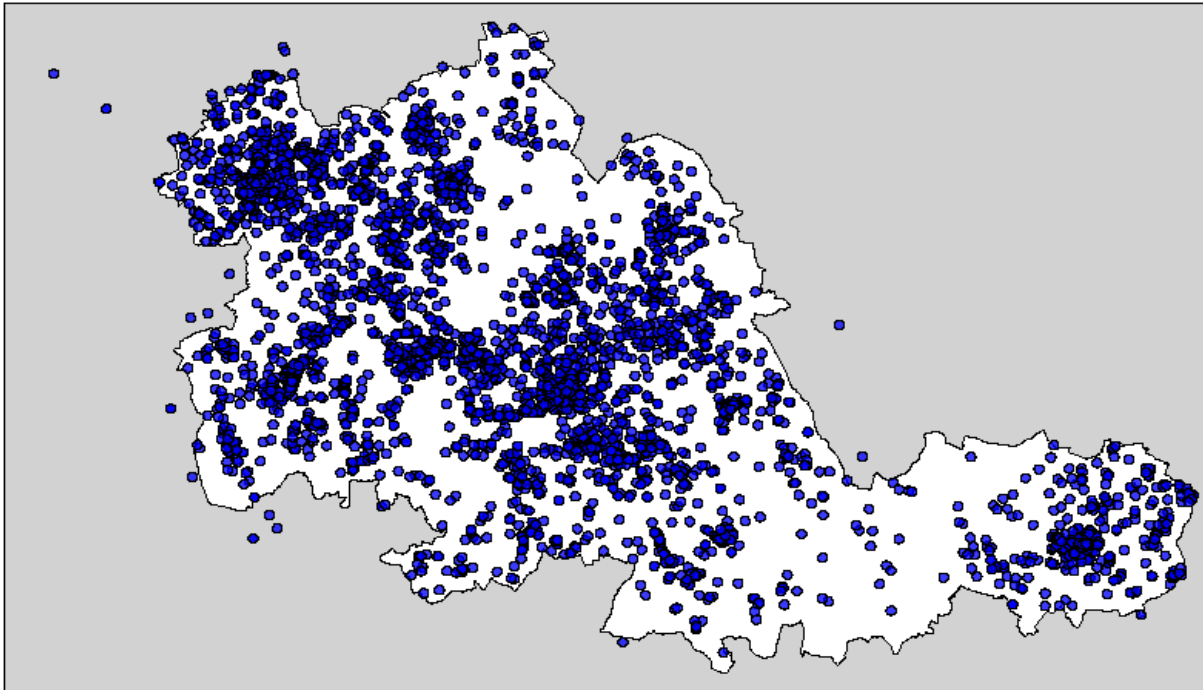


The Site Risk identification safety information system was initially developed in 2005. It originated as a means to gather information when vehicle manufacturer Rover, based at Longbridge, went into administration and the site was largely vacated, leading to the development of new types of risk for responding firefighters. The process was then subject to a trial on all non-domestic sites and subsequently became part of our normal business process in 2007. There have been over 4,500 Site Risk identifications completed to date. The map below shows the location of these across our brigade area.

SRI's completed in the West Midlands, December 2009



The purpose of Site Risk identifications built on the original idea of site familiarisation visits. These required personnel from fire stations to visit sites of a high risk or complex nature in their local area (for example, hospitals or large factories) in order to ensure that they are familiar with key operational issues (such as site layout and associated hazards) should an emergency incident take place.

More recently however, the introduction of vehicle tracking technology has enabled us to send the nearest and fastest response to any fire, so there is an increased chance that responding firefighters may not be based at the local station and may not have taken part in site visits before they are called to an emergency.

Our personnel can sometimes be called upon to respond anywhere in the West Midlands, so we recognised the need to develop an information system that allows them access to site risk information at the touch of a button, even when they are en route, or on site at an emergency incident.

The SRi process starts off with fire station personnel identifying local sites of a high risk nature and carrying out a survey. This information is uploaded onto the Mobile Data Terminals which are present on all fire engines and can therefore be accessed by any fire crews attending that site.

The second stage of the process only occurs if the site is deemed to be of particularly complex or hazardous for firefighters, always remembering that buildings involved in fire will often become heavily smoke-logged and some types of construction are liable to sudden collapse or rapid fire development. If this occurs then a more comprehensive survey is undertaken. This ensures that detailed information, including photographs and plans, is available for personnel who may not be familiar with the site.

This preplanning helps to mitigate risk to life and firefighters by informing operational personnel of known risks before arriving at the scene of an emergency. It enables a faster and safer response to all emergencies and helps us to provide the most effective response plan, to bring about a return to normality and minimise the damage caused, whilst keeping our people safe to fight another day.