

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

Equality Impact Assessment Form

| | |
|---|--|
| Title of policy/report/project: | Cost Recovery Model - Dry Riser Testing Service |
| Department: | Community Prevention |
| Date: | 13th March 2013 |
| <p>1: What is the aim or purpose of the policy/report/project</p> <p><i>This should identify “the legitimate aim” of the policy/report/project (there may be more than one)</i></p> | |
| <p>The objective of this policy is for MFRS to introduce a service, on a cost recovery basis, to ensure the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains in line with 7.2.d of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 204. Ensuring the effectiveness of dry riser mains will contribute to our mission of ‘Safer, Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters’.</p> | |
| <p>2: Who will be affected by the policy/report/project?</p> <p><i>This should identify the persons/organisations who may need to be consulted about the policy /report/project and its outcomes (There may be more than one)</i></p> | |
| <p>Dry riser mains will be measured by MFRS for operational effectiveness in high rise dwellings and commercial buildings. The policy will have no negative impact on the persons or organisations that the service is delivered to.</p> | |
| <p>3. Monitoring</p> <p><i>Summarise the findings of any monitoring data you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include data which shows whether the it is having the desired outcomes and also its impact on members of different equality groups.</i></p> | |
| What monitoring data have you considered? | <p>What did it show? MFRS have not delivered dry riser testing since approximately 2007 and therefore no relevant monitoring data is available.</p> |

4: Research

Summarise the findings of any research you have considered regarding this policy/report/project. This could include quantitative data and qualitative information; anything you have obtained from other sources e.g. CFA/CLG guidance, other FRSs, etc

What research have you considered?

1. Liaise with other FRS
2. Liaise with RSL's

What did it show?

East Sussex FRS conducted 88 dry riser mains tests in line with their Special Services Fees and Charges.

Knowsley Housing Trust have expressed a desire to work in partnership with MFRS to deliver this service.

5. Consultation

Summarise the opinions of any consultation. Who was consulted and how? (This should include reference to people and organisations identified in section 2 above) Outline any plans to inform consultees of the results of the consultation

What Consultation have you undertaken?

Consulted with MFRS
Legal Department,
Community Fire
Protection and
Registered Social
Landlords in Merseyside.

What did it say?

The consultation identified that whilst these may be a potential conflict for MFRS, there is a benefit to MFRS in conducting the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains, either as an individual visit or as part of a SSRI.

6. Conclusions

Taking into account the results of the monitoring, research and consultation, set out how the policy/report/project impacts or could impact on people from the following protected groups? (Include positive and/or negative impacts)

(a) Age

Depending upon the demographics of high rise dwellings, ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains could enhance the safety and chances of escape of younger and elderly people.

(b) Disability (including mental, physical and sensory conditions)

Ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains would enhance the firefighting capabilities of MFRS in an emergency, thus allowing and aiding the evacuation of individuals with a disability or mobility problems.

(c) Race (include: nationality, national or ethnic origin and/or colour)

An individual's race would have no impact upon the delivery of dry riser testing.

(d) Religion or Belief

An individual's religion or belief would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(e) Sex (include gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership and pregnancy or maternity)

An individual's sex would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(f) Sexual Orientation

An individual's sexual orientation would have no impact upon dry riser testing.

(g) Socio-economic disadvantage

The majority of high rise dwellings in Merseyside are owned by Registered Social Landlords and due to the amount of community members housed by these organisations, most social issues – including those that put individuals at risk of fire – are covered. Therefore ensuring the operational effectiveness of dry riser mains allows MFRS full firefighting capabilities in the event of an incident,

7. Decisions

If the policy/report/project will have a negative impact on members of one or more of the protected groups, explain how it will change or why it is to continue in the same way.

If no changes are proposed, the policy/report/project needs to be objectively justified as being an appropriate and necessary means of achieving the legitimate aim set out in 1 above.

The policy will have a positive impact on the safety of communities and business and commercial sectors within Merseyside. It will also contribute to firefighter safety when dealing with incidents in buildings that are:

- a) over 18m above ground; or
- b) low level where there are excessive distances from entrances (60m).

The legitimate aim of the policy will be to enhance safety whilst at no increased cost to MFRS.

8. Equality Improvement Plan

List any changes to our policies or procedures that need to be included in the Equality Action Plan/Service Plan.

9. Equality & Diversity Sign Off

The completed EIA form must be signed off by the Diversity Manager before it is submitted to Strategic Management Group or Authority.

Signed off by:

Date:

| Action Planned | Responsibility of | Completed by |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | |

For any advice, support or guidance about completing this form please contact the DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk or on 0151 296 4237

The completed form along with the related policy/report/project document should be emailed to the Diversity Team at: DiversityTeam@merseyfire.gov.uk