

# NORTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE



## HOME FIRE RISK CHECK STRATEGY

2010 – 2020

*"Over the 10 years to 2014, in North Yorkshire and the City of York, 125 more people will still be alive through the work of the new Fire and Rescue Service. This will be due to the Service having significantly reduced the likelihood and severity of fire and other emergencies. We will achieve this through the dedication of our staff working in partnership with other agencies in the community"*

Please note this is the website version of this document. If you are a member of NYFRS staff please use the intranet version. Date of upload 22/04/2016

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of our commitment to saving 125 more lives by 2014 North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) have given a commitment to carry out free Home Fire Risk Checks (HFRC) for householders throughout the Service Area. This supports the Government's Home Fire Risk Check initiative and the associated guidance for delivering a programme of such assessments.
- 1.2 This is an essential element of the CFS activity as research shows us that the threat to life from fire is dramatically reduced by providing education about the causes and spread of fire, fire escape plans and ensuring smoke detectors are installed and are working in order to provide for early detection of fire. HFRC are generally conducted by operational crews who have the knowledge, experience and understanding of the nature and behaviour of fire.
- 1.3 We also provide training to partner agency personnel to enable them to carry out HFRCs and fit smoke detectors on our behalf.
- 1.4 Whilst awaiting a nationally provided standard of training for those undertaking HFRCs we have developed our own training packages for trainees and operational fire-fighters.
- 1.5 Currently NYFRS conduct a policy of completing a HFRC to those houses who request one through telephone requests or through the various Community Safety events that the service undertakes.
- 1.6 Once a request has been received the service will endeavour to send a competent person/s out to the property where they will undertake a free HFRC and provide advice and guidance to the occupier.
- 1.7 Whilst undertaking the HFRC the NYFRS employee will also check the status of the smoke detector(s) in the property. Are there any? If some are fitted are they working correctly and are they sited in the correct location? If there is an issue with the smoke detector(s) then the employee will, if necessary, fit a new 10 year smoke detector(s) to help reduce the level of risk as far as is practicable.
- 1.8 Should the risk within a dwelling be perceived to be considerable, additional fire safety measures will be recommended, such as the fitting of domestic sprinklers or automatic suppression systems? We have successfully installed several such systems in domestic residences in the Service Area.
- 1.9 We have progressively increased the number of HFRCs conducted over the past four years and continually seek opportunities to provide advice and guidance to vulnerable people. Many of these opportunities arise from our partnership working which ensures that those deemed to be vulnerable from fire are made aware to us. In relation to the delivery of Home Fire Risk Checks, the Service will engage the assistance of other partners where these are appropriate and available.

## 2.0 Strategic Objectives

2.1 For North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to meet its Mission of “125 Alive” there are some key objectives within the HFRC strategy.

1. **NYFRS will aim to visit every household that is located within a RED area as identified through the latest Integrated Risk Management Planning Map. This will be completed over a 10 year period from 2010 to 2020.**
2. **NYFRS will carry out a free HFRC in those properties in RED areas where this is acceptable to the occupier.**
3. **NYFRS will fit a free 10 year smoke alarm where necessary.**
4. **NYFRS will aim to have direct contact with every household in North Yorkshire over the next 10 years (2010-2020)**
5. **NYFRS will provide suitable training for staff to complete HFRC and Smoke alarm fitting.**
6. **This strategy must be deliverable within the limitations of current resource levels.**
7. **To implement a re-visit schedule for those dwellings identified as highest risk through a HFRC.**
8. **To liaise with our partner organisations to gather information on the most vulnerable persons and make them a priority for a HFRC.**
9. **To develop an online HFRC questionnaire that would allow occupants to access the NYFRS website and complete it.**
10. **To implement a monitor and review process to ensure the target of visiting every home in a red area is achieved.**

### 3.0 Strategic Objective 1

- 3.1 **NYFRS will aim to visit every household that is located within a RED area as identified through the latest Integrated Risk Management Map. This will be completed over a 10 year period from 2010 to 2020**
- 3.2 To maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of our HFRC policy the service needs to target those homes that are most at risk of a fire occurring or the fire is more severe. This is currently done through local risk identification by station based personnel and district community safety officers.
- 3.3 NYFRS have a comprehensive Integrated Risk Management Tool that underpins the services risk identification process. (Detailed description in the Risk I.D. section)
- 3.4 NYFRS will implement a system where by over a period of 10 years every household that is identified as been located in a red area will be visited by a member of staff.
- 3.5 The following chart identifies the number of domestic premises by risk rating for all of the 8 districts within North Yorkshire and the City of York.
- 3.6 It also demonstrates the number of HFRC that have already been undertaken in each district. This gives a final estimation for the outstanding dwellings that would need to be visited by NYFRS.

DISTRICT	RED AREAS	HFRC Comp.	AMBER AREAS	HFRC Comp.	YELLOW AREAS	HFRC Comp.	GREEN AREAS	HFRC Comp.
CRAVEN	3104	274	6183	428	4743	235	8650	613
HAMBLETON	3874	1196	12396	2057	5995	824	12423	2891
HARROGATE	12890	1202	17843	1749	14309	1608	18035	1757
RICHMONDSHIRE	1346	349	4369	396	6714	665	5696	609
RYEDALE	4012	934	5734	1220	6812	1278	4893	878
SCARBOROUGH	22262	3703	11197	2074	5979	1019	7288	872
SELBY	4300	836	4991	572	6186	696	15359	1254
YORK	31066	3200	16200	1216	13828	886	15826	730
TOTAL	82854	11694	78913	9712	64566	7211	88170	9604
PREMISES OUTSTANDING	71160		69201		57355		78566	

(Data correct as of July 2009)

#### 4.0 **Strategic Objective 2**

##### 4.1 **NYFRS will carry out a free HFRC in those properties in RED areas where this is acceptable to the occupier**

4.2 When a member of NYFRS visits a dwelling in a red area they will offer to conduct a free HFRC. This should only be undertaken at the request of the occupier.

4.3 Where the occupier refuses a HFRC then a record of the visit should be recorded in CFRMIS and a note made as to the refusal.

4.4 This will allow NYFRS to track all visits to dwellings in red areas even if a HFRC was not undertaken.

#### 5.0 **Strategic Objective 3**

##### 5.1 **NYFRS will fit a free 10 year smoke alarm where necessary**

5.2 As per current policy NYFRS will fit a free smoke alarm where it is deemed necessary by the attending fire service staff member.

5.3 This will be either a 10 year battery audible smoke detector, or where applicable a Deaf alarm with vibrating pad and strobe light.

#### 6.0 **Strategic Objective 4**

##### 6.1 **NYFRS will aim to have direct contact with every household in North Yorkshire over the next 10 years (2010-2020)**

6.1 There are currently around 315,000 homes within North Yorkshire and to physically visit each and every one of these would prove a huge drain on resources and would leave little time for any other Community Safety activities. Therefore a different approach is required as to how NYFRS will achieve contact with these properties.

6.2 Those homes that fall into the Middle categories of Amber and Yellow will receive a leaflet providing Community Safety Advice over a 10 year period. This would equate to posting out to 12656 households per year. This would allow the service to have direct contact with those properties and an auditable trail as to which premises were delivered to. This will be based on Risk score with the highest risk premises in those categories receiving leaflets first.

6.3 The households in the green areas would receive contact from NYFRS through general publicity or on a request only basis; unless a high risk vulnerable household is identified through CS work or partner referral.

6.4 Any requests would be prioritised according to prior commitments in red areas on the following basis:

Risk Areas	Follow up after request from occupier
<b>RED</b> area dwellings	Follow up visit to be arranged A.S.A.P (24-48hrs) at convenience of occupier
<b>AMBER</b> area dwellings	Follow up visit to be arranged within 3 weeks.
<b>YELLOW</b> area dwellings	Follow up visit to be arranged within 6 weeks.
<b>GREEN</b> area dwellings	Advice provided over the phone, occupier encouraged to complete on-line HFRC and visit website for general CS advice.

## 7.0 **Strategic Objective 5**

### 7.1 **NYFRS will provide suitable training for staff to complete HFRC and Smoke alarm fitting**

- 7.2 As per current policy NYFRS will continue to provide a training package to assist crews in the delivery of HFRC and the installation of smoke detectors.
- 7.3 Training will also continue to be provided for the provision and installation of other Community Safety apparatus such as electric blankets.

## 8.0 **Strategic Objective 6**

### 8.1 **This strategy must be deliverable within the limitations of current resource levels**

- 8.2 For this strategy to work and be achievable the work load should not put an extra drain on resources.
- 8.3 To achieve the target of 71160 home visits over a 10 year period would require an inspection schedule of 7116 per annum. This is achievable within the current capacity levels for NYFRS. The service is currently undertaking 6900 HFRC per annum on average.
- 8.4 Not all the premises within the red areas will want a HFRC and that will reduce the burden on crews.
- 8.5 As identified through the chart some of the districts within North Yorkshire have fewer households residing in the red areas and will therefore complete their quota in a shorter period of time. At the other end of the scale some districts will struggle to

complete the workload over the 10 year period, due to the large number of red areas and households.

8.6 Therefore it will be the Area Manager in charge of Service Delivery who will allocate resources to those areas of greatest need. This may require the temporary or even permanent relocation of resources such as a Community Safety Vehicles or Community Safety Officers.

9.0 **Strategic Objective 7**

9.1 **To implement a re-visit schedule for those dwellings identified as highest risk through a HFRC**

9.2 As part of the ongoing commitment to making our communities safer and further driving down Risk, NYFRS will introduce a re-visit schedule to those homes that have been categorised as high risk.

9.3 This will allow NYFRS to provide continued support and education to those dwellings identified as being most at risk of a fire occurring.

9.4 By using the HFRC form to apply a risk based scoring system (currently in use) each individual property can be assigned a risk level. This is separate from the risk score determined by the IRMP map. Therefore a high risk property could still be found in a green area, this will allow the service to meet the needs of individual households that would otherwise be missed through the proposed inspection criteria.

9.5 Through the scoring system described above the following schedule will be implemented:

Individual Household Risk Rating (Score Boundaries)	Re-visit Schedule
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>High Risk</b> (10 to 99)</p>	<p>12 month re-visit by a NYFRS employee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Medium Risk</b> (7 to 10)</p>	<p>36 month Fire safety leaflet posted out.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Low Risk</b> (0 to 10)</p>	<p>Letter sent after 10 years to remind occupier to check their battery.</p>

9.6 The re-visit schedule will allow NYFRS to follow up on high risk premises, provide further advice and guidance and by completing a second HFRC at 12 months drive down the risk to communities.

9.7 Those dwellings identified as been medium risk will receive a NYFRS published leaflet which will reaffirm the safety messages delivered at the time of the HFRC. This will provide a timely reminder to the occupiers of the most important safety messages related to fire safety

#### 10.0 **Strategic Objective 8**

##### 10.1 **To liaise with our partner organisations to gather information on the most vulnerable persons and make them a priority for a HFRC**

10.2 Every effort will be made to share information with our partner organisations. This will include sharing information on the location of our most vulnerable occupiers:

- Over 65+ years of age
- Under 5 years of age
- Single occupancy dwellings (inc Single parent families)
- Occupants with alcohol related issues
- Occupants who smoke (particularly in bed)
- Low income households
- Occupant has a disability that would impair their ability to evacuate the property without assistance

10.3 Information should be sought from organisations that already hold this information and who would be willing to let NYFRS have access to that information.

10.4 As with the post incident community safety debrief, those households where the occupant has 3 or more of the above risk factors will be classed as High risk.

10.5 This information will be recorded on the HFRC form and where appropriate the household will be referred to a relevant organisation.

#### 11.0 **Strategic Objective 9**

##### 11.1 **To develop an online HFRC questionnaire that would allow occupants to access the NYFRS website and complete it**

11.2 As part of the continuing improvement cycle a web based HFRC form will be developed to assist homeowners to log onto the NYFRS website and complete a simplified version of our HFRC.

11.3 This form will provide a simple scoring system which when compared to their address data will allow NYFRS to determine if a follow up visit is required or if a simple automated e-mail can be sent detailing basic fire safety advice.

## 12.0 **Strategic Objective 10**

### 12.1 **To implement a monitor and review process to ensure the target of visiting every home in a red area is achieved**

12.2 To assist NYFRS in monitoring performance against this strategy a dashboard has been produced which will show the services progress towards this target. This dashboard will be used to report progress to CSD.

12.3 The Service Delivery AM will be responsible for feeding the results back to the district GM, who will have responsibility for monitoring compliance within their districts.

## 13.0 **Risk Identification**

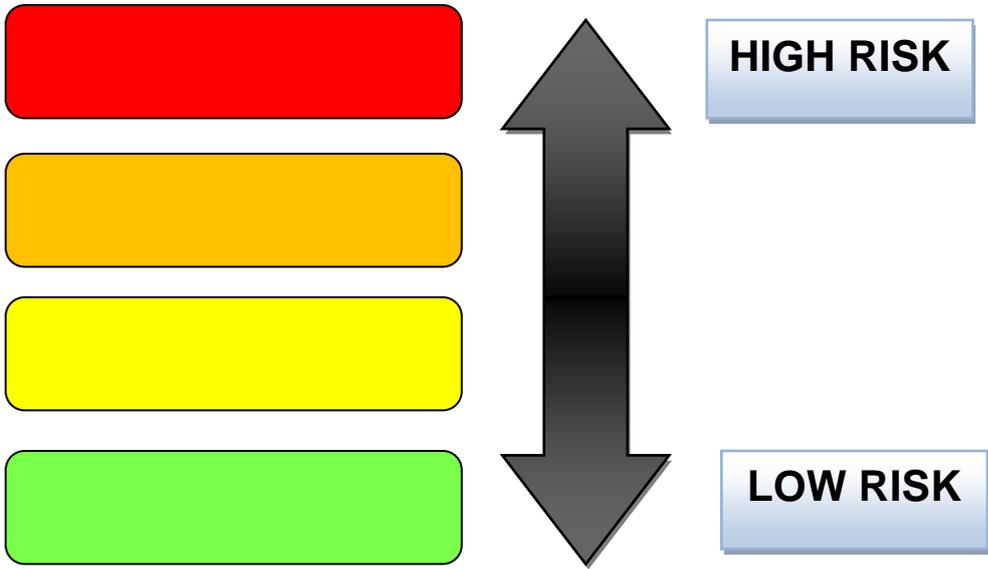
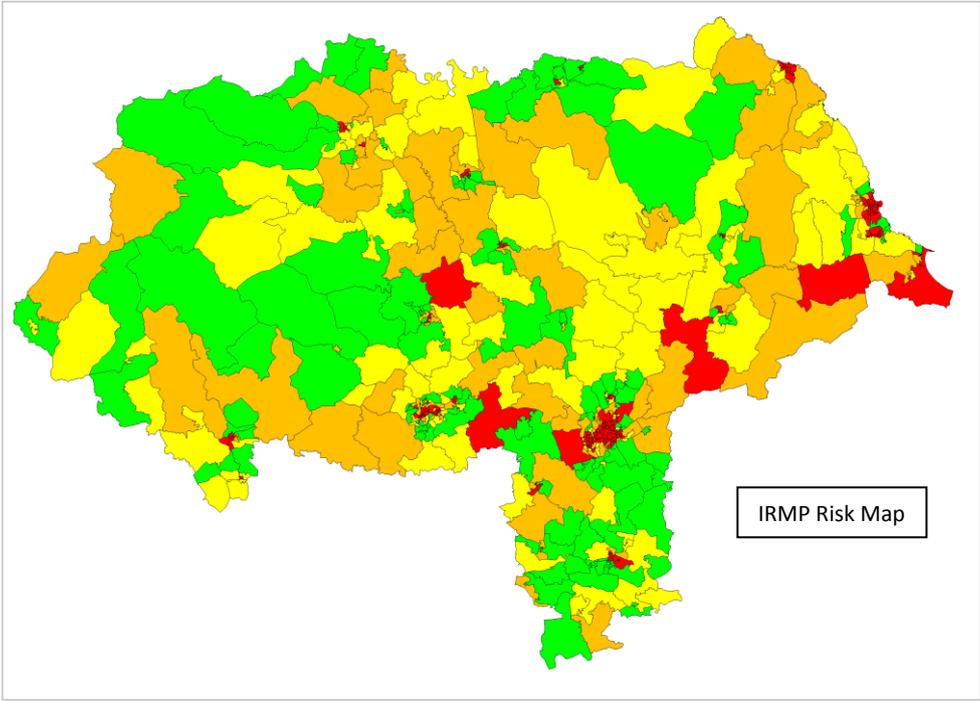
13.1 As part of our target to achieve our mission of “125 Alive” the service must strive to target it’s most vulnerable communities. These are the groups of people who are most at risk form a fire occurring and been injured and killed as a result of that fire.

13.2 To help the service identify where these communities are located we developed a Risk mapping system. This system is based on a number of risk factors that are shown to have a strong link to not only an increase in the likelihood of a fire occurring but that the fire will be more severe.

13.2 The risk map shows our highest risk areas in red and takes the following factors into account:

1. Household Density (no. of households per 100 hectares)
2. Attendance Time of nearest Fire Engine
3. FSEC Non-Domestic Property Score
4. IMD Ranking (Indices of Multiple Deprivation)
5. All Fires
6. All RTCs
7. All Deaths & Injuries

13.3 As the number of incidents is reduced through CS activities so the risk level in the areas will reduce. However the use of the factors in determining risk will mean that those higher risk areas will remain red, and will therefore be identifiable as high risk within North Yorkshire and the City of York.



#### 14.0 **Conclusion**

- 14.1 This strategy has been developed to assist NYFRS to meet its mission of “125 Alive”. Conducting a HFRC and the installation of a smoke alarm has been shown to dramatically reduce the likelihood of death or injury from fire. This strategy will help drive forward the work that has already been undertaken over the past 10 years.
- 14.2 Using more up to date research and analysis tools has enabled NYFRS to identify where our highest risk areas and households are. This means that our HFRC can now be targeted at our most vulnerable communities
- 14.3 Not only are we committed to reducing the risk by targeting our high risk areas but we are establishing an ambitious target of having some contact with every household within North Yorkshire over a 10 year period. This target will allow the organisation to put across its important community safety message to every household that it has a responsibility towards.