

**Fire Standards Board**

The role of the Fire Standards Board is to oversee the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional Standards for fire and rescue services in England.

The Board is responsible for approving Standards and the approach to their development. It will set the priorities for Standards development work. It will commission work based on proposals from third parties, monitor progress with ongoing work and approve completed work.

It will seek to ensure that any Standards presented for approval have:

been developed in line with the agreed development process;  
undergone appropriate consultation with subject matter experts and relevant stakeholders; and,  
undergone an independent quality assurance process.

The Board will meet at least four times per year; all papers will be published on the website

**Website** [Fire Standards Board](#)



## **Emergency Response Driving | Fire Standards Board**

### **DESIRED OUTCOME**

For all employees who drive using blue lights and claim any legal exemptions for a fire and rescue service purpose, to have been trained in a consistent way so that they drive safely, in line with the requirements of their role and in accordance with relevant legislation.

For all response driver training instructors and assessors to be qualified in accordance with the relevant legislation.

### **EXPECTED BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING THE FIRE STANDARD**

Improved road safety for the public and employees evidenced by:

Reduction in the number of low and high-speed collisions when responding  
Reduction in injuries

Defined route to competency by alignment to the framework and improved driver safety

Compliance with related legislation, guidance and DFT Codes of Practice which supports:

- c. Interoperability through collaboration of blue light resources
- d. Opportunity for intra-service driver training provision
- e. More efficient transfer of appropriately trained and competent personnel between services

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OR MANDATORY DUTIES**

Road Traffic Regulation Act (specifically Section 87)

Road Traffic Act

Road Safety Act 2006 – Section 19 \*Not yet enacted\*

The Road Vehicle (Construction & Use) Regulations

Motorways Traffic (England & Wales) Regulations

The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions

### **LINKED QUALIFICATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS OR FIRE STANDARDS**

National Occupational Standard – FF9

### **GUIDANCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Emergency response driver and instructor framework

Assessment forms linked to the above framework



## Operational Competence Fire Standards Board

### DESIRED OUTCOME

A fire and rescue service with competent operational and fire control personnel, who have been trained to use the hazard and control measure approach provided in the National Operational Guidance, applying risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills.

Operational competence provides the structure for a safe and effective response to emergencies, whether:

- As a single service
- Working with other local or regional fire and rescue services
- Working with the National Resilience capabilities
- Working in a multi-agency structure

The Health and Safety Executive publication, Managing for health and safety, states:

- "Competence is the ability to undertake responsibilities and perform activities to a recognised standard on a regular basis. It combines practical and thinking skills, knowledge and experience."
- "The competence of individuals is vital, whether they are employers, managers, supervisors, employees or contractors, especially those with safety-critical roles. It ensures they recognise the risks in their activities and can apply the right measures to control and manage those risks."

### EXPECTED BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING THE FIRE STANDARD

The ability for those outside the service, including coroners or those responsible for matters such as public inquiries, to recognise that the service is delivering a competent operational response  
For inspectors, including Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and the Health and Safety Executive, to be able to base their expectations of the operational competence of the service on:  
Adherence to the legislative requirements for operational response  
How comprehensively the National Operational Guidance has been considered and applied  
Having competent operational and fire control personnel, who are able to apply risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills  
Constant improvement to the quality of service provided to the public

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OR MANDATORY DUTIES

Fire and rescue services are responsible, under legislation and regulations, for developing policies and procedures and to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to their personnel about foreseeable hazards and the control  
There are many references to relevant legislation and regulations made throughout the National Operational Guidance framework. Some of the fundamental ones are shown below.

#### Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

This act is the principal legislation for the fire and rescue services of England and Wales. It describes the duties and powers placed on the fire and rescue service, in particular:  
To provide an operational response (sections 7, 8 and 9)  
The power to respond to other types of emergency (sections 11 and 12)

#### Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974

This act imposes a duty on employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:  
The health, safety and welfare at work of all of their employees (section 2)  
The health and safety of others is not affected by the work carried out by their employees (section 3)  
The act also means that employees have a duty to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other people who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work (section 7).

#### Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

**Regulation 3** states that employers have to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees to which they are exposed whilst they are at work, and the risks to the health and safety of people not in their employment arising from work carried out.

**Regulation 4** states that where an employer implements any preventive and protective measures the following principles (in Schedule 1) apply:

- Avoiding risks
  - Evaluating the risks which cannot be avoided
  - Combating the risks at source
  - Adapting the work to the individual, especially as regards the design of workplaces, the choice of work equipment and the choice of working and production methods, with a view, in particular, to alleviating monotonous work and work at a
  - Adapting to technical progress
  - Replacing the dangerous by the non-dangerous or the less dangerous
  - Developing a coherent overall prevention policy which covers technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social relationships and the influence of factors relating to the working environment
  - Giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures
  - Giving appropriate instructions to employees
- Regulation 5** states that every employer has to make and record appropriate arrangements for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures.

### LINKED QUALIFICATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS OR FIRE STANDARDS

Operational preparedness  
Operational learning

### GUIDANCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

National Operational Guidance (NOG), in particular:  
The tactical actions for each control measure throughout the suite of guidance  
Supplementary information, in particular where procedural training is provided



## Operational Learning Fire Standards Board

### DESIRED OUTCOME

A fire and rescue service that has developed a learning culture, acting on learning from operational and non-operational activity as well as external sources, to improve their operational response. The service will have embedded the management of learning into their policies, procedures, tailored guidance and training.

The service will have developed a culture which seeks to share their learning with others to improve operational response within their own service; with other fire and rescue services; and with the wider sector if appropriate.

### EXPECTED BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING THE FIRE STANDARD

National Operational Learning is an integral part of National Operational Guidance; used in combination they facilitate continuous improvement in the sector.

The National Operational Learning system provides a vehicle to identify new or emerging risks, monitor trends within the sector, recommend remedial actions, promote best practice and share learning across all UK fire and rescue services.

Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard include:

A reduction in in preventable deaths, injuries and dangerous occurrences  
Sharing of operational learning for the greater good of the fire and rescue service and the communities they serve  
Internal improvements in services of their policies, procedures and training  
Sharing of operational learning for the greater good of associated responder agencies

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OR MANDATORY DUTIES

Fire and rescue services are responsible, under legislation and regulations, for developing policies and procedures and to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to their personnel about foreseeable hazards and the control measures used to reduce the risks arising from those hazards.

There are many references to relevant legislation and regulations made throughout the National Operational Guidance framework. Some of the fundamental ones are shown below.

#### [Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974](#)

This act imposes a duty on employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- The health, safety and welfare at work of all of their employees (section 2)
- The health and safety of others is not affected by the work carried out by their employees (section 3)

The act also means that employees have a duty to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other people who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work (section 7).

#### [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#)

Regulation 5 states that every employer has to make and record appropriate arrangements for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures.

#### [Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations \(RIDDOR\) 2013](#)

Under RIDDOR, all employers must report any work-related deaths, and certain work-related injuries, cases of disease, and near misses involving their employees wherever they are working.

### LINKED QUALIFICATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS OR FIRE STANDARDS

Fire Standards  
Operational preparedness  
Operational competence

### GUIDANCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

[National Operational Learning: Good practice guide for fire and rescue services](#)

#### [National Operational Guidance \(NOG\), in particular:](#)

The section Corporate guidance for operational activity, including the corporate actions

[JESIP Joint Doctrine](#)  
[Health and Safety Executive](#)  
[Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship](#)  
[Emergency Service Contact Handling Apprenticeship](#)  
[Joint Organisational Learning](#)





## Operational Preparedness – Fire Standards Board

### DESIRED OUTCOME

A fire and rescue service that is prepared for responding to emergencies, as identified through its risk management planning. Operational preparedness includes having in place:

Competent operational and fire control personnel  
Appropriate resources, vehicles, equipment and systems  
Comprehensive operational policies, procedures, tailored guidance and training  
Operational preparedness includes being able to safely and effectively respond to emergencies, whether:

As a single service  
Working with other local or regional fire and rescue services  
Working with the National Resilience capabilities  
Working in a multi-agency structure

### EXPECTED BENEFITS OF ACHIEVING THE FIRE STANDARD

Expected benefits of achieving this Fire Standard include:

Comprehensive and accurate risk management processes to protect fire and rescue service employees and the community, backed by national expertise  
Simpler processes for the development of policies, procedures and tailored guidance by aligning methods for the identification of local hazards and control measures with the National Operational Guidance  
The ability for those outside the service, including coroners or those responsible for matters such as public inquiries, to recognise and acknowledge that the service has a sound body of intelligence and good practice on which its activities are based  
For inspectorates, including Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and the Health and Safety Executive, to be able to base their expectations of the operational preparedness of the service on:  
a) adherence to the legislative requirements for operational preparedness  
b) how comprehensively the National Operational Guidance has been considered and applied  
Achievement of occupational competence, that is the ability to consistently achieve the stated outcome of workplace performance; competence and training policies should be established for the roles of all employees and, where applicable, they should be based on the National Operational Guidance  
Constant improvement to the quality of service provided to the public

### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OR MANDATORY DUTIES

Fire and rescue services are responsible, under legislation and regulations, for developing policies and procedures and to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to their personnel about foreseeable hazards and the control measures used to reduce the risks arising from those hazards.

There are many references to relevant legislation and regulations made throughout the National Operational Guidance framework. Some of the fundamental ones are shown below.

#### [Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)

This act is the principal legislation for the fire and rescue services of England and Wales. It describes the duties and powers placed on the fire and rescue service, in particular:

- To provide an operational response (sections 7, 8 and 9)
- The power to respond to other types of emergency (sections 11 and 12)

#### [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)

The act relates to planning for emergencies, with responsibilities to:

- Assess the risk of an emergency occurring
- Assess the risk of an emergency making it necessary or expedient for the person or body to perform any of their functions
- Maintain plans for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that if an emergency occurs the person or body is able to continue to perform their functions
- Maintain plans for the purpose of ensuring that if an emergency occurs or is likely to occur the person or body is able to perform their functions so far as necessary or desirable for the purpose of:
  - Preventing the emergency
  - Reducing, controlling or mitigating its effects
  - Taking other action in connection with it

#### [National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies – 2017 Edition](#)

This captures the range of emergencies that might have a major impact on all, or significant parts of, the UK. It forms the basis for capabilities-based planning to support emergency preparedness and response from a national to a local level, including what responsibilities are placed on emergency responders in order to prepare for them.

#### [Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974](#)

This act imposes a duty on employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- The health, safety and welfare at work of all of their employees (section 2)
- The health and safety of others is not affected by the work carried out by their employees (section 3)

The act also means that employees have a duty to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other people who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work (section 7).

#### [Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#)

Regulation 5 states that every employer has to make and record appropriate arrangements for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures.

### LINKED QUALIFICATIONS, ACCREDITATIONS OR FIRE STANDARDS

Fire Standards  
Operational competence  
Operational learning

### GUIDANCE AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

#### [National Operational Guidance \(NOG\), in particular:](#)

- The section Corporate guidance for operational activity, including the corporate actions
- The strategic actions for each control measure throughout the suite of guidance
- Supplementary information, in particular where information about resources or equipment are provided

#### [JESIP Joint Doctrine](#)

#### [Health and Safety Executive](#)

#### [Operational Firefighter Apprenticeship](#)

#### [Emergency Service Contact Handling Apprenticeship](#)