

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service

**Oxfordshire community
risk-management action plan
2014 to 2015**

Securing a safer Oxfordshire



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**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY**

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Introduction

What is a community risk-management action plan?

We regularly analyse the risks posed to the county and set out our approach as to how we will effectively manage those risks. This is shown in our community risk-management plan. By law, we have to regularly produce and review our plan, which is also known as our 'strategic community risk-management plan'.

The plan is a five-year strategic document. This document gives details of the specific projects we will start in 2014.

If you want to know more about our planning process, see Annex 1 – Our purpose, aims and plans.

Who are these plans for?

This plan is aimed at all those with an interest in the safety of Oxfordshire and who might be affected by the projects we will be carrying out. This includes:

- our communities;
- voluntary, community and faith groups;
- other emergency service providers, such as the police and ambulance services;
- trading standards, environmental-health and road-safety professionals;
- businesses in the county;
- firefighters who serve and protect Oxfordshire;
- councillors and senior managers of the county, district, town and parish councils; and
- health and social-care professionals.

365alive – Our strategic vision and targets

We are proud of the quality of the services that we deliver to the public. We have a clear vision and do our best to recognise and respond to the main issues and challenges. These combine to create our 10-year vision for a safer Oxfordshire. This began in 2006 and is called 365alive. All our projects in this plan aim to reduce risk and meet our strategic vision.

This vision sets three challenging targets for us.

By 2016, thanks to the emergency response and the community and partnership work we have carried out, there will be:

- 365 more people alive (see note 1 below);
- £100 million saved for the economy of Oxfordshire (see note 2 below); and
- 840,000 safety messages delivered to the community.



1 By looking at the reduction in the number of people who die as a result of fires and road-traffic collisions and the number of rescues we carry out, we work out the number of people who are still alive as a result of our work.

2 By looking at the number of deaths and injuries to people from fires and road-traffic collisions and the number of fire-damaged homes and businesses, we work out the amount of money we have saved the economy as a result of our work.

2014 to 2015 Projects to manage risk in the community

The details of each project are set out below. For more information on the details of the projects and their progress, please email the 'CRMP Team' at crmp@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call our HQ on 01865 842999 and ask for the team.

Project 1: Put into practice the training collaboration review which was carried out in 2013

Responsible manager: Area Manager – Organisational and Technical Support

Aim

Following the review of training across four fire and rescue services (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Royal Berkshire and Warwickshire), we have identified a number of options to consider. As a result, we and the other services will create a programme of projects and put them into practice with the aim of delivering further improvements in quality and efficiency for all the services involved. We will know the full details of the recommendations later in the year when the initial report has been released and decisions have been made as to which areas to take forward. Any projects that are agreed will be paid for from across the services within existing budgets. We expect most work to be completed by March 2015.



Project 2: Review our aerial appliances and change staffing as suggested by that review

Responsible manager: Area Manager – Operations and Resilience

Aim

We will review our current and future need for providing 'high-reach capacity' (in other words, vehicles designed to give safe access at height for rescue and firefighting purposes). This will coincide with the planned replacement of the current vehicle in 2017.

We plan to review both the types of incident and the buildings that the high-reach vehicle is currently sent to, as well as analyse when and how it is being used. This will make sure that when we attend an incident we have the right vehicle for the job.

This review will also look at alternative crewing arrangements for the vehicles – as well as where they will be based in the county. We need to make sure that we can have the appropriate people and equipment to work safely high up, but make sure this is still effectively and efficiently resourced. This part of the project has the potential to release resources to support other priority areas for our front-line service.

This review will be carried out jointly by the Organisational Planning and Performance Manager, the Fire Risk Manager for Oxford City (where the high-reach vehicle is currently based) and the Station Manager for Oxford City – Rewley Road (managing the current workforce).



Project 3: Review light response vehicles and look into changes to staffing as suggested by that review

Responsible manager: Area Manager – Strategic Risk and Planning

Aim

We will review our current emergency fleet (standard fire engines) to consider introducing some light response vehicles. This will involve analysing the more localised risks across a number of relevant areas of the county (for example, restricted vehicle access, road access during periods of poor weather and the benefits of providing a ‘first strike’ emergency response where current crewing levels are proving a challenge to maintain at certain times). We can then develop an approach where we have assessed the risk and adapt current working practices and equipment where needed. In other words, we will look to have the right vehicle with the right levels of equipment and crew – in the right place, at the right time – to meet the changing risks our local communities face.

We will need to consider the ways these vehicles are staffed against our ‘standard’ arrangements and will need to be flexible to meet the needs of both the on-call and full-time stations across the county.

Introducing these vehicles will mainly need to be assessed in terms of how they might improve and support our ability to respond to emergencies at any time of the day or night from all of our 24 fire stations. However, we also need to reduce the financial burden of renewing all of our fleet of standard fire engines, if we can effectively deal with the risks of a community by using a light response vehicle in the area. We started early trials of this approach in autumn 2013 to give us some evidence we can use to make further decisions.



Project 4: Reviewing prevention, protection and response resources to meet the changing risks facing Banbury, Bicester, Carterton, Wantage and the south of the county

Responsible manager: Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Aims

Oxfordshire is the most rural county in the South East with over 50% of the population living in small towns, villages and hamlets of fewer than 10,000 people. However, the county is prosperous and is set to grow rapidly over the next few years. As a result, we need to effectively plan ahead for the proposed increase in residential and business development in a number of major areas across the county.

This means that we need to review our current arrangements for responding to emergencies as well as our prevention and protection arrangements in areas such as Banbury, Bicester, Carterton, Wantage and the south of the county to make sure we continue to effectively:

- target our community safety advice and education to prevent accidents and injuries in people's homes, as well as at places of work, in our schools and on our roads;
- support and promote fire safety at work – particularly for those who are employed in higher risk environments – and help businesses to keep to their responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005; and
- maintain the appropriate levels for front-line emergency response resources to meet the changing and growing risks across Oxfordshire.



Annex 1 – Our purpose, aims and plans

Our purpose

Securing a safer Oxfordshire

Aims



Oxfordshire community risk-management plan

Dealing with risks to the community and making sure we are fit for purpose.

Prevention

Education and advice.

Protection

Advice on and enforcement of fire-safety law and 'in-built' fire safety.

Response

Emergency response and urgent help.
Gathering information on risk.

Organisational development

People – getting the best from our firefighters and support staff.

Assets – making best use of our buildings, vehicles and equipment.

Structure – organising ourselves to operate efficiently, effectively and economically.

Safer by design – yearly business plan

Community risk-management annual plan

Planning resources

Budgets, developing people and managing assets

Area and functional plans

Delivering the business plan

Fire-risk plans

Functional service plans

Do you want to be an on-call firefighter?

There is currently a shortage of retained duty system (on-call) firefighters at some fire stations in Oxfordshire. This is particularly the case in our small towns and rural areas because nowadays there are fewer people who live and work in their local towns and villages. You might be just the person to fill the gap.

Where do you work?

First of all, you need to live or work near to a fire station because you have to be able to get there within a few minutes of a call. Secondly, because we can't predict when you'll be called out, you have to be flexible in your work. The chances are that you'll be working at home, self-employed or working for a community-minded employer who can let you leave work from time to time.

Are you fit for the job?

To apply to join the Fire and Rescue Service you don't need any paper qualifications. You must be at least 18, with good all-round fitness. You will be asked to take a straightforward physical test as part of the process and just as important are qualities like common sense, commitment and enthusiasm.

How often will you be needed?

On average, you will be called out two or three times a week for a couple of hours. If you cannot be available all the time, that's not a problem. You can be paid for being 'on-call' for only part of the day or week. There is a particular shortage of people who are available during weekends, but you would have some evenings and weekends free if you need them and still do a valuable and worthwhile job. If you can't be on-call – for example because of a holiday or a deadline at work, you can 'sign off'.

What do you get out of it?

Apart from the excitement, the challenge and the satisfaction of a job well done, your ongoing training will help you in becoming more self-reliant and confident. After all, if you can cope in a real emergency, you are ready for anything else which life might throw at you. You will meet a lot of people in your local community and earn their confidence and respect. You will also get continual, ongoing training in using equipment and in other more general life skills including first aid. Added to all this, you get paid! You get paid a basic payment, plus a payment for call-outs and another payment for going into action. You also get paid for training and duties like maintaining the equipment.

If you think you've got what it takes to join the team, contact your local fire station for more information, or check out our vacancies pages at:

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/firecareers.