiple occupation \(HMOs\)](#).
- Conducting post-fire building inspections and analysing fire risk data to identify any emerging trends which might influence our local strategy.
- Actively promoting the use of sprinklers as part of the overall fire safety solution in order to improve fire safety in both new and existing buildings.
- Quality assuring the delivery of our Protection work to ensure it meets the highest standards.
- 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 other agencies to identify premises that fall under fire safety legislation, such as the unitary authority or Care Quality Commission.
- Undertaking additional seasonal activity, such as at Christmas checking shops additional stock being stored/blocking fire exits.
- Working with the managers of student accommodation blocks to maximize fire safety measures whilst delivering fire safety education sessions to students to keep them safe in their accommodation.
- Monitoring any changes in Fire Safety legislation and ensuring our teams are able to adapt, providing any necessary training to ensure competencies remain and service delivery is not compromised.

Performance Targets for 2021/22*:

*Delivery of many of our local performance targets will be affected by the changes to our service as a result of COVID-19 control measures.



330

Delivery of risk-based fire safety audits across Reading



60%

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



Focus our inspections on non-compliant premises and increase formal enforcement action



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 our priority, we recognise that fires and other incidents, such as road traffic collisions, will still occur and require a swift and effective response.

Reading is served by four wholetime fire stations, supported where necessary by fire engines from other Berkshire and neighbouring County fire stations.

In 2020, we attended 1,578 emergency incidents in Reading. 21% of these were fires, 54% were [false alarms](#) and 3% were road traffic collisions with the remaining 22% including special services, such as water and animal rescues and assisting other agencies. We will continue to work to reduce the demand of the false alarm calls in order to improve the availability of our resources for important Prevention activity and emergency incidents. The focus will be on providing advice to businesses in the first instance, but we will become more engaged should there be further unwanted fire signals during the course of the year.

We continually monitor the number and types of incidents we respond to and in February 2020 we introduced a mid-range boat into our response fleet. This followed learning from wide-scale flooding events with the craft now providing a faster and more versatile response to water-related incidents.

Over the last five years we have experienced a steady increase in the number of calls we received to activated fire alarms which subsequently turn out to be false alarms. These calls are disruptive to occupants, businesses and tie up fire engines at incidents unnecessarily. We will continue to monitor these types of calls and where the numbers exceed pre-determined levels work with the responsible person to reduce them.

Across Berkshire, our target is to arrive at emergency incidents within 10 minutes of the initial call on 75% of occasions. The speed at which we respond and arrive at incidents is influenced by numerous factors including call handling time, how quickly our crews respond to an alert and the time it takes to travel to the incident. In 2020, our performance averaged 91% across Reading. There are, however, areas of Reading that suffer from vehicle congestion that present challenges to responding crews.

In relation to the more serious or wider-spread incidents such as flooding, we will continue work with the other emergency services, unitary authorities and other key organisations as part of the Berkshire Resilience Group (BRG) and Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum (TVLRF).

In line with COVID-19 control measures, we will continue to plan, prepare and train to ensure our teams can provide an effective response to all incidents and are able to work well with colleagues across all the emergency services and other organisations. Over the coming year we will enhance our assurance activity to

support learning and continually improve our response delivery.



We will improve our response to emergency incidents by:

- Continuing to respond quickly and effectively when called to emergency incidents across Reading.
- Effectively managing our resources to ensure we provide an operational response at all four Reading fire stations every day of the year.
- Undertaking targeted activity to reduce false alarm calls.
- Working with unitary authority colleagues and neighbourhood groups to reduce risk in some of Reading's more congested streets.
- Working with Protection colleagues to drive down the risk to firefighters posed by fires in high-rise residential buildings.
- Continuing our programme of joint exercising with other fire and rescue and other emergency services, in line with COVID-19 control measures.
- Strengthening our operational assurance processes and learning from incidents that have occurred locally and nationally.
- Maintaining effective liaison with Highways England and other emergency service partners to minimise the impact on response times during local M4 upgrade.
- Continuing to focus on the training, development and professionalism of our firefighters.

Performance Targets for 2020/21*

*Delivery of many of our local performance targets will be affected by the changes to our service as a result of COVID-19 control measures.



Maintaining availability of our frontline fire engines 365 days a year from all four Reading Fire Stations



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



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

10 minutes



Maintain a response standard that exceeds the Service's target of 75%



Community Engagement

We recognise the importance and value of knowing and being known within the communities we represent. Working closely with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Co-ordinator and in line with deliverables within the EDI Action Plan, our community fire stations will engage in a range of community events and will continue to reach out to community groups to improve our understanding of the needs of communities that we serve.

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 activities will be kept under review with regards to COVID-19 control measures; however, alternative methods to achieve our engagement objectives will be fully considered and applied where at all possible.

During the next 12 months we will strive to:

- Continue delivering Fire Cadets. Fire Cadets is a youth initiative run by staff at RBFRS, which is currently being delivered virtually, with educational support from the Service's Safety Education Team. 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, in line with COVID-19 control measures. The aim of these days is to engage with the community, raise public awareness and understanding of the Service's work, 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, in line with COVID-19 control measures, 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 blood donation sessions. To support the National Health Service Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service we host routine blood donation sessions at Caversham Road Fire Station. We plan to add value to these sessions by offering a range of safety guidance to blood donors.
- Engage in other community engagement activities. Finally, we will seek to explore opportunities to review our list of community contacts and ensure groups are identified that can be consulted with over key issues. Our teams will deliver national and local safety messages through targeted campaigns, events and activities.

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.

In line with COVID-19 control measures, we will strive to ensure that our activities are maintained as much as possible and postponed, adapted or replaced with an alternative whenever necessary.

Contact Us

Call RBFRS and ask for the West 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 such as houses and flats, 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 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.

