

Appendix 1

Document Control

Amendment History

Version / Issue Number	Date	Author	Remarks / Reasons for Change

Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Completed

Sign Off List

Name	Position

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R

Related Documents

Reference Number	Title	Author	Version / Date
0.1	Community Safety Policy	John Moorcroft	o.1
0.2	Risk Assessed Programme for Incident Deployment	Colin Schofield	0.1
0.3	Risk Assessed Programme for Incident Deployment	Process Evolution	0.2

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to utilise a Risk Assessed Programme for Incident Deployment (RAPID) approach to determine emergency response times, and to inform decision making in respect of human and material resources and their allocation dependant on the levels of identified risk.

POLICY EXPLANATION

In June 2003, the Deputy Prime Minister presented a paper to Parliament entitled 'Our Fire and Rescue Service'. The White Paper set out Governments vision for the Fire and Rescue Service of the future and how that vision would be delivered. The guiding principle was that the Fire and Rescue Service of the future should have the right resources, in the right place, at the right time, to save lives.

This principle has been established within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, and the National Framework Document.

It was accepted by Government that the resources utilised by Fire and Rescue Services were not always allocated on the basis of need on account of outdated response standards and levels of risk.

As a consequence the nationally prescribed fire cover standards were withdrawn with effect from 1st April 2004, and Fire and Rescue Services were required to establish flexible, locally assessed and determined risk based standards to more effectively meet the needs of the communities they serve by means of an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

On Merseyside this will be achieved through the process of risk management, whereby MFRA will systematically identify and assess risks and seek continuous improvement in the risk control measures adopted by means of the best available technology.

The aim of this policy is to reduce the levels of risk to Firefighters and the community to as low as reasonably practicable by means of the identification of risk and the provision of appropriate prevention, protection and emergency response arrangements to mitigate the risk utilising the RAPID approach.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is implemented by means of the RAPID approach, which is detailed in the RAPID 2 document available on the MFRS intranet.

Risk Management Policy

The RAPID approach employs various software packages to enhance the socio demographic data from the census and the Index of Social Deprivation, which include:

- GIS systems
- Demographic data sets
- FSEC, which is a toolkit provided by the ODPM for risk assessment, response planning and modelling

Furthermore, underpinning this approach is the findings of the extensive research initiated following the 'Out of the Line of Fire' report in 1998, which highlights the importance of confining a fire to the room of origin in reducing the risk to life, both to the public and to Firefighters.

The research demonstrates that the probability of death of a person involved in a fire rapidly increases if effective firefighting intervention is delayed beyond 10 minutes.

Similarly, the available international research gives the optimal maximum intervention time to confine a fire to the room of origin as 8 minutes.

As a result MFRA have set and will continue to monitor the following standard of intervention for fire risk:

- High Risk: First attack in 5 minutes with additional support in 8 minutes
- Medium risk: First attack in 6 minutes with additional support in 9 minutes
- Low risk: First attack in 7 minutes with additional support in 10 minutes

The Risk Management Policy should be read in conjunction with the Community Safety Policy.