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Amendment History:

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
1.0	22/03/10		Policy Review
1.1	01/04/10		Additional review to align to SI0003
1.2	30/03/11		Policy Review
1.3	15/03/13		Policy Review
1.4	16/12/2013		Policy Review
1.5	27/03/2015		Policy Review
1.6	27/03/2016		Policy Review
1.7	12/03/2017		Policy Review
1.8	30/03/2018		Policy Review
1.9	05/04/2019		Policy review
1.10	28/02/2020		Policy Review
1.11	23/04/2021		Policy Review - inclusion of Resilience Direct
1.12	01/04/2022		Policy Review
1.13	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
SI	0001	Operational Information	MFRS Portal
SI	0672	SSRI System Phase 1	MFRS Portal
SI	0832	SSRI Risk Based Strategy	MFRS Portal
DCLG	2013	Fire and Rescue Authorities Health, safety and welfare framework for the operational environment	
DCLG/CFRA	2012	Fire and Rescue Service Operational guidance Operational Risk Information	

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

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PREPOL03-Operational Information Policy:

1. Policy Introduction and Background:

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.

2. Policy Explanation:

The Fire Services Act 2004 Section 7(2) (d) requires that the Fire 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 Services Act 2004 section 8(2)(d) requires that the Fire 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(3)(d) requires the Service to make arrangements and obtain information needed for dealing with emergencies other than fires and RTC's.

In order to ensure that all of the relevant sections of the Fire and Rescue Service 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 – Provision of Operational Risk Information System, MFRA will utilise its resources effectively to ensure the accurate and up to date provision of risk information to the relevant personnel. To achieve this objective, 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 to crews via the MDT's on appliances.

To assist with interoperability arrangements are in place to share operational information with adjacent FRS's for cross border mobilisations, this is achieved by utilising Resilience Direct, the online government platform. 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.

3. 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
- Service Instruction 0832 - Site Specific Risk Information Risk Based Strategy

All policies can be found on the [Website](#)