Service Policy: PREPOL02
Major Incident Policy

Document Control:

Active date	Review date	Author	Editor	Publisher
April 2014	April 2026	███████	███████	███████

Amendment History:

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
1.0	Feb 10	████	Policy Review
1.1	Apr 11	████	Policy Review
1.2	Apr 12	████	Policy Review
1.3	16/12/2013	████	Policy Review
1.4	27/03/2015	████	Policy Review
1.5	01/04/2016	████	Policy Review
1.6	20/02/2017	████	Policy Review
1.7	30/03/2018	████	Policy review
1.8	04/04/2019	████	Policy review
1.9	28/02/2020	████	Policy Review
1.10	30/04/2023	████	Policy Review
1.11	13/03/2024	████	Policy Review

Equalities Impact Assessment:

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
	X		ED&I TEAM	LOCATED ON PORTAL

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment:

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Documents:

Doc. Type	Ref No.	Title	Location
Policy	PREPOL01	Incident Command Policy	MFRS Portal
SOP	6.1.0	Incident Command	MFRS Portal
SI	0076	Operational Support Room	MFRS Portal
MRF		Merseyside Emergency Response Manual	Resilience Direct

Distribution List:

Name	Position	Department

Sign-Off List:

Name	Position

Target Audience:

All MFRS	Principal Officers	Senior Officers	Operational Crews	Fire Safety	Community Fire Safety	Support Staff
x						

Ownership:

FOI exemption required?	Yes		URL	
	No	x	Reason	

Legislation:

Title	Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004
	Civil Contingencies Act 2004

	Fire & Rescue National Framework Document for England 2018

Contact:

Department	Email	Telephone ext.
Operational Planning & Policy Team	███████████████████████	**4290**

PREPOL02 Major Incident Policy

1. Policy Introduction and Background:

It is the Policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to ensure through a comprehensive operational planning process that in the event of a major incident all resources available within the area can be utilised, to provide both immediate and long-term assistance.

2. Policy Explanation:

A major incident is defined as:

An event or situation, with a range of serious consequences, which requires special arrangements to be implemented by one or more emergency responder agencies where:

- 'Emergency responder agencies' describes all Category One and Two responders as defined in the CCA and associated guidance

- A major incident is beyond the scope of business -as-usual operations, and is likely to involve serious harm, damage, disruption or risk to human life or welfare, essential services, the environment or national security

- A major incident may involve a single-agency response, although it is more likely to require a multi-agency response, which may be in the form of multi-agency support to a lead responder

Responsibilities for MFRS will include:

- Taking measures to protect life and property from fire
- Release and rescue of trapped persons
- Set up and control (except for terrorist incidents, which is the responsibility of the Police) an inner cordon as soon as is practicably possible
- Provide specialist equipment, e.g. National Resilience Assets
- Arrange with respective Ambulance Service, when appropriate, for mass decontamination to be carried out
- Undertake environmental protection measures

The Operational Planning and Policy department will provide a suite of information for all foreseeable incidents, including Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI), Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs), Site Specific Operational Plans (SSOPs) and Operational Response Plans (ORPs) taking into account the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018, Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, National Resilience Assets, Local and Regional Resilience Forums and the guidance contained within Cabinet Office publications

'Emergency Preparedness' and 'Emergency Response and Recovery'.

3. Policy Implementation:

At a major incident there will be 3 distinct levels of command. Each layer will pay due consideration to collaborative and cooperative working under JESIP developed principles to ensure a safe, effective resolution and recovery from the incident. The JESIP principles require responders to Co-Locate, Co-ordinate their activities, communicate effectively, share information on hazards so that a joint understanding of risk can be gained. The principles lead ultimately to a shared situational awareness for operational level commanders.

Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG),

- When a major incident is declared, a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) will be set up by the Police at the Joint Control Centre (JCC) Bridle Road, Bootle Liverpool (In the event that this is unavailable the alternative SCG venue will be nominated by Merseyside Police)
- The function of the SCG will be to liaise with all other agencies to determine the overall strategy for the incident, and provide planning and direction in order to meet the overall objectives of the incident. The Police will co-ordinate this function.
  The Strategic Commanders decisions will be communicated to the Tactical Commander.
- The JESIP doctrine of *"Working together to save lives"* will be applied with each agency giving due regard to the principles for joint working.
- It is not intended that the Fire Strategic Commander will direct or take charge of operations on the actual incident ground although they are likely to be involved in the decision making process that may impact upon broader implications surrounding the incident.

MFRS - Tactical Command (Tactical)

- This will be run from a Forward Command Post (FCP), and will either consist of the Emergency Services Incident Command Units (ICUs), which will be sited adjacent to each other, or another suitable location dependent on the incident type and facilities available.
- The function of the Tactical Command will be to determine tactics to bring the incident to a safe and effective conclusion utilising available assets and resources, based on the tactical parameters set by the Fire Strategic Commanders' instructions.
- The person in charge of Tactical Command will be known as the Incident Commander and will be a minimum role of Group Manager.

Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG), TCG Liaison

- Where a Multi –Agency Tactical Command has been established, this may be run from the JCC or a Police station to be determined by the senior Police Officer.
- MFRS have procedures to assist in the delivery of TCG at the JCC and support officers (both civilian and uniformed) will be available to assist the discharge of this function.
- MFRS will appoint a Tactical Liaison Officer and support team at this location to support the Incident Commander.
- The person in attendance at Multi Agency TCG will be known as the Tactical Liaison Officer and will be a minimum role of Group Manager. This individual is likely to be supported by a Tactical Liaison Support Officer who is likely to be a Station Manager (resource permitting)

Operational Command (Operational Task)

It is likely that one or more sectors will be determined, depending on the nature of the incident. If not, then the incident will be designated as being one sector and a sector commander will be appointed to have overall command of operations. This may be run from a fire appliance, Emergency Control Centre (ECC) at Cloudburst incidents, the ICU or other suitable position.

The Operational Commander will be concerned with resolving the incident by implementing the plans of the Tactical Commander.

Even if the incident is 'multi-agency', the operational level role would not be formally labelled "Operational" unless a tactical level was in place, and usually when a multi-agency TCG had been formed

All Policies can be found on the Website

Version: 1.11   **Review Date: APRIL 2026**