



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Biggleswade Community Fire Station Action Plan 2020-21

Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Biggleswade 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

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 help to ensure that the Service supports all communities

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service have 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 & 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 improvements.

The rest of this Station Plan sets out how Biggleswade Community Fire Station fits into delivering these objectives plans during 2020/21.

Our Community

Biggleswade Community Fire Station

Biggleswade South has a population of 9,344 and is made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. The average age of people is 39, while the median age is also 39.

Communities who have settled in the area include those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South Africa, India, Zimbabwe, Australia, Northern Ireland, and the Philippines.

96.7% of people living in the area speak English. The other top languages spoken are Polish, French, Gujarati, Italian, Chinese, German, Bengali, Tagalog/Filipino, and Spanish.

Biggleswade North has a population of 7,207 and is made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. The average age of people in the North is 38, while the median age is also 38.

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 the following Groups with Biggleswade Station Ground as specifically being at higher than average risk of accidental dwelling fires.

Risk Group	At risk of:	Suggested Equality Activity
Group 1 - 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.
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.

Further evidence also shows that younger people and motorcyclists are more likely to be involved in a road traffic collision. Drivers who speed, , drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs ,use mobile devices whilst driving not only put themselves at greater risk, but also endanger the lives of other road users.

Our Risks

Biggleswade Station ground contains the following specific road risk within the station ground:

- A1 Great North Road;
- Narrow rural roads.

Customer Insight has identified that there is one mosaic group prevalent in the Station ground that has high levels of car and motorcycle ownership and completes high levels of annual mileage.

This group is: Group 6 - Rural families and couples.

Customer insight has also identified that residents within group 6 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.

Further evidence also shows that drivers who speed, drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, drive whilst on mobile phones not only put themselves at greater risk but also other road users.

Biggleswade Community Fire Station will attempt to mitigate this risk in collaboration with the Police as part of their National campaigns with regard the possible consequences of speeding and using a mobile phone whilst driving.

In addition there are the following additional risks within or in neighbouring station grounds:

- Frontier Agriculture Low Tier COMAH Site;
- Shuttleworth House and Collection and Airfield;
- River Ivel; <https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Community-safety/Outdoor-safety/Water-safety.aspx>

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- Main line railway <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/safety-in-the-community/>
 - Military Sites (Henlow/Chicksands)

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 Services 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 the next role.

Response

Biggleswade Community Fire Station works under the On-call (RDS) Duty System and relies on members of the community who live or work nearby the station to provide cover as On-call Firefighters. Between them they crew one Rescue Pump, one Rural Water Tender 4 x 4 (RWT).

Biggleswade Community Fire Station will participate in;

- An exercise at a known risk within the Biggleswade area – e.g. Frontier Agriculture.
- Two (2) High Rise exercise at a venue within the county in conjunction with personnel from Bedford and Kempston Community Fire Stations. This will also be an opportunity to test our evacuation procedures.

Details of these exercises can be accessed on the BFRS Service Exercise Spreadsheet [Sharepoint > Section Areas > Emergency Response > Exercises](#)

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

Cross-Border Exercising

Biggleswade Community Fire Station shares a border with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. A joint exercise will be programmed in conjunction with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service to test arrangements for cross-border incidents. This will involve a simulation of a warehouse fire at which 3 appliances from Bedfordshire and 1 from Cambridgeshire will attend to test on arrival tactics.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 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 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;
- 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 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 & Commercial Fire Safety please refer to our website 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

Prevention Activity

In order to reduce the risks identified above Fire Crews at Biggleswade Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities.

Activities	Period/Dates	Target Audience	Allocated to:
Open Day	27 st August 2020	Entire community	Biggleswade Crews
After incident response (Hot strikes)	After any domestic fire or incident where a Home Fire Safety Visit is required	Entire community	Biggleswade Crews
Christmas Fire Safety		Entire community	Biggleswade Crews
Gas Safety Week	14/09-20/09/2020	Entire community	Biggleswade Crews
Year 2 visits	All year	Year 2 pupils	Biggleswade Crews
Safe and well visits	All year	Risk groups 1 & 6	Biggleswade Crews

In addition, Biggleswade Community Fire Station will carry out 2 targeted prevention activities, some of which are in line with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), Fire Kills campaign calendar. Details of these can be accessed by following the link [Community Safety Event Planning](#). All relevant information on the planning and delivery of the event will be recorded on this spreadsheet. Following the event it will be subject to a review and evaluation to measure its success.

Campaign	Date	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
NFCC Home safety week	3 rd October 2020	Entire community.	Biggleswade RDS
National Roads Partnership Campaign on drink and drug driving prevention.	2 nd December 2020	All road users.	Biggleswade RDS

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- Biggleswade Community Fire Station attended a number of Road Traffic Collisions on the A1 and surrounding road networks in 2019. The Station will deliver a road safety campaign to educate the community on driving safely.
 - A high proportion of the accidental dwelling fires we attend as a service are caused by cooking. We will be targeting those areas within Biggleswade that have a high number of accidental dwelling fires and engaging with them to educate them of the risk associated with cooking.

Home Safe & Well Visits

We will make people safer by educating them in their home by delivering a programme of Safe and Well visits. Acting on referrals from partner agencies, after incident response and identified areas at risk, Biggleswade Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 200 Safe & Well visits to vulnerable households in the community. In particular, risk groups 1 and 6.

A Safe & Well visit will include 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;
- Putting together an escape plan in case a fire does break out and ensuring the householder has working smoke alarms. The Safe & Well visit can include installing a smoke alarm(s) where appropriate.

The Safe & Well visit may also include:

- Crime Prevention Advice;
- Falls Risk Assessment;
- Smoking Cessation;
- Alcohol Audit; and,
- Safeguarding referral.

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 as 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 students that educate them about fire safety in the home. Crews from Biggleswade Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing ten (10) Year 2 visits during the year.

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 BFRS is the choice employer. Stations with an On-call 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 support apprenticeships and have actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes.

Biggleswade Community Fire Station is looking for men and women, from all backgrounds to become On-call (RDS) Firefighters. We will be specifically targeting those who can provide vital cover in the Biggleswade area during the weekdays.

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

Biggleswade Community Fire Station are undertaking the following recruitment activities in the coming year:

Campaign	Date	Target Audience	Allocated to:
RDS Recruitment	All year	Adults aged between 18 and 55 – with weekday availability	Station Manager/HR
Open day / Recruitment stand	27 st August 2020	Local community	Biggleswade Crews
Have a go days	TBC	Adults aged between 18 and 55 – with weekday availability	Biggleswade crews

Staff Competency and Development

Our staff will be provided with Safety Critical Training and support.

The Watch Manager will:

Ensure staff remain in date with certifications

Ensure an acceptable level of competency (92%) is maintained and recorded on PDR Pro.

Arrange one 4 appliance exercise this year involving all eastern stations. This exercise will be based on a Hazardous Materials theme at **Frontier Agriculture**, in addition we will be taking part in two separate 4 pump High Rise exercises on varying Station grounds.

Station Open Day

Biggleswade crews will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day during August 2020. The theme of the open day will be safer homes; it will include the importance of working smoke alarms, bedtime routines and escape plans. It will target all within the local community.

www.facebook.com/bedsfire

www.twitter.com/bedsfire

www.bedsfirealert.co.uk

Biggleswade Community Fire Station
Chestnut Avenue, Biggleswade SG18 0LL

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Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Southfields Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7NR

Telephone: 01234 845000

Email: bedfadmin@bedsfire.com