

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS OF  
FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK 2006-08

IMPLICATIONS ON FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES

Fire Prevention and Risk Management

- Ensure that IRMPs are both accessible – to the public, business and other stakeholders – and easy to understand.
- Have in place, and maintain, an IRMP which reflects local need and which sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities.  
Also :-
  - Produce annual action plans on which full consultation has taken place with local communities, allowing twelve weeks for consultation.
  - Have regard to central government guidance in producing plans; and
  - Make efficient and effective use of resources to implement the IRMP and the action plan, including using more efficient working practices where appropriate.
- Consider Community Fire Safety, including the priority vulnerable groups in the area, in preparing IRMPs and in deciding the balance of funding and resources.
- Have regard to the strategy in all work with children and young people.
- Consider arson reduction and Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership strategies in preparing IRMPs and decide on the balance of funding and resources.
- Work with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and other partnerships with external agencies where value will be added in tackling arson.
- Have a fire safety inspection programme, which forms part of the IRMP, giving advice on risk-based enforcement.
- In drawing up enforcement programmes, prioritise inspection of places that, in the case of fire, pose a significant risk to life.
- Be aware of the contribution Crown Inspectors can make in achieving the aims and objectives of IRMPs, consult Crown Inspectors on IRMPs and work closely with them where appropriate.

Working Together: the Regional Approach

- Support arrangements set out in the Strategy and procure through FiReBuy Ltd where directed.

### Effective Response

- Ensure an effective and efficient response is available to meet the range of incidents which may reasonably expect to be encountered, and work together as appropriate. Including ensuring that :-
  - effective command and control systems are in place, and compatibility with the programme to delivery Regional Control Centres is maintained;
  - arrangements are in place for critical risk information are readily available at the scene of an incident. (ODPM recognise the value of critical incident data and are developing system to achieve this and part of the FiReControl project.);
  - all staff are developed to be competent in their role;
  - staff are familiar with the principal risks likely to be met in the particular work areas;
  - the right equipment is available.
- Have regard to ODPM's 'Guide to Reducing the Number of False Alarms from Fire Detection and Fire Alarm Systems'.
- Consider the adoption of the CFOA 'Model Agreement for Remotely Monitored Fire Alarm Systems' published in 2004 following wide consultation with stakeholders.
- Work with other Fire & Rescue Authorities and other emergency services where appropriate, and take steps to drive down the number of hoax calls and unwanted signals from automatic fire alarms.
- Log the callers and properties that create the greatest demand, assess the risks associated with them, and decide upon action to achieve improvement, which may include increased fire prevention work or a changed level of response.
- Actively review the opportunities for improving community safety by implementing co-responder schemes in partnership with other agencies.
- Design IRMPs to ensure that, so far as practical, there is efficient and effective shared use of resources, particularly, for example: the services or principal, senior and specialist officers, pumping and non-pumping appliances, such as those used for aerial access, equipment used in traffic accident response and the bulk supply of water; and specialist support services such as rope rescue teams.
- Ensure a consistent operation approach by adopting the principles and procedures detailed in the *Fire Service Manual Vol.2: Fire Service Operations – Incident Command*. This will help to ensure the adoption nationwide of common arrangements and the safe and effective management of operations.

Fire & Rescue Staff

- Ensure that all members of staff are treated fairly and afforded equality of opportunity. Ensuring that all staff are developed in a way which takes account of the different needs of the individual, in order to deliver the Authority's aims and objectives effectively. It is not about providing more training and development, but about ensuring training and development needs are more tailored to the needs of the individual than they have been in the past.
- Ensure that there is as much opportunity for flexible working as possible, e.g. on a part time basis, using flexi-time or as a job share partnership.
- Ensure that full and efficient use is made of staff on the retained duty system in line with the needs of the IRMP.
- Give retained staff access to development opportunities comparable to wholetime staff.
- Break down artificial barriers between staff on retained duty and other staff, including options such as mixed crewing and giving wholetime staff the opportunity to undertake additional service on the retained duty system.
- Ensure recruited staff comply with the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 Section 36(1)(a-h) by carrying out Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure checks on those working with children and vulnerable adults.
- Comply with the provisions of the Employment Act 2002 (Disputes Resolution) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/75f2) and the provisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the NJC Scheme of Conditions of Service (Grey Book) by :-
  - Having developed and implemented disciplinary procedures which are based on Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) best practice guidance; or
  - Having introduced for use within the Authority the model disciplinary procedure as set out in the NJC for Local Authorities; Fire Brigades Scheme of Conditions of Service (the Grey Book).
- Ensure that occupational health arrangements, including the provision of occupational health advice are efficient and effective.
- Ensure that full consideration is given to the health and fitness of all staff and that they are assigned to appropriate roles.
- Introduce and administer effective absence management processes and procedures to facilitate the achievement of Government targets on the reduction of sickness absence and ill health retirements.
- Consider the cost and organisational benefits of operating occupational health arrangements on a regional basis.

Workforce Developments

In adopting and implementing IPDS :-

- Ensure that the development of staff underpins and supports the delivery of the IRMP;
- Put in place systems and train managers to ensure that staff are assessed fairly against national standards, with overall performance regularly reviewed, and workplace assessments carried out and recorded consistently;
- Consider how collaborative working may maximise the benefit from available resources for IPDS;
- Support the use of any pay flexibilities currently available and robust evidence, e.g. on recruitment and retention needs and through job evaluation exercises;
- Communicate all changes to staff effectively; and
- From September 2007, use national processes for the progression of operational and control staff;

Finance

- Develop fully the opportunities for efficiency improvements, including through collaboration, consistent with the duties under Best Value and the Government's objectives to reduce accidental deaths from fire in the home and deliberate fires.
- Report efficiency gains through Annual Efficiency Statements (AES) as described in Fire Service Circular 48/2005.

Future timetable as follows :-

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2006.** Submit the forward part of the AES, looking ahead to the year 2006/07.

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2006.** Submit the backward part of the AES, setting out efficiency gains achieved in 2005/06.

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2006.** (*Optional for CPA 'Excellent' Authorities*) Provide a mid-year update to ODPM.

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2007.** Submit the forward part of the AES for 2007/08.

**14<sup>th</sup> June 2007.** Submit the backward part of the AES for 2006/07.

**17<sup>th</sup> November 2007.** (*Optional for CPA 'Excellent' Authorities*) Provide a mid-year update to ODPM.

**12<sup>th</sup> June 2008.** Submit the backward part of the AES for 2007/08.

- Consider actively whether any of the approaches identified in the case studies guidance will assist in delivering greater efficiencies.

- Consider carefully whether the costs of providing non-statutory services specified in the Order should fall on those who request the service or on council tax payers.
- Price services at market rates in the interests of fair competition.

### Research

- Draw on relevant research in exercising functions, e.g. in formulating IRMPs, including strategies to efficiently and effectively prevent fires, mitigate their effects on people and buildings and deal effectively with incidents when they occur; and
- Avoid duplication by drawing on others' work and sharing their own findings and plans, including through the Practitioners' forum and the Fire Research Academy.
- Continue the timely completion of statistical returns issued by the ODPM;
- Assist ODPM in establishing a fully electronic data collection system by contributing knowledge of Fire and Rescue Service procedures and incident recording to the e-data collection project.
- Explore how timely information may be provided on fires and incidents of special interest in particular, details of fire related fatalities.

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