

Key Performance Indicators

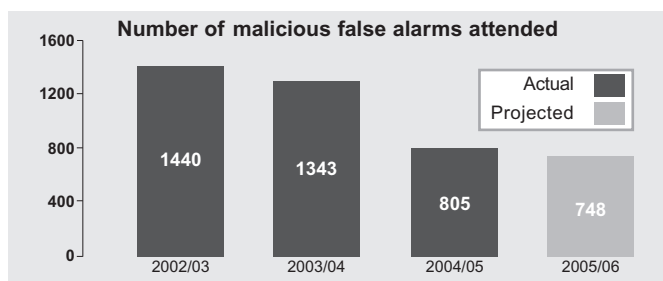
	03/04 actual**	04/05 actual	05/06 estimate*	average England & Wales**
Total no. of fires (per 10,000 population)	85.9	62.1	62.6	91.4
Accidental fires in the home (per 10,000 homes)	13.1	12.6	12.9	17.4
Number of deliberate fires (per 10,000 population)	59.4	42.5	42.2	n/a

*based on data at January 2006

**based on latest published government data (2003/04)

Hoax calls and false alarms

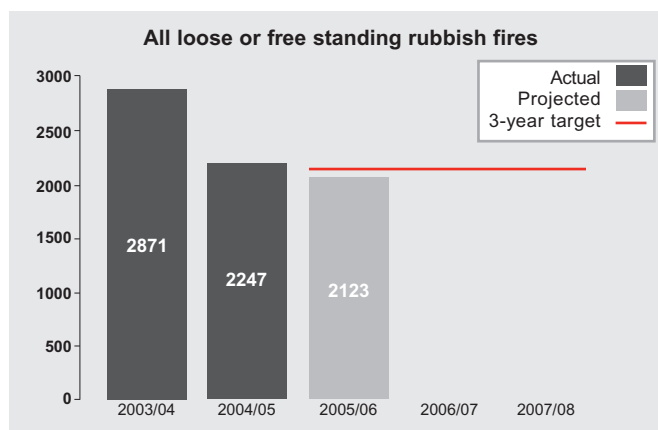
In summer 2004, KMFRA introduced a policy of challenging calls which are abusive or obviously malicious. This has reduced the number of hoax calls we attend. It means that fire crews are less likely to be diverted from attending real emergencies and can instead use the time for training and fire prevention. Importantly it has allowed us to put more resources into community fire safety work to prevent fires starting in the first place. We have also been successful in reducing the number of responses to automatic fire alarms without significantly increasing risks.



Key Performance Indicators

Loose rubbish fires

The Authority is working with the police and other local authorities to make Kent and Medway safer and cleaner. This includes removing abandoned cars and rubbish to reduce deliberate fires and make communities better places to live. As a part of this we agreed in 2004/05 to work towards reducing loose rubbish fires by 20% over the next three years. We were called to nearly 3,000 rubbish fires in 2003/04, and we know that people in some areas are very concerned by this problem. This year we are on track to achieve this target. You can help us to do even better by disposing of rubbish responsibly and reporting fly-tipping when you see it.



All of these changes were made as part of the KMFRA's Integrated Risk Management Plan. To find out more about our performance, or plans for future years, visit our website or write to us at the address on the front of this leaflet.

Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority

Council Tax 2006/2007

If you have any comments or questions about the information in this leaflet, please write to:

Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer
Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority
Headquarters
Straw Mill Hill, Tovil
Maidstone ME15 6XB
or email: info@kent.fire-uk.org

2005/2006 saw the first Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for Fire and Rescue Authorities, which considers capacity, management and performance. KMFRA was assessed independently by the Audit Commission as an **Excellent** authority, one of only two in the country.

www.kent.fire-uk.org



**Kent Fire &
Rescue Service**

Where Your Money Goes

Revenue Budget

2005/06 £'000		2006/07 £'000
44,139	Employees	52,947
12,199	Firefighters' Pensions	1,265
3,042	Premises	3,115
2,792	Vehicles	3,140
5,538	Other	6,463
1,079	Contributions to Capital	1,459
650	Financing Costs	939
69,439	Gross Cost of Services	69,328
-6,298	Income	-5,588
63,141	Net Cost of Services	63,740
443	Transfer to/from Reserves	-392
0	External Funding Adjustment	242
63,584	Net Budget Requirement	63,590

Financed By

29,029	Gov. Grant/Business Rates	27,291
46	Collection fund surplus	110
34,509	Amount from Council Tax	36,189

Why Spending Has Changed

	£'000
Revenue budget 2005/06	63,584
Base adjustment for pension changes	-2,422
Re-based budget 2005/06	61,162
Pay and prices	2,412
Net decrease in pension liabilities	-23
Increased provision for capital costs	289
Service developments & pressures	805
Repayment of Government Grant	242
Savings	-905
Transfer from Reserves	-392
Revenue budget 2006/07	63,590

Reasons for Change

The most significant change in 2006/07 is the introduction of a new approach to financing the firefighters' pension scheme. This has seen a reduction of over £2.4m in expenditure and a compensating reduction in Government Grant. For comparison the revenue budget for 2005/06 has been re-stated as though the changes have already been introduced. Other changes include increases for ongoing commitments, such as nationally determined pay awards for staff and other unavoidable price increases. Additional funds are also provided for capital financing costs, new community fire safety initiatives and equipment for new statutory duties and large scale incidents. A range of savings and efficiency measures is being pursued to minimise the impact that these increases have on the Council Tax.

Capital Budget

In addition to the revenue budget, KMFRA also sets a capital budget for investment in projects with long term benefits.

	2006/07 £'000
Premises developments	505
Vehicles & operational equipment	2,409
Infrastructure (IS/IT)	780
Home Fire Safety Projects	157
Total Capital Spending	3,851

Financed By

Loans	1,475
Government Grant	917
Revenue Contributions	1,459

Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority (KMFRA) Council Tax Charge

The KMFRA Share of your Council Tax

	Council Tax Band £
Your council tax bill is	A 39.60
made up of charges	B 46.20
from KMFRA, as well as	C 52.80
other local authorities in	D 59.40
your area. These are the	E 72.60
amounts that relate to	F 85.80
fire and rescue services	G 99.00
for this year.	H 118.80

The council tax for a band D property for 2006/07 is £59.40, which is an increase of just £2.25 (or 3.9%) per property per year over the equivalent charge of £57.15 for 2005/06.

The council tax in 2005/06 for the KMFRA helped us to:

- Answer 42,000 emergency '999' calls
- Respond to 23,000 incidents
- Educate over 70,000 children aged 5 to 14 in basic fire safety
- Carry out Home Fire Safety Checks and fit over 6,750 smoke alarms

**A smoke alarm is not an
EARLY warning...**

IT'S YOUR ONLY WARNING