Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service

Front-line Deployment of Pumping Appliances

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service
Working together for a safer Gloucestershire

KEY BENEFITS

- Quantified performance impacts of deployment changes
- ORH review used as evidence in consultation
- Complimented GFRS approach to risk categorisation
- Recommendations successfully implemented by GFRS

Identifying the most appropriate deployment changes in a rural fire service

KEY FACTS

Population = 605,000
Area Covered = 2,600 km²
Fire Stations = 21
Annual Incidents = 5,000
Budget = £16,000,000

ABOUT GFRS

GFRS is a predominantly rural fire service, with 16 of its 21 stations staffed entirely by on-call firefighters. Within the county there are also the large urban areas of Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud, Cirencester and Tewkesbury. Many major roads run through Gloucestershire, which contribute to the diverse set of risks that GFRS has to plan for.

THE CHALLENGE

As part of a new approach to operational planning, GFRS focused on risk to people and set new response targets accordingly. Emphasis was placed on providing additional prevention and protection activities. GFRS asked ORH to assess the front-line response capabilities to ensure that resources were deployed in the most appropriate way.

ORH'S APPROACH

ORH consulted with GFRS staff, analysed the current risk profile and built appropriate models to replicate the operational behaviour of the service. As part of an initial modelling process, ORH assessed a wide range of deployments, from simulating crewing changes at individual stations to optimising station locations using a blank canvas approach. Based on these modelling results, and specifically the expected impacts against the new response targets, ORH worked with GFRS officers to identify feasible options, and combinations of these options. ORH then completed further modelling runs before GFRS selected a shortlist of deployment changes to be explored further.

RESULTS

GFRS put forward two deployment changes for public consultation, which the authority approved and GFRS has subsequently implemented. ORH's modelling was a key part of the consultation process in showing that GFRS's decisions were evidence-based and appropriate. Following the success of the initial project, ORH has continued to work with GFRS to provide further analytical and modelling support.

> ***Working with ORH enables us to challenge traditional thinking and provide innovative solutions. It helps us identify where, with the right approach, we can enhance prevention and protection activities and achieve improved levels of service to the community without increasing costs; essentially doing more with less and doing it more effectively.***
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> Stewart Edgar, Chief Fire Officer, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service

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About ORH
PLAN. PREPARE. PERFORM.

ORH helps emergency services around the world to optimise resource use and respond in the most effective and efficient way.

We have set the benchmark for emergency service planning, with a proven approach combining rigorous scientific analysis with experienced, insightful consultancy. Our expert team uses sophisticated modelling techniques to identify opportunities for improvement and uncover hidden capacity. Simulating future scenarios ensures that solutions are objective, evidence-based and quantified.

Every organisation faces a unique set of challenges, so remaining independent and flexible allows us to deliver an appropriate solution every time. The outputs of our work enable clients to make robust, data-driven decisions and explain them clearly to stakeholders.

ORH's approach is always tailored to the needs of the client. Above all, we are committed to getting it right, for the good of our clients and the people who rely on their services.

ORH WORKS WITH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES TO:

- **Optimise the locations of vehicles and stations**
- **Support decision making**
- **Deliver efficiency savings**
- **Assess alternative duty systems and service delivery options**
- **Develop contingency plans**
- **Evaluate the potential for co-responding**

For control rooms, ORH provides its DCT software to support dynamic decision making and enable effective and efficient resource use.

Emergency Service Planning Case Study

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