



**Bedfordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service



**Bedford Community Fire Station**  
**Plan 2020-21**

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## Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Bedford 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 your Fire and Rescue Service contributes, in a co-ordinated and meaningful way, towards keeping our communities safe. The document is available to view at [www.bedsfire.gov.uk](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk)

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) 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 help to ensure that the Service supports all communities.

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has a simple key strategic service mission:

**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 and effectively;
- **EMPOWERING** our people as we work together to make Bedfordshire safer;
- **UTILISING** our assets and resources efficiently and effectively;
- **MAXIMISING** use of data analytics and digital solutions to drive improvements.

This Station Plan sets out how Bedford Community Fire Station fits into delivering these objectives during 2020/21.

## Our Community

Bedford Borough has a population of 171,625 people and is made up of approximately 50% females and 49% males. The average age of people in the area is 39, while the median age is also 39. The population of the area covered by Bedford Station ground is 96,275.

Ward	Population	Average Age	Communities settled in the area	% of population who speak English	Other languages spoken
Brickhill	8,020	The average age of people in the area is 39.	Communities who have settled in the area include those from India, Scotland, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ireland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jamaica, and South Africa.	92.0%	Top languages spoken are Polish, Punjabi, Bengali, Italian, Urdu, Lithuanian, Chinese, Persian/Farsi, and French.
Bromham and Biddenham	6,635			96.7%	
Clapham	4,605			94.2%	
Castle	9,480			75.1%	
De Parys	6,965			88.7%	
Goldington	9,950			88.5%	
Great Barford	8,200			96.2%	
Harpur	8,700			81.5%	
Kingsbrook	9,960			80.5%	
Newnham	7,825			90%	
Putnoe	6,625			94.8%	
Queen's Park	9,310	53.9%			

## 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 identified the following seven risk groups within Bedford Station ground.

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
<b>Group 1</b> - Less affluent social renters with high fire risk.	High risk of accidental dwelling fires.  Cooking, electrical or smoking related fires.	Targeted safe and well visits.  Use of Social Media.
<b>Group 2</b> - High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	High risk of accidental dwelling fires. Cooking fires.	Targeted safe and well visits and promoting Beds Fire Alert.
<b>Group 3</b> - Transient young singles with high risk and few interventions.	Highest risk of accidental dwelling fires. Cooking and smoking related fires.	Targeted safe and well visits. Use of Social Media. Student Safety Week.
<b>Group 4</b> – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	Low fire risk.	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
<b>Group 5</b> – Young, urban, mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	Moderate fire risk.	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
<b>Group 6</b> – 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.
<b>Group 7</b> – 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.

Statistically, residents within groups 1 – 3 are most at risk regarding accidental dwelling fires. A targeted programme of Safe and Well visits will attempt to reduce this risk during 2020/21.

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Customer insight has also identified that residents within groups 6 & 7 are most likely to own a car, van or motorcycle and drive 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.

We are an active partner of the Bedfordshire Strategic Road Safety Partnership Board, which brings together the key agencies with responsibility for safety on our roads. We undertake a range of interventions particularly targeting vulnerable road users. Many of these initiatives are delivered jointly with other partners including the Police and Local Authority.

In addition to the road risk identified within Bedford Station turn out area there are natural risks such as the River Great Ouse.

Bedford Community Fire Station will interact with all of the above groups by providing fire safety information and promote National safety campaigns via our social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter and BedsFireAlert.

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

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

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

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

## **Our Risks**

There are a large number of structural buildings and premises that may present a significant risk should they become involved in fire. These premises are regularly inspected as part of a risk based inspection programme, with Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) being collated and updated. This information is readily available to all crews responding to incidents involving these identified premises. Such premises include:

- Her Majesty's Prison Bedford
- Bedford Hospital
- Little Barford Power Station
- European Oat Millers
- Yarlswood Detention Centre
- Higher Education student accommodation (University of Bedfordshire - Polhill Campus)
- Various high rise accommodations.

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Our community also has a significant road risk, specifically:

- M1 Motorway
- A421 running through our Station ground from East to West linking A1 and M1 motorway
- A6 running through Bedford towards Luton
- Various rural B roads to adjoining villages within the Bedford area.

The number of casualties killed or seriously injured from Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) within our community is rising. Bedford Community Fire Station will attempt to educate our communities about the dangers associated with travelling by road. This will be done in collaboration with the Police and other associated partners in line with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) campaigns.

The River Great Ouse which runs through the centre of Bedford presents a significant local risk to the community from drowning, hyperthermia and flooding. Bedford Community Fire Station will deliver education to our community on water safety.

## **Fire Fighter Safety Development**

In order to ensure the ongoing Safety of our Fire Fighters our crews will undertake courses and training exercises throughout the year. Classroom sessions and practical drills will be supplemented with the Service's E-learning service which ensures continuing competency across the Firefighters' skills set. The Service appraisal system will be used to identify training and development needs. Fire Fighter training will be monitored and reviewed through the Service's electronic personal development tracking tool. Development programmes will be undertaken by all personnel who are identified as requiring development in either their existing role or for their next role.

## **Response**

At Bedford Community Fire Station there are four Watches on a 24-hour shift pattern, supported by a Retained Duty System (On-Call) Fire Fighter section. Between them they crew the following appliances:

- Two Rescue Pumps
- Rescue Boat Unit
- Aerial Platform

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- Operational Support Unit.

In addition to normal day-to-day training and development activities, Bedford Community Fire Station will organise and participate in additional Service exercises.

Each Watch will carry out a minimum of two exercises per watch, specific to the Station's skill set and Station ground risk profile. Details of these can be accessed online by following the link to our Service Exercise Spreadsheet:

[Sharepoint > Section Areas > Emergency Response > Exercises](#)

All relevant information on the planning and delivery of the exercise will be recorded on this spreadsheet. Each exercise will be subject to a review and evaluation to measure its success.

A joint water related exercise with Harrold Community Fire Station, as well as the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), Midshires Search and Rescue, the Police and Local Council departments. Other appliances will be invited from the North and South of the county as required.

All Watches at Bedford Community Fire Station will carry out one high-rise exercise per Watch per quarter.

## **Cross-Border Exercising**

Bedford Station ground shares a border with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. Our appliances can also attend incidents within Buckinghamshire. We aim to undertake two joint exercises in conjunction with both Cambridgeshire and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services to test arrangements for cross-border incidents and demonstrate our commitment to collaborative working. Details of these can be accessed online by following the link to our Service Exercise Spreadsheet:

[Sharepoint > Section Areas > Emergency Response > Exercises](#)

## **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.

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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 under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Bedford Community Fire Station will complete 192 Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21, this equates to 4 per Watch per month.

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. These 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 or 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 one year for very high / high risk to five 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.

Other types of Inspections carried out by Fire Crews:

**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 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, including those that:

- Large members of the public use extensively
- Have staffing capacities below optimum levels
- Have activities that 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 that those staff on duty are aware of the fire safety measures within the premises and the fire routines and evacuation procedures.



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Risk activity inspections may be undertaken for:

- Routinely programmed premises such as nursing homes and care homes
- ‘One off’ events (including Scout, Guide camps and other types of sleeping and activity events involving children)
- Licensed premises whilst it is anticipated that occupancy levels are high e.g. night clubs, outdoor concerts
- Retail premises during the Christmas period, when it is anticipated that stock levels are higher.

**Fact finding visits** – Fire Crews may be asked to visit a specific location to establish the current occupants 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 should be completed by the last day of the month in which they were allocated.

For further information on Business and 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: [www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Business-safety/Business-Safety-Main-Page.aspx](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Business-safety/Business-Safety-Main-Page.aspx)

## **Prevention Activity**

Fire Crews at Bedford Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities to reduce the number of incidents we attend based upon the local risks and incident trends identified within our Community Risk Analysis. Where possible, these activities will coincide with National Fire Chiefs Council initiatives to promote collaborative working to make our community safer. You can find a comprehensive list of our prevention activity on the following link:

[SharePoint -> Section Areas -> Home/Community Fire Safety -> Community Safety Evaluation Toolkit -> Community Safety Event Planning](#)

## **National Fire and Rescue Campaign Calendar**

The National Fire and Rescue Campaign Calendar provide an annual series of National Fire and Road Safety campaigns and initiatives. A full list of the National

Fire Chiefs Council campaigns throughout 2020 can be found here: <https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk>. Bedford Community Fire Station will specifically support the following campaigns:

Campaign	Period/Dates	Target Audience
NFCC Fire Kills – Keeping Safe, while you stay safe at home	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2020 onwards	All
Drowning Prevention Week – Be Water Aware	20 <sup>th</sup> April – 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	All
National Sprinkler Week	18 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	All
Business Safety Week	7 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Business Owners / Occupiers
Home Safety Week	28 <sup>th</sup> September – 4 <sup>th</sup> October	All

Bedford Community Fire Station will also engage with the local community during Eid, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas celebrations.

The above campaigns will all be advertised on the Station’s various social media sites and the Station Management team will ensure an Activity Management Plan is completed for each:

[SharePoint -> Section Areas -> Home/Community Fire Safety -> Community Safety Evaluation Toolkit -> Community Safety Event Planning](#)

## Home Safe and Well Visits

We will make people safer by educating them in their home by delivering a programme of Safe and Well Visits. Bedford Community Fire Station will deliver visits after an incident to the communities that have been directly affected as well as acting on referrals from partner agencies. We will also deliver Safe and Well Visits to vulnerable households in the community. In particular, risk groups 1, 2 and 3.

A Safe and Well visit will include the following elements:

- Identifying and advising of the potential risks within the home
- Advising householders what to do in order to reduce or prevent these risks

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- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out
  - Ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms, and installing where appropriate.

A Safe and Well visit may also include any of the following elements:

- Home fire safety advice
- Crime Prevention Advice
- Falls Risk Assessment
- Safeguarding referral
- Smoking Cessation
- Alcohol Audit.

The elements that will be included in each individual Safe and Well visit will be determined by risks present in the household and the agreement of the occupier to engage in each element of the visit.

Safeguarding referrals can also be made by the crews following a visit. 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.

Bedford Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 700 Safe and Well visits between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

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

## **School Visits**

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

## Station Open Day

Bedford Red Watch will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The theme of the open day will be Water Safety and On-call (RDS) recruitment.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Water Safety	Engage with the public and talk through equipment and procedures.
	On-call recruitment	Land based practical demonstrations (throw-lines, rescue paths etc.).
Red Watch	<b>Target Audience</b>	Educate on dangers of open water, rivers and canals.
	All Groups	Discuss recruitment. Have a go event.

## Recruitment

Recruitment is major part of the work that all employees of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will promote. It is important to engage with the community at every chance and communicate how Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is the choice employer. Stations with an On-call (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. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service supports apprenticeships and has actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes.

Campaign	Date	Target Audience
Station Open Day	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	All groups
Have a go days	TBC	All Groups
Positive Action Days	TBC	Under-Represented Groups
Bedford River Festival	18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	All groups

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Bedford Kite Festival	13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	All groups
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Further information on recruitment can be found here:

[www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Careers/Careers.aspx](http://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Careers/Careers.aspx)



**Bedford Community Fire Station  
Barkers Lane, Bedford MK41 9SB**

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

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