



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Dunstable Community Fire Station Plan 2020-21

Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Dunstable 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) and Risk Management Plan (RMP) 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. These documents are 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 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 improvements

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

Our Community

Dunstable Community Fire Station

Dunstable is divided into five wards with a total population of 36,253.

Ward	Population	Average Age	% of population who speak English	Other languages spoken
Dunstable - Central	The population is 4,817. Approximately 51% are females	41	95.3%	Top languages spoken are Polish, Mandarin, Chinese, Sinhala, Slovak, Turkish, German, Thai, Italian and Hungarian.
Dunstable - Icknield	The population is 7,713. Approximately 50% are females	40	93.9	Top languages spoken are Polish, Tamil, Gujarati, Portuguese, Italian, Kurdish, Hindi, Romanian and Sinhala.
Dunstable - Manshead	The population is 5,193. Approximately 51% are females	37	96.3%	Top languages spoken are Polish, Punjabi, Chinese, Gujarati, Shona, French, Czech, Lithuanian and Italian.
Dunstable - Northfields	The population is 9,079. Approximately 51% are females	37	96.1%	Top languages spoken are Polish, Italian, Gujarati, Shona, Tamil, Cantonese, Bengali, Spanish and French.
Dunstable - Watling	The population is 9,451. Approximately 51% are females	41	96.8%	Top languages spoken are Polish, Gujarati, Chinese, French, Thai, Kurdish, Spanish, Turkish and Albanian.

Community Risk Profiling

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
Group 1 - Less affluent social renters with high fire risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking, electrical or • Smoking related fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits. Use of Social Media.
Group 2 - High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits and promoting Beds Fire Alert.
Group 3 - Transient young singles with high risk and few interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest risk of accidental dwelling fires. • Cooking and smoking related fires. 	Targeted safe and well visits. Use of Social Media. Student Safety Week.
Group 4 – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 5 – Young, urban, mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate fire risk. 	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 6 – Rural families and couples with moderate risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very low fire risk • Electrical fires. • Road Traffic Collision 	Local engagement. Use of Social Media. Reduce RTC risk through targeted initiatives.

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 within Dunstable Station Ground as specifically being at higher than average risk of accidental dwelling fires.

Risk Group	At risk of:
Group 1; Less affluent social renters with high fire risk.	Cooking fires. Naked flame/combustible material fires. Smoking related fires.
Group 2; High risk, elderly singles reliant on state support.	Cooking Fires.
Group 3; Transient young singles with high risk and few interventions.	Cooking Fires. Naked flame/combustible material fires. Smoking related fires.

In addition the Dunstable Station Ground contains a significant number of households classified as 'Rural families' and couples with moderate risk. While this groups overall risk is moderate, it is at high risk of chimney fires.

Further evidence also shows that younger people and motorcyclists are more likely to be involved in a road traffic collision. Drivers who speed, drink drive or drive not only put themselves at greater risk but other road users also.

Customer Insight has identified the two Mosaic Group prevalent in the Station Ground that has high levels of car and motorcycle ownership and completes high levels of annual mileage.

These groups are:

Group 6 - Rural families and couples;

Group 7 - Affluent families in suburban locations.

Our Risks

Dunstable Station Ground contains the following specific road risk within the station ground:

- M1 Motorway
- A5183 runs through Dunstable from north to south.
- A505 runs from Dunstable towards the M1 Motorway east to west.
- A5 to M1 jct 11A bypass
- Narrow rural roads to adjoining villages.

Dunstable Station Ground contains the following additional risks within the station ground:

- Luton and Dunstable Hospital.
- Trinity Hall Farm – Biogas plant.
- Amazon Fulfilment Centre – Large Storage.
- High Rise Accommodation.

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 annual performance review 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

At Dunstable Community Fire Station there are 4 Watches on a 24 hour shift pattern. Between them they crew two rescue pumps and one Technical Rescue Unit. The technical rescue unit specialises in Bariatric and rope rescue.

Each watch will carry out one High risk exercises at a known risk within the station ground.

In addition to this each watch will undertake:-

- 2 High rise exercises at a high rise venue, 1 of which to involve an RDS station.
- 2 Rope rescue exercises, 1 of which will involve an RDS station to implement working at height level 1 procedure.

Details of these exercises can be accessed on the Service Exercise Spreadsheet.

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

Dunstable neighbours Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service. To support close working relationships and share best practice Green Watch will organise an RTC exercise with Markyate Fire Station.

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 to

ensure compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on those premises to which it applies.

Dunstable Community Fire Station will complete 192 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 to and educate the community, Dunstable Community Fire Station will undertake the following routine Prevention Activities

Activities	Period/Dates	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
After incident response (Hot strikes)	After any domestic fire or incident where a Home Fire Safety Visit is required	All risk groups	All
Christmas Fire Safety	December 2020	All risk groups	All
Station visits (Cubs, Brownies etc.)	All Year	Young People	All
Year 2 visits	All year	Year 2 pupils	All
Safe and well visits	All year	Risk groups 1, 2 & 3	All
Station Facebook page	All year	All risk groups	Allocated watch members and administration assistant.

In addition, each watch 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.

- We have a large number of sheltered accommodations and assisted living for the elderly within our station ground. Blue watch will focus on engaging with this risk group by holding a 'Contact the elderly' event and provide fire safety advice.
- Dunstable station attended 81 Road Traffic Collisions on the Motorway and surrounding road networks in 2019. White Watch will deliver a road safety campaign to educate the community on driving safely.
- Historically candles are another cause of accidental fires in the home. White will deliver a campaign on candle safety in line with the NFCC Fire Kills Calendar.
- To educate local businesses Red Watch will be providing information on Fire Door safety in line with the NFCC Fire Kills Calendar.
- Electrical fires are an increasing cause of accidental dwelling fires. Red Watch will deliver a campaign on electrical fire safety in line with the NFCC Fire Kills Calendar.
- A high proportion of the accidental dwelling fires we attend as a service are caused by cooking. Green watch will be targeting those areas within Dunstable that have a high number of accidental dwelling fires and engaging with them to educate them of the risk associated with cooking.
- Mental Health is another contributory factor with accidental dwelling fires and this is one of the areas we try to identify when carrying out a Safe and Well visit. Green watch will deliver an awareness campaign in line with the NFCC Fire Kills Calendar.

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, Dunstable Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 700 Safe & Well visits to vulnerable households in the community. In particular, risk groups 1, 2 and 3.

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 Dunstable Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing all programmed Year 2 visits during the year.

Station Open Day

Blue Watch will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day during 2020. The theme of the open day will be 'Plan Your Escape Route' and target all groups.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
12 th July 2020 13:00 – 16:00	Plan Your Escape Route	Static themed displays
		Youth engagement
WC Sugars	Target Audience	Road safety education
	All Groups	Plan your escape route
		Recruitment

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 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.

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Visit our website for fire and home safety advice: www.bedsfire.gov.uk

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

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