



# Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



# Harrold Community Fire Station Plan 2020-21

---

## Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Harrold 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 Harrold Community Fire Station fits into delivering these objectives during 2020/21.

## Our Community

In the 2011 census the population of Harrold was 4,163 and was made up of approximately 51% females and 49% males. The average age of people in the area was 42, while the median age was higher at 43.

Ward	Population	Average Age	Communities settled in the area	% of population who speak English	Other languages spoken
Harrold	The population is 4,163, approximately 51% are females.	The average age of people in the area is 42.	Communities who have settled in the area include those from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, South Africa, India, Northern Ireland, United States, Australia, and Hong Kong	98.3% of people living in the area speak English.	Top other languages spoken are Polish, Punjabi, French, Swedish, German, Chinese, Nepalese, Lithuanian, and Thai.

## 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 two Risk Groups within Harrold Station ground.

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
<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.
---	---	--

Harrold’s Station Ground contains a significant number of households classified as ‘Affluent Families’. While this groups’ overall risk is very low in regards to fire, they do present a greater risk of being involved in road traffic collisions due to the amount of cars within the household.

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.

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

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

In addition to the road risk identified within Harrold Station turn out area there are natural risks such as water ways within Harrold-Odell Country Park and the River Great Ouse.

Harrold 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

Harrold Station Ground contains the following specific road risk:

- Rural roads
- A6 running towards the Northamptonshire border.

---

In addition there are the following additional risks within the Station Ground:

- Colmworth Science Park (Unilever)
- Harrold / Odell Country Park
- River Great Ouse.

Colmworth Science Park is 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 this identified premise.

Harrold 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 or other associated partners in line with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) campaigns.

The River Great Ouse which runs close to Harrold presents a significant local risk to the community from drowning, hyperthermia and flooding. Harrold 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**

Harrold Community Fire Station works under the Retained Duty System (On-Call) and relies on members of the community who live or work nearby the station to provide cover as On-call Fire Fighters. They crew one Rescue Pump, one 4x4 Multi Role Vehicle (MRV) and 2 Flood Boats.

---

Harrold Station will carry out a minimum of two exercises, 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 water rescue exercise will be carried out jointly with Bedford Community Fire Station, Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), Midshires Search and Rescue, the Police and Local Council departments.

In addition to this they will undertake two high-rise exercises at a high-rise venue with a whole-time station.

## **Cross-Border Exercising**

Harrold Community Fire Station shares a border with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service. A joint exercise will be programmed in conjunction with Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service to test arrangements for cross-border incidents. 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 on those premises to which it applies.

---

Harrold Community Fire Station will complete Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21; the quantity will be determined by the Fire Safety department and will be based upon perceived fire safety risk.

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.

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 Harrold 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>. Harrold 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

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](#)

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

## 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. Harrold 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.

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
- 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.

Harrold Community Fire Station will deliver a minimum of 100 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.

## **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 Harrold Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing all allocated Year 2 visits during the year.

## **Station Open Day**

Harrold Fire station will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The theme of the open day will be Water Safety.

Period/Dates	Theme	Key Activities:
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	Water Safety	Engage with the public and talk through equipment and procedures (Rescue Boat and associated equipment).
		Land based practical demonstrations (throw-lines, rescue paths, etc.).
	<b>Target Audience</b>	Educate on dangers of open water, rivers and canals.
All Groups		

## 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 supports apprenticeships and has actively been involved in the continued drive to utilise alternative educational programmes.

Harrold 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 Harrold area during the weekdays.

On-call (RDS) Firefighters joining Harrold 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.

Campaign	Date	Target Audience	Watch Allocated to:
Station Open Day	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	All groups	On Call
Have a go days	TBC	All Groups	On Call

---

Positive Action Days	TBC	Under-Represented Groups	On Call
----------------------	-----	--------------------------	---------

Further information on recruitment can be found here:

<https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/Careers/Careers.aspx>

**Harrold Community Fire Station**  
Odell Road, Harrold, Bedford MK43 7DH

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

Follow us on Facebook @HarroldFireStation & @BedsFire  
Follow us on Twitter: @bedsfire  
Follow us on Instagram: @bedsfire

**Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service**  
Southfields Road, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7NR  
01234 845000