

# Calderdale District Plan

2023/24

## Foreword

**This plan explains how we will recognise and adapt to the changing risk and the associated impacts across the communities of Kirklees.**

We are committed to a shared partnership vision `Calderdale 2024` which firmly connects us to our key partner agencies. Our Calderdale District Plan sets out how we will achieve our local priorities in conjunction with the wider service priorities as set out in the WYFRS Community Risk Management plan 2022 – 25.

Through Covid 19 the residents of Calderdale demonstrated just how resilient they could be. I aim to build upon this strong foundation and work with partners to make sure we have effective plans and well-trained staff in place to respond to any type of emergency.

This is our opportunity to show how we are going to make Calderdale a safer place to live and work. We aim to achieve this through four key pillars: response, prevention, protection, and resilience.

The Calderdale District Team is committed to continuing as an active member of the Calderdale Community Safety Partnership (CSP). The scope of this partnership covers crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, reducing re-offending and reducing the risk to vulnerable groups. Prevention is better than the cure; risk reduction and community engagement work it is at the heart of everything we do. We will focus our resources to deliver community safety and essential prevention advice through proactive education to those who really need our help.

We will continue our `Safe & Well` home visits which promote wellbeing in the home alongside traditional fire safety advice. Our collaboration with local partner organisations is making a real difference to the quality of life for people living and working within our community. I am convinced that initiatives like this are contributing to the reducing number of dwelling fires and related injuries.

Our operational firefighters are well prepared and equipped to deal with emergency incidents when the public need us most. Fire cover is provided across the district 24/7 and 365 days a year to ensure an effective response whenever we are needed. Our Firefighters will continue to develop their operational knowledge and train to deal with new and emerging risks alongside our neighbouring districts and bordering Fire and Rescue Services.

The Calderdale District Team will continue to support a number of local risk reduction campaigns during 2023-24. These include our Site Specific Risk Inspection (SSRI) programme, where we will be visiting some of our higher risk commercial businesses to gain valuable information should an incident occur at these premises. We will support the #BeMoorAware campaign, which delivers fire safety advice to protect our places of natural beauty and moorlands. We will work with local partners to deliver Water Safety campaigns delivering education around the dangers of swimming in open water. We will support our Police and Local Council partners to deliver the Safer Roads Operation Hawmill, to reduce speeding and anti-social driving.

In summary, we will work hard to make Calderdale a safe place to live, work and enjoy.

- **Laura Boocock** – Calderdale District Commander

## About Calderdale district

**Calderdale district covers an area of 140 square miles and has a population of around 200,100.**

Calderdale has large areas of open countryside and moorland, as well as several urban centres. The district has around 4,000 listed buildings and the largest town, Halifax, still retains one of the most complete Victorian landscapes in Britain.

The district provides two specialist water rescue stations and wildfire capability to deal with the risks which emerge from Calderdale's unique geography. Firefighters at the specialist water rescue stations are highly trained to deal with wide area flooding and performing rescues in fast flowing water. Firefighters at our wildfire and wildfire support stations are trained to operate specialist equipment, work effectively on moorland and undertake the arduous tasks required to tackle large scale moorland fires.

The Calderdale District team includes a District Commander, three Assistant District Commanders, two District Support Officers, a District Prevention Manager and three Prevention Officers.

### Calderdale

- Population – 200,100
- Personnel – 92

- Size of area – 1402 miles
- Fire Engines – 5

## **Calderdale Stations**

- Illingworth (Wholetime)
- Halifax (Wholetime, Wildfire Support)
- Mytholmroyd (Retained/On-Call)
- Rastrick (Wholetime, Water Rescue)
- Todmorden (Day crewing, Water Rescue & Wildfire)

## **Why are we here**

### **Our ambition: Making West Yorkshire Safer**

To improve community safety and wellbeing and reduce the risk to life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies.

### **Our guiding principles**

To achieve our ambition, we will:

- Focus on risk and vulnerability
- Be part of our communities
- Work in partnership
- Be at our best and strive to improve
- Make a positive difference in everything we do
- Promote diversity and create an inclusive workplace

## **The services we deliver**

### **Prevention**

Raising awareness about the risks people face to prevent emergencies and reduce vulnerability.

### **Protection**

Promoting and enforcing the fire safety measures required by law to ensure buildings and occupants are protected should a fire occur.

### **Response**

Being ready for and responding to emergencies.

### **Resilience**

Being able to deal with major emergencies and disruption locally and nationally whilst continuing to deliver our critical services.

# Our Priorities

This plan sets out how we aim to use our resources to manage the risks we face in West Yorkshire and keep you safe from fire and other emergencies.

- Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.
- Promote the health, safety, and well-being of all our people.
- Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable all our people to be at their best.
- Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.
- Provide ethical governance and value for money.
- Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.
- Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.
- Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.
- Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.
- Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.

## How we will deliver these priorities

### **Plan and deploy our resources based on risk.**

- We will continue to manage and monitor the risk within Calderdale and ensure that our operational response is appropriate to the risks identified.
- We will ensure the availability of specialist equipment, vehicles, and personnel in areas where risk is identified as requiring a specialist response.

### **Improve the safety and effectiveness of our firefighters.**

- We will undertake training and exercising to ensure a safe response to risk identified in Calderdale.
- We will continue our training days with partner agencies including EA Flood Wardens, Local Authority Community Wardens, National Trust, Landowners and Emergency Planning to improve how we respond to Flood and Wildfire across Calderdale.

### **Promote health, safety, and wellbeing for all our people.**

- We will continue to ensure our stations and workplaces are fit for purpose and have the appropriate risk assessments in place.
- We will continue to ensure that appropriate welfare arrangements are in place for our district team.

- We will further work with the departments in the development of contaminants and clean cab work streams across our district stations.

### **Encourage a learning environment in which we support, develop, and enable our people to be at their best.**

- We will continue to nurture talent and provide support for those expressing an interest in developing and progressing within the service.
- We will continue to maintain the competence of all service delivery staff via quarterly themed development sessions.
- We will continue to work with partners to identify opportunities for multi partner development.

### **Focus our prevention and protection activities on reducing risk and vulnerability.**

- We will continue to enhance our partnerships with social housing providers within Calderdale to ensure that high risk and vulnerable members of our communities are identified, and work is carried out to improve their safety and wellbeing.
- We will work with Calderdale Council and multi-agency partners to identify vulnerable residents in areas prone to flooding and ensure a proactive approach.
- We will continue to work with and learn from our communities in response to engagement activities and incidents.

### **Provide ethical governance and value for money.**

- We will continue to explore opportunities to be more efficient in how we operate.
- We will continue in the implementation of new ways of working at Todmorden Fire Station.
- We will ensure the best use of district resources in providing an efficient and value for money response to incidents.

### **Collaborate with partners to improve all of our services.**

- We will carry out multi agency exercises based around our risk profiles within Calderdale.
- We will work with blue light and local authority partners to develop robust plans for our high-risk areas including North Bridge and our river and canal networks.

### **Work in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way.**

- We will implement a recycling programme at all Calderdale stations.
- We will continue to look at lean ways of working to reduce travelling, paper and waste within Calderdale District.

## **Achieve a more inclusive workforce, which reflects the diverse communities we serve.**

- We will continue to deliver positive recruitment messages during all service delivery contact.
- We will work with our blue light partners to develop community engagement and positive action opportunities.
- We will continue our successful recruitment campaign for Mytholmroyd.

## **Continuously improve using digital and data platforms to innovate and work smarter.**

- We work with data to reduce unnecessary demand on our service to build capacity for other work.
- We apply risk modelling to identify the most vulnerable in our communities in order to deliver targeted interventions.

# **Risks in Calderdale district**

Whilst attending emergencies across West Yorkshire is a statutory duty, our role is much broader than this. We aim to do everything we can to prevent an emergency response in the first place. We do this through prevention and protection activity.

The residual risk that remains is managed through our response and resilience strategies.

The following sources have been used to identify the risk within Calderdale District:

- The National Risk Register
- The WY Community Risk Register
- Local knowledge
- CPNI sites
- WYFRS Premises Risk Database (PRD)
- IRS; national and international data and experiences
- Environmental data and flood risk
- Information from local partners
- Foreseeable Risk Register

1. Prevention – Educating people about the risks they face to prevent emergencies and reduce vulnerability.
2. Protection – Promoting and enforcing the fire safety measures required by law to ensure buildings and occupants are protected should a fire occur.
3. Response – Being ready for and responding to emergencies.

4. Resilience – Being able to deal with major emergencies and disruptions whilst continuing to deliver our critical services.

## Managing risk in Kirklees

### Arson

How will we reduce the risks?

#### Prevention

- We will work with Calderdale Council Highways and Community Wardens in reporting and actioning abandoned waste materials.
- Crews will carry out year-round EVAs to identify areas prone to abandoned waste materials and ensure that safe and well visits carried out in these areas highlight the risks to residents.
- Education around the subject of Arson will be delivered into both Primary & Secondary schools through robust and targeted education platforms, to ensure engagement and learning is achieved – data and repeat incidents will dictate which schools receive this information and so forming an achievable plan of action.
- Operational crews and fire protection teams will highlight the impact of waste accumulation on businesses when carrying out SSRIs.
- Arson prevention advice will be provided to local businesses.

#### Response

- Operational crews will attend and deal with arson related incidents and will ensure that risk reduction work is carried out in response to the incidents. Crews will be responsible for identifying trends and areas where there is an increased risk. These trends will be communicated to all response agencies across Calderdale.
- We will ensure that our emergency response plans in relation to arson incidents or threat of arson are shared between our responding agencies in Calderdale and wider afield where necessary.

### Prevalence of false and malicious false alarms

How will we reduce the risks?

## **Prevention**

- We will work with WYP in seeking prosecution for persistent malicious callers in appropriate circumstances.
- Calderdale Prevention team will work with social housing providers in working with vulnerable individuals on the consequences of making malicious calls to emergency services.
- We will work with social housing providers in ensuring false alarms at their premises are monitored and any trends are identified and remedied.
- Operational crews and fire protection teams will highlight the responsibilities of business owners in reducing causes of alarms at their premises.

## **Response**

- Operational crews will highlight the consequences of malicious false alarms during school visits.
- Operational crews will be responsible for identifying trends and developing action plans for dealing with false alarms within their designated areas.
- We will work with our partner agencies in reducing the number of false alarms at their premises.
- We will work with partner agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour resulting in false alarms or malicious false alarms.

## **High Rise Buildings**

How will we reduce the risks?

### **Prevention**

- We will continue to work with social housing providers to provide advice to those most at risk from a fire in a high-rise building.
- We will implement learning and changes as a result of the Grenfell Incident.
- Operational crews will continue to monitor residents in high rise buildings and ensure that all have received a safe and well visit.
- We will continue to report and enforce non-compliance with legislation.

### **Response**

- We will continue to undertake training focussed on our high-rise premises within Calderdale.
- Illingworth crews will continue to attend exercises as evacuation support crews as part of our new response to high rise premises.
- Crews will continue to be responsible for maintaining up to date risk information for their nominated high-rise building.
- We will share our response plans with all stations and multiagency partners likely to attend a high-rise incident in Calderdale.

## **Wildfire**



How will we reduce the risks?

### **Prevention**

- We will work with Calderdale Council in highlighting the PSPO measures within Calderdale District via community engagement and social media.
- We will continue to build on the successes of the #BeMoorAware campaign.
- We will work with local supermarkets selling single use BBQs to highlight the dangers of using them on the moors.
- Operational crews will undertake EVAs to identify areas vulnerable to wildfire and carry out community engagement.
- Crews will increase visibility in moorland areas during periods of high fire risk.
- District team will work with multi agency partners to carry out community engagement and engagement with landowners in areas vulnerable to wildfires.

### **Response**

- Calderdale district will coordinate wildfire training days with all crews and provides site specific risk information.
- Crews will ensure that fire maps and response plans are up to date and available for all responding agencies.
- Crews will train cross border with GMC Fire and Lancashire Fire to understand the capabilities and capacities of our bordering services.
- We will ensure our partner agencies are aware of our response plans.
- We will undertake a multi-agency wildfire exercise incorporating EA, Emergency Planning and National Trust.

## **Flooding**

How will we reduce the risks?

### **Prevention**

- We will work with Calderdale Council to continue our community engagement work with our residents at risk from flooding.
- Crews will carry out training with EA Flood wardens in the Upper and Lower valley areas.
- Operational crews and fire protection will advise businesses on the risks from flooding while undertaking SSRI visits.

### **Response**

- Crews located at stations in our flood risk areas will work with local partners to develop appropriate response plans which take account of our most vulnerable residents.

- We will undertake training days with our response partners for small- and large-scale flooding events including National Resilience and cross border support.
- We will ensure our response plan is shared with multi-agency partners to ensure a coordinated response to any flooding incident within Calderdale.
- We will ensure that all Calderdale personnel have familiarisation training with the specialist water and flood rescue training.

## **Waste sites/illegal waste storage**

How will we reduce the risks?

### **Prevention**

- We will continue to work with Calderdale Council and other LRF partners in identifying and monitoring known waste sites.
- We will work with our Fire Safety department to identify illegal waste sites and ensure they comply with the appropriate legislation.

### **Response**

- Operational crews will continue to use a mix of tabletop and live training in Calderdale to ensure operational knowledge and hazard awareness is maintained.
- Crews will continue to develop up to date training against existing and newly identified waste sites within Calderdale.
- Crews will visit known waste sites and carry out SSRIs to ensure any responding crews have up to date risk information and water supplies.

## **Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs)**

How will we reduce the risks?

### **Prevention**

- The district team and operational crews will undertake community engagement and target schools/centres where members of our community most at risk are located.
- We will be involved in a road safety roadshow to be held at Victoria theatre aimed at year 11 and 12 students in collaboration with Police, YAS and Calderdale Council.
- Crews will look to develop charity car washes which include response [partners including National Highways that will deliver road safety advice.
- Operational crews will work with partners in highlighting inappropriate parking and driving outside schools.

## Response

- Crews will train with police and ambulance looking at improving our responses to RTCs in both town centre and rural locations.
- Crews and District Team will continue to work with our response partners to make Calderdale's Roads Safer. Crews will visit known waste sites and carry out SSRIs to ensure any responding crews have up to date risk information and water supplies.

## Calderdale district achievements 2022 – 23

In 2022 – 23 Calderdale district delivered the following:

- We have attended 2441 incidents in Calderdale.
- Calderdale personnel have implemented lessons learnt from the pandemic and new ways of working to ensure the delivery of Safer Communities Strategy. Calderdale District crews have delivered over 1000 Safe and Well visits since April and the prevention team have delivered 535 High Risk Interventions.
- Numerous CPD days have taken place with both Community and Flood Wardens. This involved crews meeting the wardens and carrying out small scale exercises to ensure there is mutual understanding of each other's roles and capabilities.
- Todmorden and Mytholmroyd have carried out numerous cross border training exercises with both GMC and Lancashire FRS looking at Wildfire, Flooding and multi service response to domestic property fires.
- The district team has worked with partners to develop a number of referral pathways which have been made more efficient through the use of secure emails, resulting in faster referrals and partnership involvement for our high risk and vulnerable residents.
- The Calderdale District Team is supporting several firefighters currently in development towards Crew Manager and several Crew Managers currently in the Watch Manager promotion process. Members of the district team and district prevention team have identified both personal and organisational development opportunities which are being supported through district and headquarters-based teams. Calderdale strives to be supportive to all personnel from both a personal and professional standpoint.
- We have forged links with both Calderdale and Kirklees colleges and have carried out several events for their Public Services Course looking at our recruitment process, positive action, selection testing, interview technique and life working for WYFRS.

# Performance

## District performance

2021 – 22

Performance Indicator	3-year average target	Actual (2021/22)	Performance against 3-year average
Arson	382	375	-1.8%
Primary Arson	82	90	9.8%
Secondary Arson	300	285	-5.0%
Actual Rescues	161	145	-9.9%
Total Activity	2075	2398	15.6%
Dwelling Fires	105	92	-12.4%
Non-Domestic Building Fires	36	32	-11.1%
Prevalence of False Alarms	889	1062	19.5%
Fire Related Injuries	23	11	-52.2%
Road Traffic Collisions	164	65	1.6%
Malicious False Alarms	29	38	-31.0%

## Calderdale district - our people

We recognise the importance that our workforce plays in achieving the Calderdale District priorities. We are investing in health and wellbeing, leadership and development and diversity and inclusion strategies to support staff to reach their full potential.

We have recruited firefighters to work Mytholmroyd Fire Station. This has been a positive step for our District enabling us to bring in new talent and improving the availability of resources throughout Calderdale.

## **Teamwork**

Calderdale crews will undertake a variety of multi-pump exercises to establish closer working with nearby stations.

## **Integrity**

We will ensure that our integrity is displayed and upheld in all response, prevention and protection activities which are undertaken.

## **Learning**

We will ensure that opportunities for learning and developing are available to all our firefighters and team members. We will actively learn from incidents and exercising through debriefs.

## **Responsibility**

We will ensure that all Calderdale team members understand and undertake the responsibilities which sit with them whatever their role.

## **Communication**

Calderdale district will continue to communicate with our teams through both interactive and face to face means to ensure they are all kept up to date with our priorities.

# **Monitoring progress**

Calderdale district performance across all areas will be monitored by the District Team. This is done in several ways through engaging with our crews during Station Assurance Visits (SAV) and our training and exercising programme.

Any Prevention activity is reviewed and assured through our Performance Management Indicators. On a monthly basis the Performance Management Indicators are monitored against a three-year rolling average. We implement action plans where we see unexpected trends.

Progress against the management of district risk will be reported to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in line with the Performance Management Framework.

## **Station assurance process:**

- Prevention - Educating people about the risks they face to prevent emergencies and reduce vulnerability.

- Protection - Promoting and enforcing the fire safety measures required by law to
- ensure buildings and occupants are protected should a fire occur.
- Response - Being ready for and responding to emergencies.
- Resilience - Being able to deal with major emergencies and disruption whilst continuing to deliver our critical services.

Every year we will review and update the known risks in the district, taking account of changes and development in:

- Data performance
- New and emerging risks
- Community risk
- Organisational priorities

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