

<b>Organisation</b>
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
<b>Representative</b>
Malcolm Styles (Area Manager) Paul Otway (Borough Manager)
<b>What role does your organisation play in improving community safety?</b>
<p>Arson reduction Working with young children Working with vulnerable groups Support LSP'S Joint partnership working Community safety officers School liaison officers Active member of CDRP, CIAG/JAG, Road Safety Forums Member on the SSPB SFRS is a partnership agency working with, and represented on groups such as CIAG/JAG and CDRP. The Service has fully supported, and attended the Community Safety days organised through the GIAG/JAG group with the aim of targeting identified risk areas. The provision of fire safety consultancy, free of charge, to Local Authority Building Control. Member of the Road Traffic Accident Reduction Working Group. The Service is committed to making the Borough a safer place to live, work, travel and to do business.</p>
<b>What successes have been achieved in 2008/09 by your organisation, either individually or in partnership with other organisations?</b>
<p>MOU with the Pension Service and Age Concern Getting all relative partners around the table to provide a clear understanding of each other's role. Beer mat and taxi card campaign Hot strikes and cold strikes St Nicholas scheme Rural Affairs scheme "Safe Drive Stay Alive" Involvement in Partnership Safety Events HFRC: Home Fire Risk Check Firewise: This scheme is aimed at young people who have displayed an unhealthy interest in fire, which has led, or could lead, to deliberate fire setting. This scheme has been running for many years with great success. Schools Firewatch Scheme Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) (3 x held at Reigate) Schools Education Programme: This is an ongoing programme of fire safety education for schoolchildren with classroom-based input in years 2, 5, and 8, supported by Schools liaison officers. In year 6 additional input comes in</p>

the form of the Junior Citizens scheme which is a two-week, multi-agency event.

#### Nursery Boxes

The Service operates the 'Home Fire Risk Check' (HFRC) initiative which involves operational crews visiting domestic premises and discussing home fire safety with the occupier, offering advice on prevention, detection and escape plans, for free, and where necessary will supply and fit free of charge, smoke alarms. 227 residential properties have benefited from such visits.

The station have also responded to local issues which have been addressed through a variety of station based initiatives and campaigns. Incidents of rural and farm fires have been reduced with crews visiting such properties and giving advice on arson prevention. Arson to commercial and industrial premises have also been reduced, with the help of visits by operational crews, who are able to provide relevant information, with a view to minimise the risk of such incidents.

Station initiatives have helped to drive down arson within the borough and have led to a significant reduction in the numbers of such incidents.

The figures below show areas of Fire Service activity and relate to the reporting year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. The comparisons are based on Service statistics compared with the previous years total.

The Service attended 344 calls to all fires, compared to 407 for 2007/08. This represents a reduction of approximately 15%.

Fires in non-domestic premises increased from 33 to 41.

Malicious false alarms attended decreased from 39 to 30. This represents a reduction of 23%.

False alarms from Automatic Fire Detection systems reduced to 247 from 379. This represents a reduction of approximately 35%, which reflects the position across the Service. Since the introduction of the AFD policy the Service has seen a significant reduction in the number of AFDs (approximately 40% reduction across the Service).

The number of accidental fires in dwellings increased from 61 to 65. This represents an increase of 6%.

Deliberate fires in vehicles were reduced from 34 to 32 incidents. This represents a decrease of 6%.

Deliberate fires have reduced from 156 to 106. This represents a decrease of 32%.

To summarise, the overall number of calls to fires attended has reduced along with AFDs, malicious false alarms and deliberate fires. There has

been an increase in the number of accidental dwelling fires and the number of fires in non-domestic premises.

In recent years the borough has seen a growth in domestic households by nearly 5%, with a projected increase of around a further 1.5% this year, with population growth in the Borough higher than the Surrey average.

Commercial premises also increased by nearly 1% from last year, with over 1250 retail outlets, 900 offices, 360 industrial and 320 warehouse units in the Borough. The service industry predominates, particularly retail, distribution, hotels and restaurants, businesses (such as finance and IT) and public (such as education, administration and health). There are four main town centre shopping areas and a further eighteen local shopping parades. There are nine industrial estates and seven small-business areas that contain a mix of all use classes.

Growth of this kind in both population and property will prove challenging for the Borough management team, in trying to meet current targets, we would therefore anticipate similar levels of activity, and will strive to improve, but at least maintain, current trends.

RTC motorway incidents increased by 3 in total, from 67 to 70. This is represented by a 4% increase.

RTC non-motorway incidents decreased by 15 in total, from 127 to 112. This is represented by a 12% decrease.

The Service's award-winning Safe Drive Stay Alive event continues to be an unqualified success. Aimed at young drivers and those who are about to begin learning to drive, the event is a staged production held at Dorking Halls and has so far reached some 28,000 school pupils, college students and young drivers in the county.

Using real-life victims of RTCs, the production carried a high satisfaction level - almost 100% of all attendees say they will be a safer driver as the result of attending the event.

The Service is now seeking to build on this success, expanding the SDSA format to bring variants to each individual borough, as well as re-recording and updating the production material used at the event.

**Have there been any barriers to improving Community Safety in Reigate and Banstead?**

**How can the Local Committee Members assist in overcoming these?**

R&B have one of the highest number of fire related incidents of any Borough thus making time available for Community Safety less than most areas.

Involving all partners around the Safety agenda

Involvement in LSP's

Difficulties are experienced when appliances and operational crews are in the borough carrying out CS education, and then redirected to incidents requiring the attendance of the fire service. This obviously reduces the efficiency in delivering this important and essential service.

**What are your organisation's aspirations for improving community safety over the next 2 years?**

Reducing fire related injuries  
 Reducing the number of fires  
 Increasing the success of the Arson Task force team  
 Reducing arson  
 Reducing unwanted calls  
 Reducing road traffic collisions  
 Greater involvement with partners, vulnerable groups, youths, children  
 Greater involvement at the different partnership meetings

As a Service we would like to see an increase with the installation of residential sprinklers, especially in developments such as the Horley Master Plan (HMP). The Service has strived to increase the use domestic sprinklers for some time, they are proven to reduce damage due to the effects from fire, and will improve community safety. The Service would like to see all affordable housing in the HMP provided with domestic sprinkler systems. The HMP will provide a major increase in the housing stock within the borough and this development could provide the safest housing in the country, with the additional benefits of limited damage thus offering very early re-occupation and reduced housing costs. This would also reduce the inevitable strain on the limited resources of the fire service due to the increase in numbers of dwellings.

The Service is committed to reducing the numbers of accidental domestic dwelling fires through the HFRC initiative. This involves operational crews visiting domestic properties, discussing the importance of home fire safety with the occupiers, and offering advice on prevention, detection and escape plans. Where necessary the crews will supply and fit, free of charge, normal domestic smoke alarms.

The Service will continue to work with our partner agencies, the police and SCC Traffic and Road Safety teams, participating in various campaigns, with the aim of reducing the numbers of road traffic collisions.