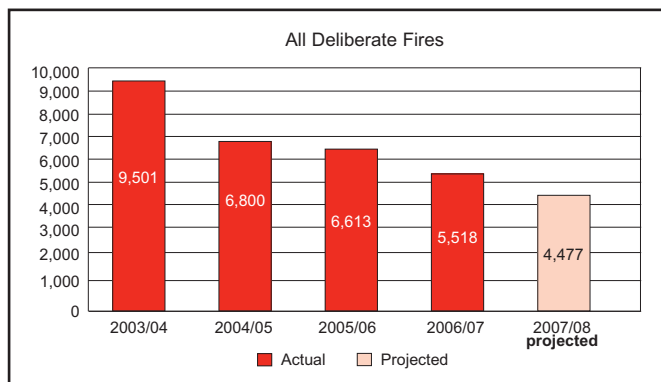
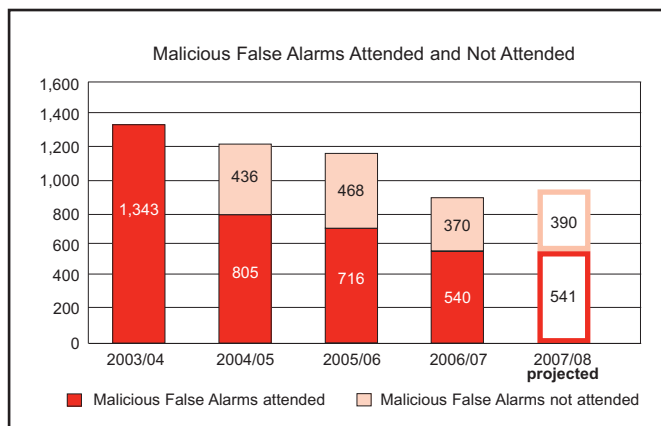


What has improved

- **Getting to fires** – we continue to reach our standard of getting to 90% of all fire calls within 10 minutes
- **Reducing deliberate fires** – deliberate fires have gone down by over 50% over the last 5 years



- **Reducing false alarms** – malicious false alarms have gone down by over 30% over the last 5 years



- **Reducing numbers of road accidents attended** – the number of road accidents we go to has gone down by 12% over the last 5 years, although traffic has gone up by over 15%

Excellent – and improving strongly

The Audit Commission assesses how well all local authorities are performing each year. In 2005 it rated the KMFRA excellent, the highest score. This year we were also judged 'improving strongly': again the best rating. This covers overall performance in service delivery, management and value for money.

Public satisfaction – up 10%

In 2007 we got the results of the satisfaction survey we do every 3 years. This showed 75% of residents are satisfied with our services, more than 10% up on 3 years ago, and the second highest result nationally.

Planning for the future – Making Kent Safer

We must keep our services under review to make sure they meet changing needs and risks. Fires and road accidents are going down; but more houses and businesses in new places, more storms and flooding forecast, fewer children and more old people will all have an impact on risks. Keeping an excellent service means investing more in staff training and equipment.

What you can do to help us keep getting better:
Fit smoke alarms – and make sure they work
Drive safely – and make sure your children do
Bin your rubbish – and protect your environment

	2005/06 actual	2006/07 actual	2007/08 estimate ¹
Total fires (per 10,000 people)	62.0	53.7	44.6
Accidental fires in the home (per 10,000 homes)	12.9	11.2	12.4 ²
Deliberate fires (per 10,000 people)	41.3	34.3	27.6
Road accidents attended (per 10,000 people)	8.3	7.9	7.5

¹Based on data at December 2007

²Latest England average (2005/06): 16.5

Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority

Council Tax 2008/09

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

Chief Executive & Chief Fire Officer
KMFRA Headquarters
Straw Mill Hill, Tovil
Maidstone ME15 6XB

Each year we publish a Service Performance Plan which sets out our key activities and plans. It also shows performance and trends compared with other fire and rescue services. This report is published at the end of June, and you can get it from our website or by post from the address above.

We recently published the results of the public consultation on our proposals for the next year, starting in April 2008. We will be responding directly to people who took part.

We have also published our Medium Term Financial Plan for 2008/2011 including the financial implications of the Service Performance Plan and the forecast for resources. This document is on our website.

To get this leaflet in another language or format, phone 01622 692121 or minicom 01622 674691.

For a free Home Fire Safety Check telephone:
0800 9237000



Kent Fire & Rescue Service

www.kent.fire-uk.org

Where your money goes

2007/08 £'000	Revenue budget	2008/09 £'000
55,302	Employees	56,289
1,360	Firefighters' pensions	1,473
3,314	Premises	4,038
3,084	Vehicles and travel	3,135
4,442	Equipment and supplies	4,882
1,503	Fees and services	1,591
1,098	Other costs	823
1,610	Contributions to capital	2,400
1,039	Debt financing costs	1,105
72,752	Gross revenue expenditure	75,736
-5,018	Service income	-5,460
-1,602	Transfers to/from reserves	-2,041
66,132	Net budget requirement	68,235

Financed by:

28,111	Gov. grant/business rates	28,608
97	Collection fund surplus	-16
37,924	Council Tax	39,643

Why spending has changed

	£'000
Revenue budget 2007/08	66,132
Pay, prices and commitments	2,419
Service developments & pressures	1,600
Savings	-1,994
Movements in grant and reserve funded expenditure	78
Revenue budget 2008/09	68,235

Our budget for 2008/09

The revenue budget for 2008/09 is £68.2m, after income and transfers from reserves. This is 3.2% more than the equivalent budget last year, with most of the increase arising from nationally set pay awards for staff and the cost of inflation.

In order to keep Council Tax increases low whilst at the same time identifying sums to reinvest in service improvements, the Authority has identified nearly £2m of savings. These savings which are ongoing, will benefit all Kent and Medway residents and can be achieved without increasing the risk to public safety.

£1.6m of growth in the budget will be used to ensure that the Authority is 'Fit for the Future' including investment in staff, training and premises.

Capital budget

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

	2008/09 £'000
Premises developments	443
Investment in IS/IT	546
Operational vehicles & equipment	3,640
Regional Control Centre project	190
Community fire safety schemes	235
Total capital expenditure	5,054

Funded by:

Borrowing	1,916
Revenue contributions	2,400
Capital grants	637
Capital receipts	101

Council Tax charge

The KMFRA share of your Council Tax

Your Council Tax bill is made up of charges from the KMFRA, as well as other local authorities in your area. These are the amounts that relate to fire and rescue services for this year.

Band	Council Tax
A	£42.54
B	£49.63
C	£56.72
D	£63.81
E	£77.99
F	£92.17
G	£106.35
H	£127.62

The Council Tax for a band D property is £63.81, which is just 3.5% more than the equivalent charge of £61.65 for 2007/08.

The Council Tax goes towards:

- Answering 39,700 emergency '999' calls
- Responding to 22,100 incidents
- Educating over 80,000 children and young people in schools, colleges and in the community
- Carrying out home fire safety checks and fitting over 12,000 free smoke alarms
- Reducing deliberate fires to improve your quality of life

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

IT'S YOUR ONLY WARNING