

Title of Standard	Fire Investigation		
Business Area/Capability	Protection/Prevention		
Sponsoring NFCC Committee	Protection and Business Safety Committee Prevention Committee		
Date of approval	[for office use]	Date of Issue	[for office use]
Reference Number	[for office use]	Review Date	[for office use]
Desired Outcome			
<p>A fire and rescue service that delivers effective and efficient fire investigations into the origin, cause and development of fire.</p> <p>It has a competent and resilient fire investigation workforce to undertake post-incident fire investigation. It provides assurances to interested parties that such investigations are conducted consistently in accordance with the relevant legislation, guidance and codes of practice and conduct.</p> <p>A service that effectively collates and analyses information obtained through the fire investigation process to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improvements to firefighter safety; • identification of risks to inform its Community Risk Management Planning and contribute to the improvement of prevention and protection activities; • identification and sharing of learning to continually improve local and national fire investigation; and • justice system processes, where appropriate. <p>A service may, with the appropriate accreditation, support the criminal justice system by undertaking investigations of deliberately caused fires in conjunction with police crime scene investigators or other interested parties.</p>			
To achieve this Fire Standard			
<p>A fire and rescue service must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. investigate the cause and origin of fires, complying with the appropriate codes of practice and conduct, where relevant to the level of fire investigation it carries out. These may be: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. non-complex fire scenes (Tier 1 fire investigation); and/or b. complex fire scenes and non-terrorist explosions (Tier 2 fire investigation). 			

2. report on and learn from the cause and behaviour of fires, working with others when appropriate, to:
 - a. ensure its local risk profile remains current by building a comprehensive understanding of existing, emerging and future risks within its community;
 - b. contribute to the continual improvement of prevention, protection and operational response activities, at both local and national level; and
 - c. contribute to and support national fire safety campaigns.
3. collate and analyse information gathered during fire investigation work and be able to present it to a variety of interested parties, in a timely manner.
4. undertake workforce planning to ensure it has appropriate resources and is equipped to conduct effective fire investigations and associated work;
5. collaborate with fire and rescue services and other partners to deliver fire investigation activities in the most efficient and effective way possible.
6. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional fire investigation workforce by:
 - a. aligning to the NFCC Fire Investigation Competency Framework;
 - b. embedding the appropriate codes of practice and conduct into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials; and
 - c. recording and monitoring competence.
7. provide ongoing training and sufficient support during working hours that encourages and enables its fire investigators to:
 - a. maintain competence appropriate to their role;
 - b. maintain compliance with appropriate legislation, codes of practice and conduct relating to fire investigation and forensic guidance;
 - c. undertake role related administrative duties and reporting obligations associated with the role; and
 - d. maintain continuous professional development.
8. where it carries out Tier 2 fire investigations and its fire investigators prepare and present evidence for the justice systems, it:

- a. provides specialist training to fire investigation employees to enable them to effectively present their evidence in a range of court environments; and
 - b. ensures fire investigation employees remain compliant with the relevant legislation;
9. have in place necessary succession planning and processes to maintain a sustainable competent fire investigation workforce;
 10. supply the appropriate equipment for fire investigators to effectively carry out their role;
 11. demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity of its community and providing equality of access to Fire Investigation services;
 12. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of its Fire Investigation activities;
 13. generate a culture which embraces national and organisational learning, allowing it to identify and capture feedback from a range of sources; evaluate, share and act upon this feedback to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance.

Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard

1. Improved safety, health and wellbeing of communities and staff, leading to a reduction in incidents, injuries, serious injuries and fatalities.
2. Improved competency in the fire investigation workforce.
3. Improved evaluation to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of fire investigation activities.
4. Reduction of community risk as a consequence of identifying and communicating identified product safety issues.
5. Improved targeting of Prevention and Protection activities through improved fire investigation contributions.
6. Increased level of assurance to the community, police forces, justice systems and other interested parties on the outcomes of fire investigations.
7. Improved consistency in approach to fire investigation across fire and rescue services in England, contributing to improved collaboration and sharing of learning.

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 and the Forensic community.

- Policing and Crime Act
- Forensic Science Regulator Act
- Criminal Procedure Rules
- Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
- Civil Procedure Rules
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

- [Fire Standard for Community Risk Management Planning](#)
- [Fire Standard for Protection](#)
- [Fire Standard for Prevention](#)
- [Fire Standard for Code of Ethics](#)
- [Introduction to Fire Investigation – Level 2](#)
- [Level 5 Award in Fire Investigation: Theory and Practice](#)
- [Level 5 Certificate in Fire Investigation](#)
- [ISO 17020 inspections: Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection](#)

Guidance and supporting information

- [Code of Practice for Investigators of Fires and Explosions for the Justice Systems in the UK](#)
- [NFCC Fire Investigation competency framework document](#)

- [Forensic science providers: codes of practice and conduct](#)