



Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Service

PROFILE

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Simon Barker MA MIFireE

**Strategic Support, Information Systems and CRMP
Projects**



Simon Barker was appointed to the role of temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer in November 2009. His substantive role is that of the Strategic Support Manager, a post he has held since June 2009 after moving from his previous role as the Area Risk Commander for Luton and South Bedfordshire, a post he held from April 2005.

Simon was born in Kempston in 1964 and has lived in and around Bedford all of his life. After leaving school, he worked for British Rail for four years completing an apprenticeship in electrical and mechanical engineering before joining the Fire Service in Bedfordshire in August 1985.

After completion of his recruit training, Simon served as a Firefighter at both Luton and Stopsley Fire Stations and subsequently as a Crew Commander, again at Stopsley and Luton, and then as a Watch Commander at Bedford, Kempston and Luton Fire Stations.

Promoted to Station Officer in 1993, Simon served as a Watch Commander at Dunstable Fire Station and then moved to Fire Safety in 1995 before further promotion to ADO in 1997 where he served in the Technical Support Division of the Service before a move to become the Strategic Planning Officer in 2000.

In 2004 Simon was promoted to Divisional Officer and moved to the Northern Area Office as the Deputy Area Risk Commander before taking up appointment as the Area Risk Commander for Luton and South Bedfordshire in April 2005.

Simon is married to Sheila and they have one daughter, Katie who was born in 1996. He is a Corporate Member of the Institute of Fire Engineers, has a Masters Degree in Management Studies and recently completed the Fire Service Executive Leadership Programme that was run in association with the Fire Service College and the University of Warwick. Simon's interests include swimming, walking, reading and following Leeds United.