



# **Bedfordshire**

## **Fire and Rescue Service**



# **Ampthill Community Fire Station**

## **Plan 2020-21**

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## Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Ampthill Community Fire Station will contribute towards protecting our local communities, responding to emergencies and preventing fires and other incidents. The risks our communities face are set out in the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) which also details how we plan to ensure that Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service contributes, in a co-ordinated and meaningful way, towards keeping communities safe. The CRMP document is available to view at [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk)

***Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to providing services that meet the differing needs of our diverse communities. This will ensure that all our communities are equally protected from the risk of fire and other incidents. Actions identified within this station plan contribute to this commitment and helps to ensure that the Service supports all communities”.***

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service have a key strategic service delivery objective:

**To provide outstanding fire and rescue services that help make Bedfordshire safer and we are committed to doing everything we can to achieve this within the resources we have available to us.**

To deliver on this mission we will focus on the following Service aims:

- **PREVENTING** fires and other emergencies from happening
- **PROTECTING** people and property when fires happen
- **RESPONDING** to fires and other emergencies promptly & effectively
- **EMPOWERING** our people as we work together to make Bedfordshire safer
- **UTILISING** our assets & resources efficiently & effectively
- **MAXIMISING** use of data analytics and digital solutions to drive improvement

This Station Plan sets out how Ampthill Community Fire Station will deliver on our strategic mission during 2020/21.

## Our Community

Data from the latest UK National Census states that Ampthill has an overall estimated population of 21,339. Residents are predominantly but not exclusively white British origin, aged between 30 -59 years and are employed in a professional / managerial role.

## Community Risk Profiling

Working with Experian, the UK's leading provider of consumer measurement and analytical services, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has utilised customer insight profiling and has identified 3 prevalent community risk groups within Ampthill Community Fire Station ground:-

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
Group 4 – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	Low fire risk.	Local engagement through National campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 6 – Rural families and couples with moderate risk	Moderate fire risk. Chimney fires. Road Traffic Collision	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.
Group 7 – Affluent families in suburban locations with very low risk	Very low fire risk. Electrical fires. Road Traffic Collision	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.

Residents within groups 6 & 7 are considered to be most likely to own a car, van or motorcycle and commute regularly over 12,500 miles per year. As a consequence members of these groups (as well as young adults) are statistically more at risk of being involved in a Road Traffic Collision.

Whilst residents within all groups identified above are generally classified as very low, low or only moderate fire risk, a fire can start in any home. Ampthill Community Fire Station will therefore provide fire safety advice to all residents within our community, with special consideration for advice on preventing chimney and electrical fires.

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This advice will be through local engagement activities, National campaigns National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) calendar and via our social media platforms:-

[www.facebook.com/ampthillfirestation](http://www.facebook.com/ampthillfirestation)

[www.facebook.com/bedsfire](http://www.facebook.com/bedsfire)

[www.twitter.com/bedsfire](http://www.twitter.com/bedsfire)

[www.bedsfirealert.co.uk](http://www.bedsfirealert.co.uk)

Further information on specific prevention activities can be found later in this document.

## **Our Risks**

As well as risks identified from Community Risk Profiling, Ampthill station ground contains the following specific risks:-

### Road

- M1 Motorway.
- A507
- A6 running through Clophill from Bedford to Luton
- Various rural B roads to adjoining villages within the Ampthill area.

The A507 is very popular with local motorcyclists and is a major road that links the M1 motorway to the A1 in Hertfordshire for commuters.

The A507 also links the popular Woburn Forest Centre Parcs which has resulted in an additional increase in vehicles on our local roads visiting and travelling home from the site, especially at weekends.

### Rail

Midland Mainline from Sheffield, Derby, Leicester, Nottingham to London.

Thameslink services from Bedford to Luton Airport, London, Gatwick Airport and Brighton.

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In addition to the road and rail risk identified within Ampthill Community Fire Station turn out area there are a number of large premises that present a significant risk should they be involved in fire. These premises are routinely inspected as part of an annual inspection programme, with Site Specific Risk Information being collated, updated and made available to fire crews who may attend incidents at these locations. Premises are numerous but specifically include:-

- Heritage Buildings at Wrest Park.
- Lockheed Martin Site
- Woburn Forest, Centre Parcs.

## Response

Ampthill Community Fire Station is one of eight stations within Bedfordshire crewed primarily by an On-call (RDS) duty system, with fire-fighters responding via alerters when required for emergency response.



Personnel from Ampthill crew the following appliances:

- 1 Rescue Pump
- 1 Rural Water Tender

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service will continue to engage with our staff to update our Service values and embed a positive and inclusive learning culture that also encourages innovation.

Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service will continue to engage with staff so they can influence and better understand our strategic direction and their role in achieving it. We will also continue to invest in the best vehicles, equipment and training for our firefighters.

## **Training and Development**

In order to ensure that our strategic aim is met, our crews will undertake safety critical training courses and training exercises throughout the year. Classroom sessions and practical drills will be supplemented with the Services E-learning system which ensures continuing competency across a Firefighters current skill set and complimenting the new NFCC core learning pathways.



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The Service appraisal system will be used to identify training and development needs, with Fire Fighter training and Development being monitored and reviewed through the services electronic personal development programme.

As part of on-going training and development, and to ensure operational readiness that aligns with current and future risk, Ampthill Community Fire Station will organise and participate in a series of key practical training exercises throughout the year 2020 -2021.

These exercises will involve other BFRS crews and partner agencies. They will correspond with our local and service wide identified risks and will be recorded on the BFRS exercise spreadsheet located at:-

<http://sharepoint/Section%20Areas/Emergency%20Response/Exercises/Pages/default.aspx>

Responsibility for ensuring that exercises are suitable, completed, reviewed and effective rests with the RDS On-Call Watch Commander.

### **Cross Border Exercises**

Ampthill Community Fire Station appliances may attend incidents involving Buckinghamshire and / or Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service crews. A number of joint exercises will be programmed by whole time stations at Kempston, Bedford, Dunstable, Luton and Stopsley to test arrangements for cross-border incidents and demonstrate our commitment to collaborative working.

Ampthill Community Fire Station will provide support and assistance to at least one of these exercises in 2020/21.

### **Protection**

Business premises and public buildings, such as schools are highly important to our local community as they provide both local services and employment opportunities. The majority of businesses affected by a fire never fully recover as customers are lost to competitors.

Ampthill Community Fire Station will continue to engage and educate local businesses and work with other regulators to reduce the risk from fire.

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In order to protect these buildings and ensure the safety of building users, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service delivers a risk based inspection programme to ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) on those premises to which it applies.

The Service will concentrate its Fire Safety resources on determining and reducing the levels of fire risk in the community by undertaking a series of fire safety audits and inspections of premises. This will focus primarily on those premises, workplaces and activities giving rise to the most serious risk to life, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion and age.

Fire safety audits will grade premises into one of five categories: very high, high, medium, low and very low risk. This audit process determines the future audit frequency, ranging from 1 year for very high / high risk to 5 years for low risk.

Fire Safety Inspection Officers (FSIO) will focus their audits on very high and high risk premises whilst Fire Crews will audit medium and low risk premises.

Amphill Community Fire Station will complete all allocated RRO Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21.

Other types of inspections carried out by Fire Crews are:

**Follow-up inspections** - These are carried out to check whether the required or requested works on premises have been completed.

**Specific inspections** - These may be generated to check on a specific item or items e.g. overstocked stock rooms, the purpose of all these inspections is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are being maintained and adequate.

**Risk activity inspections** - These are carried out on a whole host of premises that are either:

- Used extensively by large numbers of the public;
- Staffing capacities are below optimum levels;
- Where activities vary from the norm.

The purpose of the inspection is to ascertain that the fire safety arrangements are adequate, that sufficient numbers of staff are present and those staff on duty are aware of the fire safety measures within the premises and of the fire routines and evacuation procedures.

Risk activity inspections may be undertaken:

- On routinely programmed premises for example, nursing homes and care homes
- 'One off' events (including Scout, Guide camps and other types of sleeping and activity events involving children);



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- Licensed premises whilst it is anticipated that occupancy levels are high e.g. Night Clubs, Outdoor concerts;
  - Christmas inspections of retail premises where it is anticipated that stock levels in shops are high.

**Fact finding visits** – Fire Crews may be asked to visit a specific location to establish the current occupancy of premises e.g. a specific industrial estate. This provides the Service with up to date information on whether a new occupier requires auditing.

All inspections aim to be completed by the last day of the month in which they were allocated.

For further information on Business & Commercial Fire Safety please refer to our website [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk) under Community/Business Safety, Business Fire Safety or follow the link:

<http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/CommunitySafety/BusinessFireSafety/Pages/default.aspx>

## Prevention Activity

Fire crews at Ampthill Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities to reduce the number of incidents we attend using an intelligence led risk based approach. This will ensure that we target vulnerable people and those most at risk from fire within our community.

We will work collaboratively to **make every contact count** and improve understanding of our community risk through better engagement.

Current risk profiling, local specific risk and incident trends highlighted within our Community Risk Analysis have identified the following as primary prevention activities:-

- RTC's involving car users
- Deliberate fires outdoors
- Heritage fire risk (Grade I and Grade II listed buildings)
- Chimney fires
- Electrical fires
- Bonfire night
- Christmas celebrations

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Amphill Community Fire Station will record all significant activities via the following link on Sharepoint:

<http://sharepoint/Section Areas/Home Fire Safety/EvToolkit/Lists/Community Safety Event Planning 2019/AllItems.aspx>

All activities will be reviewed for effectiveness utilising service activity management plans. This will enable effective planning for 2021/22.

After every domestic house fire we will also provide an after incident response known as a 'hot strike'. These are home fire safety visits carried out in neighbouring premises after a fire. All 'hot strikes' will be recorded on the Service prevention database.

### **Home Safe & Well Visits**

Amphill Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 150 Safe & Well Visits to vulnerable households throughout the community.



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The elements that may be included in each individual Safe and Well visit will be determined by risks present in the household along with the agreement of the occupier to engage in each element. Examples of these elements are:-

- Home fire safety advice;
- Installation of smoke alarms and safety equipment if required
- Crime Prevention Advice;
- Falls Risk Assessment;
- Smoking Cessation; and,
- Alcohol Audit.

Safeguarding referrals can also be made by the crews following a visit or incident. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will work and collaborate with partner agencies to implement and maintain robust arrangements for safeguarding the vulnerable within our community through effective protection plans which minimise risks of harm.

A Community Fire Safety Operational Risk Information exchange form may also be completed if significant risks to the operational crews are identified.

## **Schools**

Children can be especially at risk in a fire situation. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service run a County wide education programme for Year 2 children about fire safety in the home. Crews from Ampthill Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing all allocated Year 2 visits during the year.

## **Recruitment**

Recruitment is major part of the work that all employees of BFRS will promote. It is important to engage with the community at every chance and communicate how Bedfordshire FRS is the choice employer. Stations with a Retain Duty System (RDS) section will plan and run specific engagement activities, ensuring they target the cover times that they require. During these activities we will advise the community on support staff roles such as Information Technology, Procurement and finance. BFRS support apprenticeships and have actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes.

Amphill Community Fire Station is looking for men and women, from all backgrounds to become On-call (RDS) Firefighters. We wish to recruit and retain a truly inclusive workforce that reflects our diverse communities. We will be specifically targeting those who can provide vital cover in the Amphill area during the weekdays and weekends.

On-call (RDS) Firefighters joining Amphill Community Fire Station will receive training and development opportunities to effectively respond to a wide variety of emergencies, including fires, road traffic collisions, animal rescues and flooding at anytime, day or night.

Amphill Community Fire Station will be undertaking various recruitment activities in the coming year.

Campaign	Date	Target Audience
Station Open Day	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	All Groups
Have a go days	TBC	All Groups
Positive Action Days	TBC	Female and BAME

### Station Open Day

The theme of the Station Open Day this Year will be Road Safety working together with other Emergency and Volunteer Services targeting all identified groups.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
Saturday 6th June 2020	Road Safety	“Oscar One“ Central Bedfordshire Council
		RTC Reduction Vehicle
	<b>Target Audience</b>	Aerial Platform
	All Groups	Specialist Rescue Unit
		RTC Demonstration

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**Amphill Community Fire Station  
Amphill**

**Visit our website for fire and home safety advice: [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk)**

Follow us on Twitter: [@bedsfire](https://twitter.com/bedsfire)

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