

## 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](#)