Operational Preparedness Fire Standard – Proposed Amendments

Title of Fire Standard	Operational Preparedness
Business Area/Capability	Service delivery - Response
Desired Outcome	

A fire and rescue service that is prepared for responding to emergencies, as identified through its Community Risk Management Planning, in order to keep the public safe.

It is prepared to meet its operational needs because it has in place and actively manages its:

- Competent operational and fire control employees
- Appropriate resources, including people, vehicles, equipment and systems
- Comprehensive operational policies, procedures, tailored guidance and training

Operational preparedness includes being able to safely and effectively respond to emergencies in a timely manner, whether:

- As a single service
- Working with other local or regional fire and rescue services
- Working with National Resilience capabilities
- Working in a multi-agency structure

To achieve the Fire Standard

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

1. Have an operational strategy that is based on a thorough assessment of risk to the community

2. Be able to evidence consideration of and actions taken in relation to the below key activities, when preparing and providing an operational response:
     - Legislative responsibilities
     - Data management
     - Risk management
     - Health and safety management
     - Site-Specific Risk Information
     - Emergency response plans
     - Operational assurance
     - Competence and training, including validation and revalidation
     - Organisational learning, including Operational learning
     - Participation in legal proceedings

3. Undertake all appropriate risk assessments, as required under legislation, to prepare for an operational response

4. Review existing cover models, resources, equipment and training against all appropriate risk assessments

5. Carry out capabilities-based planning to support emergency preparedness and response from a national, regional or local level

6. Determine their responsibilities for operational response and be fully prepared to deliver them

7. Have a health and safety policy for the operational and fire control environment that clearly outlines the responsible parties and their obligations

8. Undertake a review of how the organisation is structured and functions, to confirm its ability to support operational preparedness; if there are any gaps identified there should be a clear plan for making appropriate changes

9. Develop and embed operational policies, procedures and tailored guidance based on the NFCC Operational Guidance, unless by evidenced exception its content is not relevant to the service

10. Deliver the strategic actions provided in the suite of NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance frameworks, unless by evidenced exception a strategic action is not relevant to the service; the strategic gap analysis tool may be used to support this process

11. Train its operational and fire control employees to carry out operational activities safely and effectively; this includes the ability to recognise hazards and use control measures approach provided in the National Operational Guidance, applying risk assessment, decision-making and risk management skills to reduce the risks arising from those hazards

12. Align relevant policies, procedures and tailored guidance in preparation for working with other fire and rescue services, including National Resilience, and other Category 1 and Category 2 or responders to improve their operational response to multi-agency incidents

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

13. Use the Training Specifications to inform their training needs analysis

14. 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. Comprehensive and accurate risk management processes to protect fire and rescue service employees and the community, backed by national expertise

2. Simpler processes for the development of policies, procedures and tailored guidance, by aligning methods for the identification of local hazards and control measures with National NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance

3. 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

4. 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 preparedness of the service on:

    a. Adherence to the legislative requirements for operational preparedness

      b. How comprehensively the NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance has been considered and applied

5. Achievement of operational 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 NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance and Training Specifications

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

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

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

Fire Standards

    Operational Competence

    Operational Learning

    Code of Ethics

    Fire Control

    Community Risk Management Planning

Guidance and supporting information

- NFCC Operational Guidance and Fire Control Guidance frameworks, in particular:
  - The *corporate guidance for operational activity*
  - The *strategic actions* throughout the frameworks
  - The corresponding Training Specifications
  - Foundation material that supports comprehension of the Operational Guidance, Fire Control Guidance and Training Specifications
- The Operational Response implementation guide
- JESIP