



Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



Kempston Community Fire Station Plan 2020-21

Introduction

This Station Action Plan outlines how Kempston 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 CRMP 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 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 Kempston Community Fire Station will deliver on our strategic mission during 2020/21.

Our Community

Kempston is divided into four wards with an estimated total population of 21,111.

Ward	Population	Ethnicities
Central & East	7,179	British, Bangladeshi, Kenyan, Zimbabwean, Jamaican, Indian and Pakistani
North	3,690	British, Bangladeshi, Kenyan, Jamaican, Ghanian, Indian and Pakistani
South	4,007	British, Zimbabwean, Kenyan, Jamaican, Ghanian and Pakistani
West	6,235	British, Zimbabwean, Ghanian, Kenyan and Pakistani

Throughout all 4 wards, in addition to English, there are numerous languages spoken. These include Punjabi, Polish, Italian, Lithuanian, Bengali, Gujarati, Tamil, Urdu, Romanian, Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian, French, Chinese, Malaysian, Russian, Slovak, Persian/Farsi and Portuguese.

Our Risks

The number of domestic dwellings in Kempston is growing rapidly. The number of business related premises is also expanding. There are a large number of structural buildings and premises that 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.

Examples of such premises include:-

- Her Majesty's Prison Bedford
- Bedford Hospital
- Infinos Power Station Brogbrough;
- Marston's PLC;
- European Oat Millers;
- Veolia Environmental Services;
- Yarlswood Detention Centre;

Our community also has a significant road risk, specifically:

- M1 Motorway links
- A421 running through Kempston from east to west linking A1 and M1 motorway;
- A6 running through Kempston towards Luton (south) and Northampton (north);
- Various rural B roads to adjoining villages within the Kempston area.

The number of casualties killed or seriously injured from RTC's within our community is rising. This could be due to a larger volume of traffic on our roads. Kempston Community Fire Station will attempt to educate our communities about the dangers associated with travelling by road. This will be done where possible in collaboration with the Police and other associated partners.

Other Risks:-

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

National Rail Midland Mainline services from Sheffield to London and Thameslink services from Bedford to London pass through Kempston.

Community Risk Profiling

Working with a leading provider of consumer measurement and analytical services, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has utilised customer insight profiling and has identified the following 7 Risk Groups within Kempston Station ground:

Risk Group	Most at risk of:	Action:
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 2 - 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.
Group 3 - 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.
Group 4 – Independent affluent seniors with low fire risk	Low fire risk.	Local engagement through national campaign initiatives. Use of Social Media.
Group 5 – Young, urban, mixed ethnicity families with moderate fire risk	Moderate 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.

Statistically, residents within groups 1 – 3 are most at risk regarding accidental dwelling fires.

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 other road users also.

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

Kempston 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/kempstonfirestation

www.facebook.com/bedsfire

www.twitter.com/bedsfire

www.bedsfirealert.co.uk

Response

At Kempston Community Fire Station there are 4 Whole Time (WT) Watches working a 24 hour shift pattern. They are supported by an On-Call (RDS) Retained Duty System Fire Fighter section. Between them they crew two Rescue Pumps, one Specialist Rescue Unit and a Water Carrier.

The Specialist Rescue Unit attends incidents that necessitate a dedicated rescue response and specialist equipment not carried on Rescue Pumps. Examples of such incidents may include:-

- Rescues involving animals
- Road Traffic Collisions involving multiple vehicles, LGV's or HGV's.
- Rescues from mud and ice
- Other incidents requiring specialist equipment eg. Winch or crane



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. This will enable our staff to also influence and better understand our strategic direction and their role in achieving it. We will also continue to invest in the best vehicles 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.

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, Kempston 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 all exercises are suitable, completed, reviewed and effective rests with the relevant Kempston Watch Commander.

Cross Border Exercises

Kempston Station shares a border with Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Services. At least one joint exercise will be programmed to test arrangements for cross-border incidents and demonstrate our commitment to collaborative working. Any cross border exercises will also be recorded at:-

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

Personnel will also record their attendance at such exercises using the Service's electronic personal development tracking tool.

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.

Kempston Community Fire Station will aim to complete 192 Fire Safety Inspections during 2020/21 as required as part of the service risk based audit programme, this equates to 16 inspections per month, split equally amongst 4 watches.

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 operational 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:

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

Prevention Activity

Fire crews at Kempston Community Fire Station will undertake a range of Prevention Activities using an intelligence led risk based approach. This will ensure that we target the most vulnerable people at risk 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 risk and incident trends highlighted within our Community Risk Analysis have identified the following as primary prevention activities:-

- Associated risk of drowning / hypothermia in the river Ouse
- RTC reduction
- Incidents involving business premises
- High risk of accidental fires in local student accommodation

Where possible, all activities will coincide with either or both the National Fire (NFCC) & National Police (NPCC) Chief Council's annual campaign calendars. This will ensure where possible our commitment to collaborative working. Kempston Community Fire Station will record our prevention 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 and will utilise Service activity management plans. This will enable us to effectively plan activities for 2021/22. Kempston Community Fire Station will also engage with the local community throughout all annual celebrations via our social media platforms:-

www.facebook.com/kempstonfirestation

www.facebook.com/bedsfire

www.twitter.com/bedsfire

www.bedsfirealert.co.uk

Home Safe & Well Visits

We will make people safer by educating them in their home by delivering a minimum of 700 Safe & Well Visits to vulnerable households in the community. A Safe & Well visit may include any of the following elements:

- Home fire safety advice;
- Instillation of smoke alarms and safety equipment if required
- Crime Prevention Advice;
- Falls Risk Assessment;
- Smoking Cessation; and,
- 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 full agreement of the occupier.



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.

Fire Cadets

Fire Cadets is a free, nationally recognised programme offering young people, between the ages of 13 and 18 the opportunity to gain a unique insight into Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Through a structured yearly course, Cadets will gain the confidence to interact with their community and become local safety and prevention ambassadors and are able to play a supportive role at station open days, campaign initiatives and charity events. The programme also encourages the development of teamwork, problem solving and communication skills through a range of Fire and Rescue Service led activities.

Cadets are given opportunity to take advantage of various nationally recognised qualifications including the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Fire Cadets is 19:00 – 21:00 during school term time on a Monday.

Fire Cadets will assist with the running of the open day.

Schools

Children can be especially at risk in a fire situation. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service runs a county wide education programme for Year 2 students that educates them about fire safety in the home.

Crews from Kempston Community Fire Station will support this programme by completing all allocated Year 2 visits throughout the year.

Station Open Day

White Watch will be responsible for organising the Station Open Day on 14th June 2020. The theme of the open day will be Road Traffic Collision Reduction.

Period/Dates	Theme / Target Audience	Key Activities
14 th June 2020	RTC Reduction <u>Target Audience :-</u> All	RTC Activities and demonstrations with SRU Service Appliance – ‘Show and Tell’ Themed static displays Service Control Tours



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 an On-Call Retained 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.

Kempston 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 community. We will be specifically targeting those who can provide vital cover in the Kempston area during the weekdays and weekends.

On-call (RDS) Firefighters joining Kempston Community Fire Station will receive the training and development opportunities they need to effectively respond to a wide variety of emergencies that we attend.

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

Campaign	Date	Target Audience
Station Open Day	14 th June 2020	All Groups
Have a go days	TBC	All Groups
Positive Action Days	TBC	Female and BAME

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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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