HIKLU Accident prevention plan - Western Uusimaa 2023

Use: To be used by the staff and clients of the rescue departments

Area of application: The areas covered by the rescue departments of the City of Helsinki, Eastern Uusimaa, Central Uusimaa and Western Uusimaa.

Contents

1. Purpose and aims of the accident prevention plan 3
2. The impact of the service level decision, risk analysis and various phenomena on the plan 4
3. The needs arising from the operating environment and the services to meet them .. 6
4. Description of the services in the area covered by HIKLU 12
4.1. Communications on safety 12
4.2. Supervision 14
4.2.1. Periodic supervision 14
4.2.2. Additional supervision 16
4.3. Supervision of chemicals 17
4.4. Expert services 19
5. Provision of services at the Western Uusimaa Rescue Department 2023 24
5.1. Communications on safety 25
5.1.1. Co-operation 28
5.1.2. Other communications on safety 29
5.2. Supervision 32
5.3. Supervision of chemicals 34
5.4. Expert services 34
1. Monitoring 37
Sources 40
APPENDIX 1: Supervision interval tables A1-A6 43
APPENDIX 2: Charges for fire inspections 49

1. Purpose and aims of the accident prevention plan

The accident prevention plan provides a comprehensive account of the supervisory activities, expert services and communications related to safety associated with the rescue departments.

The joint accident prevention plan of the rescue departments for the region of Uusimaa (HIKLU) supports and develops the harmonious and cost-effective organisation of services and provides for the timely allocation of adequate resources for appropriate action. The work and its planning take better account of the client, and services are to be developed with the client in mind.

The key objectives of the HIKLU partnership are: the harmonisation of client services in the Uusimaa region, improved performance in the event of major accidents and challenging management situations, the achievement of levels of service that reflect the aims of the service level decision, and improved well-being in the changing operating environment. The work to prevent accidents is mainly guided by the key objective of harmonising client services.

Under section 78 of the Rescue Act, Rescue departments must oversee compliance with the provisions of Chapters 2 and 3 in their regions. Section 79 of the Rescue Act states that rescue departments must draw up a supervision plan for monitoring and oversight. The supervisory task must be based on a risk assessment and be of high quality and effective, and performed on a regular basis. The supervision plan details the fire inspections to be carried out and other supervisory action, and describes how implementation of the plan should be assessed. According to section 27 a of the Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives, oversight of sites for the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals may also be included in the supervision plan. The supervision plan must be based on the service level decision concerning the rescue department services for the area.

Furthermore, under section 27 of the Rescue Act, rescue departments are responsible for the provision of guidance and advice in connection with rescue services and for communications related to safety in their regions. The aim is the prevention of fires and other accidents, making preparations for accident prevention, appropriate action in the event of accidents and danger, and limiting the consequences of accidents.

The rescue services have an obligation under section 43 of the Rescue Act to monitor the trend in accidents. This entails monitoring the trend in the number of potential and actual accidents and their causes. Conclusions are then drawn as to what steps to take to prevent accidents. Another obligation relates to cooperation in the prevention of accidents, as provided in section 42 of the Rescue Act. Rescue

departments must cooperate with the other authorities and local organisations and residents to prevent accidents and maintain safety.

Measures to prevent accidents are to be planned and targeted more robustly with reference to the potential risk, for example, through the use and development of the joint risk analysis for the Uusimaa region. The data produced in fire investigations are to be used in the prevention of accidents.

2. The impact of the service level decision, risk analysis and various phenomena on the plan

The accident prevention plan is based on the service level decision, the joint risk analysis for the Uusimaa rescue departments, and the Action plan for incident prevention of the Ministry of the Interior. The service level decisions for the rescue services in the HIKLU area have been drawn up for the period 2021–2024. The service level decision sets out the aims of the work of the rescue department, the resources available and the services provided and their level.

The service level must represent an appropriate response to risks and threats, regarding which the rescue departments in Uusimaa have together conducted a risk analysis. The risk analyses give a description of the operating environment and the changes and dynamics that have been associated with it or predicted for it, the main threats and risks which have been identified from the accident statistics and expert assessments and which the rescue departments must prepare for, and an evaluation of the service level in relation to the risks identified in the risk analyses. As with the decisions on the service level, the risk analysis surveys cover all safety situations, from day-to-day accidents and disruptions to normal life to exceptional circumstances and emergencies. As a part of the risk analysis work, the sites and buildings which require special focus in the Uusimaa area, have been identified. The accident prevention measures of these sites are described in the chapters regarding each individual rescue department.

The rescue departments in Uusimaa have at their disposal various risk management tools for responding to risks and threats in the operating environment. Some of these are preventative and are employed mainly to try to reduce the number of accidents, prepare for accidents and minimise their consequences beforehand. These accident prevention measures help individuals, organisations and social actors to prepare for certain events independently, and make it easier for them to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of those in their immediate surroundings.

The main observations connected with the general environment are related to demographic changes, technological developments, and extreme weather events, and their increased impact.

OBSERVATION	MEASURES
The number of older people and those who speak a foreign language compared to the population as a whole is increasing.	1. Increased cooperation with organisations and the authorities 2. A greater range of languages in communications on
Technological developments	1. Determination of staff performance requirements and competence development. 2. Ensuring the continuity of operations in all situations.
The risks of accidents on a daily basis and their management - **the dangers associated with buildings and the risk of fires in buildings** - **wildfires** - **road accidents** - **emergency human rescue operations**	1. There should be far more systematic use of data from fire investigations in risk analyses, planning and making general improvements.
Climate change and extreme weather conditions	1. Investment in communications 2. Improved independent preparation

3. The needs arising from the operating environment and the services to meet them

The built environment

Construction is concentrated in Uusimaa in the urban centres and particularly in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The pressure resulting from population growth and urbanisation are making it necessary to find new ways to increase housing production, services and office and business space. (1)

Challenging urban construction sites that combine high- and low-rise building and residential and public space are becoming common in growing urban areas that are located close to transport links. (2) Furthermore, technological development is posing new kinds of challenge for the future of construction. Ecological construction and the use of ecological materials are increasing.

Climate change is making extreme weather conditions a more frequent phenomenon and becoming more of a burden for the urban environment. (3)

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to ensure that planning and building take account of the safety perspective.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Fires in buildings	Challenging urban construction sites are becoming common. New technological solutions increase (e.g. solar panels, electric vehicles). The use of ecological materials increase. Dense urban development and challenging urban construction could make it more difficult to reach the scene of an accident.	Challenging sites and developments in technology and construction should be taken into consideration when experts give their opinions of new construction and renovation projects. Ensuring that the conditions are in place for successful rescue operations; e.g. with trial runs for rescue routes and opinions and statements about plans. Information on the rescue department's guidelines and education of the stakeholders.
Urban flooding and storm damages	Extreme weather conditions are a more frequent phenomenon and the effects may be more dramatic.	Urban flooding, storm damage and other disruptive situations must be minimised in the context of planning and new construction.

Housing

At 2021 Uusimaa had a population of around 1.7 million (4). The population is concentrated in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, the surrounding municipalities and urban centres. Elsewhere, the region is sparsely populated and rural. In the urban areas and centres, apartment block housing is common. (5)

In Finland, 90% of fatal accidents happen at home and during leisure time, but the accident fatality rate is steadily falling. (6) More and more work and study are being done from home and people are tending to stay at home more. (7) Older people are living at home longer and home care for those with disabilities is becoming common. The number of those who speak a foreign language as their first language is growing, which is something that needs to be taken into account in the matter of accessibility to services. There are also signs of social inequality between residential areas, especially in the Helsinki Metropoiltan Area. (8)

Technological development also has a key role in the safety of housing. Fire safety, for example, is affected by the increasing use of fully electric vehicles, solar panels and lithium batteries. (9)

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to ensure that living environments are safe and that everyone is in a position to attend to matters of their own safety.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Fires in residential buildings	The most common reason is human activity. No functioning fire alarms in over half of residences that have fires. Restricted functionality in older people and special groups can increase the likelihood and the seriousness of a fire. The amount of foreign-language population increases and they are reached less effectively than others. New technology in people's homes increases. The energy crisis increases the use of fire places and other alternative ways of heating and the storage of fuels.	Advice to clients; on-duty fire inspector, co-operation with the stakeholders. Safety training and cooperation. Fire safety self-assessment for residential buildings and on-site inspections. Dealing with notices from the chimney sweep that there is a problem. Communications on safety must be in clear and plain Finnish and in the languages most commonly spoken in the area.
Injuries	The fact that older people tend to live at home could increase the likelihood of accidents and injuries.	Cooperation between the authorities and stakeholders, safety training and communications.
Worsened security situation	The awarness about the obligations of the maintenance of civil defence shelters and self-preparedness increses	Fire safety self-assessment for residential buildings and on-site inspections, communications on safety

Work

There are around 770,000 people in work in Uusimaa. Of these, some 600,000 work in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area. There is a discernible rising trend in the number of jobs. (5)

The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that more people work remotely, and another trend is reflected in the existence of workspace where different people work in the same place on different days. (7) The increase in the different forms of working and the changing structures of work and employment affect who are present in the workspace and what sort of safety skills they have.

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to ensure that work environments are safe and that people are able to attend to matters of their own safety independently.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Fires in buildings	No functioning fire alarms in 85% of fires in buildings or where there is a risk of fire in buildings other than residential buildings. Efforts are made to put out fires with a fire extinguisher on average in only a third of cases of fire in buildings other than residential buildings.	Communications on safety and safety training sessions in the work environment. During the periodic supervisory sessions, guidance and advice are to be given on how to prepare for accidents (fires) independently.
Injuries	The frequency of accidents at work, that is the number of accidents in relation to hours worked, has been falling over the long term in the country. (12) The trend in the number of accidents at work depends on the sector of industry. There are almost three times more accidents among farmers than among salaried employees. (13)	Communications on safety and safety training sessions in the work environment to promote taking independent responsibility for safety when at work.
Accidents involving hazardous substances	The cause is typically human negligence or breaking technical equipment (overfilling a petrol tank or damage at industrial facilities). (5)	Supervision of chemicals Risk-based assessment of accidents involving hazardous substances within the context of independent preparation strategies.

Early childhood and general education

Through preschool and basic education, virtually 100% of the children in Uusimaa can be reached. The fact that there are more pupils who speak a foreign first language poses new challenges for communications on safety and safety training and access to them.

The local divide between residential areas has been found to impact the success of learning outcomes. (14) When services are being planned, it should be ensured that all children and young people have equal access to safety education.

Learning now takes place more frequently in an open environment (15), which poses its own challenge for fire safety in educational institutions.

More than half the fires in schools and day-care centres in Uusimaa are due to human activity, and most are caused deliberately. The numbers of fires in schools vary greatly from year to year, but it is a downward trend all the same. (16)

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to ensure that educational institutions are safe and to improve the knowledge and skills of children and young people in matters of safety while they are at school.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Fires in buildings	The effect of open learning environments on fire safety and evacuation. Unauthorised lit fires and fires started deliberately are a major cause of fires in schools. The trend is a downward one, all the same.	Targeted and comprehensive communications on safety at different stages of school life. On-site inspections Addressing the issue of starting fires through safety education and cooperation from the authorities.
Injuries	Accidents happen mainly during breaks, in physical education classes and on school trips. (17)	Targeted and comprehensive communications on safety at different stages of school life.

Leisure time

Uusimaa gets around 46,000 summer residents, of whom, however, only 3,000 visit their summer cottages from outside Uusimaa (5). Travel within Finland has increased and overnighting in the country, especially on the part of those living in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, has gone up by 50%. (18)

Uusimaa has several public event sites and there is investment in leisure time services. Extreme weather conditions pose a special risk associated with the temporary structures assembled for public events and planning in wide-open areas.

Fatal accidents mostly happen at home and during leisure time. Nationwide, the most common causes of accidents happening during leisure time, apart from sports injuries, are falling (from a height), falling over, tripping over or slipping. (19)

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to ensure that events are safe in cooperation with the others involved and to influence people's attitudes and leisure time behaviour.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Urban flooding and storm damage	Extreme weather conditions are on the increase (8).	Monitoring of public events, guidance, advice and other legally mandated services (e.g. rescue plans for comment). Information on rescue department's guidelines and education of the stakeholders. On-site inspections and client-orientated communications in co-operation with other safety authorities.
Injuries	There is a discernible downward trend in the number of fatal accidents over the long term, but the fatality rate is the third highest in the EU. (6)	Multi-authority cooperation with leisure time organisers.

Traffic

The Helsinki Metropolitan Area and the zones of growth within it are located alongside the main railway line, the Ring Rail line in Vantaa and the metro network. Commuter traffic also enters the Helsinki Metropolitan Area from outside Uusimaa. (5) By the year 2030, it is predicted that the volume of traffic will grow by a further 34%. (20) Uusimaa is also home to Finland's biggest airport and busy port facilities.

Commuter traffic leads to a peak in the number of daily accidents but accidents during the rush hour result in personal injury less frequently and require fewer rescue operation resources. (16) The majority of serious personal injuries recorded by rescue operations are traffic accidents, but there is a downward trend in the number of personal injuries in Uusimaa. (5)

New modes of transport, such as fully electric cars and scooters, are becoming common with technological developments, and these pose new kinds of risk in traffic.

The aim of the rescue departments' risk management strategy is to influence behaviour in traffic and promote safety at the scene of an accident.

Risks	Trends impacting the risk	Need for services and recommendation
Traffic accidents	The number of traffic accidents causing serious personal injury in Uusimaa is declining (5) The majority of Finns think they know what to do at a scene of an accident, although only a third thought they could administer first aid. The majority have never had to act at the scene of an accident. (21) Congestion at the scene of an accident causes problems for rescue operations.	Targeted communications on safety and safety training concerning what to do at the site of an accident For example, topics such as taking photographs and emergency response. Ensuring that the right conditions for rescue operations are in place. On-site inspections of sites of significance with respect to traffic and mobility. Guidance and advice regarding matters within the competence of the rescue authority.

4. Description of the services in the area covered by HIKLU

Section 4 describes the accident prevention services provided by the HIKLU rescue departments, which aim to attain the intended service level. Services fall into four categories: Communications on safety, supervisory activities, supervision of chemicals and expert services. Apart from the risks mentioned in the description of the operating environment, these services help manage the risk of day-to-day accidents.

	Day-to-day accidents							Major accidents and disruptions				
Risk management tools	Fires and fire risks in residential buildings	Fires and fire risks in other buildings	Wildfires	Road accidents	Emergency human rescue operations	Accidents involving hazardous substances	Oil spills	Serious road accident	More than one wildfire or forest fire at the same time	Storms	Widespread disruption to the national grid.	Black swan event
On-site inspections	x	x				x	x					
Fire safety self-assessment	x									x	x	
Guidance and advice on structural fire safety	x	x			x	x						
Supervision of public events, other events and temporary accommodation		x	x		x	x			x	x		
Processing of accident risk notifications	x											
Supervision of dangerous chemicals and fireworks		x	x			x	x		x			
Evacuation safety in care facilities and sheltered and supported housing units		x										
Guidance on land-use planning	x	x		x		x						
On-duty fire inspector	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x	
Fire investigations	x	x										
Safety communications online, in the media and in the social media	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Safety training	x	x	x						x	x	x	x

Table 1: The key risks determining the scope of the service level and the risk management tools whose main objective is to manage the relevant risk. (5)

4.1. Communications on safety

Communications on safety means the measures taken to try to improve the safety competence of people and organisations, their attitudes to safety and their behaviour with respect to matters of safety. Communications on safety can take several

different forms, such as advice, training and media communications. They can take the form of separate measures or be integrated with other services provided by a rescue department.

The aim of communications on safety is for people and organisations to be able to:

- identify risks
- prevent accidents
- prepare for different types of accident or disruptive situation
- act appropriately in the event of an accident or disruptive situation
- bounce back from accidents or disruptive situations that have occurred

Communications on safety are based on the duties of rescue departments provided in section 27 of the Rescue Act (379/2011).

Safety education

Safety education is teaching and guidance whose aim is to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that children and young people have with respect to safety.

Safety training

The rescue department safety training courses are systematic teaching and guidance sessions that aim to improve the safety awareness and competence of adults.

Advice and guidance

Advice on safety refers to the advice the provision of which is part of the official duty of a rescue department and is generally intended for individuals or groups of individuals. Advice on safety is given on an occasional basis, is short-term in nature, and is based on client needs. It may, for example, be given over the telephone or by email, on a fire inspection visit, on site familiarisation tours, when monitoring safety training exercises or on specific advice-giving visits not regarded as inspection visits or a training session. Guides and other materials offering advice are available to aid fire safety self-assessment on the part of the occupants of detached houses and housing companies.

Media communications

Media communications refers to communications on the subject of safety in the context of mass media (radio, TV, films, websites, the press, social media, electronic and hard copy bulletins and releases, etc.). Media communications also refers, for example, to social media influence. Media communications may involve general information on safety matters for the entire population of an area, or they

could be targeted at a more restricted focus group. Media communications can also be used to present new phenomena, observations and findings that influence safety, and in the prevention of the adverse effects these might have.

Safety communications at public events

Public events in this context means events planned in advance where participation is mainly voluntary and based on personal choice. Normally there is a large number of participants. The aim of communications on safety related to public events is to appeal to people's imagination and make them aware of the importance of safety. Given the nature of public events, it is possible, and indeed the aim is, to communicate to a large number of participants a small, carefully selected topic for consideration and provide them with information, instructions and advice on safety.

4.2. Supervision

The aim of supervision is to foster a good safety culture in the area and reduce the amount of damage to property and personal injury caused by fires. The purpose is to ensure that the owners and occupants of buildings and business and industrial operators comply with their obligations under the Rescue Act. The aim of supervision is also to ensure that the right conditions are in place for the provision of rescue operations and first aid arrangements in the event of an accident. Supervision incorporates the tasks provided in the Rescue Act, such as fire inspections and checking documentation.

4.2.1. Periodic supervision

Periodic supervision entails oversight of compliance with general obligations and the obligations of the owners and occupants of buildings and business and industrial operators as laid down in chapters 2 and 3 of the Rescue Act. The rescue authority also oversees compliance with the obligations connected with the small-scale industrial handling and storage of chemicals and the storage of chemicals in general under the Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives.

Responsibility for the safety of a site is always that of the owner and occupant or the business or industrial operator in question. The aim of supervision is also to provide advice and guidance to help operators and others to prepare for incidents independently, embrace a safety culture and also highlight the importance of independent preparations at a site in an endeavour to improve safety.

Periodic supervision is typically carried out on inspections in the nature of spot checks, in documentation checks and in discussions on matters of safety with clients. Supervision may also take the form simply of a check on documentation, if there is a legitimate reason for this.

Sites for supervision are divided into certain categories, according to how they are mainly used and the activities there. The classification also relies on information about the risks of damage to property and personal injury at the various types of site.

A record is produced of periodic supervision. Any problems or areas of dissatisfaction identified in the periodic supervision of sites are monitored by means of documentation checks or follow-up supervisory visits to the site.

Supervision of residential buildings

The obligations described in chapters 2 and 3 of the Rescue Act also apply to the owners and occupants of residential buildings and business and industrial operators. Where necessary, supervision is carried out as a documentation check with reference to the self-assessment form for fire safety in residential buildings, or by means of on-site inspections. Residents also receive communications in an attempt to highlight their own responsibility for their safety and to provide them with the means to promote it.

Reports on evacuation safety

Under section 18 of the Rescue Act, the operator of a care institution, residential care home or supported housing or other comparable sites must ensure that residents and persons receiving care can exit the building(s) safely in a fire or other emergency.

The rescue department oversees standards of evacuation safety at such sites on on-site inspections and through consideration of the operator's evacuation safety report. The operator may also be obliged to organise an evacuation drill to check that the evacuation arrangements are viable and that there is time to get people out of the building.

An evacuation safety report must be produced before an institution is opened and updated at least every three years, or if there are changes in the operation or facilities affecting evacuation safety. A safety report under the building regulations for a new construction project can essentially serve as a substitute for an evacuation safety report.

If a report suggests that a site's evacuation safety arrangements do not meet the requirements of section 18 of the Rescue Act, the operator may be ordered to produce a plan to implement improvements to evacuation safety. The plan should give details of the actions to be taken by the operator and the timetable for improving the site's evacuation arrangements. If necessary, the rescue authority may also issue the operator with an order to rectify defects, for example, to guarantee evacuation safety through improvements to the fire protection facilities.

4.2.2. Additional supervision

The rescue authority may decide to carry out supervision of sites on the basis of a notification of a risk. Notifications of a risk may come, say, from clients in the area, operators or other authorities. The rescue authority may also allocate their supervisory arrangements according to the type of notification received, their own findings or subject areas selected by the rescue department.

Notice of an evident risk of fire or accident

If an authority in the discharge of its functions identifies or otherwise discovers that there is an evident risk of a fire or an accident in a dwelling or building, it must inform the rescue department accordingly. The obligation to notify the department also extends to municipalities, other public sector bodies and their employees, and to operators responsible for the maintenance of a care institution and the organisation of residential care homes service and supported housing and their employees.

An appropriate means of supervision is selected, which is usually an on-site fire inspection. Depending on the notice, the matter can also be dealt with in some cases by checking documents or giving advice and guidance. Remedial measures are monitored in procedures that take place after the initial supervision.

Public events

The rescue authority oversees fire and personal safety at public events, the extent to which the event organiser is prepared for incidents, and the production of the rescue plan. The rescue plans for events that require them are assessed. In addition, advice and guidance are given on how to produce a rescue plan and on the safety arrangements at the event. An on-site inspection for the event may be carried out.

If the event is an especially large-scale one or otherwise unusual in terms of the arrangements it calls for, the rescue authority will endeavour to advise and guide the organiser right at the planning stage, to ensure that the requirements for any rescue operations are in place and that independent preparations can be made, as appropriate.

Risk-based on-site inspections are carried out for public events. The rescue unit and emergency care service will, if necessary, participate in the on-site inspection. Furthermore, at large-scale and unusual events there will, if necessary, be supervisory and monitoring arrangements in place while the event is on.

Temporary accommodation

Where temporary accommodation is concerned, supervision relates to fire and personal safety, the independent preparation for incidents on the part of the owner, occupant or operator of the building, and production of a rescue plan.

At sites where temporary accommodation is organised, a check of documentation is carried out in response to a notice, and, if necessary, a fire inspection will take place at the site to check that the accommodation is safe. The need for an on-site inspection is based on a risk assessment.

4.3. Supervision of chemicals

The rescue authority oversees the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals and general storage of chemicals pursuant to section 115 of the Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives (390/2005). Under section 24 of that Act, the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals may only be undertaken if a notification of the activity is made to the rescue authority.

Furthermore, under section 115 of the Act, the rescue authority oversees the storage for sale and supply for private use of fireworks approved for private consumption and pyrotechnic products posing a minimum risk, and the use of explosives and hazardous chemicals for special effects at public events or public or general meetings.

Sites engaged in the small-scale industrial handling and storage of chemicals are also subject to periodic supervision under the Rescue Act.

Supervision of sites where chemicals are stored and which have a duty of notification

According to section 25 of the Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives, the rescue authority must make a decision on the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals, because that activity may only be engaged in if notification of it is made. The decision is made where the operator makes notification under section 24 of the Act. The decision may impose conditions related to the safety requirements under chapter 2 of the Act.

Under section 27 a, the rescue authority must inspect a production plant engaged in the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals before it starts operations. On the inspection, the production plant's practices and its compliance with technical implementation will be checked. The plant's compliance with legislation and the decision taken on the operation will also be checked. The rescue authority, when processing the notice, will, if necessary, work closely with other authorities, such as TUKES (Finnish Safety and Chemicals Agency) and, if required, carry out preliminary reviews with respect to the plant(s).

The focus in the periodic supervision of production facilities engaged in the small-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals or other such sites is the safe use of the plant, the service and maintenance of its structures and equipment, staff training and guidance, accident prevention and the organisation of rescue operations.

Supervision of sites posing a risk of major accidents

The supervision of facilities engaged in the large-scale industrial handling and storage of dangerous chemicals under section 23 the Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives (390/2005) is carried out in collaboration with TUKES. The information obtained in the supervision process is used to draw up an external rescue plan for production facilities that pose a risk of a major accident. During the supervision process an attempt is made to ensure that the site's safety report and internal rescue plan contain sufficient information for the rescue department's external rescue plan to be drawn up.

Supervision of oil spill preparedness

Under the Rescue Act, the rescue department must oversee the oil spill preparedness of facilities in its area that store or handle oil products and other chemicals. The level of oil spill preparedness is determined with reference to the volumes of oil products stored or handled. The volumes of substances and the obligations that go with them are specified in the Rescue Act.

The rescue departments work closely with operators and other authorities in the matter of oil spill prevention. The rescue department also provides guidance and advice on matters relating to oil spills.

Supervision of pyrotechnic products

The Act on the Safe Handling of Hazardous Chemicals and Explosives contains provisions on the supervision of the use of fireworks, the storage of pyrotechnic products for sale, and the use of explosives or chemicals that pose a risk of fire or explosion as special effects.

An on-site inspection of storage areas where pyrotechnical products are sold is conducted every year, timed for the season in which fireworks are sold. The inspection involves verification that the storage area and places of sale are in line with the regulations and the relevant decision issued.

Oil heating equipment

The safety of atomising oil heating equipment is overseen by means of an on-site inspection of the appliance within three months of the date on which its owner has brought the existence of the oil heating equipment it intends to use to the attention of the rescue department.

Periodic inspections must be conducted of underground oil tanks, to take place every two, five or ten years, depending on the condition rating for the oil tank, its location and local authority environmental regulations. The inspection is carried out by a TUKES-approved inspection company.

4.4. Expert services

The rescue department provides expert services that include providing the various authorities with opinions and statements, client guidance and advice, and cooperation with authorities.

On-duty fire inspector

The rescue department’s on-duty fire inspector provides clients with advice and guidance over the telephone and by email in connection with accident prevention

services. The on-duty fire inspector advises, for example, on how to draw up rescue plans and notification forms and matters of safety in the home and at work.

Guidance on construction planning and opinions of plans

The rescue departments cooperate with the region's municipal building control units and act as fire safety specialists in guidance and advice on construction planning, including that for construction project planners. In the case of new sites and major renovation projects, opinions are issued on the acceptance of a building if the building supervision authority requires one in the building permit. For the purposes of the opinion, account is taken of the implementation of solutions related to rescue operations and fire and operational safety based on any site visits and documentation. The site visit is carried out generally before the actual acceptance inspection by the building control unit.

The municipalities (local authorities) are also given guidance at the planning stage, and the rescue department may, if so requested, issue an opinion of the plan.

In guidance on construction planning and in planning, the rescue authority may give its views on any of the following:

- accessibility to the site in view of the available equipment/vehicles (emergency access roads/escape routes: guidelines and implementation)
- fire-fighting route arrangements and occupational safety in rescue operations
- availability, sufficiency and control of water for extinguishing fires at the site and in its surroundings
- the placing and availability of the rescue equipment, e.g., the fire alarm logbook, the design criteria for the extinguishing equipment, smoke extractors, extinguishing water pipes, lifts used for rescue operations and the degree of contact with the network of authorities in the building.
- the structural fire and operational safety of areas and facilities

Rescue equipment

The rescue equipment in general includes: automatic fire alarms and detectors, extinguishing equipment, smoke extraction systems, extinguishing water pipes, and evacuation lighting systems. It is always the owner, occupant or operator of a property that has responsibility for the service and maintenance of this equipment.

The rescue department oversees the maintenance and operation of the equipment mainly on periodic supervision inspections and by checking documentation. It is also ensured that the equipment is in proper working order. The rescue department also gives guidance on the design of the equipment.

False alarms from automatic fire detectors put a lot of pressure on the rescue departments. To reduce the number of false alarms, the rescue department sends out repair reminders to properties from which there have been at least two false alarms in the previous 12 months. The rescue department also gives guidance and advice to clients on how to reduce the number of false fire alarms. The rescue department may make an official charge for responding to a third false alarm and a detector going off in the 12 months following that one. The charge is in accordance with the list of tariffs established by the Rescue Service Committee.

Cooperation with the authorities

To prevent accidents and maintain safety, the rescue department must work closely with other authorities and with local organisations and residents, and contribute to local and regional safety planning work (Rescue Act, section 41[1]).

This official cooperation is a way to try mainly to create a safer environment through supervision, e.g. by exchanging information on risk and taking the required action, such as joint on-site inspections. The rescue authorities are in the role of an expert in the assistance they provide to the other authorities, and some statutes new confer the right and obligation on the rescue authorities to issue opinions and statements on the matter of safety.

Section 49 Duty to provide the rescue authorities with executive assistance and expert assistance

Section 50 Executive assistance for other authorities provided by the rescue authorities

Cooperating authorities	Joint on-site inspections	Public events	Housing safety	Fire investigation	Fire safety	Fire detectors	Fire extinguishing equipment	Chimney sweep reports of problems	Chemical safety	Safety of oil tanks	Animal welfare	Electrical safety			
Person responsible for first aid	x	x	x											x	Municipal
Town planner			x						x				x		
Municipal veterinarian	x		x								x			x	
Other rescue departments		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	
Building supervision	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	
Social services	x		x											x	
Environmental health monitoring	x	x	x						x		x			x	
Environmental Protection	x	x	x						x	x				x	
Regional State Administrative Agency	x	x							x					x	State
Centre for Economic development, Transport and the Environment	x				x				x	x			x	x	
Emergency centre						x	x								
Safety Investigation Authority, SIAF				x											
Police	x	x	x	x					x				x	x	
Finnish Defence Forces	x												x		
Traficom	x								x				x		
Tukes	x	x				x	x		x			x	x	x	
Finnish Customs	x														
Chimney sweeps	x		x					x							Others
Inspection bodies	x					x	x		x	x		x	x		

Table 2: The partners of the rescue departments (23)

Fire investigations

A fire investigation is a statutory duty of the rescue department, and its purpose is accident prevention, limiting the amount of damage done, and making improvements to rescue operations.

A fire investigation involves an assessment of how the fire started, the background factors affecting the incident, the extent of the damage, its significance, contributing factors and how the rescue operation proceeded. The fire inspection itself and its scope depend on the seriousness of the consequences of the incident. The rescue departments must also monitor trends in the potential for accidents, the number of accidents, and their causes. The results of monitoring the accident trend and the analyses conducted mean the rescue department will have to take the necessary action to prevent accidents.

5. Provision of services at the Western Uusimaa Rescue Department 2023

The annual plan for supervisory measures and communications on safety for 2023 is set out in table 3.

The annual plan is drawn up by the senior fire inspectors for accident prevention together with the senior fire inspectors for the production of services. The entire plan is approved by the Head of Risk Management.

	Measures for 2023 (no.)
Communications on safety	Around 500 events At least 30 posts about communications on safety via social media 1,500–2,500 instances of contact by the on-duty fire inspector, giving advice on safety.
Periodic supervision	1,994
Residential buildings	8,000 (estimate based on previous years. Exact number for 2023 to be updated by June 2023.
Other sites for supervision	175 (estimate based on previous years)
Supervision of sites where chemicals are stored or handled	150 (estimate, these sites are included in the sites for supervision.)
Cooperation on planning	Requests for opinions on planning 60, meetings with authorities connected with planning 20
Guidance on construction planning	350 advisory sessions with clients (planners and designers) 1400 planning-guidance emails 150 meetings with the building supervision authority 275 electronic opinions and statements on construction projects (estimate based on previous years)
Other cooperation with the authorities	170 (estimate based on previous years)

Table 3: Accident prevention measures for 2023

Resources

It is difficult to determine accurately the volume of human resources to be needed for communications on safety, as they are part of all the work the Rescue Department does at the client interface. Seven person-years roughly have been allocated

to safety communications each year. Presently full-time safety trainers are used in safety communications, and other staff contribute to them as part of their own work. (22)

Overall, around 27 person-years have been allocated to supervision in general, one to the supervision of chemicals and four to other expert services. The resources used are full-time fire inspectors, senior fire inspectors, safety trainers and operational staff.

In 2022 the Regional State Administrative Agency (AVI) gave out an expert assessment of the services of Western Uusimaa rescue department. In the assessment was stated that the human resources in the accident prevention work in Western Uusimaa are notably less than the national average. During the assessed year of 2021, the human resources in Western Uusimaa were 7 person-years / 100,000 residents whereas the national average was 12 person-years / 100,000 residents.

Deviating from the accident prevention plan

In emergencies, of is there is an especially compelling reason to do so (a disruption, for example), it is possible to deviate from the accident prevention plan if it is necessary to prioritise tasks or if maintenance of the service level would be impossible in practice in some areas. The Chief Fire Officer is the one who can take the official decision to deviate from the decision.

5.1. Communications on safety

Communications on safety at the Western Uusimaa Rescue Department divide into safety education, safety training and other safety communications.

The main focus groups for safety education are preschool children and schoolchildren in the eighth grade. Fourth-graders and upper secondary school pupils are provided with safety training on request. Safety courses in secondary education are run according to the demand.

The Rescue Department’s safety training courses are run for adults working with children and young people (day-care and schools), special needs groups, and the clients of social and healthcare services (home care and 24-hour care). Training is also available for older people and other special groups.

Aims, resources and monitoring of safety education and safety events are set out in tables 4.

Operating environment	Main focus groups	Main targets in safety events		Primary tools and implementation	Resources	Indicators/ monitoring
		Contents	Planned volume			
Housing	Senior citizens	Participants are aware of day-to-day risks and encouraged to reduce them by behaving appropriately. Participants are taught the basics of what to do in an emergency, given their capabilities.	20	Safety talk/discussion, use of clear/simple Finnish , possible exercises (extinguishing fires at home, evacuation)	safety trainers	The regular training sessions run are recorded in the PRONTO information system. The results are monitored monthly. The outcomes have their own section in the interim and annual reports. They are compared with the targets set.
	Special (needs) groups		20		safety trainers	
	Those who work with the above, especially home care staff	Employees can identify fire safety risks and, if necessary, can prevent and reduce them on visits to clients. They are aware of the obligation to make notification to the rescue authority about dwellings that pose a risk of fire (Rescue Act 379/2011, section 42). Employees know the basics of what to do in a fire.	10	The training concept under the HIKLU partnership, talks + training in extinguishing fires in the home (before the fire brigade arrives)	safety trainers	
	General public, public events (city festivals, day-care centre events, campaigns)	Day-to-day safety. Participants are informed about the commonest risks in the home environment.	10	At the event the public are given a short and carefully selected seasonal safety message	PATU, contracted fire brigades and cooperating authorities at each event.	
Work	Employees at social and health care service sites (24-hour care)	Employees can identify fire safety works at the workplace, and can predict and reduce them. They know the basics of fire and evacuation safety and the special aspects of these in social welfare and healthcare.	60	Talks + training in extinguishing fires in the home (before the fire brigade arrives), safety walkthroughs/drills	safety trainers	
	Adults working with children and young people	Employees can identify fire safety works at the workplace, and can predict and reduce them. They know the basics of fire and evacuation safety and the special aspects of these in day-care centres/educational institutions, and in work with children and young people.	65	Coping with fires at home (theory) General fire safety training Evacuation safety training Coping with fires at home (practice)	safety trainers, school work group fire inspectors	

Operational environment	Main focus groups	Main targets in safety education		Primary tools and implementation	Resources	Indicators/ monitoring
		Contents	Planned volume			
		The goal with the Rescue Department's safety education programme is to improve the safety knowledge and skills of preschool children, fourth-graders, eighth graders and upper secondary pupils and change their attitudes. The other goal is to develop the skills of teaching staff in the way they prevent accidents and as regards what they do in the event of an accident.		Talks can be given in hands-on and remote training sessions.	Service production	The regular training sessions run are recorded in the PRONTO information system. The results are monitored monthly. The outcomes have their own section in the interim and annual reports. They are compared with the targets set.
Early childhood education and general education	preschools	Primarily a PR event, where children are taught about fire alarms and what to do in a fire, depending on their age. A mention that 'the fireman is a friend', someone they do not need to be afraid of when they call the emergency number.	270	Day-care centre visits, safety sessions	shift workers and safety trainers	
	Fourth-graders	Pupils identify the issues to do with safety in the home and in everyday circumstances and learn the basics of evacuation safety and what to do in a fire.	(According to (demand)	School visits, safety lessons	safety trainers	
	Eighth-graders	Young/young adults identify fire safety risks, know the basics if safe evacuation, what to do in a fire, and what to do at the scene of an accident.	40	Safety lessons + Nouhätä competitions coordinated by HIKLU	safety trainers	
	upper secondary		10 (according to demand)	safety lessons, professional presentations, high school safety course	safety trainers	
Events in total			505		rescue department	
As agreed, yearly at least four safety communications events			160		contract fire brigades	

Table 4: The aims, resources and monitoring of safety education and events

5.1.1. Co-operation

In co-operation with the rescue department, safety communications are carried out in Western Uusimaa area by the area's contract fire brigades and the rescue associations; Uudenmaan Pelastusliitto (UPL) and Finlands Svenska Brand- ock Räddningsförbund (FSBR).

Rescue associations

In the rescue departments area Uudenmaan Pelastusliitto (UPL) and Finlands Svenska Brand- ock Räddningsförbund (FSBR) carry out e.g. following topics of safety communications:

- Educations on self-preparedness (for example safety courses for residential buildings, education for the person in charge of a civil defence shelter)
- Safety education for businesses, as in safety card courses, hot work training, the basic course and education of a safety manager, and first-aid fire extinguishing training.
- Campaigns, as in A Day at the Fire Stations (participation as required, supporting the contract fire brigades), 112-day (participates on agreement with the rescue department) and participating in the NouHätä! -campaign and competitions in co-operation with or as a supportive organisation to the rescue department.
- Other co-operation in safety communications: supporting the safety communications of the contract fire brigades in co-operation with the rescue department and organising different training courses and public events.

Contract fire brigades

The contract fire brigades take part in the safety communication as is defined in their contract. As agreed, the contract fire brigades organise yearly at least four safety communications events. The target groups of the contract fire brigades change brigade to brigade. The four safety communications events are required to be either public safety education, public events, safety training or a geocache.

In general, the contract fire brigades carry out safety communications via the following:

- National 112-day
- A day at the Fire Station -event (it is recommended by the rescue department, that all the contract fire brigades take part in this)
- Local fairs and public events
- Safety training (for example first-aid fire extinguishing) for the local businesses, associations and organisations.

- Safety communications for day care centers which are located further away from the permanent fire stations (NB contacting the rescue department early on for the materials!)
- Safety trainings for businesses, associations and organisations

5.1.2. Other communications on safety

Campaigns

The Western Uusimaa Rescue Department plans for its participation in national campaigns. The aim is accident prevention by focus group employing the campaign themes.

In 2023 the Rescue Department took part in the following campaigns, for example:

- NouHätä! (national rescue and fire safety skill campaign for secondary school students) (lessons + competitions)
- fire safety week
- A day at the fire station

Resources: safety trainers (Nouhätä and the fire safety week), contracted fire brigades (A day at the fire station), with the support of communications personnel.

Events, theme days and visits to fire stations

The Rescue Department plans to participate in various events and theme days. Visits to the fire stations will be run mainly in conjunction with safety training or separately agreed client meetings. The aim with client contact is rescue service presentations and advising and guiding people on matters of fire safety and accident prevention. Current themes are the focus of safety communications at events.

Participation in events will be on-site (equipment and vehicle presentations/booths, stalls) The ‘city days’ events for the municipalities and cities are to be on the ‘open house’ principle at fire stations. The national theme days, such as 112 day, will mainly be information events using electronic communications in the social media and/or collaborative ventures with stakeholders.

In 2023 the purpose is to take part in at least the following:

- Child fairs (HIKLU partnership)
- ‘City days’ events
- Open house events at fire stations on permanent standby

Resources: service production, with the support of communications personnel.

Materials and guides

To raise the safety awareness of the residents of the area and to reduce the number of accidents, the Rescue Department will produce materials, instructions and guides, as required. The guides and instructions will be electronic documents available on the Rescue Department's website, and a selection will be guides in printed format. The content of the materials will mainly focus on instructions and guides on safety in the home.

The guides to be updated for 2023 are: Guides with outdated contact information will be updated as much as possible during 2023.

The special training materials are only intended for use by the Rescue Department in their training sessions

Resources: Service production and accident prevention experts, with the support of communication personnel.

Advice over the telephone and by email

One aspect of accident prevention and safety communications is client service work over the telephone or by email. Advice is part of all the work of the employees of the Rescue Department. The safety trainers can be reached at their email address turvallisuuskoulutus.lu@pelastustoimi.fi. Staff can be reached at an email address having the format firstname.lastname@pelastustoimi.fi. The on-duty fire inspector can also be reached on weekdays between 09:00 and 11:30 at palotarkastaja.lu@pelastustoimi.fi.

Resources: Service production and accident prevention experts.

Recording delivered services in the PRONTO system

The communications on safety provided (training sessions, advice, presentations, talks, safety walkthroughs, visitors from the geocaching centre and public events) are recorded in the PRONTO database. Communications provided via various media area also recorded. A description of an event is recorded afterwards and no later than on the subsequent shift.

Advice on safety is given more often than not by the on-duty fire inspector or shift worker in connection with rescue operations. The advice given in connection with rescue is recorded in the accident report section. The monitoring of evacuation exercises (fire drills) is recorded as a safety advice session and the organisation of such sessions as a safety training course. All the personnel taking part in the particular exercise will be recorded on the report.

The priority focus group is always the one to be selected. If there have been several focus groups, this can be resolved with reference to the ‘further information on the focus group’ section below. You may record more than one subject area. There can also be a short description of the subjects dealt with in the further information section when selecting campaign, subject or training.

The safety communications report is produced by the main person responsible for the event. At an event there may be, for example, both full-time staff and the staff of a contracted fire brigade, or more than one fire brigade, rescue department and/or rescue federation. All participating bodies should be mentioned in the report.

Topical communications in the media and social media

Goals: Communications on topical matters, the promotion of a good safety culture in the area, and influencing people’s attitudes so that they give attention to matters of safety in their own activities and at work and act on their own initiative where it concerns safety issues, thereby reducing the number of accidents.

Channels: social media (FB, Instagram, Twitter), websites, media releases and announcements, articles in the local press

Delivery in 2023: Seasonal/annual cycle communications in the social media, media releases and announcements as required, website news as required, HIKLU joint communications as required (e.g. joint thematic supervision exercises, etc.), involvement in national campaigns and other events through communications (112 day, fire safety week, Espoo Day). Inclusion in the Safety Communications network and conveying its messages, as required.

Resources: Service production and accident prevention experts, with the support of communication personnel.

5.2. Supervision

The periodic supervision intervals for sites in the area covered by the Western Uusimaa Rescue Department are between 6 and 60 months. When supervision is being planned, priority is given to the potential risk of human injury and the relative number of fires by site category. Inspection intervals are made shorter if the supervision plan work group within the partnership network of the Rescue Department so proposes, for example, at sites where older people are cared for, at assembly rooms and meeting places, and on business premises. The supervision intervals for individual sites may be shortened or lengthened, depending on the situation. Any recommendation to change the supervision interval must be justified and recorded in the Merlot fire inspection program. The rescue authority may, however, decide to shorten any supervision interval for an individual supervised site if the situation calls for it.

A fire inspection is essentially timed in such a way that the next inspection of the site is conducted before any planned inspection date, i.e. The supervision intervals are not unnecessarily exceeded. The first general fire inspection at a new site or one undergoing renovation is carried out no later than a year after a special fire inspection. A special fire inspection in the case of a small-scale conversion project does not effect the timing of the general fire inspection.

Fire safety self-assessment

Fire safety self-assessment for residential buildings plays a major part in the supervision of detached houses, comparable sites and buildings used for leisure purposes. The documentation and safety communications materials needed for the self-assessment exercise are mailed to residents, who can use them to conduct their own independent survey of fire safety in their home. The rescue authority will refer to the responses received to carry out fire inspections of the sites or, for example, target safety communications at them.

Fire safety self-assessment is carried out for schools as well as detached buildings. The fire safety self-assessment exercise for schools is undertaken every other year, in addition to which the Rescue Department provides the school with safety training that same year.

Safety of public events

The supervision of public events includes the monitoring of event safety plans and fire inspections of the events. In addition, the Länsi-Uusimaa rescue department does national co-operation on the subject with the other rescue departments. The aim of the co-operation is to harmonise the supervision and customer guidance in the field of public event safety.

All the safety plans delivered by the customers are monitored and if needed, they are requested to be updated before the event. The customer guidance and monitoring of the safety plans is carried out by section 16 of the Rescue Act.

With large (over 2000 participants at once) events, the rescue authority aims to have negotiations with the event organiser beforehand. The content of the negotiations include topics such as the evacuation safety, the amount and placement of first-aid fire extinguishers and the use of dangerous chemicals and pyrotechnics.

In principle, a fire inspection is carried out for a public event, if the event:

- has more than 2000 participants at once or
- pyrotechnics are used (not including fireworks or firework shows) or
- the event location is not planned or built to host public events or the location otherwise causes higher safety risks (for example underground spaces or archipelago)

Other public events can be inspected as needed, by the decision of the rescue authority. The need for fire inspection in public events that are hosted yearly with the same safety arrangements, will be determined case-by-case.

The supervision of public events is carried out by the fire inspectors and the operative personnel.

Other supervision

In addition to the joint services provided by HIKLU (chapter 4), the Western Uusimaa Rescue Department each year carries out the following supervisory procedures.

Local area supervision involves safety observations from outside the property. It is mainly targeted at detached buildings and it is carried out in areas that change every year. In local area supervision, a site might receive a written repair reminder and instructions on the basis of the findings. The repair reminder is the equivalent of a recommendation from the authorities. In local area supervision, special attention is paid, for example, to escape routes,how clearly house numbers are displayed, notice boards and signs on (building) sites, the prevention of arson and the availability of extinguishing water.

Finnish Defence Forces sites are supervised in cooperation with the units concerned or whoever manages the site, at supervision intervals planned with the Defence Forces. Fire inspections of military sites are recorded by garrison together in the Merlot fire inspection program. The record of inspections follows the instructions of the Defence Forces in the case of other sites and secret military bases.

The Rescue Department does not conduct periodic inspections of *civil defence shelters* while they are in use nor the inspections before the shelter is approved for use. The supervision of civil defence shelters is carried out alongside the periodic supervisions.

Large worksites are enormously challenging for rescue operations. Accident prevention and enabling rescue operations at such sites require those embarking on a construction project and building contractors to introduce a wide range of measures and procedures. The Rescue Department conducts additional fire inspections on the worksites on the basis of the risk assessments conducted for each of them.

5.3. Supervision of chemicals

The Merlot fire inspection records around 470 decisions taken on the small-scale handling and storage of chemicals. Some of the notifications from facilities engaged in such activities have been filed away in hard copy format for the fire station for each municipality. There are some 500 sites for supervision where dangerous chemicals are handled. The number of distribution stations in the Western Uusimaa Recur Department area is approximately 135.

With regard to oil spill response, the Rescue Department follows the internal instructions 'Supervision of preparedness for oil spills'. The extent to which sites are prepared for oil spills is determined as part of the chemical permit process, or, alternatively, the requirements are based on the terms and conditions of a TUKES-approved chemicals permit. The sites are monitored as part of the periodic supervision programme. Sites in coastal areas or close to bodies of water are supervised by qualified oil spill prevention personnel.

5.4. Expert services

The number of expert services provided annually is in fact impossible to estimate precisely beforehand. The targets with these are reviewed during the year, with the target set to respond to 100% of the notifications that come in.

Guidance on construction planning and opinions of plans

There is a dual purpose with guidance on construction planning and views on plans.

Accident and fire prevention are the main and socially most important goal. The other important objective is that the solutions planned in the event of an accident at a site will expedite the commencement of rescue operations and first aid and

that the solutions will ensure that there are adequate and harmonious arrangements in place to ensure that the work is done effectively and efficiently. The aim is also to take account of the issues of importance as far as rescue operations and first aid are concerned, and which may not necessarily be considered in other plans.

The benefit of influencing planning is saying as early on as possible what the needs of the Rescue Department are to make any operation a success, thus having an impact on the future safety of the area. The municipalities (local authorities) are given guidance at the planning stage, and the rescue department may, if so requested, issue an opinion of the plan.

The Western Uusimaa Rescue Department works closely with such authorities as the municipal planners and building supervisors in the area. The building supervision and planning contact people use electronic services such as ePermit and Lupapiste and meet one another by video link and, if the situation allows, on-site too.

Guidance and advice is offered in collaboration with fire protection planners as part of the guidance on construction planning process. The Rescue authority in such cases issues an opinion on the site's accessibility given the equipment and vehicles used (guidelines on escape and rescue routes and how to ensure that these are in place), fire-fighting route arrangements, occupational safety as it relates to the rescue operation, access to fire extinguishing water and ensuring that there are adequate quantities of it and its management at the site and the surrounding areas, the location and availability of the rescue equipment (e.g. the fire alarm lifecycle record, previous logbooks), the criteria for the design of the extinguishing equipment, smoke extractors, the extinguishing water pipes, the lifts used for rescue operations and the degree of contact with the network of authorities in the building.

The aim will be to obtain information from fire investigations that could be used to target guidance on planning more effectively.

The Western Uusimaa Rescue Department's planning and design steering group is to see its work developed systematically.

Rescue equipment

The rescue authority's target as regards the rescue equipment is to be able to respond to 100% of the requests for assistance that come in (e.g. advice on automatic fire alarm logbooks / life cycle books, advice and monitoring based on the periodic inspections of equipment, and guidance and advice on false fire alarms).

The aim is to reduce the number of false alarms by means of client guidance and advice. The rescue department partnership network guidelines 'Charges for false

fire alarms' is a tool of reference when dealing with false fire alarms. These guidelines will be updated in 2023.

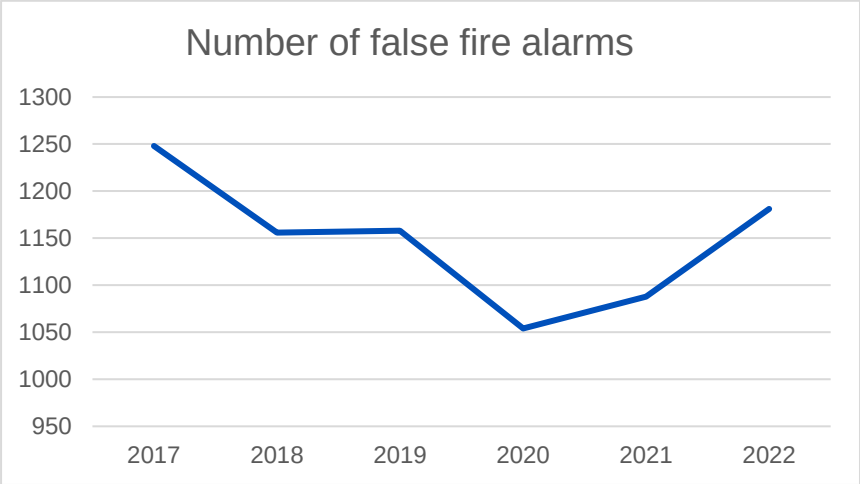

Table 5: the trend in the number of false fire alarms 2017–2022

Cooperation with the authorities

The Western Uusimaa Rescue Department cooperates with the various authorities and other operators in the area of supervision. This collaboration divides into the exchange of information and joint on-site inspections and visits to clients. Every year such collaborative ventures are planned with our main partners. Table 5 shows the annual plan

Partner	Supervision method	Scheduling	Estimate of numbers for 2022
Police, environmental health services, Regional State Administrative Agency	On-site inspections of restaurants, pubs, etc.	According to a specifically agreed timetable	30
Social services, environmental health services, the building supervision authorities, police	Additional fire inspections of dwellings at risk of fire	Discretionary	60
TUKES	Joint inspections	According to a specifically agreed timetable	10
Environmental protection authority	Joint inspections	Discretionary	5
Regional State Administrative Agency, Occupational Health and Safety	On-site inspections of underground worksites	Discretionary	5

Table 6: Official cooperation and the Rescue Department in 2023

Fire investigations

Fire inspections are conducted in accordance with a separate set of methodological guidelines. These set out the quantitative and qualitative targets and objectives for fire investigations conducted by the Rescue Department and the resources to be allocated for these for the year. The work of the fire investigation team is to be developed systematically and the resources set aside for fire inspections are to be increased in line with the existing service level decision. The work of the fire investigation is constantly developed, during the year 2023 the aim is to developed the investigation of chemical accidents and the know-how of the fire investigators.

A qualitative target is to investigate all fires exceeding the investigation threshold (level 2 fire investigation). That would mean appr. 30 level 2 fire investigations every year. In addition, the fire inspection team monitor and endeavour to improve the quality of level 1 fire inspections (assessment of the cause of the fire undertaken by the head of the rescue operation together with PRONTO).

The fire investigation produces researched data on fires and partly also on other accidents, for the use, inter alia, of the fire prevention and rescue operation service areas. Of the accident prevention functions, it is guidance on construction planning, supervision, safety training and safety communications that make use of the data obtained from fire inspections. Furthermore, the fire inspection investigation produces data that can be used in the training of the Rescue Department's personnel over a broad area. Our fire investigation team develops its operation in close cooperation with the other teams of its sort within the HIKLU network.

6. Monitoring

Data on the action and procedures implemented, the resources used in accident prevention and the statistics on accidents are compiled for the annual report. Every year the work carried out is compared to the work planned. Both the procedures planned and the actions achieved are recorded on the PRONTO accident prevention form.

The resources used for accident prevention are recorded in PRONTO in the form of person-years. It is not just the person-years allocated to supervisory work that count as resources, because other work methods have a huge impact on the number of accidents. A distinction is made in resources between full-time and part-time workers, shift workers, contracted fire brigades and others on a contract. The data on the outcomes for the year are collected at the end of the year or thereabouts.

Assessing effectiveness

Accident prevention effectiveness is carried out every year and the data are recorded in the annual report, as required. Simple indicators have been chosen for assessing effectiveness. These are as unambiguous as possible and PRONTO's ready-made tools allow their use repeatedly. The aim with effectiveness assessment is to develop independently, while taking account of national developments. The monitoring of fire fatalities and serious personal injuries relies on the research undertaken by the Emergency Services Academy Finland, which is based on the serious accidents investigated by the rescue departments.

The indicators to be used are where possible compared either to the statistics for the previous years, the rescue departments used as a control, or the data for the entire country. The following indicators are used in assessing the effectiveness of supervision:

Measure	More details
Personal injuries in fires	Fire fatalities and serious injuries
Share of fires in residential buildings where there was no fire detector [%].	Inspections within the limits permitted by the material, also: In detached houses/buildings In terraced and linked houses In apartment blocks
The number of fires and fire risks in buildings in relation to the number of residents in the groups under the supervision plan [1/residents*a].	A better way to compare the number of residents to dwellings in this case would be to go by the number of buildings or square metres. If the information is available, these should be used in the first instance.
Share of fires and fire risks in buildings where the occupants tried to extinguish the fire	
Share of fires and fire risks in residential buildings where the occupants tried to extinguish the fire	
Damage to property in all fires in buildings and in all buildings at risk of a fire	Relative to the floor area [€/m^2] 3 or 5 year rolling average
Average amount of damage [€/fire]	Inspections within the limits permitted by the material
Customer feedback surveys	Supervision effectiveness and quality
Inspection percentage	Primarily the indicator for the achievement of planned work

Resources used for accident prevention in relation to the number of residents [person-year/resident]	Other benchmark or national average
Evacuation safety reports	Monitoring the share of sites compared to all sites, where: - the evacuation safety report is in order - the evacuation safety report has been drafted and remedial measures have been planned - the evacuation safety report has not been drafted and no remedial measures have been planned

Table 7: Effectiveness assessment indicators

Sources

(1) Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council (2019). Uudenmaan väestö kasvaa jo ennusteita nopeammin – Erot maakunnan sisällä suuria (The population of Uusimaa is growing faster than anticipated – The differences within the region are huge). Website: <https://www.uudenmaanliitto.fi/uudenmaan_liitto/uutishuone/tiedotteet/uudenmaan_vaesto_kasvaa_jo_ennusteita_nopeammin_-_erot_maakunnan_sisalla_suuria.34232.blog>. Accessed: 09/07/2021

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APPENDIX 1: Supervision interval tables A1-A6

Appendix table A1. Supervision interval in principle for fire inspections at sites operating on a 24 hour basis.

Indicative interval for fire inspections	**Building classification 1994**	**Merlot fire inspection category (old)**	**Merlot fire inspection category**	**months**							
				6	**12**	**24**	**36**	**48**	**60**	**96**	**120**
Central hospitals, other hospitals	211, 213	23	**A100**		**5**						
Health centre wards	214		**A105**		**7**						
Healthcare special units, other healthcare buildings (only used in the daytime)	215, 219		**A110**		**3**	**1**		**6**	**2**		
Nursing homes, care institutions for people with intellectual disabilities	221, 223, 229	24, 28	**A115**		**92**[1.4)]	**2**					
Residential care homes		21	**A120**								
sprinklered					**43**	**2**					
non-sprinklered											
Supported housing and other similar sites requiring an evacuation safety report, retirement homes	239	21	**A125**		**57**	**16**[6)]					
Children's homes and youth detention centres, reform schools, prisons,	222	22	**A130**		**12**	**20**					
Day-care centres that operate on a 24 hour basis	22	22	**A130**		**6**						
Hotels, holiday, rest and recreation homes, and other accommodation business buildings	121, 123, 129	3, 44, 48	**A135**		**8**	**54**	**1**	**1**			
Rented holiday cottages and time-share cottages	124	41, 43	**A140**		**1**	**4**	**2**	**6**[2)]	**2**		
Campsites		42			[5)]**4**	**4**		[3)]**13**			
Halls of residence, boarding houses and other such buildings	131, 139	4	**A145**		**2**	**13**					

1) The inspection interval is shorter if the site has no automatic fire extinguishing equipment
2) Sites where a business is operated, e.g.agencies
3) Scout huts, etc.
4) Where the safety report is incomplete or unsatisfactory, the supervision interval is shorter
5) Caravan parks
6) Retirement homes with a fire alarm or sprinkler system, but no service provider or permanent staff

Appendix table A2. Supervision interval in principle for fire inspections in buildings used for purposes of education and day-care centres.

Indicative interval for fire inspections	**Building classification 1994**	**Merlot fire inspection category (old)**	**Merlot fire inspection category**	**6 months**	**12 months**	**24 months**	**36 months**	**48 months**	**60 months**	**96 months**	**120 months**
Day-care centre	231	65	**A200**								
fewer than 25 places								**3**	**48**		
25–100 places							**61**				
over 100 places						**48**					
General secondary schools	511	9, 95	**A205**		**3**	**100**[1)]					
Upper secondary schools	521	9, 95	**A210**		**1**	**14**					
Universities and research institutes	531, 532	9, 95	**A215**		**2**	**17**	**1**				
Other buildings used for the purpose of education, including folk high schools, etc.	541, 549	9, 95	**A220**			**12**	**1**				

1) Safety communication visits are made to basic education institutions in accordance with the safety communications plan

NB! day-care centres that operate on a 24 hour basis in table A1

Appendix table A3. Supervision interval in principle for fire inspections in assembly rooms and on business premises.

Indicative interval for fire inspections	**Building classification 1994**	**Merlot fire inspection category**	**Merlot fire inspection**	**months**							
				6	**12**	**24**	**36**	**48**	**60**	**96**	**120**
Business buildings, department stores, shopping halls, shopping centres[6)]			**A300**								
under 400 m2	111, 112, 119	78			**1**		**1**	**7**	**28**		
400–2,499 m2	111, 112, 119	72, 78, 7, 71			**1**	**7**	**11**	**14**	**6**		
2,500–9,999 m2	111, 112, 119	7, 71, 72			**3**	**12**	**23**	**3**	**2**		
10,000 m2 or more[7)]	111, 112, 119	7, 71, 72			**14**	**6**	**1**				
Licensed premises			**A305**								
catering for fewer than 500 customers	141	11, 115				**15**	**2**		**1**		
catering for more than 500 customers	141	11			**2**						
Restaurants[1)]			**A310**		**1**		**2**	**27**	**4**		
Theatres and concert halls seating fewer than 300	311, 312	10, 101	**A315**			**6**					
Theatres and concert halls seating more than 300	311, 312	10, 101			**3**						
Libraries	322, 323, 324	103	**A320**		**1**				**2**		
Museums	322, 323, 324	103			**9[4])**				**3**		
Exhibition halls	322, 323, 324	103			**1**	**1**					
Buildings used by religious communities	341, 342, 349	102	**A325**		**1**	**3**		**18[2)]**			
Other buildings where people meet, such as clubs and buildings for societies and associations, sports buildings	331, 351, 352, 353, 354, 359, 369	10, 105, 108	**A330**		**3**	**4**	**67**	**4**	**8**		
Airport terminals and underground filling stations	161	104	**A335**		**2**						
Other transport buildings[3)]	162, 163, 164, 169	132, 138			**2**	**3[5)]**	**10[8)]**	**3**	**36[3)]**		

1) The site may be licensed to serve alcohol, but the main function is to provide meals
2) The supervision interval may depend on the maximum number of people allowed in
3) E.g. above-ground carparks, housing company garages (including those underground), not carports
4) National and municipal museums, and, if necessary, other museums
5) Large underground shared carparks (not residential underground garages)
6) Shop stockrooms housing explosives are inspected every other year.
7) When deciding the supervision interval, the records of previous on-site inspections and the inspector's view of the site's standards of safety are all-important.
8) Metro stations

Appendix table A4. Supervision interval in principle for fire inspections in industrial buildings, warehouses and stockrooms.

Indicative interval for fire inspections	**Building classification 1994**	**Merlot fire inspection category (old)**	**Merlot fire inspection category**	**months**							
				6	**12**	**24**	**36**	**48**	**60**	**96**	**120**
Buildings for energy production	611, 613		**A400**								
under 1,000 m2						**1**		**3**	**11**		
1,000 m2 or more [(2					**4**	**2**		**1**			
Vital for the infrastructure[1)]			**A405**		**15**	**4**	[1)]**1**		**5**		
Factories and other industrial buildings[2)]	691, 699	16	**A410**								
under 1,000 m2					**16**	**22**	**5**	**28**	**3**		
1,000–4,999 m2					**8**	**39**	**3**	**3**			
over 5,000 m2					**30**	**7**	**2**		**1**		
Industrial and small-scale industrial (light industry) buildings[3) 4)]	692	148	**A415**								
under 1,000 m2					**5**	**10**	**3**	**90**	**8**		
1,000 m2 or more					**7**	**46**	**3**	**10**	**1**		
Warehouses and storerooms[3)]			**A420**								
under 1,000 m2	711, 712, 719	14			**1**	**7**	**1**	**44**	**4**		
1,000–9,999 m2	711, 712, 719	148			**4**	**33**	**7**	**8**			
10,000 m2 or more	711, 712, 719	17			**4**	**3**					

1) Water supply buildings (water towers, water abstraction sites and sewage treatment plants), telephone operator centres (Telia, Elisa, DNA).
2) Separate wood chip, peat or pellet heating plants mainly have a 24-month supervision interval irrespective of size. A heating plant serving just one building is inspected in accordance with the supervision interval for the building.
3) Car repair shops are included in Industrial and small-scale industrial (light industry) buildings. The fire hazard category is taken into account when determining the supervision interval.
4) Sites with private garage space are included in Industrial and small-scale industrial (light industry) buildings.

Appendix table A5. Supervision interval in principle for fire inspections in agricultural buildings.

Indicative interval for fire inspections	Building classification 1994	Merlot fire inspection category (old)	Merlot fire inspection category	months							
				6	12	24	36	48	60	96	120
Large agricultural buildings	811, 819	141, 152, 153, 154, 155	**A500**		**1**	**2**	**2**				
Medium-sized agricultural buildings			**A505**				**5**	**2**			
Separate buildings for drying grain Smallholdings Other buildings for agricultural production[1)]	891, 892, 893, 899	156	**A510**				**1**		**141**		

1) The supervision interval for other agricultural production buildings (building classification 892, 893, 899) is determined on a case-by-case basis.
2) If the site's activity/operation differs in size from what is stated in the permit, the supervision interval is determined with reference to the scope of the actual activity.

Lower thresholds	Large agricultural buildings	Medium-sized buildings	Smallholdings
Dairy cows	75	30	10
Beef cattle	200	80	20
Adult sow	250	60	15
Porker	1,000	210	50
Laying hen	30,000	2,700	700
Broiler	40,000	10,000	2,500
Breeding female mink or polecat	2,000	250	125
Breeding female fox or raccoon	600	50	25
Other breeding female animals	800	50	25
Fish farm	2,000 kg dry feed 20 hectare fish pond or group of ponds	2,000 kg dry feed 20 hectare fish pond or group of ponds	1,000 kg dry feed 10 hectare fish pond or group of ponds
Horse or pony	-	60	10
Ewe or goat	-	160	40

Appendix table A6. Supervision intervals in principle for fire inspections in other buildings

Indicative interval for fire inspections	**Building classi-fication 1994**	**Merlot fire inspection category (old)**	**Merlot fire inspection category**	**months**							
				6	**12**	**24**	**36**	**48**	**60**	**96**	**120**
Offices and workplaces	151	109	**A600**		**5**	**6**	**1**	**6**	**68**		
Fire and rescue service buildings	721, 722, 729		**A605**						**9**		
The building does not belong in any other group, but is attached to an emergency centre		13, 131	**A610**		**1**				**4**		
Areas prone to fires and explosion			**A615**								
Fuel distribution station (petrol, diesel, gas)		182, 18			**1**	**1**	**64**				
Other areas prone to explosions[3)]		182, 18				**3**					
Seveso sites and similar places			**A620**								
A facility that requires a safety report					**5**						
A facility that needs to keep records					**4**	**1**					
A facility that needs a permit					**3**	**2**					
A facility that needs to make notification[4)]						**2**	**1**				
Areas where hazardous substances are used or stored at harbours					**2**						
Peat production areas			**A625**		**0**	**1**					
Buildings of historical and cultural interest[1)]		19	**A630**		**2**	**8**		**1**	**1**		
Other buildings and sites[2)]	999	999	**A635**		**8**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**5**		
9–15 floor (E1), 24–38 m (848/2017) high buildings and residential buildings with a side corridor					**1**	**1**		**3**	**1**		
Over 16 floor, (E1) and over 38 m (848/2017) high buildings					**15**						

1) When determining sites of cultural and historical importance, reference is made to the Hague list of nationally important sites produced by the Finnish Heritage Agency in 2012. Discretionary.
2) E.g. mines, underground construction. Discretionary.
3) E.g. Gun shops and warehouses for explosives.
4) If the quantity of chemicals is not relevant to the site's activity or operation (e.g. liquid gas lockers at retail outlets) the supervision interval is determined in accordance with that for the building.

APPENDIX 2: Charges for fire inspections

The tariffs reviewed by the Western Uusimaa Wellbeing Services County Council on 25.10.2022 took effect on 1.1.2023 and are valid for 2023. The tariffs are the same for all the rescue departments in the Uusimaa region.

Charges for the fire inspection are the responsibility of the building's owner or occupant under a mutual agreement between the owner and occupant (e.g. In a tenancy agreement). There may, however, another legal person responsible for the activity or operation in the building or some other site for inspection, besides the owner or occupant - the operator. In this case the Rescue Department will focus the supervisory activity on the operator, who will be charged for the fire inspection accordingly. The identification information used is the Business ID for the organisation or private company, or the social security number in the case of a private individual.

The service fees can be found on the rescue department's website at: Service fees | The Länsi-Uusimaa Rescue Department (pelastustoimi.fi)