



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
(WOKING)**

**SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

**7 JULY 2010**

**KEY ISSUE**

This report outlines the major strands of activity being undertaken within Woking by the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) team based at Woking Fire Station.

**SUMMARY**

The report contains information on the various activities undertaken by the Borough Team to reduce the risk from fire and road traffic collisions to the residents of Woking, including direct contact, public education programmes and campaigns.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to recognise the achievements of the local team.**

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Woking continues to be a safe place to live, which is reflected in the following performance figures.
- 1.2 There were 134 primary fires in the year April 2009 - March 2010. This figure is slightly higher than 2008-9 figure, but lower than the previous year. There were 105 deliberate secondary fires in Woking, which although an increase on the previous year represents the spate conditions during the hot periods earlier in the year and the introduction of a new incident recording system which has seen a more accurate and in depth recording of incidents.
- 1.3 There have been 15 fires in non residential premises during the last year. Again this is an improvement on the previous year (down by 12%) and is a remarkably low figure overall given the commercial property in the Woking area.
- 1.4 The total number of accidental fires in dwellings for the year 2009 -10 is 52, a slight increase on the previous year's total. The Woking management team have worked hard over the year to keep this figure low with their targeted campaigns and other community works in identified areas.
- 1.5 Deliberate fires in vehicles were reduced from 29 to 19 incidents. This represents a decrease of 34%.
- 1.6 Hoax calls are continuing their downward trend with 13 calls this year against the 25 calls received last year.
- 1.7 False alarms from Automatic Fire Detection systems remains low with 148 recorded last year. This represents one of the best performances in the county and a reduction of 20% on the previous year.

## 2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 **Road Traffic Casualties** - Following additional funding from all eleven Boroughs in the last financial year the Service's award-winning Safe Drive Stay Alive (SDSA) event continues to be an unqualified success. The additional funding was used to update the film which accompanies the event. In addition these films have been tailored to meet the needs of specific groups including the armed services, university undergraduates and corporate business. There is also now a follow up film aimed at presentation six months after the original showing. Personnel from Woking fire station have also initiated the 'Lifecut' events at the station – these days reflect the SDSA and FF4AD (Fire fighter for a day) methodologies and continue to improve road safety and vehicle awareness amongst young people.

- 2.2 **Schools' education programme** This is an ongoing programme of fire safety education for school children, with classroom-based input in years 2, 5, and 8. This is backed up by the education carried out by station personnel both at local schools and at the fire station. These visits occur two or three times a week as a rule.
- 2.3 **Wildfire** - Comprehensive fire plans have been produced for all commons in the borough and are available to operational crews via the mobile data platform carried on all front line appliances. I am pleased to report that, following a difficult period, the new off road fire-fighting vehicles (Unimogs) are now in the Service. Training will be commencing shortly for the personnel at Woking fire station. This represents a significant step forward in making Woking safer from the effects of wildfire. The improved equipment, tactics and training will see less disruption, damage to the environment and a quicker recovery to normality for all.
- 2.4 **Calls to Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA)** - Following on from the introduction of Call Challenge system introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 for dealing with AFA's at commercial premises calls to this type of incident continue to decline. When operational crews do attend such incidents they will discuss with the owners/occupiers methods for reducing such calls in the future. All such incidents are monitored and persistent activations at any particular premise are dealt with in an escalating process culminating if necessary in enforcement action.
- 2.5 **Community Safety Works** - Woking continues to be proactive in delivering its community safety messages. In my view some of its works lead the way for Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in improving Community Safety. Successes last year have included targeted Home Fire Risk Check campaigns, Lifecut, FF4AD and good partnership working across many different aspects of our work.
- 2.6 **Youth Engagement Scheme** - There have now been four highly successful schemes run in the West Area, which includes Woking. In the three courses last year a total of 12 young people were referred to the scheme, 7 started the course and only 1 graduated. Whilst the number being referred has been good for some courses, it was inconsistent last year and there remained some issues around the suitability of the candidates. The number graduating is also a concern, although it is an accepted hazard with this type of intense input. However the effect on the young people though that finish the course is positive. The one young person that did graduate has gone from being a non attendee at school to doing well on a public services course at Brooklands College.
- 2.7 **Firefighter for a Day** – Woking run numerous FF4AD events last year. The scheme is carefully targeted and reflects the lessons taught in the Youth Engagement Scheme.

### **3 CONSULTATIONS**

- 3.1 The Service has consulted – where possible face to face and where not electronically - with Members and partners to ensure the community safety initiatives in Woking continue to target priority areas and contribute to our aim of making Surrey safer. Whilst we deliver the borough plan each year we would like to see as much input as possible from partners to maximise its success.

### **4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Currently planned initiatives will be met from within existing budgets of Surrey Fire and Rescue. These initiatives have been enhanced however with the purchase of an ‘events toolkit’, funded by a member from another borough and we now present a more professional image and deliver a much more powerful message at the events that we attend. I would like to enhance our education abilities even further with the purchase of road traffic collision education equipment (for example a reactions tester) for use by our personnel and other equipment and would therefore like to be able to approach members in the coming months to assist with this.

### **5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All initiatives, campaigns and operational procedures will be subject of an Equality Impact Assessment. There are no equality implications directly related to this report

### **6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 SFRS is an active member of the Safer Woking Partnership and contributes to a range of initiatives and campaigns within Woking intended to achieve a reduction in crime and disorder particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime.

### **7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Woking Borough Plan for 2010/11 will deliver community risk reduction, partnership working and LAA priorities within the Woking area.

### **8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members to be aware of past performance and support the planned initiatives in Woking over the coming year.

## 9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Members asked to support borough plan for 2010-11 (available from [http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE\\_RTF/Woking+borough+team?opendocument](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/sccwebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Woking+borough+team?opendocument))
- 9.2 Members asked to recognise good performance by Woking personnel in 2009-10.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	Woking Borough Plan 2010/11

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