National Operational Guidance

Control measure

Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI)

NFCC National Fire Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

Contents

Control measure - Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI)

Control measure knowledge

Fire and rescue authorities must make arrangements to obtain necessary information for the purposes of:

- Extinguishing fires and protecting lives and properties from fires in its area (relevant fire and rescue service legislation for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Rescuing and protecting people from harm at road traffic collisions in its area (relevant fire and rescue service legislation for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Dealing with any other emergency function other than fires and road traffic collisions in its area (relevant fire and rescue service legislation for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)

UK legislation sets the requirement for site-specific assessment. Collating and disseminating SSRI involves a number of tasks:

- Selecting premises to be inspected
- Assessing the nature and magnitude of the risk
- Considering a proportionate response
- Recording significant findings
- Making sure information is available in a useable form

A site-specific assessment takes account of current legislation on inspection information and includes information on preplanning firefighting tactics.

Tunnels and underground structures

The planned operational response to underground incidents should be sufficient to allow relevant safe systems of work to be implemented.

During any construction process, it will be necessary to review the Site-Specific Risk Information (SSRI) and emergency response plans so that any changes that will affect the existing risk information and guidance can be reflected throughout the project.

Pre-planning should be carried out jointly with other responder agencies that have knowledge of the environment, including volunteer rescue and leisure groups.

Hazardous materials and environmental protection

Fire and rescue services should assess the hazards and risks in their area relating to hazardous materials. This may be site-specific, for example, a factory using acid baths, or it may be generic, for example the local road network carrying hazardous materials.

The plans should also include information on pollution, prevention and control where a risk to the environment is identified at an incident. Although each nature conservation site will have its own environmental damage risks which can be captured with individual operational risk plans, a set of generic action plans will also help to identify generic environmental protection action to be taken in the early stages of an incident. See Section 2.6.5, Environmental Protection Handbook.

In addition to general site-specific information, the following should be considered:

- Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DESEAR)
- Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (MSER), enforcement notices, prohibition notices etc.)
- Notification and Marking of Sites (NAMOS) inspections and information
- British Agrochemicals Safety Inspection Scheme (BASIS) inspections and pre-plans
- The asbestos register
- Significant Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments
- Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) plans and information
- CBRN(E) site-specific plans

Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Develop criteria for the identification of sites requiring Site Specific Risk Information
- Support the generic information identified for foreseeable risks, which may include a programme to produce Site-Specific Risk Information - the following steps should be taken in achieving this:
    - Identify local sites and their risks
    - Gain local specialist advice from partner agencies and other organisations
    - Consider including salvage and/or disaster plans
    - Ensure that familiarisation visits and exercises involving such premises or sites are carried out
    - Produce suitable templates to record and capture the relevant information
    - Establish a delivery method to present the information in a clear and timely manner
    - Schedule reviews and audits for the validity and accuracy of such information

    - Embed a quality assurance programme
    - Ensure information is made available to operational personnel to help successfully plan for and resolve operational incidents
    - Identify specific operational knowledge, skills and understanding, which may need to be incorporated into local training plans
- Develop mutual understandings with building developers, owners and occupiers on the exchange of information about alterations to any parts of a building which may have effect on firefighting operations.
- Ensure communication systems are in place to inform relevant personnel, stakeholders and partner agencies.
- Develop systems and processes to embed a culture of risk information gathering, recording and communication.
- Consider the requirement for the provision of specific equipment and training in relation to buildings identified as specific risks within the area of the service.
- Collate and maintain risk information regarding hazardous materials sites within their area or neighbouring fire and rescue service areas where it is foreseeable that their personnel may be required to respond to hazardous materials incidents
- Include environmental risk information within operational risk plans

- Consider introducing operational risk information plans with environmental risk notes for sites of nature conservation that are more susceptible to environmental damage. Where appropriate these plans should include:

    - Environmentally safe areas for deployments and movements of fire service resources
    - Identification of areas that are susceptible to physical environmental damage.

- Ensure inaccuracies in risk information are resolved and systems updated post incident

Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Ensure inaccurate information is identified and resolved and information systems are updated following the closure of an incident or following an inspection/site visit
- Access any operational or site specific risk information and confirm accuracy