



Unitary Area Plan 2009-11

### Station 24 Winscombe

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Local people protecting the local community



# Overview

As part of Avon Fire and Rescue, Winscombe Fire Station is working to make our community safer. Last year Winscombe crews were called to 78 incidents including house fires, Road Traffic Collisions, flooding and other emergencies.

In addition to a Standard Fire Appliance, crews at Winscombe operate a Welfare Unit (which is used at larger protracted incidents).

## How can we help?

Our aim is to prevent emergencies from happening. We offer free advice, Home Fire Safety Visits and can fit free smoke alarms. We also work with local partners such as the local council, schools and businesses.

## What can we do to help?

Contact us, refer people to us, and invite us to your community groups and local events if you think they will be attended by people who need our help.

# Our priorities

This year we will be:

- Preventing** Deliver 'Home Fire Safety' visits and advice, focused on high-risk groups in our local community and in the areas where fires are more likely to occur.
- Protecting** We intend to carry out "Home Fire Safety" Visits and fit free smoke alarms in the most 'at risk' households in Winscombe and surrounding areas.
- Responding** We will continue to equip and train our crews to operate all appliances and equipment at the station in an effective and safe manner. We will ensure an effective response to incidents at any time of the day, or night.  
  
We will deliver safety awareness training to local schools and colleges using our "SPARKS" and "Road Skills" programmes.  
  
We will work to help local businesses protect their properties and recover from the effects of any emergency  
  
We will continue to work with our partners in the North Somerset Local Strategic Partnership to improve community safety. We will continue to work with Somerset Racial Equality Council, the Partnership of Older Peoples Project (POPP) and other partners to ensure that our services reach all members of our community.



## Community and Fire Safety

Over the last few years our role has changed. We are now as concerned with trying to prevent emergencies, as responding to them when they do occur. We have made great strides in this area and our preventing and protecting activities are as professional as our responding activities. Our Home Fire Safety Visits were rated the best in the UK last year.

However, things never stand still and there is now a national emphasis on increasing access to public services to parts of the community who, traditionally, have not made use to them. Often these parts of the community are also the most vulnerable, and hence the very people that we want to target with our preventing and protecting work.

There is also a new emphasis on public sector organisations such as the council, police, national health and ourselves, working together to improve the local area in all sorts of ways. These improvements are highlighted in the Local Area Agreement and Crime & Disorder Reduction partnerships. Hence, locally, we are increasingly working with local partners and community groups in ways that may not directly relate to fire, road safety or our other areas of responsibility.

The aim is to maintain a balance between how much support we provide to the other organisations and community groups, etc, and how much they help us to deliver our community safety measures. For example, our community clean up days involve various people working together to make an area more pleasant. They help us to remove potential arson sources and promote fire safety messages.

Another example might be us helping to promote and run a flu-jab clinic, which improves the health and well being of local people. At the same time it gives us access to a high risk group who would benefit from our fire safety messages, free smoke alarms and advice.

So while national initiatives such as increasing access to vulnerable groups and involvement in Local Area Agreements and partnerships may seem new, they are in fact activities we have been involved with for some time already and are just another way of helping to keep people safe.



## Action Plan

No	Objective	Link to higher objective	Actions	Expected outcomes	Target or deadline	Person responsible	Hazard/event	Interventions	Residual risk rating	Other resource?
1	To reduce the number of incidents of fire and injuries involving elderly people.	Framework Document, Service Plan, North Somerset Plan.	To hold a safety event dedicated to elderly persons.	Increase Home Fire Safety Visits requests from elderly members of the community.	31st March 2010	North Somerset Community Safety Manager	Lack of venue and promotional funding.	Liaising with press, media and 'Poppins'	M	
2	Encourage recruitment of under-represented groups to fill RDS vacancies.	LPIHR2, LPIHR3, LPI16a(i)	Carry out structured positive action campaign to support recruitment of RDS staff.	Increase in recruitment of people from under-represented groups.	BME staff to reflect local working and 15% of recruits to be female by 2013.	Station Manager	Lack of vacancies and lack of uptake.	Targeted advertising positive action.	H	
3	To provide toilet and washroom facilities to ensure the dignity of all staff is maintained.	LPIHR2, LPIHR3, LPI16a(i)	Provide dedicated male and female toilet and washroom facilities on all stations.	Provision of dedicated male and female toilet and washroom facilities on all stations.	31st March 2010	Station Manager	Lack of premises funding.	Premises to arrange work.	M	

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4	Continue to maintain a trained, efficient workforce	Service plan, North Somerset Plan, NI 47, 48, 49, 70 & 72	Carry out continuity training based on the station risk profile and IPDS	All staff to be competent in the skills that are relevant to Station Risk profile and IPDS	31/03/2010	SM and WMs	Lack of training opportunities due to other commitments.	Effective management of available training time. Close liaison with Technical Training Department	M	
5	Reduce Primary fires, Accidental Dwelling Fires, Deliberate Fires, Unwanted automatic fire alarm system signals.	Framework Document, Service plan, North Somerset plan NI 49, 70 and 72	We will continue to deliver the "SPARKS" training package to year 4 and 5 children in the Blagdon area. We will carry out Home Fire Safety Visits, specifically targeting the areas where fires are more likely to occur. We will apply the Unwanted Fire Signals policy.	A reduction in the number of primary fires. A reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires. Reduce the number of deliberate fires, and a Reduction in the number of unwanted automatic fire alarm system signals received.	31st March 2010	SM, WM CFS,	Lack of requests from schools for "SPARKS" visits  Lack of requests for HFSVs	Close liaison with schools  Targeted campaigns to generate HFSV referrals in areas of more need	M	

To see our headline incident targets and how well we are doing, please refer to our monthly Station Target Tracker wall charts.

