



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY UPDATE 2015

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 26 February 2016

Purpose of Report:

To update the Fire Authority on the operational activity levels during the calendar year 2015.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : John Buckley
Chief Fire Officer

Tel : (0115) 967 0880

Email : john.buckley@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Therese Easom
Tel: 0115 967 0880 therese.easom@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 During 2010 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) undertook the most comprehensive review of its operational activity since 1986. Under the term “Fire Cover Review”, the Service ‘risk-profiled’ the whole county against a risk matrix and looked at how the location and provision of resources matched the risk.
- 1.2 Since 2011 this data has been used to underpin key decisions regarding the location and level of operational resources and these were reviewed and updated as part of the Fire Cover Review process in 2015 (FCR 2015).
- 1.3 The findings from the FCR 2015 process have been presented to the Fire Authority 22 September 2015 and the Community Safety Committee has been tasked to consider potential implications and opportunities that report may offer.
- 1.4 The Service has also introduced its new command and control mobilising system, which will also provide additional data in future as it becomes operationally embedded.
- 1.5 The Fire Authority asked to be informed as to all future operational activity on an annual basis, to ensure that the level of operational resources best matched the risk profile of the county and city. This report introduces these statistics for the calendar year 2015 (January to December).

2. REPORT

RISK PROFILE

- 2.1 Risk profiling continues to be updated and there is no significant change to the county risk profile overall. Some variation across super output areas (an area where the risk is measured and rated) continues to reflect the level of risk and operational activity, but this is not significant enough to present any issues for the Fire Authority to consider at this time.
- 2.2 The risk areas are still rated within the original three agreed by the Fire Authority and utilise the terms:
 - Low;
 - Medium; and
 - High Risk
- 2.3 To determine these categories, the following datasets are used:
 - All incidents where injuries have occurred;
 - Incidents with a recorded fire death;
 - Special service calls involving any risk to life;
 - Fire in non-domestic property;
 - Dwelling fires;
 - Indices of multiple deprivation.

- 2.4 The methodology ensures consistency in the Service's approach and also utilises the process which was externally validated by Nottingham Trent University and accepted by the Fire Authority as part of the original Fire Cover Review 2010.
- 2.5 The FCR 2015 also included a review of the risk profile approach in 2.4 above to ensure this remained fit for purpose. As part of the 2015 review process the methodology is again being subject to external validation, with outcomes being reported to a later meeting of the Fire Authority.

ACTIVITY LEVELS

- 2.6 The full operational activity levels for the Service are appended to this report and continue to show a five year range so that the Fire Authority can compare 2015 figures with the preceding four years.
- 2.7 The total number of incidents for 2015 was 9518 a marginal increase on the previous year from 9468, the first increase in comparison to the previous five years performance.
- 2.8 Of these 9518 incidents, false alarms were again over 4000; approximately 1500 were primary fires; just under 500 were road traffic collisions, secondary fires reduced to just under 1800, and almost 1600 that are classified as 'other calls'.
- 2.9 Dwelling fires specifically accounted for 638 of the total number of incidents, down from the 696 in 2014, unfortunately during 2015 these included five fire fatalities, three within the city and 2 within the county.
- 2.10 Co-responding or Emergency first responder schemes currently in a joint trial with East Midlands Ambulance Service has also seen an increase on the previous year (284) to 469 in 2015.
- 2.11 The station with the highest incident numbers was again Central, with just over 1500 incidents recorded, a slight decrease on the previous year, however, just under 900 of those incidents continue to be classified as false alarms.
- 2.12 Total mobilisations also increased to reflect the number of incidents from 13729 in 2014 to 13887 in 2015.
- 2.13 The significant majority of incidents (8784 of the total) continue to be dealt with by one (5318), two (2846) or three (620) appliances and the Service only deployed more than ten appliances on four occasions during 2015. This continues to demonstrate the Service retains capacity to respond effectively and the 2015 data accounts for the impact of previous fleet reductions.
- 2.14 Currently the single attendance measure for incidents, that being 90% of incidents will receive an attendance in ten minutes resulted in a performance for all incidents of 69% and for fires in dwellings was 74%, down from 81%.
- 2.15 The Operational Activity information and data presented will be uploaded to the Service's website in keeping with previous years so that it is publicly available and supports the Authority's proactive stance for transparency.

“The Operation Activity 2015: Incidents” document is available at the following link:

http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/Documents/Operational_Activity_2015_Incidents.pdf

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

This report does not propose any specific changes that directly involve human resources and learning and development implications, the information contained within it may influence future decisions.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment is not required for this report as it only presents historical data. However, this data will be used in any subsequent changes to operational resourcing, and decisions will be subject to an equality impact assessment at that time.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that “it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area”. This report does not contain any implications which would affect that duty.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Part 3, Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a National Framework. This document places a duty of Fire and Rescue Authorities to ‘produce a plan that identifies and assesses all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect its community’.
- 7.2 As part of the Integrated Risk Management Plan the Authority is required to continually update and review the operational demands and the risks being faced, publication of the operational activity demonstrates that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service ensures that the Fire Authority continues to meet such duties.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The updated risk profile and operational activity levels inform the Services wider risk management process, through the proactive monitoring and review of these aspects, the Authority is best placed to understand the impact on its service provision.

- 8.2 It also manages the expectation of communities for the transparency in the delivery of public services and assists the Fire Authority to maintain its well-regarded image.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 9.1 Note the operational activity levels for 2015.
- 9.2 Request that the Community Safety Committee review the data in the report and consider any potential implications or opportunities for the delivery of services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER