



Draft Annual Action Plan 2010 / 2011

Awdurdod Tân Ac Achub Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
www.mawwfire.gov.uk



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Introduction



Our vision for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority is to be a world class organisation. We have recently published our Strategic Plan for the next five years which sets out our determination to achieve excellence by engaging, connecting and inspiring our staff, our communities and our partners to work together to help build safer communities.

This document is our annual action plan and it highlights the significant achievements we've already made and what we want to do in 2010 – 2011.

We hope that you will comment on our plan.

Chief Fire Officer - Richard Smith

Chair of Fire and Rescue Authority - Cllr Collin Crowley

Working together to build safer communities

We know that the best way to build safer communities is to work together with others to reduce risk, drive down deaths and injuries, damage to property and harm to the environment.

We have produced our Strategic Plan for 2010-2015 (www.mawwfire.gov.uk) which sets out our ambition and determination to achieve our vision for Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service. For each year of the Strategic Plan we will produce an annual action plan which will report on our achievements and give everybody an opportunity to give us their views.



What we've achieved so far

We have already made significant achievements in our work to drive down deaths and injuries, which has contributed to the safety and sustainability of our communities, and we have:-

Made homes safer – by providing extensive education and home fire safety advice particularly to the most vulnerable members of our communities resulting in a downward trend for house fires and injuries in the home.

Made our public buildings and businesses safer – by working closely with the business community through an advice and inspection service, there has been a significant reduction in the number of fires in business premises.

Contributed to making our roads safer – by working with our partners to make our roads safer and prevent incidents occurring. We have produced a Road Safety Strategy for Wales to reduce deaths and injuries from road traffic collisions. All fire engines have been provided with state of the art rescue equipment to allow us to effectively deal with incidents on our roads.

Worked extensively with children and young people – by our engagement and education work with schools and others, and initiatives such as young firefighter schemes, we have helped develop children and young people into safer people.

Reduced arson – by undertaking innovative and effective initiatives to reduce deliberate fires.

Refined our emergency response arrangements – by changing the way we work and the way we organise the Service, we have become more operationally flexible, safety focused and better equipped to meet the challenges facing us. We have improved our response services by ensuring we have the right people in the right place at the right time.

Improved the safety of our staff – by improving the way in which we manage health and safety and by developing information systems to allow us to learn from local and national events.

Improved our resilience – by working with our partners in preparing for major and national emergencies.

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Last year's plan

Last year we asked for views on some specific issues for 2009-2010.

Staff Deployment

Last year we continued to make improvements to the way that our services are delivered to ensure we have the right people in the right place at the right time. A number of working groups have been established to examine alternative methods of deploying some of our staff. To allow for employees to be fully included in making these improvements, communications and engagement groups consisting of employees from all areas have been set up to ensure those most affected by change play a full and active part in the development and implementation of detailed proposals.

Dedicated crews for special appliances

New special appliances in the Swansea area require us to review the way in which they are crewed and operated. A comprehensive review has been set up and is led by senior officers, working closely with front line fire fighters and their representative bodies to develop and implement detailed proposals.

Day crewed stations

A working group consisting of officers, staff and their representative bodies has been set up to identify improvements to day crewing systems in order to provide the best service according to risk. Once again, employees most affected by any changes are fully involved and play a full and active part in the development and implementation of detailed proposals.

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What we want to do in 2010-2011

Our Strategic Plan 2010-2015 (www.mawwfire.gov.uk) outlines our strategic objectives for the next five years. We have identified a number of areas where we think we can make specific improvements in 2010-2011.

1 - Improving the way we reach vulnerable members of society

We already target community safety work at some of the most vulnerable members within communities but we know that we do not reach everyone. Other organisations work with vulnerable people and may be able to support us. We want to strengthen our links with partners and provide them with training and further expertise to identify and report fire risk.

How do you think we can improve the way we identify and reach vulnerable people to target our community safety work?

2 - Sharing our facilities with our communities

We have buildings throughout Mid and West Wales and in some of our areas we are already sharing these facilities with the local community and other services. We want our buildings to continue to be a valuable resource within the community and we want this shared use to help us promote our services and safety awareness programmes and the work of others. This requires us to develop our premises in order to make them suitable for shared use and we want your views on our work in this area.

What are your views on extending and further developing the shared use of our facilities with communities and other services?

3 - Engaging with communities

We already engage with communities to ensure our services are accountable and form part of the local decision making process. We are active in promoting community safety and in raising public awareness of all aspects of our work. We want to strengthen links with communities to increase the voice that people have in shaping the services we provide.

How do you think we can improve the way we engage with communities?

4 - Improving road safety

Far too many people are killed and injured on the roads of Mid and West Wales and this needs to change. We are already working hard with our partners to make people aware of the dangers on our roads but we believe that more can be done.

What more do you think we should be doing to improve road safety?

5 - Delivering home fire safety checks

Currently home fire safety checks are carried out by firefighters, partner agencies and dedicated staff. We believe that there may be opportunities for improvement in this area and we will be reviewing how we carry out this work.

How do you think we can improve on the delivery of Home Fire Safety Checks?

6 - Reducing deliberate grassland fires

Deliberate grassland and forestry fires are a drain on our resources and we are already working with communities and other agencies to prevent them. We also want to minimise air and water pollution from these fires in order to reduce their environmental impact.

How do you think we can reduce deliberate grassland fires and the impact they have on the environment?

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Have your say

Providing us with your comments is an important means of engagement as it allows us to test our proposals with those most affected. We want everyone in Mid & West Wales to play a part in shaping the Fire and Rescue Service.

We will be seeking your views for twelve weeks from 12th May 2009 until the 4th August 2009, and this is how you can take part.

- Fill in the response form and send it to us using the pre-paid envelope.



- Go to www.mawwfire.gov.uk and follow the link to risk reduction planning.



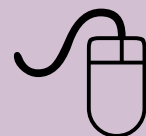
- Write to the Chief Fire Officer, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Lime Grove Avenue, Carmarthen SA31 1SP.



- By telephone: Call 0370 6060699 and ask for the Strategic Planning and Performance department.



- By email: rrp@mawwfire.gov.uk



Your responses will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. If you require this document in another language or format, please contact us.

What happens next?

All of the responses received will be considered by the Fire and Rescue Authority. A report will be provided to outline how the Authority has considered the information to shape the final plan which will be published by the 31st October 2009.

This final plan will also include improvement and performance information as outlined by the Wales Programme for Improvement.