



Service Policy: PREPOL04 Operational Planning Policy

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Amendment History:

Vs	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
1.0	17/04/09		Policy Review
1.01	Feb 10		Policy Review
1.02	Mar 11		Policy Review
1.03	Aug 11		Policy Review
1.04	Aug 12		Policy Review
1.05	16/12/2013		Policy Review
1.06	27/03/2015		Policy Review
1.07	01/04/2016		Policy Review
1.08	20/02/2017		Policy Review
1.09	30/3/2018		Policy review & Inclusion of information on NOG program and new SOP's
1.10	05/04/2019		Policy Review
1.11	28/02/2020		Policy Review
1.12	16/02/2021		Update of information on NOG program
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

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
	Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

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PREPOL04 Operational Planning Policy

1. Policy Introduction and Background:

It is the Policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to develop standard operational procedures (SOPs) in accordance with National Operational Guidance (N.O.G.). Incident types are drawn from a wide range of emergencies, which are foreseeable and which Fire and Rescue Services would be expected to resolve as part of their statutory duties under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Emergency Services Order 2007 and the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

N.O.G. provides a one-stop shop for good practice operational guidance that can be tailored to local needs. N.O.G. is used to formulate local SOP's that will be categorised by either context or activity and contain the identified hazards along with the control measure knowledge and tactics to mitigate the hazard.

Each SOP is supported by an Operational Risk Assessment of the identified hazards, and workplace precautions (control measures) to control the risk. This ensures that a specific risk assessment is in place for each identified hazard.

Site specific risks and operational considerations are contained within the site specific risk information files appertaining to individual premises, which is gathered under Section 7(ii)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

This Policy takes account of the requirements placed on MFRA under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, in relation to informing and warning the public where appropriate, with the procedures for doing so outlined within the relevant SOPs.

2. Policy Explanation:

Sections 7, 8 and 9 of The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 place a number of statutory duties on MFRA, including detailing the types of incident to which the FRA will respond. Section 11 of the Act gives the FRA the power to respond to other eventualities which could result in death or injury to individuals or, damage to the environment.

There are inherent risks associated with responding to and dealing with any of the incident types that the FRA has a statutory duty or power to attend.

Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (MHSWR) 1999 states that:

'A risk assessment must be carried out by a competent person for the purpose of identifying the measures that employers must take in order to comply with their duties under all applicable health and safety legislation'

Accordingly, MFRA will continue to ensure the provision of safe systems of work for personnel responding to and dealing with emergency incidents by incorporating the N.O.G. good practice operational guidance published by the National Fire Chiefs Council Central Programme Office into local risk based SOP's. All SOP's are underpinned with a related training package.

The production of risk assessments supporting each SOP and the delivery of training in respect of these procedures enable MFRA to embed the Safe Person Principles throughout the operational response.

The Safe Person Principles are based on support systems developed to ensure the safety of individuals whilst still enabling them to react flexibly to unforeseen or changing situations, which they are likely to encounter in the unpredictable and hazardous nature of the incident ground.

Those support systems encompass: safe systems of work, training, equipment, information, personal protective equipment, supervision, personnel selection, recruitment and development.

Although the application of such systems may be relevant to many aspects of FRA work, the main focus of their content should be within the specific context of the 'safe person', rather than that of the working environment.

3. Policy Implementation:

This Policy will be implemented by means of the application of all extant SOPs.

Governance of the production, impact assessment and publication of local SOP is provided by The Operational Procedure Review Team Governance Group.

The Operational Procedure Review Team are responsible for the creation and review of the suite of SOPs.

The Terms of Reference for the group contain the delivery details for policy implementation.

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