

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	24 February 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

REVISION OF WRITTEN SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT OF INTENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Members a revised Statement of Intent for endorsement and signature.

2. BACKGROUND

All organisations have to have a Written Safety Policy – and it has to start with a Statement of Intent, where an employing organisation spells out its commitment to raising standards of occupational health, safety and welfare. It has to be signed and dated.

3. REPORT

3.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service's (NFRS) current Statement of Intent was considered by the Authority at its meeting of 14 December 2001 and signed accordingly. It was then made widely available to anyone having an interest in NFRS's application of occupational health and safety risk management

3.2 The Statement of Intent was the precursor to some thirty individual policies on matters of health and safety upon which the Service has developed its range of health and safety risk controls. Since 2001 the Service has developed and changed a great deal, patterns of work have altered and the Service has had the benefit of two external audits of the health and safety management system.

3.3 The Statement of Intent has been amended slightly to bring it up to date and include additional areas of commitment. The amended Statement is attached as Appendix A, and now awaits signature by those persons currently representing the groups who would wish to "sign up" to NFRS's aspirations as detailed in the document

4. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The Statement of Intent is an integral part of NFRS's health and safety risk management approach and contributes to the corporate risk management strategy

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Statement of Intent specifically makes mention of its application in the spirit of fairness and dignity.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members consider, endorse and sign – via the Chair – the revised, updated Statement of Intent for the Service.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service – Written Safety Policy

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 [Information Services] co-ordinating such matters;
- provision of the necessary expert advice when needed;
- inclusion of best practice as identified in other organisations;
- linkage of risk assessments to Ops 1, inspections, Incident Command and incident de-brief;
- 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 Service 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 24/2/2006

Signed	Chief Fire Officer	Signed	FOA
Signed	Chair of Combined Fire Authority	Signed	RFU
Signed	Chair of FBU	Signed	UNISON

Dated 24/2/2006

