



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority
MAKING YOU SAFER
PREVENTING PROTECTING RESPONDING
WWW.BUCKSFIRE.GOV.UK



COUNCIL TAX **2009-2010**

In an emergency, ring 999

General enquiries – 01296 744400

Minicom – 01296 432333

Email – enquiries@bucksfire.gov.uk

Website – www.bucksfire.gov.uk

Free home safety checks – 01296 744477
cs@bucksfire.gov.uk

Workplace fire safety – 01908 236413
miltonkeynesfiresafety@bucksfire.gov.uk

Fire safety training – 01296 717441
ictu@bucksfire.gov.uk

Who we are

Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service is run by Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority, which comprises 14 councillors from Buckinghamshire and seven from Milton Keynes. It serves a population of around 720,000.

You can count on us to respond to your 999 call for help in an emergency – and we are working harder than ever to prevent fires and other emergencies from happening in the first place.

Our vision is to make Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes safer by working with the other emergency services and national and local government partners to reduce death, injury and damage to property, the environment and our heritage from fire and other emergencies. This year we will continue to focus on four key community safety objectives and on improving the performance of our emergency response.

The objectives are to **MAKE YOU SAFER**:

- In your home.
- At work and in public places.
- On the roads.
- In your community.

This year we will spend £28,219,783 (£39.22 per head of population) on providing services to you. Government grant accounts for £2.97 per head of population, business rates £12.87 and council tax £23.38.



SAFETY TIP: Keep internal doors shut – if you have a fire, this will slow down the rate at which it spreads through your home.

What happens to your money

Where the money comes from

	2008-2009	2009-2010
Government grant	£1,385,456	£2,136,807
Business rates	£9,952,408	£9,257,746
Council tax	£15,913,283	£16,825,230
Reserves	£202,000	£0
Total	£27,453,147	£28,219,783

Our budget is 2.79 per cent higher than last year's. To fund essential improvements and priorities, and to compensate for an increase in government funding of only 0.5 per cent – £56,689 – we have had to increase the rate at which our share of your council tax is charged by 4.99 per cent.

Our charge to a band D council tax payer is £57.69 for the year. This is an increase of £2.74 on last year, when your council tax contributed £15,913,283 to our budget of £27,453,147.

Where the money goes

	2008-2009	2009-2010
Employees	£23,839,410	£23,860,517
Premises	£1,118,965	£1,256,514
Transport	£1,915,288	£1,890,392
Supplies and services	£2,742,718	£2,742,097
Cross-border charges	£60,000	£61,080
Capital charges	£920,962	£773,983
Income	-£3,144,196	-£2,364,800
Total	£27,453,147	£28,219,783


Total borrowing figure for 2008/09: £6,452,000.

This year's budget allows for committed expenditure including the nationally negotiated pay award, and inflation on contracts such as fuel costs.


We employ 743 people – 351 wholetime firefighters, 228 retained firefighters, 23 emergency control room staff, 122 people who work in a variety of support services including community safety, fire safety, workshops, finance, human resources, planning, information technology and procurement, and 19 people based at stations such as cooks, cleaners and administrative support staff.

Employee costs take account of a planned reduction in the number of our wholetime firefighters and the phased enhancement of the number of retained firefighters. Included within employee costs are the National Insurance contributions required by employers and the pension contributions set nationally for firefighters and locally for non-firefighting staff. A significant proportion of our employee costs is used for training staff to ensure that they are well prepared for any event and are skilled to the appropriate level.

We have reviewed our capital programme and will fund the essential repairs and maintenance of our fire stations and maintain the replacement programme for fire appliances and equipment. We will manage the reduction in income as a result of other brigades buying fuel from other suppliers and the downturn in the economy leading to a reduction in training income from businesses.



SAFETY TIP: Make an escape plan – talk to your family NOW about how you would all get out of your home if there was a fire.



SAFETY TIP: If in doubt, get out, stay out and call us out by ringing 999. Things and buildings can be replaced – people can't.

Efficiency savings

Efficiency is an issue of fundamental importance for local services as it offers better value to council tax payers. The resources released through our efficiency measures have been reallocated according to locally determined priorities in line with our Integrated Risk Management Plan.

In 2008/09, we have worked to deliver several important efficiency projects both regionally and locally with partner authorities. These have led to significant improvements in service delivery, such as revised shift systems enhancing staff productivity, and better procurement through the use of joint procurement contracts.

Local authorities are required to measure and report the value of efficiency savings achieved since April 2008. An efficiency saving occurs when the cost of the activity falls, but its effectiveness is not reduced. The value of our efficiency savings is shown below.

- Forecast efficiency savings by March 2009: **£568,000**
- Forecast efficiency savings by March 2009 as a percentage of our baseline expenditure in 2007/08: **2 per cent**
- Impact of forecast efficiency savings by March 2009 divided by number of band D equivalents: **£2**
- Average impact of forecast savings by March 2009 for the average band D home for authorities of the same type: **£2**

Making you safer



Fire safety leaflets are available in English and 30 other languages . . .

www.bucksfire.gov.uk/bucksfire/languages

- Are you aged 65 or over?
 - Do you live on your own?
 - Are you sharing with non-family members?
 - Do you receive a benefit?
- If you have answered “Yes” to one or more of these four questions, we can help make you safer.
- Let us carry out a **FREE** home safety check to help you minimise the risk of a fire. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of your home. We will need you to be present to answer a few questions for us.
- We will fit **FREE** 10-year smoke alarms where necessary. Smoke alarms give you a vital early warning in the event of a fire in your home.
- To book one, ring us on **01296 744477**, email us at cs@bucksfire.gov.uk or fill in the online form at www.bucksfire.gov.uk

**Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service,
Stocklake, Aylesbury, HP20 1BD.**



SAFETY TIP: Smoke alarms save lives – but only if they work. Test your smoke alarms once a week. Push the button, not your luck.



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www.pelicanprint.co.uk

Total cost of producing, printing and delivering 390,000 leaflets (total for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes) to distribution warehouses: £3,900. That's just 1p per leaflet!