



MISSION

To provide a professional and well supported Fire and Rescue Service which reduces community risk in order to save lives, relieve suffering, protect property and the environment

*Surrey Fire and Rescue
Epsom & Ewell Borough
Local Committee Report*

April 2012 – March 2013

Completed by

Station Manager Kevin Noble

Community Impact Officer East Area

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2. KEY ISSUE

This report provides an overview of the community risk reduction work undertaken by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) team's based at Epsom Fire Station for the period 2012-13.

3. SUMMARY

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's main aim is to make Surrey safer. Working with others, we want to make Surrey a safer place to live, work, travel and do business. Our vision is to continue to deliver a high performing, low cost and valued organisation that contributes to making Surrey and the Borough of Epsom and Ewell a safer place.

This report contains information on the Community Fire Prevention, Protection and Response activities undertaken by the Borough team to reduce the risk from fire, road traffic collisions and other incidents to the communities of Epsom & Ewell Borough.

The downward trend in incidents continues. Last year Surrey Fire and Rescue Service responded to 10,000 calls compared to 16,500 ten years ago. This is in part due to the Services proactive work including education programmes that station based personnel and specialist teams deliver into the community. Working directly with local groups to deliver home fire safety messages and in particular people who are deemed to be of a higher risk continues to be our main focus. Finally we continue to work with the business community to deliver effective regulation working in partnership and our colleagues in the Building Control and Licencing teams to achieve safer premises for their employees and the public.

4. OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

Note the targets and performance delivered across the Borough for 2012/13.

Recognise the achievements of the Fire Service teams and to continue to support their commitment in delivering community risk reduction initiatives to make the Borough a safer place to live and work.

5. EPSOM & EWELL STATISTICS 2012-13

Key;	Within Service/Borough Target	
	Close to Service/Borough Target	
	Above Service/Borough Target - Action Required	
Key Performance Indicators for 2012/13	2012/2013	2011/2012
Percentage of Fires attended in dwellings with no smoke detection fitted	Service Target < 38% 17%	Service Target < 38% 44%
No of fatalities due to primary fires	Service Target 7 0	Service Target 7 1
No of injuries arising from accidental dwelling fires	Borough Target 2 5	Borough Target 2 5
No of false alarms caused by AFA's (automatic fire alarms)	Borough Target 149 179	Borough Target 149 182
No of calls to malicious false alarms attended	Borough Target 10 14	Borough Target 10 15
No of deliberate Primary & Secondary Fires (excluding vehicles)	Borough Target 74 33	Borough Target 74 67
No of deliberate & Secondary vehicle fires	Borough Target 15 6	Borough Target 15 5
No of calls to fires attended - primary	Borough Target 96 75	Borough Target 96 92
No of calls to fires attended - Accidental fires in dwellings	Borough Target 37 41	Borough Target 37 50
Percentage of accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin	Borough Target >91% 90%	Borough Target >91% 92%
No of fires in non domestic premises	Borough Target 21 11	Borough Target 21 17
No of HFSVs (Home Fire Safety Visits) Visits to Risk Households Total Visits	Service Target % at Risk >60% 178(82%) 217	Service Target % at Risk >60% N/A N/A

6. REPORTING AGAINST TARGETS NOT ACHIEVED

6.1 Injuries arising from accidental fires

There have been 10 people who were taken to hospital and admitted for treatment because of the nature of their injuries following a fire. These were primarily of a minor nature and the effects of smoke inhalation.

We continue to educate people on what to do in the event of a fire. This includes our "Get out, stay out, call the Fire Brigade out" message where we urge the public to make an escape before calling the Fire Service. We are supporting this by discussing safe bedtime routines and the dangers posed from breathing in even small amounts of smoke and other harmful products of combustion. Where people are classed as "vulnerable" and at an increased risk from fire our "Our Keeping you Safe from Fire" protocol, working with Adult Social Care can provide additional measures such as, flame retardant bedding or cooker guards to support people in their own homes.

6.2 Number of false alarms caused by AFA'S (automatic false alarm)

Epsom General Hospital continues to register a higher than expected level of false alarm actuations. The station management team continues to work closely with the Community Fire Protection Team and hospital management team to reduce the number of calls that require a fire service attendance. This includes;

- Continuing to educate businesses on Surrey Fire and Rescue Services Automatic Fire Detection Call Challenge policy,
- Ensuring that businesses have the correct procedures in place so that they do not call the Fire Service,
- Educating businesses to consider upgrading to more modern, "intelligent" fire detection systems to reduce false signals and actuations, and
- Taking appropriate and proportionate enforcement action under the Fire Safety Order 2005.

6.3 Number of Malicious False Alarms attended.

The level of malicious calls is at a low level across the Borough and is comparable with other Borough and Districts in Surrey. No repeat offenders or patterns have been identified within the Borough. The Community Impact (CI) team continues to monitor activity levels and will report any findings to the JAG or CIAG meetings, as appropriate and will continue to work closely with Surrey Police and partners to ensure that malicious calls do not become a problem within the Borough.

6.4 Number of calls to fires attended – primary

The definition of what constitutes a fire for the purposes of reporting to Communities and Local Government has changed during this reporting period. It is now used to describe events ranging from a smouldering light fitting to a house fire where there is a total loss. This coupled with the fact that our Incident Commanders are now better trained and equipped to investigate fires and determine their causes has resulted in improvements in the accuracy of reporting that may have also led to an increase in numbers. The information obtained from fire investigations will be used to inform our community fire prevention initiatives going forward, for example,

- Cooking and people being distracted while cooking, and
- Electrical fires, specifically from overloaded sockets

6.5 Number of calls to fires attended-accidental fires in dwellings.

Across the UK the Fire Service only attends 30% of all fires that occur due in part to a lack of reporting by the public. Although this year has seen an increase in the number of calls to accidental fires there is no evidence to suggest that there has been an increase in the severity of fires in these dwellings.

There is, however, evidence to show that there has been an increase in the number of fires in dwellings which have been confined to the room of origin. In part this will be due to people following a bed time routine where they close the doors onto their means of escape (corridors and staircases) and also because of the improvements in fire detection equipment. All of these are central themes in our community fire prevention messages and will continue to be so. Our Home Fire safety campaigns stress the importance of fire plans and the correct choice, positioning and type of smoke detector.

7. COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

Since 2006-07 there has also been a corresponding reduction in fires in commercial premises. Our Community Fire Protection team continues to educate business managers and leaders on fire safety legislation. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have adopted an intelligence led, risk based approach to regulating the Fire Safety Order 2005.

This now includes;

- Analysis of trends to target “at risk” premises where risk to life from fire is greatest,
- Working with partner agencies to generate intelligence led campaigns to deliver proportionate and effective regulation of fire safety
- Promoting the business benefits of sprinklers
- Providing advice to businesses on business continuity to promote recovery following a fire.

For this reporting period 318 fire safety audits were completed. Our Fire Safety teams continue to work in close partnership with the Borough teams and Surrey Police to undertake joint inspections of licenced premises.

Table 1 East Command Community Fire Protection performance for 2012-13	
Prosecutions	0
Prohibition Notice - Formal	3
Enforcement Notice - Formal	7
Deficiencies Notice - Informal	149
Licensing Consultations	144
Building Regulation Consultations	798

8. COMMUNITY FIRE PREVENTION

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service have adopted an intelligence led approach using MOSAIC datasets to target areas where people are at higher risk and are sharing information with partners (Adult Social Care and Borough teams). The Borough teams have exceeded their target delivering 82% of Home Fire Safety Visits to “at risk groups” compared to a Service target of 60%. At risk groups can be defined as;

- Adults over the age of 65 (Worse at 75)
- Individuals who live alone
- Individuals with Mental Health illnesses, including Dementia & Memory Loss
- Individuals with disability and mobility difficulties
- Individuals who are either Alcohol or Drug dependant
- Individuals who smoke (The above will be compounded if coupled with smoking)

People in these groups continue to receive enhanced fire safety advice because of their vulnerability. This can comprise additional fire safety measures such as;

- Telecare systems,
- 24 hour care,
- Flame retardant sprays for furniture, or
- Portable domestic misting/sprinklers

We continue to work closely with partners to support individual care packages in order to support people to live safely in their community for longer.

9. SAFEGUARDING REFERRALS

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service support's the work of the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board. As a signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding the Service has officers who are trained to provide an enhanced level of support to vulnerable adults either by providing specific advice or referral via the Multi-Agency protocol. Fire Service staff work with Social Services to ensure that the care plan considers how to keep the vulnerable person safe from fire. For this period 27 referrals were made

10. VOLUNTEERS SERVICE

Our Volunteers assist firefighters to deliver Community Fire Prevention and education programmes. Volunteers have worked with firefighters to deliver fire safety information to the public at a variety of events including Station Open Days. Volunteers also support exercises to test our operational readiness where they have acted in the role of casualties. There are currently over 100 volunteers and as a result we have managed to reach more households and importantly, more vulnerable people.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a volunteer for the service please can you provide this link for them which gives you all the information you need to know about being a [Surrey Fire Volunteer](http://www.surreyfirevolunteer.org). (www.surreyfirevolunteer.org)

11. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

11.1 Education

The Services education team currently attends Special Educational Needs schools to deliver fire safety advice.

11.2 Firewise Scheme

The Service has a successful referral scheme aimed at young people, who have shown an interest in fire setting with the sole aim of preventing further offending. Across Epsom and Ewell there were 4 referrals, all of which had a positive effect on the young person's behaviour in relation to playing with fire.

11.3 Youth Engagement Scheme

The Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) is an innovative scheme run by the Service with support from partners such as the Youth Support Service and Brooklands College. (Public service tutors) The aim of the scheme is to divert young people from anti-social behavior and youth crime before they enter the criminal justice system. During this period 5 young persons were referred with 2 young persons starting the course both of whom successfully graduated from the course.

11.4 Safe Drive Stay Alive

The Services main aim has always been to reduce the numbers of injuries and deaths of young people aged 16-25. This is achieved through various activities but mainly the annual Safe Drive Stay Alive event held in Dorking Halls each November. Last year 736 students from schools across the Borough attended the event.

12. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Members are asked to support the Services ongoing community risk reduction work for the period 2013/2014.

LEAD OFFICER: Eddie Roberts, Area Commander

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01737 242444

E-MAIL: Eddie.roberts@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: Kevin Noble Station Manager – Community Impact – East

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 01737 242444

E-MAIL: Kevin.noble@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Epsom & Ewell Borough Plan 2012/2013
SFRS Public Safety Plan.

Web: www.surrey-fire.gov.uk

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