

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE FIRE STANDARD

The left column shows the original and current Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Fire Standard as published in 2022. The column on the right shows the standard with proposed amendments highlighted in red. If you would like a more accessible version of this document, please contact fsb@nfcc.org.uk

Desired Outcome	
Original Fire Standard Published 2022	Proposed Draft Fire Standard 2026
A fire and rescue service that is prepared to respond to Major Incidents and Large-scale emergencies or Disruptive challenges (emergencies). It carries out effective risk-based preparations and emergency planning to meet its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act and to keep the public safe. It reduces, controls and mitigates the impact of emergencies through effective preparedness, response and recovery. A service that can continue to deliver critical services during times of emergencies. It is prepared to respond as a single service; working with other fire and rescue services or as part of a multi-agency response. It contributes effectively to national resilience requirements and has suitable and sufficient access to resources and assets to support response to local, regional and national scale emergencies. It collaborates with its local resilience forum (LRF) partners to achieve the LRF National Resilience Standards and to communicate effectively with the public in preparation for, during and after an emergency, building community resilience. It has in place arrangements for the sharing and receiving of information and intelligence with partners, contributing to effective decision making and enabling a coordinated response.	A fire and rescue service that has fully engaged with its partner agencies and is capable of responding to emergencies and disruptive incidents at a local, regional and national level. It carries out effective risk-based preparations and emergency planning to meet its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act and to keep the public, partners and employees safe. It reduces, controls and mitigates the impact of emergencies through effective preparedness, response and recovery. A service that can continue to deliver prioritised activities during times of emergencies. It is prepared to respond as a single service; working with other fire and rescue services or as part of a multi-agency response. It collaborates with its local resilience forum (LRF) partners to build community resilience through effective communication with the public in preparation for, during and after an emergency. It makes timely and effective decisions because it shares information and intelligence with partners to continually improve its multi-agency response.

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It is an organisation that works with its relevant partners to continually learn and improve multi-agency response by de-briefing after training, exercises and emergencies, sharing and acting on the lessons identified.	
What is required to meet the Fire Standard	
A fire and rescue service must: 1. align to all relevant Cabinet Office National Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) 2. have plans that enable it to prepare for emergencies and take preventative or pre-emptive actions as required, and that: a. are based on a robust risk assessment of foreseeable risks to the local area, informed by the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) and its Community Risk Registers; b. contain supporting materials which reflect and embed JESIP; c. align to other multi-agency plans, and where relevant meet legislative requirements. These plans may include those for Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) and Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPPIR); d. have a clear activation and notification process for communicating with other Category 1 and 2 responders, organisations and the public, to enhance cross-border	A fire and rescue service must: 1. Have a strategic approach to resilience, aligned to its Community Risk Management Plan which provides assurance that it: a. is prepared to respond to emergencies and disruptive incidents; and b. complies with legislation and standards. 2. align to all relevant Cabinet Office National Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) 3. have processes in place to review and maintain policies, procedures and plans 4. have plans that enable it to prepare for emergencies and take preventative or pre-emptive actions as required 5. collaborate with partners when developing site-specific emergency plans which are based on a shared and common understanding of local risks, associated planning assumptions and the NSRA; 6. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional workforce to enable the service to carry out its role in

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awareness and interoperability for preparedness, response and recovery arrangements; e. have robust, embedded and flexible recovery management arrangements in place as detailed in the Local Recovery Management National Resilience Standard #13; f. contain protocols aligned with the LRF protocols and guidance for leaders and practitioners about the establishment of recovery and coordination groups (RCGs) and managing activity between phases from response, recovery and to stand down; g. have clear, inclusive and agreed governance arrangements for both single-service and national resilience capabilities in line with the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF), including defined roles and responsibilities; h. evidence assurance of its resilience capabilities, validated by regular testing using a risk-based exercise programme, either as a single service or with other relevant responder organisations at operational, tactical and strategic levels; i. are reviewed and updated periodically with relevant partners; and j. are classified in line with the Government Security Classifications dependent upon the nature of the plan and	preparedness, response, recovery and business continuity; 7. have access to a suitable and secure system to enable it to share and make information available and accessible to partners and stakeholders, when required; 8. have business continuity plans (BCP) in place relating to all prioritised services and activities, that: a. demonstrate a clear procedure for invoking the BCP and set out the core of a response to emergencies and disruptive incidents; b. are reviewed and exercised periodically; and c. maintain an effective response at all times 9. as part of the response to an emergency, contribute to the effective operation of a Strategic Co-ordination Centre (SCC) and Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) in line with National Resilience Standards #11 and #12 concerning strategic preparation, operation and activation 10. make specialist national assets available for deployment, when requested 11. adopt the principles of integrated emergency management to effectively anticipate and assess risks, and prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies; A fire and rescue service should:
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exist in a format that makes them accessible to relevant stakeholders when required.

3. collaborate with partners to develop site-specific emergency plans which are based on a shared and common understanding of [Local risks](#), associated planning assumptions and the NSRA;
4. recruit, train, develop and maintain a competent and professional workforce to enable the service to carry out its role in preparedness, response and recovery to emergencies;
5. have access to a suitable and secure system to enable it to share and make information available and accessible to partners and stakeholders, when required;
6. have business continuity plans (BCP) in place relating to all critical functions, that:
 - a. demonstrate a clear procedure for invoking the BCP and set out the core of a response to emergencies; and
 - b. are reviewed and exercised periodically
7. as part of the response to an emergency contribute to the effective operation of a Strategic Co-ordination Centre (SCC) and Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) and in line with National Resilience Standards #11 and #12.

A fire and rescue service **should**:

12. **assist other fire and rescue services with conventional assets during regional and national incidents, when requested**
13. evidence a clear rationale for the balance between generic and site-specific emergency planning for defined **and emerging** risks;
14. develop plans which:
 - a. follow a common template, including use of action cards, diagrammatic instructions, detachable annexes and directories; and
 - b. include an escalation process to request additional involvement and support, such as mutual aid and national resilience capabilities.
15. optimise the opportunity to gather learning, such as debrief outcomes following **emergencies and disruptive incidents**, training or exercises and share them on the available systems, such as Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL);
16. have a process in place to act on any learning received from systems such as JOL and NOL to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance;
17. maximise opportunities gained from supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) network by sharing learning and experiences, collaborating with others and contributing to the continual improvement of preparedness, response and recovery activities;

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8. evidence a clear rationale for the balance between generic and site-specific emergency planning for defined risks; 9. adopt the principles of integrated emergency management to effectively anticipate and assess risks and prevent, prepare, respond and recover from emergencies; 10. develop plans which: a. follow a common template, including use of action cards, diagrammatic instructions, detachable annexes and directories; and b. include an escalation process to request additional involvement and support, such as mutual aid and national resilience capabilities. 11. optimise the opportunity to gather learning, such as debrief outcomes following emergency response, training or exercising and share them on the available systems, such as Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL); 12. have a process in place to act on any learning received from systems such as JOL and NOL to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance; 13. maximise opportunities gained from supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) network by sharing learning and experiences, collaborating with others and contributing to the	18. contribute and support appropriate national campaigns and initiatives, where resources are available. A fire and rescue service may: 19. share plans with other services or partners for independent peer review for continual improvement purposes.
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continual improvement of preparedness, response and recovery activities; 14. contribute and support appropriate national campaigns and initiatives, where resources are available. A fire and rescue service may: 15. share plans with other services or partners for independent peer review for continual improvement purposes.	
Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard	
1. The public are reassured that services are resilient, prepared and able to respond to emergencies and maintain its critical functions during a disruptive event 2. Effective contribution to multi-agency response to emergencies because of a standardised and nationally approved approach to emergency preparedness 3. Effective inter- and intra-operability because of collaboration and information sharing with other services and partners 4. Enables services and partners to identify and address potential capability gaps and areas of good practice	1. Increased public confidence in fire and rescue services because services are resilient, prepared, and able to maintain critical functions during disruptive events 2. Enables a more effective and coordinated multi-agency response to emergencies by using a standardised, nationally approved approach to emergency preparedness 3. Improved inter- and intra-operability because of collaboration and information sharing with other services and partners 4. Improves the ability of services and partners to identify capability gaps early and share areas of good practice, strengthening overall preparedness and performance
Legal requirements or mandatory duties	

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This Fire Standard reflects only the most appropriate 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. • Civil Contingencies Act • Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) • Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order • Pipeline Safety Regulations • Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR) • Fire and Rescue National Framework for England	This Fire Standard reflects only the most appropriate 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. • Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) • Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order • Pipeline Safety Regulations • Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPIR)
Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards	
• Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard • Code of Ethics Fire Standard • Operational Preparedness Fire Standard • National Occupational Standards – NFCC	• National Occupational Standards – NFCC Fire Standards • Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard • Code of Ethics Fire Standard • Operational Preparedness Fire Standard
Guidance and supporting information	
This list is non-exhaustive, and additional sources of guidance may be available beyond those outlined below. • National Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) • Emergency preparedness – GOV.UK	This list is non-exhaustive, and additional sources of guidance may be available beyond those outlined below. • National Resilience Standards for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) • Emergency preparedness – GOV.UK

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- National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) – restricted access via Resilience Direct
- [National Risk Register – public access](#)
- [JESIP](#)
- [Joint Organisational Learning \(JOL\) Guidance](#)
- [Emergency responder interoperability: lexicon – GOV.UK](#)
- [ISO 22301:2019 – Security and resilience — Business continuity management systems](#)
- [NCSC Cyber Essentials Certification](#)
- [Cyber Assessment Framework \(CAF\)](#)
- [National Resilience Strategy \(NRS\)](#)
- [National Coordination and Advisory Framework \(NCAF\)](#)
- [The Business Continuity Institutes Good Practice Guidelines](#)
- [The UK Government Resilience Framework – GOV.UK](#)
- [Government Security Classifications](#)

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- [The Business Continuity Institutes Good Practice Guidelines](#)
- [The UK Government Resilience Framework – GOV.UK](#)
- [Government Security Classifications](#)
- [Supporting guidance for NCAF](#)
- [NFCC Organisational Learning: Good Practice Guide](#)