

AGENDA ITEM:

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>Meeting of the:</b>	<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2013</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/044/13</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>AM SEARLE OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS WM O'MAHONY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>BREATHING APPARATUS POLICY</b>

**THERE ARE APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:**

<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>BREATHING APPARATUS POLICY</b>
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**ATTACHED – HARD COPY**

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Purpose of Report

1. To seek Members approval for the Breathing Apparatus (BA) Policy.

Recommendation

2. That Members approve the BA Policy appended to this report.

Introduction & Background

3. It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to develop standard operational procedures (SOPs) against generic incident types and national generic risk assessments (GRA). The national suite of GRAs is outlined within the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor published Fire and Rescue Service Operational Guidance GRAs Generic Risk Assessment. The GRAs are sub-divided into five sections, which are as follows:
  - i. Responding to an Emergency
  - ii. Rescues
  - iii. Fighting Fires
  - iv. Incident Involving Transport Systems
  - v. Generic Hazards
4. Historically MFRA have developed local SOP's under Section 1 for Breathing Apparatus (BA) and Incident Command (SOP 1.6 BA and SOP 1.4a Incident

Command - General, SOP 1.4b Incident Command - Major and SOP 1.4c Incident Command – Plans). BA and Incident Command are both covered by nationally published guidance (Technical Bulletin 1/97 Breathing Apparatus Command and Control Procedures and the Incident Command Manual 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). The Authority has an Incident Command Policy which is that the Service will follow the national guidance as contained within the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the Manual but no such Policy exists for BA procedures.

5. It is the view of the Chief Fire Officer that SOP's are not required for BA or Incident Command as both strategic areas are covered by extant national guidance and neither can be classed as a generic risk or incident type. A BA Policy is however required in order for the Authority to state explicitly that it will adhere to the extant national BA guidance and supplement this with local enhancements where necessary. Any such local enhancements would be captured within a Service Instruction (SI).
6. To that end it is recommended that SOP 1.6 and 1.4a, b and c withdrawn and the BA Policy attached to this report is approved by the Authority along with the Service Instruction which details the local enhancements to the national guidance contained within TB 1/97.

#### Equality & Diversity Implications

7. Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken on the BA Policy and associated SI.

#### Staff Implications

8. None contained within this report.

#### Legal Implications

9. None contained within this report.

#### Financial Implications & Value for Money

10. None contained within this report.

#### Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

11. The safe systems of work detailed within the BA Policy and SI are arrived at from a comprehensive task analysis which identifies all foreseeable hazards as contained in the relevant national GRA's . A related Learn Pro training package which confirms competence against pre determined learning outcomes has been developed for the BA Policy and SI.
12. The principles contained within the BA Policy and SI accord directly with those contained within HSE publication HSG 65 Successful Health and Safety Management.

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

13. The BA Policy, SI and related training packages are designed to meet the safety critical training and development needs of all staff, consequently ensuring that all staff are equipped with the appropriate skills and knowledge to enable them to contribute to achieving the mission.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**\*Glossary of Terms**

GRA – Generic Risk Assessment

Due to the size and nature of the activities undertaken by the FRS GRA's are produced to ensure a consistent approach in meeting regulatory requirements.

SOP – Standard Operational Procedures

An SOP contains any hazards, risks and control measures relating to the incident type and details the tactics and safe system of work to be employed at the incident.