



Service Policy EMPPOL04 Operational Planning Policy

“An Excellent Authority”

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Document Control

Active date	Review date	Department	Author	Editor	Publisher
27.7.06	17.4.11	Operational Preparedness	AM Stephens	SM Welsh	Jeff Edwards

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Legislation

Title
Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Amendment History

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
1.0	17.4.09	AM Stephens	Policy review
1.1	Feb 10	SM B Welsh	Policy review
1.2	Mar 11	SM B Welsh	Policy Review
1.3	Aug 11	GM C Howard	Policy Review

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Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
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Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Policies

Title	Author	Department
Operational Training Policy	D Stephens	Operational Preparedness

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R

Sign-Off List

Name	Position

Related Documents

Ref No.	Title	Author	Version & Date
	Insert all related SI's		

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Target audience

All MFRS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ops Crews		Fire safety		Community FS etc		Civilian Staff	
Principal off.		Senior off.		etc		etc		etc	

Ownership

Publicly owned document	Yes	X	URL	
	No		Reason	

POLICY

Introduction

It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to develop standard operational procedures (SOPs) against the national Generic Risk Assessments (GRAs) in accordance with relevant national guidance currently outlined within The Fire and Rescue Service Operational Guidance, GRAs Generic Risk Assessment. The GRAs are sub-divided into five sections, which are as follows::

- Responding to an Emergency
- Rescues
- Fighting Fires
- Incident Involving Transport Systems
- Generic Hazards

All SOPs will have embedded within them the national generic and local specific risk assessments for each risk area.

Site specific risks and operational considerations are contained within the site specific risk information files appertaining to individual premises, which is gathered under Section 7 2 (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

This Policy takes account of the requirements placed on MFRA under the Civil Contingencies Act, in relation to informing and warning the public where appropriate, with the procedures for doing so outlined within the relevant SOPs.

Policy Explanation

Sections 7, 8 and 9 of The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 place a number of statutory duties on MFRA, including detailing the types of incident to which the FRA will respond. Section 11 of the Act gives the FRA the power to respond to other eventualities which could result in the deaths of or injuries to individuals or, damage to the environment.

There are inherent risks associated with responding to and dealing with any of the incident types that the FRA has a statutory duty or power to attend.

Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (MHSWR) 1999 states that:

'A risk assessment must be carried out by a competent person for the purpose of identifying the measures that employers must take in order to comply with their duties under all applicable health and safety legislation'

Accordingly MFRA will continue to ensure the provision of safe systems of work for personnel responding to and dealing with emergency incidents by means of risk based SOPs. All SOPs will be underpinned with a related training package.

The integration of risk assessments within all SOPs, and the delivery of training in respect of these procedures enable MFRA to embed the Safe Person Concept throughout the organisation.

The underlying principle of the Safe Person Concept is that, in view of the unpredictable and hazardous nature of the incident ground environment, support systems are developed to ensure the safety of individuals whilst still enabling them to react flexibly to unforeseen or changing situations.

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Those support systems encompass: safe systems of work, training, equipment, information, personal protective equipment, supervision, personnel selection, recruitment and development.

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Although the application of such systems may be relevant to many aspects of FRA work, the main focus of their content should be within the specific context of the 'safe person', rather than that of the working environment.

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Policy Implementation

This Policy will be implemented by means of the application of all extant SOPs.

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