

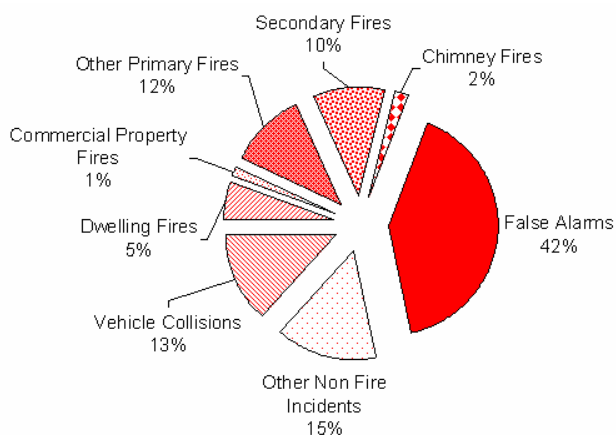


What does this mean for Tandridge District?

Surrey Fire and Rescue Services' Public Safety Plan includes proposals to change the way we deliver fire and rescue services on a countywide basis. The proposals are designed to balance resources across the County and further improve efficiencies within the Service.

We provide emergency response cover with up to 35 fire engines, which are supported by a range of other specialist resources of our own and neighbouring services. Four of these fire engines are currently based at Godstone, Lingfield and Oxted Fire Stations but they are not resources dedicated to the Borough. This means that these fire engines will respond to incidents outside Tandridge District but similarly we can use resources from across the County to deal with emergencies in the District effectively. An example of this would be the fire in Fairview Industrial Estate, Godstone in 2007, which saw more than 6 fire engines responding.

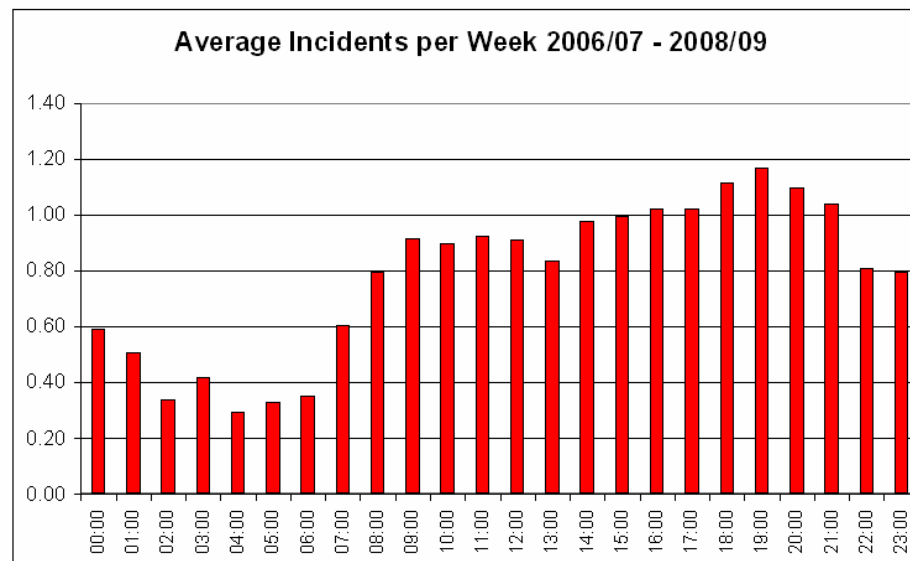
An average week in Tandridge District



If there was such a thing as an average week for Tandridge District in 2008/9, we would have fewer than 18 incidents, about seven of which would be false alarms. There would be about one fire in a dwelling, just over two in other property and about two non-property (secondary) fires, such as rubbish or grass alight. We would

need to deal with about two vehicle collisions and about 2½ other incidents (special services), which could be flooding or animals trapped, etc. The fire engines will also be used as required to standby at other

locations to maintain emergency response cover across the County as required.



In 2008/9 there were a total of 499 incidents during the day (7am to 7pm); during the evening and overnight (7pm to 7am) there were 397 incidents. The spread of incidents across the 24-hour period in Tandridge is similar to the Surrey trend and on average about 59% of incidents occurring during the day.

As we have stated in our response standard, we will send the quickest appropriate response to an emergency and for you that may not be a fire engine from a fire station in the District. That is current practice and it will not change under the proposals put forward for consultation.



What does this mean for Tandridge District?

If the proposals are implemented, there would be a change in the number of fire engines based in Tandridge. The proposals would see the fire engine based at Godstone Fire Station and crewed by wholetime¹ staff to provide an immediate response 24 hours a day remain unchanged. At Lingfield and Oxted Fire Stations it is proposed an on-call response fire engine will be available between 7pm and 7am, similar to the current retained duty² system arrangements in place. Between 7am and 7pm there would be no retained fire engines assigned to Lingfield or Oxted but an additional immediate response fire engine, undertaking community safety work across the District, based at Oxted. This will mean that the role of retained firefighters would change.

Tandridge is surrounded by many other fire service resources based at Epsom and Reigate fire stations from Surrey, plus those based in London, Kent, East and West Sussex. We have modelled³ the effect of these proposals and identified their potential impact on each of the boroughs and districts. It is predicted that the average response times for the first and second fire engines to arrive at an incident in Tandridge would improve if the proposals are implemented. These would be within the proposed response standard.

The benefits of the proposals would see a more efficient use of resources across the County as well as within Tandridge; these are outlined in more detail in the main Public Safety Plan. You would receive one fire engine attending incidents on average in about nine minutes, with five firefighters on board and in many cases that will be sufficient resources to deal with the emergency safely and effectively. For life and property risk incidents, additional resources will be on their way to provide the required support for the first crew attending. The first fire crew on scene will assess the scale of the incident and can request more resources should they be required.

¹ For an explanation of wholetime, see section 10 of the main plan

² For an explanation of retained duty, see section 10 of the main plan

³ For further information on emergency response modelling, see 9.38 of the plan

The proposed changes would release what could be characterised as under utilised staff resources from across the Service (mainly from the night shift) who will be used to undertake training and other essential work. They will also be able to improve community safety through our prevention and protection work whilst being capable of supporting emergency response to deal with unexpected increases in demand or pre-planned events.

There are currently no plans to consult on changing the location of fire stations in Tandridge. However, if a suitable site becomes available and there are clear benefits, then consultation on changing the location would be undertaken. This would include consideration of the impact on emergency response cover in the area.

Proposed changes to fire engine deployment across Surrey

