



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Fire Authority, 14 June 2023

Report title: Summer Pressures Recommendations

Lead Member: Councillor Simon Rouse

Report sponsor: AC Calum Bell, Head of Protection, Assurance and Development

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Action: Noting

Recommendations: That the content and recommendations detailed within this report are noted.

Executive Summary:

An initial Summer Pressures paper was presented to the Fire Authority on 12 October 2022, which informed on the pressures experienced by BFRS between the months of July (16 - 19) and August (9 - 15) 2022, which brought record high temperatures and dry weather that presented many challenges for Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and other emergency responders across the country. This included the 19 July 2022 when the UK recorded its highest ever temperature of 40.3°C (104.5°F).

The purpose of this report is to provide a further update on the assurance, debriefing and review activities we have carried out in relation to the Summer Pressures and to highlight areas for consideration which have been derived from a Service wide Extreme / Adverse Weather Survey. It will also serve to inform on the multiple operational reports from the incidents attended by Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) during that period.

Major incidents were declared by fifteen FRSs across the country including neighbouring FRSs in London, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, as a result of the devastating outbreak of fires.

Thames Valley Fire Control Service (TVFCS) received and BFRS attended an unprecedented number of calls, including many fires in the open / wildfires. Due to the professionalism, aptitude, commitment, skills and hard work of our staff, they were able to service the needs of these incidents whilst maintaining operational fire cover, and this has been recognised.

Following the initial Summer Pressures paper, an action was accepted to produce this additional report, which aims to breakdown the data harvested and develop

areas for consideration (Appendix 1), which will be used, but not limited to informing our next Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and Corporate Plan.

Financial Implications:

Once all the recommendations have been considered, there will be some additional financial costs related to improvements, for example - purchasing additional vehicles, equipment, securing enhanced welfare supplies and potential additional resilience costs.

Any additional expenditure of this nature would need to be approved as part of the budget setting process.

Risk management:

Delivery of the recommendations following this report attributed to the summer pressures will contribute towards ensuring the Service's operational and organisational activities are continuously improved and developed, and are efficient, effective, and responsive to significant changes in the external or internal environments.

Failure to deliver these recommendations could expose:

- the Service, its personnel, and the public to operational, health, safety, and welfare risks.
- the Service to reputational and / or financial risks.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations within this report. Legal assurance will be obtained in advance of, or during, the implementation of any actions arising from this report.

Privacy and security implications:

This summer pressures recommendation report will not raise any privacy or security issues.

Duty to collaborate:

Although the Authority has committed to a default position of collaboration, not just with FRSs in the Thames Valley, the reports generated are specific to the Service's operational and organisational activity. However, any opportunity to collaborate will be explored, as will the sharing of any identified operational learning through existing groups, including TVFCS who was also invited to feedback through the Extreme / Adverse Weather Survey.

Health and safety implications:

There are no negative implications on health and safety associated with this report. The recommendations and actions that have been created will continue to promote and enhance the existing health and safety culture within the Service with all associated costs being considered and governed through relevant boards.

Environmental implications:

Delivery of any recommendations or actions from this report will enhance the Service's ability to identify and manage potential environmental hazards in both the internal and external surroundings.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

There are no negative impacts reference EDI from the publication of this report. Once areas to consider have been prioritised and action owners assigned, each individual action may require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).

Consultation and communication:

Learning from operational activity or recommendations are routinely published and communicated to all staff, utilising either the Intranet, HEAT* or the Operational Assurance newsletter. This approach is intended to ensure there is a clear understanding and appreciation of the collective responsibility toward continuous improvement in respect to operational performance.

From a monitoring and reporting perspective, the Head of Protection, Assurance and Development leads on the improvement plan recommendations and publication of any Learning Review of Command (LRC) report and chair the Operational Assurance Group (OAG).

The Head of Operational Training and Assurance has responsibility for delivering the Operational Assurance Improvement Plan (OAIP) recommendations and production of LRC reports in conjunction with the Operational Assurance Team (OAT).

* HEAT: internal electronic training record management system

Background papers:

Fire Authority, 12 October 2022, Summer Pressures, Item 10

[FA - Summer Pressures - October 2022](#)

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
1	Analytical Data	None