



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF INTENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 19 December 2014

Purpose of Report:

To advise Members that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's Written Safety Policy Statement of Intent has been reviewed to ensure it remains current in terms of content and signatories.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is required to produce, periodically review and revise a Written Safety Policy (WSP) which codifies its approach to identifying the hazards associated with its work activities and then controlling the risk as determined by risk assessment.
- 1.2 An important part of the WSP is its initial Statement of Intent which indicates the commitment of the organisation to which it refers to a high standard of health and safety risk management.
- 1.3 The Statement of Intent must indicate the approach to be taken and be endorsed by signature by those who represent the organisation, its employees and its ethos.
- 1.4 NFRS's current Statement of Intent was last considered and endorsed by CFA on 4 September 2009.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The content of the current Statement of Intent, attached at Appendix A, accurately reflects NFRS's approach to discharging its duty of care to its employees (and others affected by its work activities). It has been revised to indicate the role of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer in enacting day-to-day responsibility on behalf of the Chief Fire Officer, the increased role of risk information in producing "suitable and sufficient" risk assessments and address minor changes in terminology.
- 2.2 The document is the basis for the more definitive modules of NFRS's Written Safety Policy and together the two elements form an auditable approach to achieving and maintaining safe systems of work.
- 2.3 A recent audit of NFRS's safety management system identified that the Statement of Intent required slight amendment and to be re-endorsed by signatures from those persons currently occupying the posts indicated.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the review of the document.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no such implications as the Statement of Intent is self-explanatory and features in the current training delivered throughout NFRS on health and safety risk management issues.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken because equality issues arising have been previously identified and addressed.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production of a Written Safety Policy – inclusive of the Statement of Intent, is a requirement under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Statement of Intent provides a basis for NFRS's commitment to identifying hazards, quantifying risk and applying proportionate risk controls as a means of reducing loss to ensure it maximises its reducing budget.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members endorse the Statement of Intent.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



Statement of Intent

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service [NFRS] is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all its employees - and the health and safety of those non-employees affected by its work activities - and has devised a Safety Management System which is detailed in its Written Safety Policy. Application of this Policy will contribute to improved service delivery.

This Statement of Intent forms the first of the three parts to the Written Safety Policy, the contents of which continue to be developed, discussed and adopted. They are audited, reviewed and then revised as necessary.

It is NFRS's intention to strive to ensure a safe and healthy working environment as part of its wider risk management initiatives and to pursue progressive improvements in health and safety risk management performance. Its employees are a key resource and have a vital part to play in implementing the Policy.

To achieve this the Service will consider:

- the equipment that is used by employees to do their work;
- the premises where they carry out their work;
- the information, instruction, training and supervision they receive;
- the substances they use and encounter;
- the suitable and sufficient risk controls they need to follow - as indicated by objective risk assessment;
- occupational health and fitness matters;
- the competence of employees in terms of health and safety;
- the need for effective communication of health and safety risk management information.


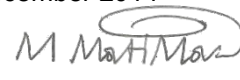




The following approach will be applied:

- constructive dialogue with employee representatives;
- recognition that legal requirements are the minimum;
- ultimate responsibility for matters of health, safety and welfare resting with the Chief Fire Officer with the Assistant Chief Fire Officer having delegated day-to-day responsibility;
- provision of the necessary expert advice when needed;
- inclusion of best practice as identified in other organisations;
- linkage of risk assessments to site specific risk information, incident monitoring and incident debrief.
- application of risk assessment to the procurement of equipment and services;
- identification of targets for improvements in risk management;
- inclusion of risk management aims in the organisation's Integrated Risk Management Plan;
- recognition of the importance of health and safety risk management objectives in relation to other service objectives;
- recognition that failures of health and safety risk management controls are not necessarily the fault of individual employees;
- integration of risk management considerations into all management decisions;
- auditing of compliance with the standards given in the Written Safety Policy;
- annual consideration of health and safety performance by the Combined Fire Authority.

All employees will play a part in the Safety Management System and resources will be made available to achieve the necessary safety culture based on risk assessment and the "safe person" concept.

The standards outlined in the Written Safety Policy will be applied in the spirit of fairness and dignity and the above Statement of Intent applies to future legal requirements as well as current ones.

Endorsed by the Combined Fire Authority at its meeting of 19th December 2014

Signed		Chief Fire Officer	Signed		FOA
Signed		Chair of CFA	Signed		RFU
Signed		FBU	Signed		UNISON

Dated 19th December 2014