

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2005/06

DRIVING DOWN RISK
MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER



Index

Foreword by the Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority	2
Executive Summary	2
Introduction	3
Our Proposals	4
1. Provision of Cover Along the East/West Sussex Border	5
2. Review Speed & Weight of Attendance	5
3. Proposals for Aerial Appliances	6
4. Night Time & Bank Holiday Activities	10
5. Wholetime Firefighter Shift Patterns	11
6. Flexible Duty Arrangements at Battle	11
7. Evaluate the Effectiveness of Community Fire Safety	12
8. Evaluate the Effectiveness of Partnership Working	12
9. Evaluate the Workload to be Imposed by Government Directives	13
Community Safety Strategy	14
Timescales	15
Action Plan 2006/07	15
What Happens Next?	16
Summary of Last Year's Changes	17
Glossary of Terms	19
Questionnaire	20

Foreword by the Chairman of East Sussex Fire Authority

This is the Fire Authority's second Integrated Risk Management (IRM) Plan and follows on from the implementation programme we made last year.

The introduction of Integrated Risk Management is part of the ODPM's long-term agenda to modernise the Fire & Rescue Service and to improve standards of service delivery at local level.

Policy changes that were implemented in East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service in April 2004 were the first stages of an IRM process which allows us to deploy our resources more efficiently and effectively.

We do, however, still have a long way to go and our intention this year is to set in motion several streams of work designed to evaluate how we deliver our service and also to review our internal systems of work. Modernisation of these processes will enable us to realise long-term benefits in terms of efficiency and service provision.

During recent years we have concentrated on developing and improving our links with other partners and stakeholders and we hope to build on these links further, particularly within the context of the Regional Management Board, so that we may continue to contribute to and benefit from a combined community safety agenda.

Executive Summary

We are committed to meeting our obligations with regard to the new Regional Management Board established on 1st April 2004, whilst looking forward to realising the benefits that will arise from Regional cooperation between the 9 Fire & Rescue Authorities in the South East. This consultation document outlines proposals to change the way that East Sussex Fire Authority delivers its services.

It is important to us that you consider our proposals for change, and to give us feedback. We will consider all responses received and your views will help to inform the Fire Authority in determining their implementation plan, which will commence in April 2005.

You have until 24th December 2004 to give us your views. Details of how to respond are on page 20.

Should you require further information, an appendix containing full technical analysis of risk in our community, historical incident data and action plans for each Fire Station area is available on request or can be viewed on our website 'www.esfrs.org'.

Introduction

On 2nd April 2003 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issued Fire Service Circular 7/2003, which provided guidance to Fire Authorities in Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP).

Integrated Risk Management allowed the removal of the prescriptive Standards of Fire Cover, which were based on generic principles linked to speed and weight of response to fires in buildings.

These were initially prescribed in the 1930s and are no longer relevant to the more complex and dynamic requirements of our local communities. IRM also allows a more holistic view to be taken of community safety, including the effectiveness of preventative measures. The use of IRM allows Fire & Rescue Authorities to make more effective and cost efficient use of existing resources to meet local demands.

The main reason that we are proposing to introduce these changes is so that we can provide a more proactive service for all our local communities focused on preventative safety initiatives.

These initiatives are crucial in driving down risk and making our communities safer as they are a critical element in preventing people from needing our emergency attendance.

Our aim is to help people avoid getting into a situation where they need our emergency response.

The proposals below should allow East Sussex Fire Authority to provide a better service to the people of East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, without unnecessary or unjustifiable increases in the amount of money that we collect from you via your local Council Tax.

Note that the proposals, and the underpinning reasons and evidence for them, are presented here in summary form. This is designed to make the plan more accessible, and maximise the public consultation element of the process. A further document is available, which we refer to as The Technical Appendix. This appendix contains detailed evidence and statistics to support our proposals. Should you wish to obtain a copy, we urge you to download it from our website at www.esfrs.org – alternatively, you may write to us at Fire & Rescue Service HQ. All contact details appear on page 20 of this plan.

East Sussex Fire Authority has also published a Strategic Plan, outlining their vision for implementation of IRM over the 2004-06 period. Copies are available on request – see page 20 for contact details.

Our Proposals

The following list summarises our proposals to change the way in which we currently operate and may impact on the way in which we provide our services to you. Further, more detailed explanations are provided after this summary.

1. Investigate provision of fire and other emergency cover along the East/West border with particular focus in the Hove / Shoreham area. (See Page 5)
2. Review the existing speed of attendance to all operational incidents and the number of people we send. (See Page 5)
3. Re-evaluate the number and usage of aerial appliances, particularly in the Brighton & Hove area. (See Page 6)
4. Implement changes to the night time and Bank Holiday activities of our operational crews. (See Page 10)
5. Review the current wholtime firefighter shift patterns. (See Page 11)
6. Consider implementing a flexible duty arrangement at Battle. (See Page 11)
7. Evaluate the effectiveness of our previous community fire safety activities and look to develop improvements based on lessons learnt locally and nationally. (See Page 12)
8. Evaluate the effectiveness of our existing partnership working and seek to improve based on lessons learnt locally and nationally. (See Page 12)
9. Evaluate the workload likely to be imposed by new Government directives, advice, initiatives and legislation and adjust working practices accordingly. (See Page 13)

We would like you to carefully consider our proposals and let us know whether you feel that each proposal is likely to bring about benefits in the efficiency, effectiveness and value of our service to local communities. We would like you to bear in mind the financial implications of each proposal, as we have a specific obligation to achieve Best Value for council taxpayers. We want to introduce service changes with due regard to costs and as your elected representatives, we believe this is what you would want us to do.

1. Investigate provision of fire and rescue emergency response along the East/West Sussex border, particularly in the Hove / Shoreham area

The existing emergency cover arrangements in the City of Brighton & Hove are arranged to provide cover from the western boundary of the City eastwards towards the whole of the City and beyond into East Sussex at Saltdean. A visitor who was unfamiliar with the area would find it difficult to see the boundary between Brighton & Hove and West Sussex. From an operational perspective, there may be merit in treating the conurbation that extends from the River Adur to Saltdean as a single area, for the purposes of providing fire and rescue emergency response.

West Sussex Fire Authority will be undertaking a similar Integrated Risk Management process to East Sussex – therefore we propose investigating the merits of a partnership approach, whereby fire & rescue emergency provision is extended beyond the City area, up to the boundary with the River Adur.

It should be noted that very effective ‘mutual aid’ arrangements already exist between East and West Sussex Fire Authorities*. There is no implication that the current arrangements are not working effectively, however there is now an opportunity to improve service delivery by working together in a different manner. These partnership opportunities may lead to some sharing of running costs between the two Services which would be subject to negotiation at the appropriate time. An estimate of resultant financial benefits is therefore not possible at this stage.

* The technical appendix contains details of the current arrangements.

2. Review the existing speed of attendance to all operational incidents and the number of people we send

All Fire Authorities have, until recently, been constrained by central government guidance with regard to the speed at which the initial emergency crews arrived at a fire and also the numbers of firefighters that should be sent. Changes to guidance and legislation now permits Fire & Rescue Authorities to determine their own standards.

We propose to review each category of emergency call that we attend (not just fires). For each category, we intend to determine the appropriate level of resources to send (crews, vehicles and equipment), as well as the attendance time in which they should aim to arrive. These two components are commonly known as ‘speed and weight of attack’. Clearly, any such change has the potential to either increase or decrease the risk to members of the public, as well as firefighters. Therefore, we intend to change the current arrangements only where there is clear evidence that this will result in a more effective and holistic approach to community safety with no significant increase in risk for our staff. A primary source of this evidence will be the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) software provided by the ODPM earlier this year. FSEC data is currently being refined and checked for accuracy before robust evidence can be obtained from it.

3. Proposals for Aerial Appliances

As a result of last year's IRM plan the following policy change was adopted relating to aerial appliances:

Between 0600hrs and 2100hrs aerial appliances will not be sent as part of the pre-determined attendance (PDA) to buildings but will be sent if requested from the incident ground – they may also be mobilised at the discretion of M&CC staff on receipt of relevant information from the caller. All aerial appliance crews will therefore be able to engage in community safety duties during the dayshift and the early part of the nightshift.

During the nightshift, from 2100hrs until 0600hrs the aerial appliances at Hastings, Eastbourne and Brighton (Preston Circus) will automatically attend incidents that currently attract an aerial appliance as part of the PDA with the Brighton (Preston Circus) appliance covering the whole city area of Brighton & Hove.

This policy will be subject to review following individual risk assessments and if a particular building is found to require an aerial on every attendance, whatever the time of day, then the PDA will be amended accordingly.

This policy change enabled the dedicated aerial appliance crews at Hove to be re-deployed to other duties including community safety activities. The vehicle at Hove is still available if specifically required by recalling the crew from their community safety duties. This is referred to as 'remote crewing'.

Further options to consider

Having examined how our neighbouring Fire & Rescue Services deploy their aerial appliances, it is considered that there are still options available in relation to the usage of aerial appliances within East Sussex and particularly the City of Brighton & Hove. Those options are as follows:

At a meeting of the Way Forward Working Group and The Urgency Panel on Thursday 26th August 2004 it was agreed that option A should be recommended to the Fire Authority for adoption as the basis for public consultation.

Option A Permanently remove the current dedicated aerial appliance crews to community safety activities at all stations in East Sussex. If an aerial appliance is required, the pumping appliance crew is used (resulting in that pumping appliance being unavailable).

Implications This option retains all 4 aerial appliances where they are (at Hove, Preston Circus, Eastbourne and Hastings) but removes all crew members from the appliances. Those 48 posts could either be removed (resulting in a budgetary saving of approx. £1,200,000) or redeployed to full-time community safety activities (or a combination of both). Adopting this option will cause significant operational difficulties including maintaining fire cover in Eastbourne, Hastings and the City area.

(N.B. the 12 posts at Hove have already been re-deployed to community safety duties, therefore if the posts were all re-deployed, the gain would be 36 posts only. The quoted financial gain relates to the removal of all 48 posts from establishment.)

Option B Adopt a completely new system of mobilising aerial appliances to incidents in the City as follows:

If an incident within Brighton's station ground requires an aerial appliance, two pumping appliances will be mobilised from Brighton (Preston Circus) and the aerial appliance will be sent from Hove using the crew from their second pumping appliance (resulting in that pumping appliance being unavailable).

In the same way, if an incident within Hove's station ground requires an aerial appliance, two pumping appliances will be mobilised from Hove and the aerial appliance will be sent from Brighton (Preston Circus) using the crew from their second pumping appliance (resulting in that pumping appliance being unavailable).

This manner of mobilising will allow the removal of the dedicated crews from the aerial appliances at both Hove and Brighton (Preston Circus).

Implications This option retains the aerial appliances at Hove and Brighton (Preston Circus) but releases 24 posts, which could either be removed (resulting in a budgetary saving of approx. £600,000) or redeployed to full-time community safety activities (or a combination of both). This mobilising method means that when an aerial appliance is mobilised from either Hove or Brighton (Preston Circus) they would then only have one crew available to crew their pumping appliance should another incident occur simultaneously. This option would impact upon operational responses within the City area with extended response times.

Option C Permanently remove the aerial appliance from Hove.

Implications This option would remove the actual vehicle from Hove either for use as a spare, or for disposal. The crew would be removed from Hove's operational establishment and those 12 posts could either be removed (resulting in a budgetary saving of approx. £300,000) or redeployed to full-time community safety activities (or a combination of both). If this option is to be considered, it is recommended that the vehicle is maintained as a spare appliance. The majority of premises at which an aerial appliance may be required are to be found within the Preston Circus area. Implementation of this option is likely to result in extended response times. This will leave one aerial appliance in the City with no second aerial as a 'remotely crewed' back up.

Option D Permanently remove the aerial appliance and crew from Brighton (Preston Circus) and re-instate the appliance and crew at Hove as primary cover for the City.

Implications This option would remove the **actual vehicle** from Brighton (Preston Circus) either for use as a spare, or for disposal. The crew would be removed from Brighton's operational establishment and those 12 posts could either be removed (resulting in a budgetary saving of approx. £300,000) or redeployed to full-time community safety activities (or a combination of both). If this option is to be considered, it is recommended that the vehicle is maintained as a spare appliance. This will leave one aerial appliance in the City with no second aerial as a 'remotely crewed' back up.

Option E Retain the current mobilising policy but remove the aerial appliance **crew** from Brighton (Preston Circus) and re-deploy them to community safety duties instead of the crew from Hove. This would mean reinstating the appliance and crew at Hove to cover the City and further afield as required.

Implications This option swaps the current arrangements at Hove and Brighton (Preston Circus) and may result in some small financial gain in that the appliance at Hove is considerably newer and less costly to maintain. The appliance at Brighton (Preston Circus) would still be available as required via the 'remote crewing' system.

Option F Return to the previous arrangements of sending an aerial appliance automatically to all high-rise buildings where there is a report of a fire or where an AFD system has activated (from all stations).

Implications This option would reverse policy changes made last year, reduce our capacity to conduct community safety activities and minimise other operational benefits.

Option G Leave the current arrangements in place as described on page 6.

Implications This option has no further implications.

4. Implement changes to the night time & Bank Holiday activities of operational crews

Recent arrangements were that firefighters at wholetime shift stations are not required to perform any duties, other than responding to emergency calls and maintaining operational readiness, all day on Bank Holidays and between midnight and 0700hrs on other working days. (This is also true of Day Crewed stations on Bank Holidays.) However, following an agreement reached between the National Employers and the Fire Brigades Union, the following position now stands with regard to working on Bank Holidays:

(A) Where the shift duty system at Section 4 Part A paragraph 7 continues to operate, employees on that system should be allowed to take rest periods every night between midnight and 0700hrs, other than on those occasions where they are required to respond to emergency calls, perform work arising from emergency calls or perform other essential activities that:

- (1) arise from the Integrated Risk Management Plan
- (2) are within the employee's role and responsibilities
- (3) are appropriate during these hours

These arrangements shall be the subject of consultation between the Fire & Rescue Authority and recognised trade unions.

(B) It is recognised that because of the distinctive circumstances that apply throughout local communities on public holidays, with many businesses and services for example not working normally, the demands on the Fire & Rescue Service and the consequent mix of appropriate duties will be different to those on normal working days. Taking that into account, between 0700hrs and midnight on public holidays staff will be expected to undertake a full range of duties that arise from the Integrated Risk Management Plan, that are within the employee's role and responsibilities and accord with the above parameters.

These arrangements shall be the subject of consultation between the Fire & Rescue Authority and recognised trade unions.

Working on public holidays will continue to be rewarded with double time payment and time off in lieu as defined in Section 4 Part C paras 18-20.

The Fire Authority now wishes to consider the overall working arrangements of firefighters whilst on duty on Bank Holidays. These opportunities should allow greater scope for crews to engage in preventative community safety initiatives (e.g. home safety visits).

If crews are to maximise the opportunity to directly engage with members of the public, there will be a need to rearrange their duties so that activities such as some forms of training, equipment maintenance and general administration take place at other times on Bank Holidays.

We are not planning to change the actual hours worked, only the duties performed in those hours. There are no financial benefits to be realised from this proposal.

5. Review the current wholetime firefighter shift patterns

There are currently six fire stations that operate a 24/7 shift duty system (i.e. 4 shifts provide constant crewing immediately available to respond to an emergency). These are the stations at Hove, Brighton (Preston Circus), Roedean, Eastbourne, Hastings (The Ridge) and Hastings (Bohemia Road).

We propose to investigate whether the existing system is the most appropriate. Alternative proposals will maintain the current levels of availability of crews but may reorganise how individual firefighters, or groups of firefighters, provide their 42 hours per week (this could include part-time working).

The current system means that an individual firefighter works 2 day shifts, followed by 2 night shifts, followed by 4 rest days. There may be other systems that are more 'family friendly' and / or more efficient with regard to training, personal development etc.

We are not planning to change the actual hours worked, only the duties performed in those hours. There are no financial benefits to be realised from this proposal.

6. Consider implementing a more flexible operational duty arrangement at Battle

Battle Fire Station operates a unique (to East Sussex) duty system. Current arrangements at Battle provide two main firefighting vehicles. One is crewed by a nucleus of 9 staff (typically 5 on duty), who are available on station between 0900hrs and 1700hrs. Outside of these hours, they respond by being summoned on a pager when an emergency call is received. The other vehicle is operated 24 hours a day by retained firefighters who are only summoned via a pager when an emergency call is received – the rest of the time they carry out their primary employment or other main commitments.

It is considered that this arrangement may not be offering an effective service to the public. In particular, it is felt that the opportunity to provide community safety activities can be improved by changing the 'on-station' hours, for example to run from 1100hrs to 1900hrs on specific occasions. This will allow firefighters to offer advice at events such as carnivals and fetes etc. especially when they fall on weekends.

Staff being on duty until the early evening will also result in less occasions when they need to be called out via the paging system and although this would be negligible in terms of financial gain it would be beneficial in terms of attendance times and service provision.

7. Evaluate the effectiveness of our previous community fire safety activities and look to develop improvements based on lessons learnt locally and nationally

East Sussex Fire Authority has always actively engaged in a wide range of community safety activities.

These activities range from engaging with youth groups and schools in order to educate children about the perils of inappropriate use of fire, to more recent initiatives such as home fire safety visits (including the fitting of free smoke detectors if required).

We propose a formal examination of the success of each of these programmes, with a view to enhancing and developing the more successful initiatives and revitalising those that may be losing momentum.

We will take the opportunity during these reviews to explore whether we can be more effective and/or productive by working in partnership with others. There is now a wealth of experience, both within the South-East Region and nationally – we will aim to take on board the most successful initiatives and methods from elsewhere.

Did you know?

We currently work in partnership with ‘home help’ staff in Brighton & Hove. We train key staff on how to perform a fire risk assessment for their ‘at risk’ clients and offer support and practical advice if requested.

8. Evaluate the effectiveness of our existing partnership working and seek to improve based on lessons learnt locally and nationally

We currently have formal partnership arrangements with a wide variety of organisations, including Local Authorities and Voluntary Agencies.

We have developed strong links with Crime & Disorder Local Partnerships, primarily to assist in reducing arson and also to contribute to the wider ‘Safer Communities’ aims.

We intend to review our existing arrangements to see whether they are helping to deliver our Strategic Aims. We also intend to review whether there are other partnership opportunities that we are not currently involved with, but should be.

9. Evaluate the workload likely to be imposed by new Government directives, advice, initiatives and legislation and adjust working practices accordingly

There are significant implications for all Fire & Rescue Authorities arising from a wide range of recent and forthcoming initiatives from central government. Some of the more significant items include:

- The implementation of new duties and obligations contained within the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004
- The preparations for, and follow-up actions after, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment to be conducted by the Audit Commission
- The implementation of a new system of auditing workplace fire safety (replacing the current legislative Fire Safety inspection arrangements) which will arise following the introduction of the fire safety Regulatory Reform Order
- The duties that will arise from the introduction of a new Civil Contingencies Act. These duties are likely to increase our duties to work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that we have contingency plans that fit seamlessly with all other interested agencies and are likely to deliver an effective response in the event of natural disasters and man-made sudden catastrophic events
- The introduction of additional New Dimension equipment and the associated training that the equipment will require. We anticipate that we will receive a centrally-funded capability to deal with Urban Search & Rescue (e.g. collapsed buildings), as well as high-capacity pumping equipment to help deal with large-scale flooding.

The items described above, as well as a wide range of lesser initiatives, will undoubtedly impact on the ability and capacity of officers of the Authority to both plan for the new work, as well as maintain existing management arrangements. East Sussex Fire Authority need to consider how to deliver our statutory duties as well as maintain existing, highly valued but non-statutory activities.

'New Dimension' was launched post 9/11 to review fire and rescue service preparedness against a potential terrorist threat. The ODPM-led programme will ensure that the fire and rescue service is sufficiently trained and equipped to deal safely and effectively with major chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats as well as conventional terrorist incidents on a national scale.

Community Safety Strategy

East Sussex Fire Authority has committed itself to the development of its existing community fire safety initiatives by the addition of more proactive community safety work to drive down the risk in our communities.

Key to our success will be the contribution of the Authority to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) operating within East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove.

To assist the achievement of the wider partnership agenda we have restructured our attendance at the CDRPs to provide a more consistent strategic attendance with local Station Managers providing support at local action group levels. This is particularly helpful in the Rother area where we have been requested to chair the Focus Group on road safety.

At a strategic level we are developing the ethos of the community fire station with Bexhill fire station now hosting the Youth Development Service and together with our proposed Arson Task Force it is intended to deliver a targeted Youth Diversion programme from April 2005.

We have also developed a Community Safety Strategy which will require consultation with wider stakeholders to ensure engagement of all potential partners to assist in driving down risk in the community.

A copy of the draft Community Safety Strategy is included in the Technical Appendix to this Integrated Risk Management Plan and is available on request.

Legislative Fire Safety

The Fire Authority is responsible for the enforcement of two pieces of primary fire legislation, the Fire Precautions Act 1971 and the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997. It is also a statutory consultee under the fire safety provisions of sixty assorted pieces of legislation.

The Government is planning to use the Regulatory Reform Act 2001 to tidy up and amend the current proliferation of fire safety acts and provisions by the introduction of The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.

This change in both style and method of fire safety legislation, and consequent enforcement methods, will require a significant shift in the way in which we interact with businesses, employers and staff at almost every place of work. As we indicate in Proposal 9, we shall be evaluating the implications for ourselves and the community as an integral part of a significant package of changes and reforms.

Timescales

April - August 2004	Detailed data analysis and risk modelling on FSEC carried out
September 2004	Fire Authority adopts the annual action plan for consultation
Sep - Dec 2004	Consultation with community, workforce, ODPM and other stakeholders
January 2005	Fire Authority to formally consider the outcome of the consultation and any proposed revisions and formally adopt the IRM Annual Action Plan 2005-06
1 st April 2005	Implementation of Action Plan and commencement of work for 2006/07 Plan

Action Plan 2006/07

The following items have been previously agreed and are explained in more detail in our Strategic Plan 2004-06:

- Review crewing levels and utilisation of wholetime and retained personnel
- Investigate the value of variable attendance by time of day, week, month etc.
- Consider amalgamation of Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) consequences (ability to maintain competencies etc.) with crew numbers, equipment types and location of resources (including stations)
- Review future resource provision in Brighton & Hove, Hastings, Eastbourne and the North area of the County

What Happens Next?

This report is now issued for public consultation. It has a wide distribution and seeks to engage with the broadest range of stakeholders. Consultation methods include the following:

- Website
- Local Press
- Libraries
- ORS (independent opinion research consultants)
- Local Strategic Partners
- Direct Correspondence

Responses received will be made publicly available (unless the respondent has requested anonymity). Once the consultation phase is completed, the Fire Authority needs to consider whether the Plan needs to be adjusted, in light of the responses received.

As the Fire Authority will commence implementation of the Plan in April 2005, it will need to consider and discuss the responses at a CFA meeting in January 2005 to allow time to decide whether the Plan needs to be modified. The Authority will then commence implementation of the Annual Action Plan in April 2005.

Summary of Last Year's Changes

The following is a summary of what has changed as a result of last year's IRM plan. It shows:

- Original Policy
- Proposed Changes (from the document entitled 'East Sussex Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Annual Plan 2004/05 – A Consultation Document')
- Final Agreed Policy (agreed by the Fire Authority at the meeting on 23rd March 2004 as a result of the consultation feedback received)

Calls From AFDs (Automatic Fire Detection Systems)

Original Policy

All AFD calls automatically attracted a two pump attendance.

Proposed Changes

1. Reduce the pre-determined attendance (PDA) from the existing arrangements, to a one appliance response for all AFD calls that are not immediately confirmed as actual fires.
2. AFD calls originating from houses of multiple occupation or domestic premises will receive an attendance of 2 pumping appliances.
3. M&CC staff will deploy additional resources if further information is received that deemed such action is necessary.

Final Agreed Policy

1. Agreed as stated.
2. In recognition that some types of premises contain a variance in risk between day time hours and night time sleeping hours, AFD calls to the following types of occupancies will attract a 2 pump attendance between 2100hrs and 0600hrs: Hospitals, university/college halls of residence, multi-building sites e.g. residential schools where sleeping accommodation is provided, commercial premises where sleeping accommodation is provided e.g. public houses, stately homes etc.
3. Agreed as stated.
4. This policy is subject to a programme of risk assessments to establish any premises that may require an increased or decreased PDA.

Attendance at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)

Original Policy

There was previously no standard in place for attendance at RTCs.

Proposed Changes

1. East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service will strive to ensure that the initial attendance to 50% of all RTCs arrives within 8 minutes of being mobilised and 90% within 13 minutes.

Final Agreed Policy

1. Agreed as stated.

Aerial Appliances

Original Policy

Pre-determined attendances to high rise buildings automatically included an aerial appliance.

Proposed Changes

1. Only send an aerial appliance to incidents on request from the fire ground / incident scene, once it has been established that there is an actual requirement or if M&CC receive additional information from the caller that indicates the need for an aerial appliance to be mobilised.
2. Keep the current arrangements of primary crewing at Brighton (Preston Circus), Hastings and Eastbourne and re-deploy the current dedicated aerial appliance crews at Hove to other duties including community safety activities. Retain the vehicle at Hove, which will be available if specifically required by recalling the crew from their community safety duties. The aerial appliance at Brighton (Preston Circus) will provide cover for the City and further afield as required.

Final Agreed Policy

1. Between 0600hrs and 2100hrs aerial appliances will not be sent as part of the PDA to buildings but will be sent if requested from the incident ground – they may also be mobilised at the discretion of M&CC staff on receipt of relevant information from the caller. All aerial appliance crews will therefore be performing community safety duties during the dayshift and the early part of the nightshift.

During the nightshift, from 2100hrs until 0600hrs the aerial appliances at Hastings, Eastbourne and Brighton (Preston Circus) will automatically attend incidents that attract an aerial appliance as part of the PDA with the Brighton (Preston Circus) appliance covering the whole city area of Brighton & Hove.

2. Agreed as stated.
3. This policy will be subject to review following individual risk assessments and if a particular building is found to require an aerial on every attendance, whatever the time of day, then the PDA will be amended accordingly.

Related Issues

The following matters will be considered and actioned by Officers of the Authority, with appropriate reporting and updating processes – **these were all agreed as stated:**

1. Define 'core' or essential stations (and/or locations) to improve availability of vehicles and crews, especially during daytime.
2. Consider the benefits that may arise from providing Automatic Electronic Defibrillators on some Fire & Rescue vehicles and training selected crews in dealing with cardiac arrest.
3. Enable outposting between all shift, day-crewed and retained Fire Stations and personnel.
4. Agree system for recognising and using personnel willing to undertake pre-arranged overtime.
5. Ensure widest appropriate pool of personnel are trained to operate 'special' appliances.

Glossary of Terms

Aerial Appliance	A vehicle used for high-rise rescue and provision of a water tower. Typically can reach to about the 8 th storey.
AFD(s) - Automatic Fire Detection System	A system that is installed in a building to detect a fire and raise the alarm. Can range from a single battery-operated detector in a domestic property, to a computer-controlled, ‘intelligent’, fully automatic and integrated unit in a high-risk building.
Community Safety Work	The process of informing and educating to improve awareness of safety matters.
Defibrillator	An electronic device used to establish normal heartbeat.
FSEC	Fire Service Emergency Cover – software provided by ODPM to Fire & Rescue Services to enable them to model risk across their service area and plan appropriate intervention and prevention methods accordingly.
Fire Service Circular	A formal letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister circulated to all Fire Authorities in England and Wales detailing new initiatives, requirements and policy changes etc.
Integrated Risk Management	The development of a balanced approach by the Fire & Rescue Service to risks within the community, combining prevention, protection and intervention measures on a risk-assessed basis in order to improve community safety.
Intervention	Action taken by the Fire & Rescue Service.
M&CC	Mobilising and Communication Centre.
Mobilised/Mobilising	When appliances are instructed by M&CC to attend an incident.
ODPM	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – the central Government department that has responsibility for both guiding and ensuring that Fire Authorities comply with their statutory duties.
Outposting	When a firefighter provides cover at a Fire Station other than his/her base station when required.
Pre-Determined Attendance	A pre-set level of response that is deemed appropriate to deal with the likely severity of each incident.
Prevention	Activity that attempts to prevent a fire from happening e.g. creating awareness of the most common causes of fire.
Primary Crewing	A primary crewed vehicle has a crew permanently assigned to it.
Protection	Activity intended to help preserve life (should a fire occur) before Fire & Rescue Service attendance e.g. ownership of smoke alarms, fire blankets and escape ladders, creating awareness of the correct action to take in the event of a fire.
Secondary Crewing	A secondary crewed vehicle is crewed by staff taken from another vehicle as required.
Standards of Fire Cover	Requirements put in place by the Government (last issued by the Home Office), which provide guidance on minimum levels of response to incidents.
Turnout	When an appliance is mobilised to an incident.
Weight of Response	The number and type of vehicles that will form the initial response to an incident and the number of personnel that will attend on those vehicles.

Questionnaire

East Sussex Fire Authority is keen to hear what you think of the proposals contained in this Annual Action Plan and would welcome your comments. You can fill out the questionnaire below, or email your comments to irm@esfrs.org, or write to us at 20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 1EU (FAO The IRM Team).

We would like you to provide your name and contact details, so that we can clarify your comments if required and respond to you in due course. We also plan to make the comments received publicly available – if you would prefer not to be identified, please let us know.

Name: _____ Address: _____
Tel: _____
E Mail: _____

Q1 Is this Annual Action Plan clear and easy to understand?

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q2 Do you support the proposals by the Fire Authority to investigate provision of fire and other emergency cover along the East/West border? See page 5

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q3 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to review the existing speed & weight of attendance to all operational incidents? See page 5

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q4 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to re-evaluate the number and usage of aerial appliances? See page 6

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q5 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to implement changes to the night time and Bank Holiday activities of our operational crews? See page 10

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q6 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to review the current wholtime firefighter shift patterns? See page 11

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q7 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to implement a more flexible operational duty system at Battle? See page 11

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither Agree Nor Disagree
Disagree
Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q8 Do you support the proposals by the Fire Authority to evaluate the effectiveness of our previous community fire safety activities? See page 12

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q9 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to evaluate the effectiveness of existing partnership working? See page 12

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q10 Do you support the proposal by the Fire Authority to evaluate the workload likely to be imposed by new Government directives? See page 13

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Comments _____

Q11 Are there any other comments you would like to make with regard to the range of services provided by East Sussex Fire Authority?

Comments _____
