

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE:	7TH MAY 2013
REPORT NO.	CFO/050/13
REPORTING OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	AM SEARLE OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS SM VOCE OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
SUBJECT:	OPERATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

APPENDIX A TITLE OPERATIONAL INFORMATION POLICY

ATTACHED – ELECTRONIC / HARD COPY

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members approval for the Operational Information Policy.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the Operational Information Policy appended to this report.

Introduction & Background

3. It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) and a requirement under Section 7 (2) (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, to make arrangements for obtaining information for fire fighting purposes and the protection of life and property within the Merseyside area. This includes,
 - i. The character and content of buildings and other property
 - ii. The risks and hazards posed to Operational personnel
 - iii. Means of access to water supplies and other relevant fixed installations.
4. In addition to the above, The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 section 8(2) (d) requires the Fire Authority to make arrangements for obtaining information with respect to Road Traffic Collisions. Section 9 (3) (d) may require the

Authority to make arrangements and obtain information needed to deal with emergencies other than fires and RTC's where an order has been made by the Secretary Of State which confers functions on the Authority in relation to that emergency.

5. This information is collated by Operational crews visiting specific sites and completing a Site Specific Risk Information survey form. The information is then passed to the Operational Intelligence Department who ensure all relevant information is entered onto the SSRI database and made available to all crews via the Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) on appliances.
6. Historically Fire Safety Inspectors within the Protection team have collated information on specific premises; however this information has been entered solely on an alternative database and has not been readily available to crews. This practice has now ceased and joint working between the Protection and Operational Intelligence Departments ensures all relevant risk information collated by the Fire Safety Officers is shared and passed to the Operational Intelligence Department for entry onto the SSRI database. This allows access to all risk critical information collated by MFRA to operational crews via the MDT's.
7. MFRA staff will carry out SSRI surveys on sites within Merseyside utilising a risk based approach. The SSRI process will determine a category for each of the sites and crews will be expected to train and familiarise themselves with the higher category sites. All information on the SSRI process is contained within Service Instructions 001 and 0672.

Equality & Diversity Implications

8. None contained within this report.

Staff Implications

9. None contained within this report.

Legal Implications

10. Obtaining information about extinguishing fires, protecting life and property and RTC's, is a statutory duty under section 8 (2) (d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. None contained within this report.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

12. The SSRI collated and made available to crews is fundamental in providing safe systems of work whilst attending Operational Incidents. The principles contained within the Operational Information Policy and associated SI's ensure compliance with the Fire and Rescue Service Health, Safety and Welfare Framework and also the Fire and Rescue Service Operational Guidance, Operational Risk Information.

Contribution to Our Mission – To Achieve;_Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Fire-fighters”

13. The Operational Information Policy and associated SI's ensure our crews have been sited on all risks associated with the identified premise, consequently ensuring that all staff have the knowledge to enable them to contribute to achieving the mission

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

***Glossary of Terms**

SSRI - Site Specific Risk Information

MDT – mobile Data Terminal