



Essex County
Fire & Rescue Service

Safeguarding, Prevention, Protection and Response 2025-2030

Making Essex safer together



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Safer communities through everything we do

Our safeguarding, prevention, protection and response strategies set out how we will deliver against our mission to make Essex safer together, reduce risk and harm in our communities, and deliver against our statutory duties.

More than 1.88 million people rely on us to provide a service. A service that meets their needs. They rightly expect us to do this in a planned and coordinated way, matching what we do and the work we prioritise to the different risks they face.

Our ambition is to be one of the best Fire and Rescue Services in the country. This means we are providing our residents, businesses, and visitors with a service they deserve.

As well as responding to calls for help, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service must also try and prevent people from being seriously hurt or killed.

We align our resources to risk so we can prioritise our prevention activity to where it is needed the most.

We help make Essex communities safer through prevention, early intervention and safeguarding, while also contributing to our national duties (for example the Serious Violence Duty, Prevent Duty and the Public Sector Equality Duty).

Use of language in this document

Prevention – The targeted action we take, or the targeted education we provide, to stop a specific problem or issue happening in the first place. For example, a home fire safety visit.

Early Intervention – The targeted action we take at the earliest possible stages when a specific problem occurs to stop it, or prevent it from getting worse.

Safeguarding – The action we take to protect an individual's health, wellbeing and human rights. For example, making a referral following a concern.

Engagement – The action we take to build trust and confidence (eg fire station open day) or have a conversation to listen and learn from what others have to say (eg staff survey).

Campaign – The coordinated series of targeted actions and activities we take to achieve a specific goal. For example, delivering focused communications and engagement events and interventions to prevent accidental drownings.

About us

Our ambition is to be one of the best fire and rescue services in the country.

Delivering excellence to increase and build community confidence and trust.

This means we are providing our residents, businesses, and visitors with a service they deserve.

About ECFRS

Essex County Fire and Rescue Services is one of the largest fire and rescue services in the country, serving 1.88 million residents over a county of 1,420 square miles.

Service area	1,420 square miles	
Population	1.88m people	
No. of employees	Approx 1,500	
Operational workforce	61% wholtime 39% on-call	
Sites	1 Headquarters 1 USAR 50 Fire Stations	
Incidents	8.8 incidents per 1,000 Essex population	10.4 national
	3.1 non-fire incidents per 1,000 Essex population	3.5 national
	3.6 fire false alarms per 1,000 Essex population	4.3 national

We employ approximately 1500 people, and provide prevention, protection, and emergency response services from 50 fire stations. We also host one of the 20 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) facilities and teams that are strategically located across England.

Our core services are focused on our statutory duties to prevent, protect and respond to fires and other emergencies.

They are informed and shaped by our analysis of risk, and we align our resources and focus our activities on the areas of greater risk.

We have a strong focus on safeguarding, making sure we work closely with our partners. Our people know how to spot safeguarding concerns and take correct action to protect the most vulnerable within our communities. We are committed to mitigate the risks of harm or greater harm at the earliest of opportunities.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Technical Rescue

We host a National Resilience USAR team which includes multiple specialist national assets that can be deployed locally regionally or nationally to provide bespoke equipment and skills to complex incidents.

Our team also provides the Essex Technical Rescue capability which comprises of Swift Water Rescue, Rope Rescue, Drone Operations, Bariatric Rescue, and Trench Rescue.

Data source: <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-services/essex/>

Our vision, mission, values and behaviours

PFCC vision

Safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and well-being for all.

Our mission

Making Essex safer together.

Our values

Our values are a set of guiding principles which set the tone for how we will work with each other, our partners, and most importantly our communities. We value:

- **Professionalism**
- **Inclusion**
- **Teamwork**
- **Courage**
- **High Performance**

Our behaviours






The difference we make in and for our communities is driven by our behaviours. Our behaviours are:

- Do what is right for the people we serve.
- Be accountable for the performance of my team.
- Communicate positively and actively listen.
- Do what I say I will or explain why I have not.
- Inspire, empower, and help others to succeed.
- Prioritise my well-being.
- Promote and role model inclusion.
- Seek feedback and listen to improve.
- Set realistic goals and celebrate success.
- Speak up when something feels wrong.



NFCC Core Code of Ethics

The Core Code of Ethics supports a consistent approach to ethics, including behaviours, by services in England. They are intended to improve organisational culture and workforce diversity of services, ensuring communities are supported in the best way.

-  **Putting our Communities First**
-  **Integrity**
-  **Dignity and Respect**
-  **Leadership**
-  **Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**

Strategic Goals

We have developed five strategic goals that have been shaped by insights, risk analysis and data. These goals reflect our mission and values, and will mean we will continue to reduce risk in our communities and provide a service our public deserves

Preventing fires and other emergencies

We will work together to help people stay safe from fires and other emergencies.

Inclusive and high performing culture

We will embed a high performing and inclusive culture ensuring our people are supported, engaged and inspired to deliver our Service strategic goals.

Reducing the impact of fire in the built environment

To protect businesses, people, the local economy and the environment from the impact of fire in the built environment.

A resilient and sustainable future

We will manage and invest in our Service to ensure it is fit for the future.

Responding effectively to emergencies

To respond to emergencies in the most effective and safe way, prioritising the protection of, and limiting damage to, life, property and the environment.

Safeguarding Strategy

**Safeguarding our
communities, our people,
and our Service**

Our aim

To actively protect our communities and our people. We will do this by identifying, supporting, and safeguarding those most vulnerable through efficient and effective practice, multi-agency collaboration, and a culture of vigilance.



Introduction

UK Fire and Rescue Services have a legal and moral obligation to have appropriate safeguarding in place and have key legal duties together with core themes which are underpinned by the standards set out within the Children Act 2004 and Care Act 2014.

Every person that represents Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, has a legal duty to safeguard children and adults at risk.

The Service itself also has a range of statutory duties in relation to safeguarding, and as an organisation it also has a responsibility to ensure that every individual who represents the Service, is safe to do so.

What this strategy will achieve

Actively promoting the safeguarding of our communities and people, by proactively reducing the risk of abuse, harm, and neglect.

We will be compliant with safeguarding legislation, understanding, and effectively fulfilling our obligations and responsibilities to Local Authority Safeguarding Boards, Government Acts, legislation and duties.

We will make sure that our people (employees) and volunteers are trained, supported, and empowered to respond to safeguarding needs while working appropriately with partners so there is a coordinated approach to safeguarding.

We are dedicated to creating a safe environment for all. By adhering to this safeguarding strategy, we will protect the most vulnerable members of our community and uphold the highest standards of care and protection.

We play a crucial role in protecting vulnerable individuals and safeguarding lives in all aspects.

How we will achieve this

By demonstrating our commitment to the importance of safeguarding we will make sure we are compliant to legislation and demonstrate good practice.

Using an intelligence-led approach to inform practices that will mitigate risks of harm and greater harm at the earliest of opportunities.

Establishing clear procedures for reporting and threshold assessing, which will target our resources to respond to safeguarding concerns.

Broadening our approach to data intelligence to deliver high quality services that reduces the risks of harm and greater harm.

By empowering our people to make informed decisions by providing comprehensive training and support so that they can recognise harm/hidden harm to safeguard the most vulnerable.

Working collaboratively with partners, and by seeking feedback, we will ensure a flexible and diverse approach to the mitigation of harm and greater harm.

Continuously improve by using evidence and reflective based practice to inform future practice.

What we will deliver

Mitigate the risks of harm or greater harm to the most vulnerable within our communities.

Continue to work collaboratively with existing partners whilst developing new relationships which will further improve the safety, health, and wellbeing for the most vulnerable people within our communities.

Our Safeguarding Officers will carry out complex safeguarding case work to gain trust and confidence to ensure an effective and efficient response to safeguarding concerns.

Through innovative approaches to community engagement our Safeguarding Officers will develop targeted initiatives for the most vulnerable within our communities adopting an inclusive and diverse approach.

Provide a range of Safeguarding and Prevent training for all staff and volunteers.

Maintain a robust system for reporting and managing safeguarding incidents, with regular audits to ensure compliance.

We will:

- Demonstrate our commitment to the importance of safeguarding.
- Educate, train and support employees and volunteers to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people, and adults at risk of harm.
- Continue to work effectively with our partners to improve outcomes and identify areas of improvement.
- Have agreed systems, standards, and protocols to maintain effective and efficient information sharing.
- Demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity of our communities and providing equality of access.

How we measure success

We will monitor our commitment to safeguarding through a set of key performance indicators such as Local Authority Audits, NFCC Self-Assessment and NFCC Safeguarding Standards.

Demonstrating learning from quantitative and qualitative insights derived from peer reviews, audits, and assessments to drive future practice.

Demonstrate greater awareness through increases in referrals from both partners and our people.

Evidencing innovative approaches to early identification and intervention.

Support our partners by acting on their referrals, using efficient and effective practice and feedback.



Prevention Strategy

Preventing fires and other emergencies

Our aim

We will work together to help people stay safe from fires and other emergencies.

We will work with our partners and communities to target our prevention, protection, resilience and preparedness activities to reduce community risk and enhance community resilience.



Introduction

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a statutory duty to promote fire safety, placing fire prevention activity at the heart of what we do.

We continue to reduce fires and fire related injuries, but there is still more to do especially in relation to injuries and deaths because of Road Traffic Collisions.

What this strategy will achieve

Engaging with those most at risk in our communities will allow us to provide education on the risks at home, in the community and in the wider environment and how their behaviour influences risk.

We will engage with people at all stages of life, targeting those groups and people who are at highest risk of harm so the risk of harm for people in protected groups and deprived areas is reduced.

We will explain the dangers and consequences of antisocial behaviour such as fire setting and violence, and we will be able to respond quickly to the changing needs of the community.

Delivery of this strategy will lead to people being safer in their homes, when travelling on our road networks and when spending time in our open environment.

How we will achieve this

Sharing data

We will use an intelligence-led approach to improve our understanding of risk and vulnerability. This data and intelligence will be gathered from partner organisations, internal evaluations, historical data and national statistics.

Use of resources

Target our resources to those who are at the greatest risk of injury or death from fire, road accidents and other types of emergencies.

Be consistent in the services we offer while remaining flexible to meet the local needs of our diverse communities.

Be professional, make sure our staff are informed, competent, confident and skilled to deliver a high-quality service.

Listen to the needs of our community to understand the changing risks so we can respond quickly and effectively.

Learn from our experience. We will actively seek feedback from our partners and the people of Essex and use it to improve our services. We will evaluate what we do so that we can assess our impact on the community.

Be innovative, encouraging our staff and local communities to suggest new ideas and create local solutions.

Improve our accessibility through the effective use of technology and community engagement to improve our communication with individuals and communities.

What we will deliver

Our community engagement supports our prevention activities by improving contact with seldom heard communities.

This work allows us to cascade key community safety messages, develop insight into fire and risk reduction themes and provide an opportunity for members of the community to feedback on our service.

Corporate Communications plays a key role in developing prevention campaigns that are targeted and reach the most vulnerable members of the community. The team also develops seasonal safety campaigns that are aligned to national agendas and local learning.

Our community based interventions and engagement is delivered through our operational firefighters. Data and intelligence will inform local decision-making to allow for a more agile response to any changes in risk at a district and localised level.

This includes activities like:

- Station open days, special events, local engagement
- Cadets and Firebreaks
- Prevention ambassadors
- Deliberate fires, Strategic After Incident Response (SAIRs), Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs)
- Local delivery plans
- Schools
- Health initiatives (co-responding)

To deal with more complex cases our specialist prevention staff will work with our partner agencies to reduce risk within our communities. Our dedicated resources are responsible for activities like:

- Customer service
- Interventions - safe and well, road, water
- Targeting activity and behaviour change
- Training, learning, advice and guidance
- Collaboration with blue light partners
- Building networks and relationships
- Steering groups and forums

All our resources are allocated across the county in proportion to the risk factors. Our prevention initiatives are targeted to the needs of those most at risk.

We will continue to promote and support innovative practice to deliver road and water safety education and other campaigns to tackle wider risks affecting our communities.

We will visit individuals who are most at risk from fire in the home and provide advice to those less likely to experience a fire in the home.

Through our specialist youth engagement and intervention teams, we will support young people and use targeted interventions for individuals demonstrating challenging behaviour.

We will educate young people and build long-lasting relationships through our school visit programme which will cover a wide range of topics such as fire, water and road safety.

We will educate and inform individuals and communities about known and foreseeable risk (for example flooding and wildfire) and the actions they can take to make themselves safer.

We will support communities to prepare for emergency situations by helping them develop their own resilience.

We will engage with our communities through public perception surveys and community groups to understand their needs and use this knowledge to help improve the services we deliver.

By expanding our after-incident response to reach those who have been affected by fires, we will improve our understanding of how we can prevent future fires.

Continued effective partnership working
Effective relationships with partner organisations will be fundamental to the delivery of this strategy.

Working collaboratively with our partners, we will identify and improve the safety, health and wellbeing of the most vulnerable people within our communities.

We will:

- Continue to deliver our person-centred approach based on an assessment of an individual's risk of injury or death in the home by fire.
- Provide education and assurance which will help our referral processes and allow our interventions to be delivered at the earliest opportunity, in the most effective way.

- We will work together with our partner organisations to improve the safety of all road users and those enjoying our countryside and waterways. These community-based initiatives will improve the safety of people on our roads and reach those more likely to find themselves in danger in water.
- Where necessary, report safeguarding concerns and support local safeguarding boards.

Measuring success

We will monitor our service performance through a set of key performance indicators – such as the number of dwelling fires, the number of fire-related injuries and rescues - that are reported to the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner. Localised plans will outline the key priorities and objectives we aim to deliver in different areas and how we will achieve them.

Using a set of measurable outcomes, we will evaluate the impact of the interventions we deliver and share learning across the service and with partners.

We will use quantitative and qualitative data and feedback from our partners, public/ customers and our people to support the evaluation of our community safety activity and make sure we deliver the best value.

Learning from our quality assurance processes will be fed back to drive improvement.

Protection Strategy

Reducing the impact of fire in the built environment

Our aim

To protect people, businesses, the local economy and the environment from the impact of fire in the built environment.

Through our protection services, our focus is to protect multiple-life risk in the built environment. We do this through a range of interventions and appropriate regulation.



Introduction

We enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This is the fire safety law that applies to nearly every building other than single private homes.

This strategy sets out the fire protection measures we will deliver to reduce the impact of fire in the built environment, and how we will carry out our statutory duties to enforce the fire safety law.

What this strategy will achieve

Delivering our targeted intervention and inspection programmes and enforcing appropriate regulations will make sure that safety in all buildings across Essex is equitable. Our communities will feel safe in their homes, places of work, or the building they are visiting.

Our fire protection team will continue to access development so that the team can continue to focus on the highest risks and adapts as the risks change.

Working with businesses and responsible persons, buildings across Essex will be safer through a targeted business engagement partnership approach.

Our risk based inspection programme is published on our website:

essex-fire.gov.uk

How we will achieve this

Training and development

A competent workforce is at the heart of this strategy. We recognise the importance of training and development in the successful delivery of our fire protection work. We are committed to continuous professional development providing competence-based training in line with the NFCC competency framework.

Any ECFRS personnel completing Fire Protection duties, whether they are operational officers or specialist Fire Protection Inspectors, will receive the correct level of training and development required for the work they undertake.

Risk Based Intervention

The way we inspect premises in Essex is determined by our Risk Based Inspection and Intervention Programme (RBIP). This allows us to demonstrate we are meeting our enforcement responsibilities in respect of the Fire Safety Law.

The programme allows us to focus our resources on buildings that present the greatest risk in the event of fire, and we can demonstrate how we have identified poor compliance with fire safety law.

Buildings across Essex are categorised into four categories based on several factors, all of which are in the RBIP document. The four categories are Very High Risk, High Risk, Medium Risk, and Low Risk.

National competence framework states that in order for operational crews to carry out fire safety checks (FSO40's) they must be Level 2 qualified or in house equivalent. We issue LearnPro learning as "the in house equivalent". Over the course of this strategy, all wholtime firefighters will have access to Level 2 qualifications as best practice.

Our firefighters will continue to carry out fire safety checks (FSO40's) at medium risk properties or lower. Protection officers who hold Level 3 or Level 4 qualifications will carry out audits at very high risk, and high risk buildings.

Very High Risk

Fire Safety Officer - Level 4 Diploma qualified and competency requirements of a Level 4 signed off.

High Risk

Fire Safety Officer - Level 3 Certificate qualified, and competency requirements of a Level 3 signed off.

Medium Risk

Wholtime crews - FSO40

Low Risk

Business engagement

We use national tools and models when we carry out audits and inspections for a consistent approach so our decisions are transparent and auditable.

Our work to reduce persistent false alarms remains a focus for us, so that we are protecting frontline resources to respond to life risk calls.

What we will deliver

Enforcement of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

The overall purpose of enforcing authorities like Essex Police Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire Authority is to make sure that those responsible for upholding their legal duty are managing and controlling their compliance effectively to prevent harm. The term 'enforcement' applies to all dealings between enforcing authorities and those who the law places duties (employers, the self-employed, employees and others).

Fire Protection audits are completed using the National Fire Chiefs Council model and the type of enforcement action we take is subject to the principles set out within the Enforcement Management Model (EMM).

The intended outcome of an audit is to make sure people are kept safe through compliance with the Fire Safety Order and in turn, this links to our mission to make Essex safer **together**.

Continued partnership working and business engagement

Through partnership working with local authorities, we support building regulations to make sure new buildings are designed to incorporate relevant fire safety measures.

The Responsible Person for a premises must ensure they carry out a Suitable and Sufficient Fire Risk Assessment. We will assist businesses and other Responsible Persons by:

- Following the principles of better regulation set out in the Regulators Code and the Enforcement Concordat.
- Setting out our priorities and planned interventions.
- Using enforcement action, in line with the principles of proportionality, accountability, consistency, transparency and targeting.
- Using an Enforcement Management Model to determine the appropriate level of enforcement. Any enforcement action should be consistent and proportionate to the fire safety risks and the seriousness of the breach.
- Providing fire safety advice to businesses.
- Supporting and recognising Primary Authority Scheme Partnerships.
- Maintaining, investing in, and developing a competent and skilled workforce.

Consultations

There is a statutory duty for ECFRS to consult on the application of Building Regulations.

Consultations will comply with the current national 'Building Regulations and Fire Safety Procedural Guidance' document. Once a building is occupied and in use the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 will apply in most cases.

Before serving an enforcement notice under the Fire Safety Order, which would require a person to make an alteration to the premises, the Authority will consult with other relevant enforcing authorities.

Joint protocols

ECFRS has the prime responsibility for enforcing 'general fire precautions' in places other than domestic dwellings (homes). In some cases, other enforcing authorities may have responsibilities for certain fire precautions under more specific legislation. In these cases, we have effective and agreed consultation procedures with those relevant statutory authorities, such as the Local Authorities in relation to the Housing Act 2004.

How we measure success

We will measure success through:

- Risk Based Intervention Programme
- Implementing and adhering to the Fire Protection Fire Standard
- Quality assurance process
- Ensuring we continue to adopt national guidance and best practice where appropriate
- Feedback we receive from HMICFRS inspections

Response Strategy

Responding effectively to emergencies

Our aim

To respond to emergencies in the most effective and safe way, prioritising the protection of, and limiting damage to, life, property and the environment.



Our statutory duty to prepare for, and respond to, emergencies is covered by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Our fire engines are deployed to meet daily demands and provide resilience and capacity to handle occasional large-scale incidents or multiple, smaller incidents simultaneously.

Through risk analysis and consultation, we have reviewed how to increase availability during peak times. Our analysis shows that having 40 fire engine available is our optimum availability.

Urban Search and Rescue is crewed by wholtime firefighters and supported by USAR reserves who are based at other Essex fire stations.

This means we can reach life risk calls quickly, support initial attendance if needed, or respond to periods of high demand.



Map of Essex with ECFRS station locations

Introduction

This Response and Resilience Strategy demonstrates how we will achieve our statutory duties, deliver the most effective response to local, regional and national emergencies, provide a suitable level of resilience and ensure the safety of firefighters.

Our Fire Control Room receives all our 999 emergency calls, and our operators assess each call to determine what emergency response is required. Fire Control sends the fire engine(s) or specialist resource(s) who can respond quickest to deal with the emergency.

When a fire engine is unavailable due to an emergency or operational training, we have a system and procedures in place to relocate other fire engines to maintain a good standard of cover where it is required most according to risk.

What this strategy will achieve

It outlines how we manage the deployment of firefighters, fire engines and equipment to provide the highest standard 'speed and weight' of response. We refer to this as fire cover.

We know that Essex is a diverse area, and therefore risk changes across different parts of the county.

Our risk assessment helps us make sure we can prioritise our prevention and protection activities.

It also means we have the quickest possible response to incidents in parts of the county where the likelihood and impact is the greatest.

Due to the make up of our operational resources - wholetime and on-call - we will need to redistribute our resources to make sure we reach our optimum availability during peak hours (day), and by doing so will be able to spend more time in and with our communities.

In addition to being able to get to life risk calls as quickly as possible, we also need to make sure we can support initial attendance with additional crews when needed.

Resilience

Fire and Rescue Services across the UK can resolve most emergencies with their own equipment and people. However, occasionally, major incidents can happen that need the support of Fire and Rescue Services from other areas.

Measures are in place to allow us to call upon other Services to support us when major incidents occur.

Nearly all serious emergencies require a multi-agency response. By working with our partner agencies, we can respond with the right mix of skills, expertise, and equipment to deal with the risks we expect to face.

We operate in accordance with the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP) so that we work

effectively with Essex Police, East of England Ambulance Service Trust, and other partner agencies at serious and major emergencies.

Cross border working arrangements

To make sure the nearest fire engines respond to the emergencies that occur close to and over our county border, we have arrangements in place with our neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services to share fire engines and other specialist resources if required.

Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 (Section 13 and 16) requires arrangements for routine over the border responses and also supporting significant, serious or catastrophic incidents. Section 13 obliges Fire and Rescue Authorities to group together, so far as practicable, to provide mutual assistance.

The Service engages in regular cross border exercising both at the local station level and at strategic, multi-agency levels addressing identified risks.

ECFRS has long standing arrangements in place with our neighbouring Services.

- Suffolk (10km of boarder)
- Hertfordshire (10km of border)
- Cambridgeshire (10km of border)
- Kent (10km radius from Dartford crossing)
- London (5km of Essex border)

How we will achieve this strategy

To make sure we can respond to risks appropriately, we gather site specific risk information and develop plans.

We also hold exercises with partner agencies to test our plans. This knowledge has been used to develop our specialist skills, and assures us that we have the right people, with the right equipment, in the right place at the right time.

Operational effectiveness

- Learn from partner organisations and emergencies to be innovative in our emergency preparedness, using technology and developing new ways of working.
- Use a shared, intelligence-led approach to all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect our communities.
- Maintain a risk register to manage risk across Essex. This will be based on information and intelligence gathered locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- Anticipate, plan and prepare to prevent and reduce foreseeable risk either through adjusting existing provision via effective collaboration and partnership working, or introducing new capabilities.
- Have suitable policies, procedures and guidance in place underpinned by National Operational Guidance and the Fire Standards.

- Be professional, ensuring our staff are informed, confident and skilled to deliver a high-quality service.
- Effectively share inter-agency data and intelligence to ensure the risk and resilience needs are accurate, effective and efficient.
- Target our resources towards the highest risks that could impact on our staff or the communities we serve. We will ensure that these resources are used effectively and efficiently and achieve best value.

Training and exercising

- Learn from our experiences and actively seek feedback from our staff, partners and our communities, and use it to improve our services. We will evaluate what we do to understand the effectiveness of our services.
- Gather and share data, hazard and risk information with regards to high-risk premises and scenarios with local partners via Essex Resilience Forum and nationally via the National Operational Learning and Joint Organisational Learning portals.
- Make sure operational crews have access to up-to-date risk information to inform firefighting tactics and reduce risk to members of staff and our community.
- Undertake multi-agency training and exercising to test and validate emergency plans.
- Train on local risks to improve the effectiveness of the initial responders.

Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles

- Provide specialist trained and qualified National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers who can advise and support Incident Commanders, Police, Medical, Military, other Partner and Government agencies on the operational capacity and capability to reduce risk and safely resolve incidents.
- Produce robust single and multi-agency plans for managing risks that have been identified.
- Continue to provide an effective response from the national resilience assets we host.

Our resources

Currently our fire engines are either wholetime (available for immediate deployment) or on-call (available for deployment within 5 minutes). Both of these crewing systems would make up our optimum availability.

The optimum availability is 40 fire engines. Some of the other 26 fire engines will be used differently:

- For the on-call tiered availability model
- For training to maintain availability
- For the proposed day-shift model

Resourcing will be managed using the Dynamic Cover Tool, meaning that key and strategic stations are to be re-evaluated within this strategy, and stand by movements will be reviewed so they are planned or reduced.

What we will deliver

We will use the operational planning assumptions within the Community Risk Management Plan 2025-2030 to determine the number and location of the resources we have available at any time.

By using national guidance, debriefing after emergencies and undertaking risk assessments, we will be able to provide an effective and pre-determined operational response to differing emergencies.

Partnership working

Collaboration, partnership working, sharing of information and the joint testing of emergency preparedness are vital components of this strategy.

We are an active member of Essex Resilience Forum which allows us to deliver our statutory duties and maintain strong partnerships with local authorities, blue light responders, other category one responders and the third sector.

Our specialist teams and officers such as Emergency Planning, Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) team, National Resilience and Counter Terrorism, provide links into and out of key partner organisations to make sure, where necessary, we can share information in a timely and accurate manner.

At a district level we are integrated in Community Safety Partnerships. We will plan and exercise our response to local risk and promote community wellbeing.

How we measure success

We will monitor our overall service performance through a set of key indicators that are reported to the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner.

These outputs, metrics and indicators include information such as the number and location of incidents attended, firefighter attacks, injuries to staff and the number of risk visits completed.

Organisation Assurance will monitor emerging trends against our planning assumptions and learn from good practice.

We will debrief incidents to capture and share learning and integrate this within updated policy, guidance and training.

Governance and reporting

The Service is governed by the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority (EPFCCFRA). Our Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner is Roger Hirst.



The Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) ensures that community needs are met as effectively as possible, and local relationships improve through building confidence and trust.

PFCC vision

Safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and well-being for all.

The PFCC is responsible for setting the strategy and priorities for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex Police. These are set through the Fire and Rescue Plan, and the Police and Crime Plan.

Fire and Rescue Plan 2024-2028

The Fire and Rescue Plan sets out the priorities for Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, and a series of strong, tangible commitments to help keep our communities safe.

The plan brings together the Service, partners and the public to build safe and secure communities and offer efficient and effective prevention, protection and response activity.

Fire and Rescue Plan priorities

- Protect vulnerable people
- Improve road safety and reduce road death in Essex to zero
- Make buildings across Essex safer
- Adapt to our changing environment
- Promote a positive culture and develop the workforce
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness

PFCC vision: Safe and secure communities are the bedrock on which we build success and wellbeing for all.

Fire and Rescue Plan 2024-2028

The FRP has been developed alongside the CRMP to ensure joined up priorities that match risk profiling across Essex.

Our corporate plan outlines foreseeable fire and rescue risks in our communities, and the actions we plan to take to mitigate them.

ECFRS mission: Making Essex safer together

Community Risk Management Plan

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Prevention, Protection, Response Strategy

People and Inclusion Strategy

We have specific strategies that are key to delivering our CRMP and our Fire and Rescue Plan. They set out what resources we need and how we will use them to deliver against the CRMP.

Each financial year we produce a detailed plan with activities, performance targets and planned programmes of development.

Service Delivery Plans

Our Service Delivery Plans provide more detailed information about how the Service plans to deliver and develop our services to meet the strategic goals set out in our CRMP.

Statement of Assurance

Our Statement of Assurance sets out how and where to find information about all aspects of the fire and rescue service and our work with partners. It also provides assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.



Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

