



Service Policy_No PREPOL03 Operational Information Policy

“An Excellent Authority”

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Document Control

Active date	Review date	Department	Author	Editor	Publisher
15/03/10	01/07/12	Ops Intelligence	SM Voce	AM Searle	Jeff Edwards

Legislation

Title	
	N/A

Amendment History

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
v.01	22.3.10	T/SM Longshaw	Policy review
1.1	01.04.10	T/SM Longshaw	Additional review to align to SI 0003
1.2	30.03.11	T/SM Longshaw	Policy Review
1.3	15/03/13	AM Searle	Policy Review

Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
X		15/03/10	N Searle	

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Policies

Title	Author	Department

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R

Sign-Off List

Name	Position

Related Documents

Ref No.	Title	Author	Version & Date
SI 0001	Operational Information		
SI 0003	7(2)d Inspections	WM Mike O'Mahony	1.1 – 15.04.10
SI 0672	SSRI System Phase 1	T/SM Kevin Longshaw	1.2 – 30.03.11
CLG/CFRA	Fire & Rescue Service Health, Safety & Welfare Framework	CLG/CFRA	Draft May2012
CLG/CFRA	FRS Operational Guidance Operational Risk Information	CLG/CFRA	

Target audience

All MFS	X	Ops Crews		Fire safety		Community FS		Support Staff	
Principal off.		Senior off.		etc		etc		etc	

Ownership

FOI exemption required?	Yes	X	URL	
	No		Reason	

POLICY

OPERATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to take all possible steps to gather relevant information to assist with firefighting and other emergency response operations. The Service will undertake a risk based approach with regards to how such information is gathered, prioritised and subsequently disseminated to operational crews.

This information will also be made available to all relevant stakeholders, both internal and external to the organisation in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act and in accordance with the relevant Service Instructions.

POLICY EXPLANATION

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 Section 7(2) (d) requires that the Authority shall make arrangements for obtaining information for fire-fighting purposes with respect to extinguishing fires and protecting life and property in the event of fires within its area. This includes, for example, information about the nature and characteristics of premises or the availability and access of water supplies.

Under this legislation MFRA carry out a comprehensive programme of intelligence gathering, including inspections of premises, facilities, institutions and any other installation it deems necessary in order to gather relevant information including, but not restricted to:

- The character and content of buildings and other property.
- The risks posed to Operational Firefighters and associated procedures
- Means of access to and location of water supplies and other relevant material circumstances

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 section 8(2)(d) requires that the Authority shall make arrangements for obtaining information for the purpose of discharging its function in respect of Road Traffic Collisions (RTC's), e.g. by way of knowledge of the local motorway and trunk road network.

As a result, the Service is actively engaged with partner organisations to obtain relevant information in respect of RTC incidents in order to develop prevention strategies.

Furthermore, section 9.3d may require the Service to make arrangements and obtain information needed for dealing with emergencies other than fires and RTC's where the Secretary of State has made an order which confers functions on a Fire and Rescue Authority in relation to that emergency.

In order to ensure that all of the relevant sections of the Fire Services Act are appropriately addressed and in accordance with national guidance set out in both the Fire & Rescue Service – Health, Safety and Welfare Framework plus Fire & Rescue Service Operational Guidance – Operational Risk Information, the previous 7.2d procedure has been reviewed and adapted to ensure that MFRA utilises its resources effectively to ensure the accurate and up to date provision of risk information to the relevant personnel. Consequently, the Service has adopted a Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) system which provides a structured, risk based rationale for gathering risk information.

Following the introduction of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, premises are now required to provide their own written Fire Risk Assessment. Such premises will also be inspected by a fire protection officer.

When risk critical operational information is obtained during such visits, the information will be disseminated throughout the Service via the SSRI database.

The Operational Intelligence Department also collate, in conjunction with external agencies such as local authorities, Police and Ambulance Service any relevant operational information, which is then distributed throughout the Service. This information is available whilst at Operational Incidents via the MDT's on appliances.

Arrangements also exist to share such operational information with adjacent FRS's where appliances may reasonably be expected to make an attendance. In addition, service departments will ensure that all relevant operational risk information held within their departments is appropriately captured and disseminated to operational crews via the appropriate means.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy will be implemented by means of the following Service Instructions accessed electronically via the operational information folder.

- Service Instruction 0001 – Operational Information System.
- Service Instruction 0672 – Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) System