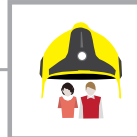
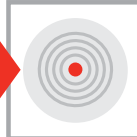




2020



Leading the way to a safer Essex

**Integrated Risk Management Plan**

2016–2020





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# Introduction

Welcome to the Essex Fire Authority 2016 -2020 Integrated Risk Management Plan.

This document has been informed by two 12 week consultations to obtain the views and opinions of the public of Essex, partners and stakeholders, and of course our employees at the Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

The first consultation was focussed on the principles and standards for the Service. The underpinning ethos of this is that ‘it is better to prevent an emergency incident happening in the first place’.

From this, the second consultation proposed options to reflect a refreshed delivery model which aims to put greater emphasis on prevention work, helping people avoid having fires and other emergencies, further reducing the demand on our response services, whilst still providing an effective and professional response service.

Essex Fire Authority has established a vision which sets the strategic intent for everything that it does.

**Our vision: Essex is a safer place to live, work and travel.**

As an Authority that places serving our communities at the heart of everything we do, we have developed a set of strategic aims and strategic themes that will drive our strategy for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service between 2016 and 2020.

Strategic Aims	Strategic Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Community focussed – Knowing who is at risk in our communities, why they are at risk and where they are at risk.</li> <li>■ Service led – Identifying the range of services that we will need to provide, independently or in partnership, to help eliminate or mitigate the risks presented in our communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Prevention – The services we are going to provide to prevent fires and other emergency incidents occurring.</li> <li>■ Protection – The services we are going to provide to protect the public when fires and other emergency incidents occur.</li> <li>■ Response – The emergency response services we are going to provide when fires and other emergency incidents occur.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ A kind culture – Develop an organisational culture that is open, inclusive, trusting and kinder. Using our values to shape supporting behaviours.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ People and leadership – The things we are going to do to ensure that we develop meaningful roles that our staff can be proud of and developing all of our staff so that they have the right knowledge, skills and attitude to safely and effectively perform their roles.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Financially sustainable – Identifying ways to ensure that the overall cost of the Service is managed to accommodate future reductions in Government funding whilst limiting any increase in the level of council tax to thresholds set by Government or the Fire Authority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Public value and collaboration – The things we are going to do to ensure that the Authority provides efficient, effective, value for money services, in collaboration where it makes sense, so that financial sustainability is secured by 2020.</li> </ul>

# What is an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)?

As required by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 the Government outlines its expectations of English Fire & Rescue Services through the National Framework for Fire and Rescue Authorities. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england>).

One of the Government's expectations is the assessment of local risks to life and how effectively resources are used in response to those risks, at the same time providing value for money to the local taxpayer – this is called an Integrated Risk Management Plan.

All Fire & Rescue Authorities have to set out their plan for:

- Reducing the number and severity of fires, road traffic collisions and other emergency incidents occurring in the area for which it is responsible.
- Reducing the severity of injuries due to fires, road traffic collisions and other emergency incidents.
- Reducing the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents.
- Safeguarding the environment and heritage (both built and natural).
- Providing value for money.

The integrated risk management planning process makes the Authority regularly consider four key questions:

- What are the existing and potential risks in Essex?
- How effective are our current community risk management measures?
- What standards should be set for the Fire and Rescue Service's activities?
- What resources are necessary to meet those standards?

This Integrated Risk Management Plan includes an action plan to manage the changes to service provision identified by the Authority through the planning process.

The Integrated Risk Management Plan sets out how the Authority will give the community a Fire and Rescue Service that best meets its needs in a financially sustainable way.

In order to effectively manage risk in our community the Service uses a combination of tactics, which complement each other to deliver the Authority's strategic aims. It is the 'integrated' nature of these community risk management tactics in the optimum blend, linked with the strategic aims, that gives the plan its name.

The plan also outlines the changes the Service plans to make in order to manage existing and emerging risk more effectively. These are outlined within the 'Plans for Change' section.

# Risk in Essex

Our community risk information comes from various sources. It informs our professional judgments when we decide on the most suitable protection, prevention and emergency response arrangements to put in place, to maintain that risk at an acceptable level.

The Service has a complex risk profile within its borders. This includes elements of the national infrastructure that are of importance, not only to Essex, but also to the rest of the country, e.g. Stansted Airport. It also has risks that are important regionally, such as major trunk roads like the A12, M25 and M11. Alongside these are the risks that we all recognise; fires in the home and places of work, road traffic collisions and flooding.

The Service considers all of these risks in detail within its Strategic Assessment of Risk. This assessment provides the foundation of this Integrated Risk Management Plan and is reviewed on an annual basis to reflect any changes within the County. The areas covered by the Strategic Assessment of Risk are:

- General risk arrangements
- Statistical information
- People – Demography
- Transport infrastructure
- Industrial /Utility infrastructure
- The environment
- Human and Animal Health
- Terrorism
- The economy
- Interoperability

Whilst some risks can be dealt with solely by the Service, many require us to work with other agencies. This joint working takes many forms, including sharing buildings with the Police, and training and exercising with other organisations. We have memorandums of understanding with a range of service providers across a range of activities. For example, the Red Cross, for victim support after an emergency.

## What are the risks?

- Injury or death to residents and visitors
- Damage to property
- Impact on the economy of Essex and disruption to business
- Loss of built and natural heritage
- Social impact on communities
- Firefighter safety
- Loss of critical infrastructure

## About our county

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is one of the largest Fire and Rescue Services in the country, serving a county within which there are a wide variety of risks. The Service is governed by the Essex Fire Authority representing Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend Council areas. Essex Fire Authority is responsible for Fire and Rescue Services covering an area over 1,400 square miles and a population of 1.7 million. Essex is a county of contrasts. It contains numerous ecologically important areas and manages one of the largest sections of coastline (350 miles) in the country. There are various conservation areas and over 14,000 listed buildings. Essex is an attractive place to live, work and has a rural and urban mix featuring excellent transport links and leisure opportunities which attracts people to the area. Significant numbers of people settle in Essex, and employment opportunities attract economic migrants.

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service provides prevention, protection and emergency response services from fifty fire stations staffed by wholetime and on-call Firefighters. The organisation is administered from its Headquarters at Kelvedon Park in Kelvedon, where the Service also has a mobilising Control Centre.

## Factors contributing to the County's risk profile

### *National Risk Assessment*

The National Risk Assessment is intended to capture the range of emergencies that might have a major impact on all, or significant parts of, the UK. It provides a national picture of the risks we face, and is designed to complement our local Community Risk Register. The driver for this work is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which defines what is meant by emergencies, and what responsibilities are placed on us so that we can prepare for them. Risks covered in the assessment include – severe weather, pandemics, animal disease, major accidents and malicious attacks including cyber-attacks and acts of terrorism.

### *Local Community Risk Register*

Our Local Community Risk Register looks at the likelihood and potential impact of a range of hazards occurring in specific areas. It is approved and published by the Essex Local Resilience Forum (LRF), which includes representatives from the emergency services, public, private and voluntary organisations. In order to produce the Community Risk Register, the LRF use a combination of local knowledge about each risk, as well as guidance provided by central government drawn from the National Risk Assessment.

### *Critical National Infrastructure*

With its national resilience capability, the Service is part of the response to maintain critical infrastructure in the event of any of the identified risks becoming a reality. There is work with utilities and private businesses through the Local Resilience Forum and fire safety enforcement work to increase business continuity resilience.

# How we currently manage risk

The Service works with our local communities to reduce risks to life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies. The traditional view of the function of the Fire & Rescue Service is one of an organisation that responds to an emergency, saving life and preventing further damage. We firmly believe that by far the best way of protecting those we serve from fire and other emergencies is to prevent that emergency before it happens, therefore this is our priority. Not only does prevention avoid suffering and harm but it also reduces demand on our services which saves the community money, while still providing an effective professional emergency response when required. This is also the expectation of Government which is set out in their requirements for all Fire and Rescue Authorities in the National Framework document, and through the Integrated Risk Management Planning process outlined in section two of this document which is, in fact, the purpose of this document.

The majority of emergencies are avoidable and involve the actions or inaction of people. If we can help people change their behaviour or become more aware of the likely implications of a situation they create or are involved in, we can prevent disaster. Our prevention work is aimed at people of all ages and backgrounds but targets those most at risk. Sadly, despite our efforts, emergencies do still happen. When they do, we learn as much as we can from them thereby guiding our prevention and protection work.

## Prevention and protection services

Prevention is a big part of the day-to-day work of our firefighters who are in the ideal position to talk to people about safety having witnessed the devastation of fire, road traffic collisions and other catastrophes first-hand. Working from our fire stations, they deliver community safety advice and fit life-saving smoke alarms for those who need them. Firefighters regularly attend community events to raise awareness and educate about fire safety issues.

## School fire safety programmes

The Services education programme delivers fire safety education to all schools in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. Each Education Officer works within geographically defined areas. Links with local schools are also reinforced through local Partnership Agreements. The aim of the programme is to promote fire safety and help reduce the numbers of arson related incidents and injuries in the three Authorities.

The Service does this by delivering:

- Home Fire Safety (year 3)
- Arson and Hoax Call Prevention (year 7)
- Home Fire Safety (year 9)
- Firework safety talks to targeted areas.

The programme also delivers a road safety lesson (year 7) to specifically targeted areas throughout the county.

## Firebreak

Firebreak is a highly successful community inclusion programme which continues to go from strength to strength within ECFRS. In order to make the Firebreak course as relevant as possible to the strategic aims and objectives of our partner agencies and to secure future funding we have introduced the new bespoke Firebreak. The bespoke Firebreak uses the tried and tested standard Firebreak course as its template, but also incorporates other features to produce a scheme tailored to address specific learning outcomes our partner agencies would wish for us to achieve. The success of a bespoke course being such that the number of Firebreaks commissioned by partner agencies grew from 27 courses in 2013 to 64 courses in 2015; a substantial increase of 137%.

Referrals come in to the Service from various agencies such as Youth Offending Teams, Probation Service, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Community Rehabilitation Companies, Department for Work and Pensions, schools and many more. Results have been outstanding and the service collects evidence of changes in behaviour from the referring agency ensuring all learning outcomes have been met. Such is the success of the ECFRS Firebreak Course, 2016 will see the first franchise of our course to other Fire and Rescue Services.

## Home fire safety visits

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service delivers home fire safety visits to residents deemed to be most at risk from accidental dwelling fires. The visit is undertaken by dedicated technicians and volunteers as well as operational crews. The visit includes providing the occupier with general fire safety advice such as electrical and kitchen safety, as well as offering guidance on night time routines and a fire action plan. This will include how to summon the Fire Service and how to escape the property should a fire occur. Smoke alarms are also provided and fitted, at no cost to the occupier, if it is deemed necessary.

The Community Safety Department gathers and monitors dwelling fire statistics in order to positively target those most vulnerable in the County. This is consistent with the aim of the corporate strategy to reduce incidents among those most at risk.

The Community Safety Department has formed partnerships with organisations such as BOC Oxygen, The Rural Community Council of Essex and the Royal British Legion to provide home fire safety advice to as many people throughout the County as possible.

## Road traffic collision reduction activities

The Service recognises that it has a key role to play in preventing road traffic collisions and the resultant harm to human life, as much as it is working to reduce fire related deaths and injuries through prevention and protection work.

Our activities in road traffic collisions reduction will be through specific interventions, campaigns, schemes and initiatives which are designed to change people's driving behaviour so as to reduce death and injury caused by road traffic related incidents.

Responding to road traffic collisions will always be a major part of what we do as an emergency service, but with effective educational activity and promotional campaigns, particularly working with partner agencies, we aim to achieve ongoing sustainable reductions in fatalities and serious injuries.

Whilst remaining fully aware of the role of other key stakeholders and the need to avoid duplication of effort, the Service is committed to proactively engaging with the key risk groups in the community to explain the consequences of road traffic collisions on individuals, our own staff and the wider community. It is essential to change behavioural attitudes to such events. This can only be achieved by a comprehensive multi-partner approach. In this regard, for the administrative County of Essex, Road Traffic Collision reduction activities are co-ordinated by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

## How we make workplaces safe from fire

Workplace Fire Safety is, as the name suggests, focused on workplaces. However this description belies the full range of buildings covered. Buildings that are not often thought of as a workplace e.g. sport centres, hospitals and hotels are also covered by the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005 (Fire Safety Order). The Fire Safety Order makes the responsibility for fire safety that of the "responsible person" (usually the building occupant). The Service is therefore able to concentrate on premises that present the greatest risk to the occupants.

In order to identify premises to inspect the Service have a Risk Based Inspection Programme.

The selection of premises is based on information gathered from a number of sources including data gathered from fire statistics. This enables premises where there is a higher risk to life, such as care homes, to be prioritised. The risk based approach also means that there is not a singular approach to inspection intervals. Those higher risk premises that are managed well will receive less frequent inspections than those that have a history of poor compliance with fire safety standards.

The Service is a signatory to the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, which guides the Service in its approach to delivering its enforcement responsibilities. This has at its heart a supportive approach to enforcement, rather than a punitive one. Experience has shown that there are a very small number of businesses that actively avoid compliance which puts persons at risk. If our supportive methods of achieving compliance fail, the Service will not hesitate to use more robust methods of enforcement to achieve acceptable levels of fire safety for their premises and more importantly for employees and visitors.

## False alarms

It is essential that fire crews across the County remain available to deal with true emergency situations and do not spend time responding to calls that turn out to be false alarms. This not only makes sound financial sense, but even more importantly ensures firefighters remain available to respond to real incidents in their community, along with reducing unwanted vehicle movements.

The Service has been successful in driving down the number of false alarms we attend through two key strategies. These include:

### *Automatic Fire Alarms Policy*

Our policy is not to respond to most signals from automatic fire alarms unless there is additional evidence of a fire. Currently a full emergency response is still sent to premises where people sleep. Where we attend false reports from automatic fire alarm on more than one occasion we work with the premises occupiers to remove the source of the false alarms.

### *Malicious Calls*

Occasionally the Service receives hoax 999 calls from individuals falsely claiming there is a fire or other emergency. In such circumstances the Service's mobilising Control Room adopt robust methods to challenge the caller. In this way the Service prevents firefighters being turned out unnecessarily. The Service works closely with the Police to prosecute hoax callers.

## Fire investigations

Fire investigation is a statutory duty placed on the Authority and it is an essential part of the Service role is to identify the causes of fire to inform future prevention activity. Evidence uncovered by our investigation can assist the Police bringing about prosecutions where arson is suspected, or be required for a coroner's inquest. The results of a fire investigation may also be valuable to the wider Fire Safety Community or research establishments to assist in developing future prevention safeguards.



**Arson prevention**

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**Emergency response arrangements**

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service provides prevention, protection and emergency response services from 50 fire stations staffed by wholetime and on-call Firefighters. The organisation is administered from its Headquarters in Kelvedon Park in Kelvedon, where the Service also has a mobilising control centre.

Essex Fire Authority has established response standards for the attendance of fire engines at fires and other emergencies. These response standards are used by the Authority to establish the location of fire stations and fire engines and the duty systems of firefighters crewing each fire engine. In October 2015 Essex Fire Authority approved these response standards:

- To get our first attendance to an incident which is potentially life-threatening within an average of 10 minutes from the time we receive a call.
- To get our first attendance to an incident within 15 minutes on 90% of occasions from the time we receive a call.

	Response standards	
	Average (target 10 minutes)	% in 15 minutes (target 90%)
2010	8 min 56s	93%
2011	8 min 44s	93%
2012	8 min 57s	92%
2013	9 min	92%
2014	9 min 10s	91%

Essex Fire Authority has reviewed the disposition of the fire stations across the County and almost all are in the right place and are required to assist the Service in meeting the Authority’s response standards.

The Authority has fire stations which are located in towns and villages across the County and together they provide an emergency response to any incident. Some of these fire stations have one fire engine, others have two or more. Because of where the Authority’s fire stations are situated they provide support and assistance to each other when required. This also allows the Service to manage larger scale incidents by facilitating the provision of the right number of fire engines immediately along with the right number of firefighters to tackle the incident safely.

Essex Fire Authority will regularly review the achievement of the Authority’s response standards for the attendance of fire engines at fires and other emergencies and as a result may alter or amend the location of fire stations and fire engines and the duty systems of firefighters crewing each fire engine.

**Operational risk information**

The basis of all planning for the Service’s operational response is maintaining a relevant and current knowledge of the area’s risks. The Service has completed a large amount of work to ensure operational risk information is up-to-date and available to those that need it in the right format and at the right time. The risk information is available through mobile data terminals (MDTs) fitted to all fire appliances. This allows concise site specific information or technical information, such as details of the many safety features fitted to modern cars, to be retrieved at the scene of an incident.

Operational risk information is managed using the Provision of Risk Information System (PORIS). This methodology considers the likelihood and impact of an incident occurring against six risk groups;

- Firefighter safety
- Heritage
- Individual/societal
- Community
- Environment
- Economic and other

The outcome of PORIS is a site or premises ranked as Level 1 through to 5. Sites ranked as Level 1 present little or no risk. Level 2 sites offer low to medium risk and are covered by Premise Type Risk Information Files; risk cards for common risk types such as petrol stations or schools. Level 3 sites have a Site Specific Risk Information File created detailing the specific risks associated with that particular site. Level 4 sites have a Site Specific Risk Information File and a Tactical Fire Plan created due to their size and/or complexity. Level 5 sites present a risk requiring a national response. A Level 5 site requires the publication of both Level 3 and 4 documentation, together with multi-agency plans. These sites will require a multi-agency response in the event of an incident and probably resources from outside of the County.

Some industrial processes, especially those involving dangerous substances, have the potential to cause accidents. Due to their size and the substances involved, these can have an impact beyond the boundary of the site. For sites such as those regulated under Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) regulations 1999 the Service works with local site management, the Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency to ensure plans are in place and tested. These sites are mainly concentrated in the south of the County along the Thames estuary coastline, but there are also sites in the north of the County. The Service has a prominent national role in planning for incidents in petrochemical sites. The Service invests significant effort into the prevention and planning for responses to sites within Essex and also being part of the responses to sites beyond our boundaries. The Service would also draw in support from other areas as one Service may not be able to maintain all of the critical expertise and equipment necessary to cope with larger incidents. There are also local arrangements to ensure that key stations always have a fire appliance in place.

Locally, the Service has strong working relationships with all of the largest site operators and frequently carries out joint exercises with these and other responders. There is continual liaison with other agencies and relevant commercial organisations in order to constantly improve the prevention and response to such incidents.

The Service also works with the National Operational Guidance Programme for UK fire and rescue services. The programme works with Fire and Rescue Services and experts from a wide range of organisations to develop best practice guidance that helps UK Fire and Rescue Services to respond to incidents safely and effectively, as well as training for firefighters to deal with incidents effectively and safely. This website hosts the ever-increasing catalogue of national policy and tactical operational guidance. It also contains industry-leading research performed during the course of guidance development and, for the first time, a catalogue with all of the existing guidance in one place.

### Over the border arrangements

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service shares a border with Suffolk, Cambridge, Hertfordshire and Kent Fire and Rescue Services as well London Fire Brigade. To ensure the most appropriate response to risks on or near to these boundaries there are formal arrangements in place or being put in place, underpinned by signed agreements as to how each service will respond to incidents. These are formalised under Sections 13 and 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

### Specialist capabilities

The types of rescue incidents the Service attends vary with the geography of the County as well as the commercial and recreational activities undertaken in those areas. The Service has developed specialist skills and provided equipment that reflect the particular risks present within the County and the nature of emergency calls we receive. The Service will respond to any call for help and do what we can to safely deal with the situation, although we have developed particular skills in a number of key areas dictated by the calls we receive, such as working at height.

All of our fire engines carry rescue equipment, and we have recently introduced seven heavy rescue fire engines with additional capabilities to deal with larger vehicles or incidents. The Service has also introduced two units for managing incidents with hazardous materials, as well as an enhanced environmental protection and salvage module.

### National resilience

Within Essex, the Service has a range of vehicles and equipment that form part of a national capability and a framework of assets. These assets are positioned within Fire Services across the country to provide emergency response and have the capability to deal with large scale and widespread incidents. They are mobilised as part of a national structure and each type of vehicle is identical to others held in other Services so that they can be staffed by any crew who have received the appropriate training. These vehicles and the associated equipment can also be used locally for incidents when appropriate and provide a valuable additional resource for the County.

Specifically, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service have the following specialist capabilities supporting the national infrastructure:

- **Urban Search and Rescue units** provide a capability to deal with major incidents both in Essex, the UK, and overseas.
- **Incident Response Unit** for decontamination of large numbers of casualties.
- **High Volume Pump** that can be used for widespread flooding incidents where greater pumping capacity is required.
- **Detection, Identification and Monitoring Unit** that supports the identification of chemical and other substances.

In addition to this, the Service maintains specially trained officers to support national arrangements to deal with multi-agency security related incidents

### Environmental protection

As well as protecting the people of Essex from harm, we have a legal obligation to protect the environment in which they live. Living in a County with extensive areas of outstanding natural beauty, presents significant additional challenges for the Service.

Many of the emergency incidents the Service attends have the potential to cause extensive and long term harm to the environment. This can be through air pollution from the smoke produced by a large fire, pollution from firefighting water entering streams and rivers, or the presence of a hazardous substance that has been involved in an incident. We have a team of specialist Hazardous Material and

Environmental Protection Officers providing full time cover to respond immediately to such incidents throughout the County. The officers are trained to deal with chemical, biological and radiological incidents and work with appliances and equipment that is used locally and nationally.

The Service has established a partnership with the Environment Agency, where early contact is made with them when there is potential for the environment to be harmed as the result of an incident.

The Environment Agency will provide us with advice over the phone or attend the scene if necessary. All fire engines carry equipment for environmental protection and the Service has an Environmental Protection Unit. This carries large scale environmental protection equipment and a crew who have received specialist training.

### Training and development

To deliver the best outcomes for our community and protect themselves, our staff must have the right skills knowledge and understanding. This enables them to meet changing demands by solving problems, providing guidance and leadership. As well as vital operational skills, firefighters need to have a range of skills such as communication and empathy to help them persuade members of the public that they need to protect themselves, their possessions and those around them from fire and other emergencies.

It is also important to focus on developing highly skilled logistic support staff. They are an important part of the team and are vital to delivering the best outcomes and our strategic aims. All of these skills are gained through carefully designed and delivered training, in line with the Services Training Strategy within which there are clearly defined policies on initial learning and maintenance of skills. The service has a central training team which has a key role in delivering quality training.

### Health and safety

The Service has both a legal and moral duty to make sure that all firefighters and those responsible for making risk critical decisions at emergency incidents (Incident Commanders) can safely perform their duties without putting themselves or others at risk of harm. The Service has clear procedures based on nationally recognised best practice to ensure that this is the case. We put great emphasis on training our staff and have developed a proactive safety culture, although in this ever-changing world and with an in-exhaustible range of challenges that can be thrown at us, we also make a point of learning from every emergency incident the Service attends.

The Service has monitoring processes in place which ensure that it learns through training events as well as operational incidents. Where health and safety events do occur, the Service investigates fully in order to learn the lessons from them, and avoid them happening in future by changing our practices and procedures accordingly.

### Equipment

Vehicles and equipment are the tools that help firefighters to operate safely and effectively. This extends from the protective clothing that firefighters wear to the fire engines they use to transport them to and deal with emergency incidents. The reliability and quality of this range of equipment can literally mean the difference between life and death for both the firefighter and those at risk.

Our Operations and Technical teams continually monitors technological advancement, although there must be a sound business case that carefully considers necessity, cost and benefit before any change of equipment is made. The Service's vehicles and equipment must be carefully maintained and tested to avoid failure when it is most needed. The specialist nature of that equipment means that it is most effective for the Service to have an in-house Fleet and Equipment Services team.



### Joint Emergency Services Inter-operability Principles

The public expects that the emergency services will work together, particularly in the initial response, in order to preserve life and reduce harm at any emergency. The purpose of clear, simple principles is to help commanders to take action under pressure that will enable the achievement of successful outcomes. This simplicity is of paramount importance in the early stages of an incident or emergency, when clear, robust decisions and actions need to be taken with minimum delay in an often rapidly changing environment.

This joint working takes many forms, including sharing buildings with the Police and exercising with other organisations. We have memorandums of understanding with a range of service providers across a range of activities. For example, the Red Cross, for victim support after an emergency. In addition to this we are working with Health colleagues to respond to blue light medical emergencies as part of a life-saving collaboration between Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and The East of England Ambulance Trust.

# Plans for the future 2016 - 2020

As part of this Integrated Risk Management Plan, Essex Fire Authority plans to deliver the following additional activities to prevent incidents occurring and to protect people if they do occur:

- To deliver safety messages to every school child in Essex.
- To ensure there is a working smoke alarm in 100% of households.
- To work with partner agencies in meeting other social needs of the vulnerable members of our communities.
- To support the installation of systems such as sprinklers for the protection of buildings and occupants.
- To work with drivers and riders to reduce the number of people killed or injured on our road.

In order to support the Service in responding to emergency incidents, the Service will focus its operational planning to:

- provide resources to safely and effectively respond to operational incidents in accordance with its response standards.
- identify and assess foreseeable operational risk, then develop resilient planning processes, with other agencies where appropriate, in order to respond to those risks safely and effectively.
- ensure that the Service maintains an appropriate level of available resources based upon the level and type of risk, in order to deliver a resilient service.
- effective delivery of demonstrable Command and Control framework based on the principle of Joint Emergency Services Inter-operability Programme.
- continually improve and advance operational response through learning from incidents and providing assurance on effective response arrangements.

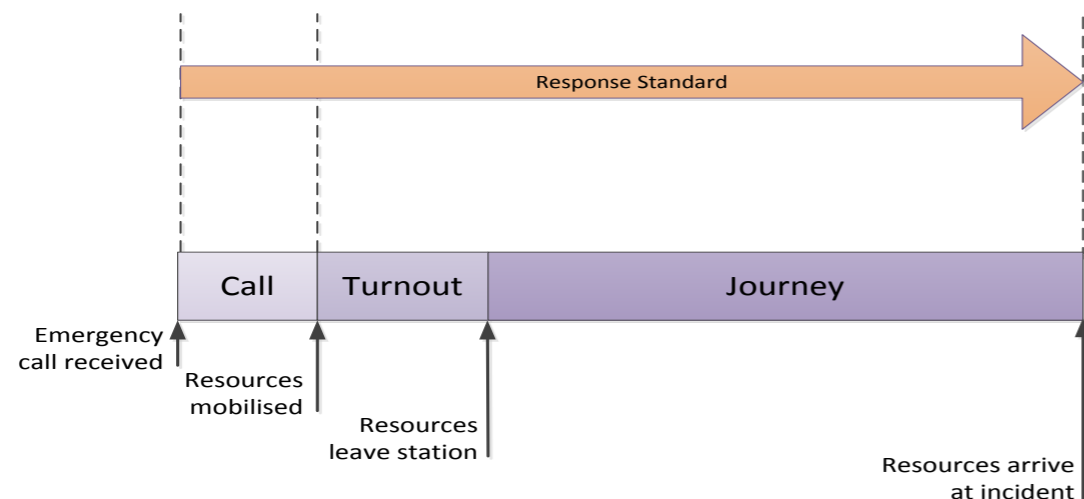
# Performance

## Emergency response standards

The Authority's response to an emergency begins when the call is received in our Mobilising Control centre based in the Service Headquarters at Kelvedon Park. The chart below shows the key steps between this and our first resources arriving at an incident. The control operator identifies the incident type and location and mobilises the right resources. On average this takes 70-80 seconds. The second stage is the emergency response turnout, which the Service measures from the time the fire station is alerted to the time the fire engine is on route.

For wholetime crews, turnout takes on average 2 minutes. For fire engines crewed by on-call firefighters, turnout takes on average 4 minutes and 30 seconds as they have to travel to the fire station first.

The next stage of the response is the journey to the incident. Over the last five years, the average time for this stage is 4.5-5 minutes.



A range of performance indicators are being developed to support the Authority's revised strategy for Essex County Fire & Rescue Service for the period 2016 to 2020.

# Statement of assurance

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England sets a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to publish Statements of Assurance.

'Fire and Rescue Authorities must provide annual assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in the Framework.

To provide assurance, Fire and Rescue Authorities must publish an annual Statement of Assurance. One of the principal aims of the Statement of Assurance is to deliver an assessment of the Fire and Rescue Authority's performance. The Statement of Assurance will also be used as a source of information on which to base the Secretary of State's biennial report under section 25 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. Essex Fire Authority produces their Statement of Assurance Document annually in line with the requirements set out in the national framework.

## Supporting documents

Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Strategic Assessment of Risk	
Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 (the RES Act)	<a href="http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/13/pdfs/ukpga_20080013_en.pdf">http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/13/pdfs/ukpga_20080013_en.pdf</a>
Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) order 2005	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160760.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160760.pdf</a>
National Framework	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160582.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160582.pdf</a>
Joint Emergency Services Inter-operability Principles	<a href="http://www.jesip.org.uk/five-principles">http://www.jesip.org.uk/five-principles</a>
National Risk Assessment	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160593.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160593.pdf</a>
Community Risk Register	<a href="http://www.essexprepared.co.uk/know-the-risks/community-riskregister">http://www.essexprepared.co.uk/know-the-risks/community-riskregister</a>
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160549.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160549.pdf</a>
Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160560.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1433160560.pdf</a>
Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Statement of Assurance	<a href="http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1458823731.pdf">http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1458823731.pdf</a>



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