





Responding

Through the promotion and integration of our protection and prevention activities we stand the best chance of driving down risk in Hampshire. This will mean that when we do respond to incidents we will do this more effectively by targeting our resources to risk. We know the key is when we are needed - we are needed quickly, and as such, have set new challenging targets to respond more rapidly.

Our action plan for responding follows on the next few pages.

Responding

Reducing the Number of Emergency Incidents

What and why?

We aim to reduce the number of emergency incidents we attend as a Fire and Rescue Service. We want to focus our resources into preventing accidents and emergencies from happening in the first place.

How and when?

We will divert 2% of our current resources into prevention activities by 2008. This will be achieved by re-deploying firefighters from operational activities into Community Fire Safety work, without detriment to our emergency response.

Reducing the Number of False Alarms Generated by Automatic Fire Detection Systems

What and why?

We want to reduce the number of times we attend false alarms that are generated by Automatic Fire Detection Systems. These types of false alarms have a serious impact on the provision of a response to emergencies and the delivery of Community Fire Safety work.

How and when?

Working with "Protection", firefighters will deliver information and guidance to individual premises to reduce the burden of false alarms on the Fire Service. It is our intention to see a reduction in false alarms by April 2006 as a result of the new strategies.

Reducing Risk through Improved Resource Management

What and why?

We will continue to review the way in which we respond to incidents and the way in which we plan to reduce risk. Our aim is to use our resources in a far more flexible way than we could before. This will enable us to react to the ever-changing nature of risks that we have to prepare for.

How and when?

We have been trialling movement of resources between fire stations to address the changing nature of risk at night. The trials will provide us with valuable information that will enable us to review the future provision of emergency cover from these stations by the end of 2005. We will launch a trial in the Popley area in April 2005. This trial will place a fire appliance into a community centre that is in an area of identified risk, whilst allowing us to integrate our service into the community. This will enable us to provide community fire safety advice as well as improving our emergency response times during known periods of increased risk to the community from fires and road traffic accidents.

Responding

Saving Life Through the Co-Responders Scheme

We will continue to work with Hampshire Ambulance Service Trust, supporting them in responding to life-threatening emergencies. We know that by actively participating in the Co-Responders scheme we can save lives.

What and why?

We will continue to run the three Co-Responder Schemes that we initiated in 2004. We intend to develop further schemes at identified sites in Hampshire in 2005.

How and when?

Redeploying Response Resources into Prevention Activities

We aim to review the crewing arrangements for all of our specialist vehicles. We want to ensure that these essential resources are always available in the event of an emergency. However we want to ensure also that the way in which we crew them allows for greater flexibility in the use of personnel for the delivery of community safety.

What and why?

By April 2005 we will have identified the new crewing arrangements for our specialist vehicles. This will make a major contribution to the redeployment of 2% of staff into community safety by 2008.

How and when?

Creating a “Strategic Reserve”

As part of an ongoing review of all the resources we have available to respond to emergency incidents, we want to provide more opportunities for firefighters to promote better fire safety in the community.

What and why?

In 2005 we will create a “Strategic Reserve” to enable emergency response vehicles and crews to be deployed to community safety initiatives. These resources will be available to be recalled to emergency duties in the event of a large incident.

How and when?

Emergency Cover Review

We will complete a review of the emergency cover that we provide from five areas within Hampshire. This review will determine if the current location, number and duty systems that operate provide the appropriate level of cover in relation to the risks in those areas.

What and why?

How and when?

We will use statistical and geographical databases to review our emergency cover in the following areas:

South: Copnor, Cosham, Portchester, Havant, Waterlooville, Horndean. This review will be completed by September 2005.

North: Basingstoke, Hartley Wintney, Tadley, Odiham. This review will be completed by April 2006.

Central: Winchester. This review will be completed by September 2006.

North West: Andover, Stockbridge, Sutton Scotney, Whitchurch. This review will be completed by April 2007.

North East: Bordon, Liphook, Grayshot. This review will be completed by September 2007.

Collaborate Regionally and Nationally

What and why?

We will engage in full participation to provide regional response options. We will play a full and active role in the regional work streams to complete the National Framework agenda. We aim to be the centre of excellence for the provision of Urban Search and Rescue training and resources for the region.

How and when?

We will have completed a review of all our policies and procedures by April 2005 to ensure that we are fully compliant with the implications of the Civil Contingency Bill and the new Fire and Rescue Services Act. We will start to build the new facilities on our Headquarters site in 2005 to provide a location for regional training in the use of new equipment and procedures to provide regional and national resilience.

Transition to Regional Control

What and why?

We will maintain full business continuity in our Emergency Control Centre until the transition to the Regional Control Centre has been successfully completed. This is essential for the continued provision of emergency cover in Hampshire. We will provide support to all the staff affected by the Regional Control Centre Project, assisting them during the transition phase to retrain, where requested, for new employment opportunities.

How and when?

In 2005 we will continue to recruit personnel into our Emergency Control Centre when vacancies arise. By 2006 we will have developed alternative crewing arrangements to cover the vacancies that cannot be covered by recruiting new staff. We will continue to maintain and replace risk critical elements of the mobilising system.