

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
date	<b>7 September 2007</b>	agenda item number

### REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### REDUCED IGNITION PROPENSITY CIGARETTES

##### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of Reduced Ignition Propensity (RIP) cigarettes and the research which suggests that the introduction of RIP cigarettes could significantly reduce the number of fire deaths in accidental dwelling fires.

##### 2. BACKGROUND

A survey carried out by the European Commission of 14 Member states and Norway found that 11,000 fires each year were caused by smoking and this caused 1,600 injuries and 520 deaths per annum. In Nottinghamshire research has shown that over 80% of deaths in accidental dwelling fires were caused by cigarettes and that 15% of all injuries in accidental dwelling fires were caused by cigarettes (attached at Appendix A to this report is a summary of accidental dwelling fires caused by smoking materials). This report informs members of the RIP Coalition which is spearheading lobbying of the European Commission to push for new legislation to introduce RIP cigarettes as standard across Europe.

##### 3. REPORT

- 3.1 RIP cigarettes are designed to self-extinguish if dropped or left unattended, making them less likely to cause fires. This is done by using tiny speed bands on special paper which by restricting the access of oxygen, encourage the cigarette to self extinguish when not actively puffed. These types of cigarettes were introduced to the commercial market in North America in 2000 and subsequently to New Zealand in 2001. The cost of producing RIP cigarettes is negligible and there is little evidence to suggest any change in the flavour or toxicity of RIP cigarettes compared to non-fire safer cigarettes.
- 3.2 RIP cigarettes were introduced into Canada and a number of states in the United States of America (USA) covering 25% of the population through a legislative route. Prior to the introduction in Canada a regulatory impact assessment was undertaken which estimated the introduction of RIP cigarettes would reduce fires by between 34% to 68%.
- 3.3 There have been a number of research papers on the likely impact on the introduction of RIP cigarettes. In the United Kingdom (UK) a Fire Research Report for Communities and Local Government estimates that had the USA standard been in force in the UK in 2003, the number of smoking related fires would have fallen by almost two thirds, this could have resulted in the number of fatalities falling from 123 to 45 and the number of injuries from 1,416 to 530.

- 3.4 Initial statistics now emerging from North America do corroborate the research findings, with the Office of Fire Protection and Control in New York State identifying that in 2004 28 people died from smoking related fires compared to 42 in each of the three previous years. These results suggest that if RIP cigarettes were introduced in Nottinghamshire, over the past 6 years there would have been 9 fewer deaths and 37 fewer injuries.
- 3.5 The RIP Coalition is made up of the Chief Fire Officers' Association and a number of fire services across the country, as well as the British Burn Association, public health organisations and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Smoking and Health. It has joined forces with the EU RIP Alliance to campaign for a new RIP standard to be introduced for cigarettes across Europe.
- 3.6 A report on the performance of the Service during 2006-07 was brought before Members of the Community Safety Committee on 20 July 2007, Members present included in their recommendations that the Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Committee submit a report to full Fire and Rescue Authority recommending that the Authority support the RIP Coalition's campaign for the introduction of a RIP standard to prevent avoidable suffering from fires caused by cigarettes.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There may be some additional minor costs relating to a contribution to the campaign and travelling expenses. If so, these will be met from the existing Community Safety budget.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

An equality impact assessment has not been specifically carried out in relation to this report.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to reducing deaths and injuries within our community. Failure to support such a campaign could result in an opportunity missed to drastically reduce the deaths and injuries from fire within our communities.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members support the Service joining the RIP Coalition and actively campaigning for the introduction of a RIP standard for cigarettes in the UK.

#### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

### Summary of Accidental Dwelling Fires Caused by Smoking Materials

Note: There are two categories of accidental fires caused by smoking materials, one is children playing with smoking materials and the other is people falling asleep whilst smoking or disposing of smoking materials. The child playing category has been excluded from this report

		01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Total
<b>Ashfield</b>	incidents	5	5	7	5	2	5	29
	fatalities							
	casualties		1	2	1			4
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	incidents		7	3	6	1	6	23
	fatalities							
	casualties		1		1	1	3	6
<b>Broxtowe</b>	incidents	6	6	5	5	3	6	31
	fatalities					2	1	3
	casualties		2	2			4	8
<b>City</b>	incidents	40	35	36	28	20	44	203
	fatalities	1	1	1	1	1	3	8
	casualties	8	9	13	6	2	7	45
<b>Gedling</b>	incidents	3	5	2	2	6		18
	fatalities					1		1
	casualties	1	3	1	1			6
<b>Mansfield</b>	incidents	6	9	3	4	7	9	38
	fatalities	1				1		2
	casualties	1	1		2	1	3	8
<b>Newark</b>	incidents	4	6	5	4	6	1	26
	fatalities							
	casualties		2			2		4
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	incidents	3	3	2	3	1	4	16
	fatalities	1					1	2
	casualties	2	8	1	1		3	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>incidents</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>384</b>
	<b>fatalities</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>casualties</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>96</b>