

Operational Competence Fire Standard

– Proposed Amendments

Title of Fire Standard	Operational competence
Business Area/Capability	Service delivery - Response
Sponsoring NFCC Committee	Operations Committee
<i>Desired Outcome</i>	
<p>A fire and rescue service that can keep the public safe because it has competent operational and fire control employees who have been trained and are competent to apply the hazard and control measure approach provided in NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance.</p> <p>The service enables its employees to effectively apply risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills to provide a safe and effective response to emergencies, whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	
<i>To achieve this Fire Standard</i>	
<p>To achieve this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have a strategy to embed NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance to maintain employee competency 2. Comply with health and safety legislation when delivering an operational response 3. Base their operational policies, procedures and tailored guidance on NFCC Operational Guidance, unless by exception its content is not relevant to the service 4. Have policies, procedures and tailored guidance in place, that provide operational and fire control employees with current information about foreseeable hazards and the control measures used to reduce the risks arising from those hazards 5. Base their training for operational and fire control employees on NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance 6. Train its operational and fire control employees so they are competent to carry out operational activities safely and effectively; this includes the ability to recognise hazards and use control measures to reduce the risks arising from those hazards 7. Deliver the strategic actions provided in the NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance Frameworks, unless by evidenced exception a strategic action is not relevant to the service; 	

8. Follow the tactical actions provided in the NFCC Operational Guidance **and Fire Control Guidance frameworks**, unless by exception a tactical action is not relevant to the service
9. Be able to evidence how their policies, procedures and tailored guidance are linked to the training of operational and fire control employees
10. Be able to evidence any exceptions to NFCC Operational Guidance **or Fire Control Guidance**, with an appropriate impact assessment
11. Develop working arrangements with other fire and rescue services, **including National Resilience**, and **other Category 1 and Category 2** responders, to improve their operational response to multi-agency incidents

To achieve this Fire Standard, competent operational and fire control employees *should*:

12. Be able to evidence **and record** the training received to maintain competence **through appropriate assessment**.
13. Be able to demonstrate their ability to safely and effectively apply risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills

To achieve this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service *may*:

14. Use the training specification component of NFCC Operational Guidance to inform their training needs analysis
15. Work within regional, national or thematic groups to develop and improve their policies, procedures, tailored guidance and training for operational response

Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard

Expected benefits of achieving this Fire Standard include:

1. 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
2. For inspectorates, including His 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:
 - a. Adherence to the legislative requirements for operational response
 - b. How comprehensively the NFCC Operational Guidance **and Fire Control Guidance** has been considered and applied
3. Having competent operational and fire control employees, who are able to apply risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills
4. Continuous improvement of the quality of service provided to the community

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 employees about foreseeable hazards and the control measures used to reduce the risks arising from those hazards.

This Fire Standard reflects only the most relevant legislation to this topic.

We recognise that fire and rescue services must comply with a broader list of legislation to undertake their duties, which would be applicable to all standards. [View the legislation which applies to **all** Fire Standards.](#)

[Fire and Rescue Services Act](#)

[Health and Safety at Work Act](#)

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

[Fire Service Order](#)

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

Fire Standards

[Operational Preparedness](#)

[Operational Learning](#)

[Fire Control](#)

[Community Risk Management Planning](#)

Guidance and supporting information

- [NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance](#), in particular:
 - The Strategic Gap Analysis Tool to measure progress against strategic actions
 - The tactical actions throughout the frameworks
 - The corresponding Training Specifications
- Foundation material that supports comprehension of the Operational Guidance, Fire Control Guidance and Training Specifications
- [JESIP](#)