



**Service Policy: RESPOL07
Spate Conditions Policy**

This is an unpublished work, the Copyright in which vests in Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. All rights reserved. The information contained herein is the property of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, and is supplied without liability for errors or omissions. No part may be reproduced or used except as authorised by Contract or other written permission. The Copyright and the foregoing restriction on reproduction and use extend to all media in which information may be embodied ©

Document Control:

Active date	Review date	Author	Editor	Publisher
April 2014	April 2026			

Amendment History:

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
1.0	28/09/2010		Initial version
1.1	28/04/2011		Reviewed in line with Retention Policy
1.2	07/08/12		Reviewed and SOP & SI references amended
1.3	16/12/2013		Policy Review
1.4	27/03/2015		Policy Review
1.5	31/03/2106		Policy Review
1.6	12/03/2017		Policy Review
1.7	28/03/2018		Policy Review
1.8	05/04/2019		Policy Review
1.9	28/02/2020		Policy Review
1.10	05/04/2023		Policy Review
1.11	20/03/24		Update for Op Willow Beck and change to author/editor

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	PREPOL08	Emergency Call Management	MFRS Portal
Policy	RESPOL03	Operational response policy	MFRS Portal
			MFRS Portal
Guidance		Emergency Response and Recovery V5 October 2013	Gov.uk website
SI	0076	Operational Support Room	MFRS Portal
SI	0415	Provision of Resources during Periods of Sustained Operational Activity and or Spate Conditions	MFRS Portal
SI	0441	Recall to Duty Scheme	MFRS Portal
SI	0801	Secondary or small fire strategy	MFRS Portal
SI	0860	Welfare and rehabilitation at incidents	MFRS Portal
SI	0868	Severe Weather Warnings	MFRS Portal
SI	0888	Fire Tactical (Silver) and Fire Strategic (Gold) meetings	MFRS Portal
SI	0879	Community Tension Monitoring Procedure	MFRS Portal
SI	0912	Fire Control Staffing	MFRS Portal
MOU		Surrey Buddy arrangements	MFRS Portal
MOU		NWFC Buddy arrangements	MFRS Portal
NFCC Guidance		Operation Willow Beck	NFCC website

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

Contact:

Department	Email	Telephone ext.
Operational Intelligence		4478

PREPOL07-Spate Conditions Policy

1. Policy Introduction and Background:

It is the policy of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MFRA) to provide appropriate resources in the event of spate conditions or a large-scale incident.

2. Policy Explanation

As part of the risk management process extensive analysis of the levels of operational activity has been undertaken by an external consultancy. This empirical evidence has determined the reasonably foreseeable operational activity level and the number of appliances and other resources required to meet the authority's duty under the Fire and Rescue Services Act.

Spate conditions occur where the service experiences peaks of operational demand beyond the level of normal planned provision, which place pressure on the ability of the service to discharge its functions. These events may be widespread or localised, sudden impact or slow onset and may happen with varying degrees of warning or predictability.

Officers across the service have access to a variety of information sources that can provide early warning of situations that are likely to create spate conditions such as weather reports, industrial action, community engagement, meetings with partner agencies or national threat assessments. The documents supporting this policy provide a framework for such information to be reported and considered at tactical and/or strategic meetings and appropriate action taken to ensure any increases in operational activity can be managed.

The Service will put in place arrangements to ensure that the equipment and personnel resources needed to manage spate conditions, can be put in place prior to predicted events, or brought into operation at short notice, in the event spate conditions occur without warning. This includes the use of contractual and voluntary staffing arrangements as well as 13/16 arrangements, national resilience arrangements, buddy arrangements with other FRS control rooms and national arrangements under Operation Willow Beck

The Service will put in place effective procedures for managing and prioritising attendance at incidents during spate conditions on a risk-based approach to ensure that life risk incidents are given the highest priority.

The Service will ensure through its mobilising arrangements that officers required to attend internal or multi agency tactical or strategic meetings have the correct level of training and have maintained competence to the required level in line with the principles in PODPOL04.

3. Policy Implementation:

This Policy will be implemented by means of the following documents accessed electronically within Intranet Portal:

- PREPOL08 Emergency Call Management
- RESPOL03 Operational response policy
- PODPOL04 Training
- Emergency Response and Recovery V5 October 2013
- SI 0076 Operational Support Room
- SI 0415 Provision of Resources during Periods of Sustained Operational Activity and or Spate Conditions
- SI 0441 Recall to Duty Scheme
- SI 0801 Secondary or small fire strategy
- SI 0860 Welfare and rehabilitation at incidents
- SI 0868 Severe Weather Warnings
- SI 0888 Fire Tactical (Silver) and Fire Strategic (Gold) meetings
- SI 0879 Community Tension Monitoring Procedure
- SI 0912 Fire Control Staffing
- Surrey Buddy arrangements
- NWFC Buddy arrangements
- Operation Willow Beck

The Spate Conditions Policy should be also read in conjunction with the Emergency Call Management Policy

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