



National Operational Guidance

Section Introduction



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC



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Introduction

This section of the guidance sets out the hazard knowledge and control measures that should be considered in relation to fires and firefighting. The aim is to integrate the knowledge, understanding and actions required to support the appropriate, safe and efficient resolution of any incident involving fire.

Fires and firefighting guidance should be read in conjunction with the information contained at www.ukfrs.com; this provides information on the aims and intended use of the guidance. It should also be read alongside other related National Operational Guidance where appropriate.

This guidance has not been developed in isolation; there are many existing points of reference, including scientific papers, technical reference books, reports and earlier guidance. Some of these remain valid sources of information; for example, the Fire Service Manual, Volume 2: Hydraulics, Pumps and Water Supplies and British Standards for Classification of Fires.



Legislative requirements

There are numerous pieces of legislation that have an impact on fire and rescue services as they pursue their fundamental duties; much of this has been considered when compiling this guidance.

- [Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
- Fire (Scotland) Act 2005
- Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006
- [Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
- [Civil Contingencies Act 2004 \(Contingency Planning\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2011](#)
- The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) (Scotland) Regulations 2005
- [Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002](#)
- Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003
- [The Confined Spaces Regulations 1997](#)
- Confined Spaces Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999
- [The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#)
- Work at Height Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
- [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#)
- The Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989

- [Water Act 2003](#)

Risk management plan

Each fire and rescue authority must develop their strategic direction through their risk management plan. To determine the extent of their firefighting capability, strategic managers will consider their statutory duties and the foreseeable risk within their area.

Work to identify risk and prepare operational plans should be carried out with all stakeholders in mind, including local emergency planning groups and the fire and rescue service's risk management plan.

Responsibility of fire and rescue services

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.

This guidance sets out to provide fire and rescue services with sufficient knowledge about the potential hazards their personnel could encounter when attending incidents. Fire and rescue services should ensure their policies, procedures and training cover all of the hazards and control measures contained within this guidance.