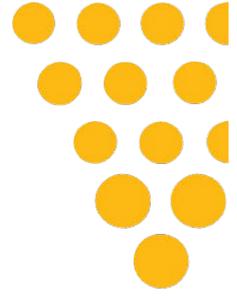




CORNWALL
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
A service of Cornwall Council



Protection Strategy

2022 - 2023



Introduction

This strategy sets out how we will deliver the protection activities detailed in the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-2026. It outlines how we will be reducing risks and incidents in the built environment to improve the safety and wellbeing of our communities. We do this through educating those who are responsible for keeping buildings safe, and through regulation which ensures they adopt proportionate and robust fire protection activities which comply with the relevant statutory responsibilities.

We have adopted the National Fire Chief Councils (NFCC) [Protection Standard](#) and have a competent protection workforce which target activities to reduce the risks outlined in our CRMP. Our risk-based inspection plan (RBIP) further breaks down the data and information to ensure we optimise our resources according to risk.

The Protection Strategy is part of a suite of strategies (see below diagram) which jointly demonstrate how we aim to respond to reduce and mitigate the risks we have identified for Cornwall. The CRMP sets out key risk objectives we aim to achieve over the next four years, and we have indicated in our strategies how our activities are linked to those risk objectives.



Our CRMP risk objectives are:

- Reducing the impact on risk groups from fire and other incidents
- Reduction in fire deaths and injuries
- Reducing incidents where people are killed or seriously injured
- Mitigating the social, economic and environmental impact of fires and other incidents through the services we deliver
- Increasing the diversity of our workforce to improve the accessibility of our services through our understanding of community vulnerability and social inequality

This strategy provides an overview of our current provision and how we will deliver the objectives and projects from the CRMP 2022-26 aligned to our resources. Details of how specific groups of staff, teams and individuals will support these objectives will be captured in team plans.

As part of our CRMP development we have reviewed, considered and captured the key influences and considerations which direct how we work. The full [operating context](#) document is available on our website, and we have outlined below the primary legislation and which supports and drives our protection activity, although this list is not exhaustive:

- Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018
- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order / Fire Safety Act
- Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations
- Explosives Regulations
- Building Safety Bill
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations

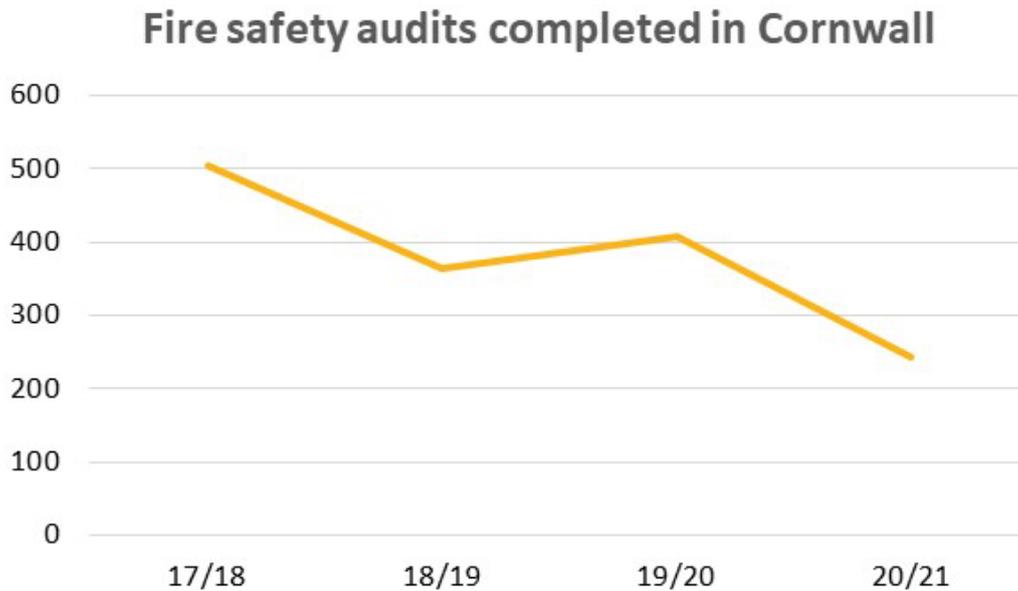
Risks

Premises where people sleep present a high risk of death or serious injury if a fire was to occur. The number of premises in Cornwall associated with tourism tends to skew the risk towards specific station grounds. Newquay has the largest tourism risk at 13.1% of all tourism risk in Cornwall. Five station grounds account for 40% of tourism risk (Newquay, Falmouth, Delabole, Penzance and St Ives) all of which are on the coast. This indicates the areas which are likely to present the greatest sleeping risk in holiday accommodation.

More than a third of non-residential premises in Cornwall are hotel/ holiday accommodation which indicates the scale of the task to audit sleeping risk premises. There are more than 16,800 other holiday residences in Cornwall and 282 hotels/motels, some of these will be extremely large such as the Falmouth Hotel which has 74 rooms spread over four floors. This demonstrates how many premises fall within the sleeping risk category and how it is driven by the tourism industry in Cornwall.

Fire safety audits

In 2020-21 we completed 243 Fire Safety Audits (FSA) which is 33% lower than the previous year and just under half the number we completed in 2017-18. However, this is consistent with national trends as the number of fire safety audits being completed nationally fell by 29% during the same period.



Nationally fire safety audits are reducing but the number of known premises has increased. This effect is more pronounced in Cornwall, with 1.75% of known premises being audited. This is substantially lower than the national average of 2.6%.

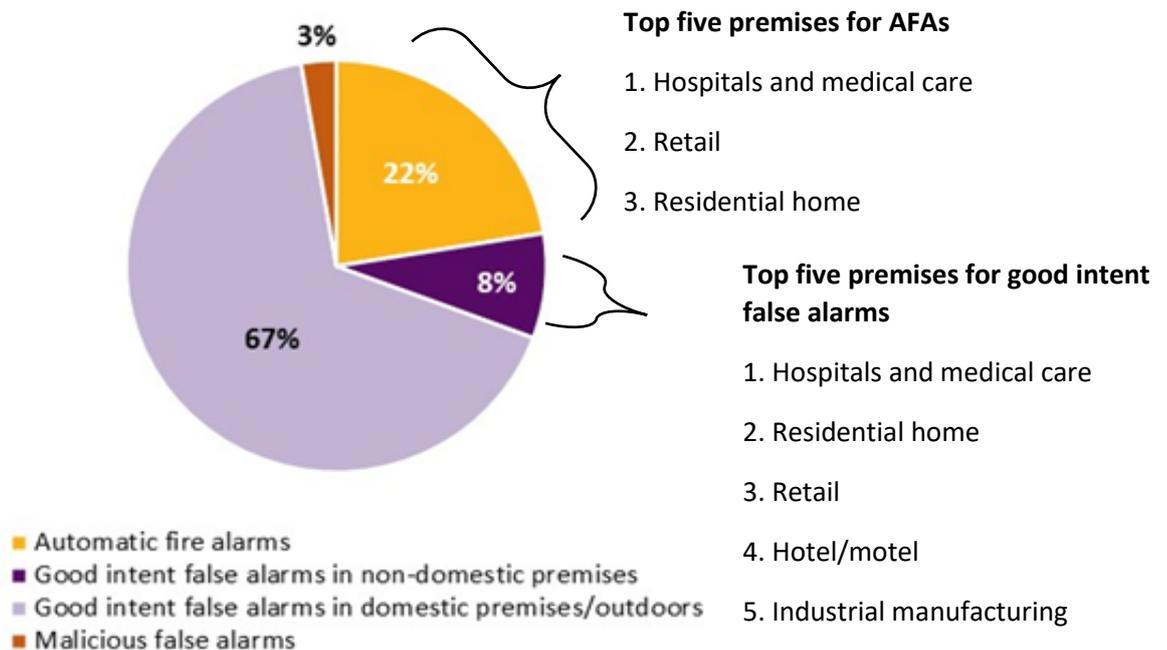
Agricultural premises

Our risk analysis shows that despite only making up 2% of non-domestic premises in Cornwall, agricultural premises account for 16% of our fires and are our third highest category for volume of fires.

Unwanted Fire Signals

False alarms make up a large proportion of the incidents we respond to. Approximately, 31% of the total number of false alarms occur in non-domestic premises. These may come from automatic detection systems, or where someone has manually raised the alarm. In non-domestic premises the latter are most often good intent false alarms – in other words they genuinely believe there may be a fire and have made a call to us.

False alarms in Cornwall by type 2018 - 2021



Protection activities and resources

The central protection team is a small, dedicated team of specialist officers who deliver the service's protection activity. The team is made up of:

- AM – Head of Protection
- GM - Head of Protection Policy and Delivery
- SM – Policy, Reform, Enforcement and Business Safety (PREBS)
- SM – Delivery and Technical Fire Safety Manager
- SM – Delivery and Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) Fire Safety Manager
- WM - Policy, Reform, Enforcement and Business Safety (PREBS)
- WM – Delivery (Inspecting Officer and Building Regulations) x 9
- Fire Safety (Petroleum & Explosives) Inspecting Officer x 2
- CM – Delivery x 2 (Inspecting Officer)
- Computer Aided Design Technician (CAD)

The central protection team are supported by operational colleagues from the response function and the central administration team.

Protection personnel deliver activities aligned to policy and procedures across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This includes fire safety legislation and enforcement, petroleum storage legislation and enforcement, explosive storage legislation and enforcement and fire scene investigation. We investigate the cause of fires, sharing information to help educate and inform the business community of hazards and measures they can take to reduce risk.

Our specialist personnel are managed in accordance with the Competence Framework for fire safety regulators and are quality assured in accordance with our policy. We have adopted the National Operational Guidance as our code of practice.

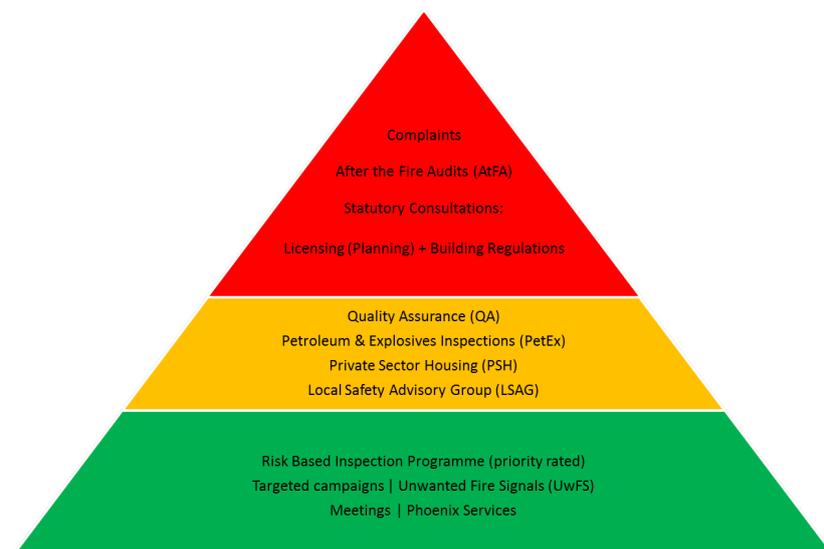
We actively promote and support Primary Authority Schemes in compliance with relevant Primary Authority legislation. Where appropriate, we will engage with those who are responsible for keeping relevant premises safe, delivering engagement, education and advice on matters relating to fire safety, petroleum and explosives legislation.

Equality, diversity, inclusion (EDI) within our Protection Strategy is both internally and externally focused. As a Service we will embed the Core Code of Ethics to make sure our people feel valued and able to be the best they can be in order to provide an inclusive, accessible, efficient and effective service. This will be evidenced by the attitudes, professional behaviours and the conduct of our staff.

Through our protection work we will:

- Revise our risk-based inspection programme to include a wider range of premises to better reflect local communities and national drivers.
- Embed the national fire standard for protection.
- Embed any emerging fire safety learning arising from incidents of special interest, with particular focus on the tragic events from the Grenfell Tower fire.
- Work with businesses to challenge and reduce unwanted fire alarm signals.
- Work with partners to investigate, report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires.

During period of increased activity and/or reduced resources we will prioritise the protection activities according to a RAG (red, amber, green) rating system; with those identified in the green area being deprioritised first, followed by amber and red, as required to maintain business continuity, as per the diagram below.



Risk based inspection programme

The risk based inspection programme (RBIP) outlines the risk within Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and how we resource activities to reduce that risk. Our RBIP targets hospitals, residential care homes, hotels, bed and breakfast accommodation and hostels with fire safety advice and inspections to ensure compliance with safety regulations. It also takes into account referrals that come through complaints or are highlighted through our statutory work around building regulations and licensing, planning, petroleum and explosives.

- We will introduce a refreshed RBIP during year one (2022-23) covering a wider range of premises including the findings of our residential tall buildings project which identifies residential buildings over 11 metres in height.
- The sampling of non-sleeping risks to be included through the revised RBIP.
- Increase the number of fire safety audits we deliver using the three additionally funded roles for 2022-23 (year 1), to more closely align to the national average.
- Continue to work with responsible persons where prohibition notices, enforcement notices and/or agreed action plans have been served.
- Continue to follow up fires and complaints and carry out audits when required
- Continue to inspect petroleum and explosives sites.
- Continue to review and issue petroleum and explosive licenses.
- Utilise electric vehicles for travel when conducting inspections and visits.

This links to the following CRMP risk objectives

- Reducing the impact on risk groups from fire and other incidents
- Reduction in fire deaths and injuries
- Reducing incidents where people are killed or seriously injured
- Mitigating the social, economic and environmental impact of fires and other incidents through the services we deliver

This work is delivered by:

- Central Protection team
- Service Delivery Prevention and Protection Managers
- Fire Safety Inspecting Officers
- Operational crews (Level 3 FSA/operational fire safety visits)

This work is supported by:

- Strategy, Education and Evaluation Team
- Fire Support Team

National fire standard for protection

We will adopt the national [Fire Standard for Protection](#) to achieve the expected benefits of:

- A reduction in incidents, injuries, and fatalities and improved community safety due to services supporting businesses with compliance
- Improved regulatory compliance relating to fire safety, petroleum, and explosives
- Improved competency and capacity in the protection workforce

- Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of protection activities

This links to the following CRMP risk objectives

- Reducing the impact on risk groups from fire and other incidents
- Reduction in fire deaths and injuries
- Reducing incidents where people are killed or seriously injured
- Mitigating the social, economic and environmental impact of fires and other incidents through the services we deliver
- Increasing the diversity of our workforce to improve the accessibility of our services through our understanding of community vulnerability and social inequality

This work is delivered by:

- Central Protection Team
- Service Delivery Protection Managers
- Operational crews

This work is supported by:

- Training and Development Team
- Strategy, Education and Evaluation Team
- Fire Support Team
- Risk Resilience and Assurance Team

Embedding emerging fire safety learning

We will embed emerging fire safety learning arising from incidents of special interest, with particular focus on the tragic events from the Grenfell Tower fire.

- Provide information to businesses on the common causes of fire in business premises and provide an industry standard on preventative measures.
- Review and develop a debrief process to ensure learning from inspections and fire scene investigations and ensuring any trends are identified and built into fire safety audit and fire scene investigation processes.

This work is delivered by:

- Central Protection Team
- Service Delivery Protection Managers
- Fire Scene Investigators
- Operational crews

This work is supported by:

- Training and Development Team
- Strategy, Education and Evaluation Team
- Fire Support Team
- Risk Resilience and Assurance Team

This links to the following CRMP risk objectives

- Reducing the impact on risk groups from fire and other incidents
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Unwanted fire alarm signals

We will work with businesses to challenge and reduce unwanted fire alarm signals. Whilst working with premises to drive down the number of false alarms it is also important to look at the different types of false alarms and their causes. We know that premises which experience high volumes of automatic fire alarms also experience high numbers of good intent false alarms. These tend to be in premises where the occupants are vulnerable (hospitals and care homes) but also in shops and industrial manufacturing premises.

- We will continue to monitor unwanted fire alarm signals to help drive down the number of unnecessary responses by our crews.
- We will monitor our response to unwanted fire alarm signals and support operational crews to undertake positive action to reduce these. processes and systems.
- We will continue to follow up premises with high levels of unwanted fire alarm signals to identify actions to reduce these.
- We will implement a process that allows the service to proactively identify and deal with individuals and organisations which are causing disproportional levels of unwanted fire alarm signals. This includes cost recovery mechanisms.

This links to the following CRMP risk objectives

- Reducing the impact on risk groups from fire and other incidents
- Mitigating the social, economic and environmental impact of fires and other incidents through the services we deliver

This work is delivered by:

- Central Protection Team
- Service Delivery Protection Managers
- Operational crews

This work is supported by:

- Strategy, Education and Evaluation Team
- Fire Support Team
- Risk Resilience and Assurance Team

Fire cause and behaviour

We will work with partners to investigate, report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires. This will be informed by fire investigation and local/national intelligence.

- We will continue to investigate the cause of fire.
- Information following a fire scene investigation will be shared to help educate and inform the business community of hazards and measures they can take to reduce risk.
- Continue to visit agricultural premises to gather operational risk information and undertake fire safety visits; and reporting this back to the service as appropriate.
- We will promote key messages via social media and other means.
- Fire scene investigation updates will be included in team training days and Protection Leadership Team meetings, we have adopted the National Operational Guidance as our code of practice.
- We will support national initiatives and campaigns such as the NFCC request for white goods data collection.
- We will engage with regional colleagues to consider the impact of ISO 17020 and forensic regulation.

Outcomes

Successful delivery the Protection Strategy relies on the activities and outcomes outlined in the other service strategies.

What will success look and feel like:

- We will have incorporated operational crews within an inspection plan to enhance public and business safety and raise awareness and understanding of fire safety matters within the operational arena.
- Increased the number of fire safety audits for year one (2022-23)
- Improved the efficiency and effectiveness of our specialist officers, through IT improvements identified through the process and system review.
- Promoted and supported Primary Authority Partnership schemes and engaged with those who are responsible for keeping relevant premises safe to provide advice and education on matters relating to fire safety, petroleum and explosives legislation.

We will also measure ourselves against the standards laid out in the following documents from the Fire Standards Board:

- Protection Standard
- Fire Scene Investigation

Measures

We have identified the following performance indicators which will help us understand whether we are achieving against our risk objectives:

Key Performance Indicator	2022-23 Target
Number of non-domestic fires	Under 130

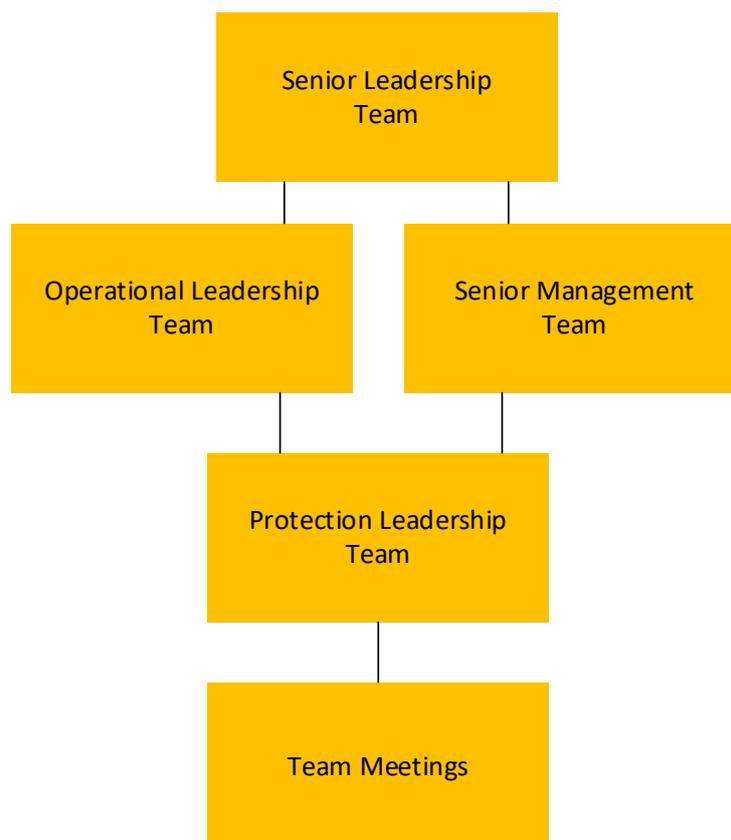
Number of false alarms caused by automatic fire detection	Under 480
Number or fire safety audits	750

In addition to the above the Protection leadership team will monitor the following statutory duties:

- Number of Building Regulation consultations
- Number of Licensing consultations

Governance

The below diagram outlines process for decision making, showing the key meetings where performance, risks to successful delivery of the strategy and emerging issues are discussed and where necessary, escalated to senior management team. Meeting outcomes will be captured through the use of risk and decision logs.



Head of Protection	Responsible for the policy, procedures and delivery of the Protection Strategy and activities across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
Group Manager Protection Policy & Delivery	Supports strategy delivery Performance is reported monthly through protection leadership team meeting Quarterly performance reports will be provided to SMT through the Head of Protection
Group Manager Response Prevention & Protection	Responsible for ensuring this strategy is delivered in the commands by operational crews including operational safety visits, fire safety audits, targeted campaigns and initiatives aligned to risk. Performance will be reported monthly at Protection Leadership Team (PLT) Quarterly performance reports will be provided to Service Delivery Leadership Team and Senior Management Team (SMT)
Central Protection team	Responsible for ensuring the delivery of the strategy including policy development, process implementation and prioritisation of resources/activities including inspections and advice in relation to regulations and legislation. Performance is reported monthly through protection leadership team meeting Quarterly performance reports will be provided to SMT through the Head of Protection
All employees	Will have a role in promoting, championing, and delivering protection activities