

Appendix 9

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	Fire Service Manual Volume 2 Fire Service Operations Incident Command	HMFSI	
0.2	SOP OPS 0116 SOP OPS 0260 SOP TEC 0107	Operational Planning and Policy	

INCIDENT COMMAND POLICY

It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to adhere to the principles of the Incident Command System (ICS) as detailed in the Fire Service Manual Volume 2, Fire Service Operations Incident Command, at all operational incidents.

POLICY EXPLANATION

Following the repeal of Section 30 (3) and (8) of the Fire Service Act 1947 the legal requirement that the most senior officer present must have sole control of an incident, has been removed.

It remains however the policy of MFRA that the senior fire officer present from the primary authority will take charge of the incident until agreed regional arrangements supersede this.

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a statutory duty on Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA's) to make arrangements to discharge their duties so it is implicit therefore that, to discharge this duty, FRA's must have appropriate and flexible command and control arrangements in place.

The systems, procedures and practices contained within the Fire Service Manual were developed under the 'Safe Person Concept', and following wide consultation with all key stakeholders.

The ICS features the following elements:

- i. A standard structure for organising resources on the incident ground which takes account of the dynamic nature of an emergency incident, assists Incident Commanders' decision making and encourages effective communication and delegation
- ii. A process of dynamic risk assessment which ensures that Incident Commanders place safety considerations upper-most in their command decision making priorities and the method of demonstrating this
- iii. A system of structured support for the Incident Commander
- iv. A national framework, which describes the tasks and the performance standards expected of Commanders at emergency incidents
- v. A consistent methodology and terminology for exercising operational command which will contribute to safer systems of work both in training and at operational incidents, especially when attending 'cross-border' incidents and external training centres
- vi. A recognition of the role of performance management and review which, in the operational context, centres particularly on post-incident debrief procedures

By adhering to the principles of the ICS it is now possible for FRA's within the region to agree to use senior officers as a shared resource as set out in Paragraph 3.17 of the National Framework Document.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Incident Commanders will apply the principles of the ICS at all incidents irrespective of size, utilising all supporting mechanisms provided.

It is the policy of the Service to mobilise the Incident Management Team (IMT) to all significant incident, and to mobilise the Incident Command Unit (ICU) to all incidents major incidents.

The Incident Command Policy will be implemented by means of the following SOP's accessed electronically within Public Folders/SOP's and Policies/Operations.

- SOP OPS 0116 Command and Control at Incidents – Incident Command System
- SOP OPS 0260 Incident Management Team
- SOP TEC 0107 Incident Command Case

A suite of documents are available electronically on Public Folders/Operational Planning and Policy, which provide detailed information in respect of Command and Control systems and Specialist Officer duties.

This information is also available both electronically and in hard copy on the incident ground via the IMT or on the ICU.

Command support in the form of Incident Command Guides, Inner Cordon Log Sheets and Dynamic/Analytical Risk Assessments are also available on the incident ground via the IMT or ICU.