



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

FIRE PROTECTION ACTIVITY

2010-13

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 16 April 2010

Purpose of Report:

To update Members regarding the themes and principles which underpin the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Protection department and how it aims to meet the requirements of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2010-2013

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Fire safety enforcement activities are designed to ensure the Fire Authority's statutory requirements, under the remit of the Fire Safety Order (2005) (FSO), are met and that risk to life and property is reduced.
- 1.2 The enforcement of fire safety is a critical element of the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan and the Authority's strategy for the enforcement of fire safety forms a key part of its overall strategy for the protection of its community. Fire Protection will ascertain the risks in its area, analyse them and assign its resources in the most effective way to reduce or eliminate those risks.
- 1.3 The NFRS Plan 2010-2013 is the foundation for the NFRS Fire Protection activity over the next three years and this report details how it will satisfy its responsibility relating to:
 - Maintaining a risk-based approach to enforce our statutory responsibilities;
 - Assisting and support those responsible for fire safety within business;
 - Working to reduce the economic cost of fire.

2. REPORT

During 2010-13, there are a number of important aspects that form the Fire Protection activity and this section of the report broadly defines these key elements, as follows:

2.1 Fire Protection Structure

2.1.1 Further to some refinements in the departmental structure in 09/10, there are four key components to the way Fire Protection is structured

- Fire Protection Support team
- Fire Protection Project Group
- Three Fire Protection Geographical groups
- Role based enforcement team

2.1.2 No further changes to this structure are envisaged over the lifetime of this plan.

2.2 Fire Protection Inspection Activity (see Appendix A)

2.2.1 The Fire Inspection activity is aimed at reducing the risk and impact of fire on the community, safeguarding our firefighters, heritage and environment, reducing the loss of life, injuries, commercial, economic

and social costs and we undertake this through our statutory duty to enforce fire safety law.

- 2.2.2 The emphasis and focus of the inspection program is based upon the national CLG and CFOA guidance.
- 2.2.3 Premises managed by public, commercial or voluntary organisations, which present the highest risk, will be inspected on a more frequent basis.
- 2.2.4 Those premises considered to be lower risk will be inspected primarily in response to complaints, following incidents or on a random basis to verify their lower risk classification and to confirm that the responsible persons are complying with their statutory duty to comply with the requirements of fire safety law.
- 2.2.5 Fire Protection personnel will collect risk data about premises as part of their normal role and this will enable us to target our prevention, protection and response options effectively, efficiently and in a verifiable manner.
- 2.2.6 In addition to the preplanned inspection interventions, there are a number of other pieces of activity that contribute to the safer communities agenda.
- 2.2.7 The geographical FP groups will plan and allot the appropriate resources against the whole of this activity and the FP managerial expectations and performance monitoring will predominantly link to and be based upon it.
- 2.2.8 Subsequently, FP Station Managers, will need to provide evidence that they have allocated resources and achieved against the themes and principles detailed at Appendix A.

2.3 Role Based Enforcement Team

- 2.3.1 A specialist role based team exists that deals with specific enforcement issues namely prohibition and restriction of premises and the responsibility for progressing fire safety breaches that may result in prosecution. There are six Officers within the team (all competent Fire Protection Inspecting Officers) and a number of shadow officers, who achieve certain skill sets and then are available to join the full team as appropriate.

2.4 Fire Protection Project Group

- 2.4.1 In order to satisfy the Authority's requirement to police and enforce the FSO, great efforts are made to set an inspection plan aimed at the appropriate risks across the County.

- 2.4.2 Over the past few years there have been a number of occasions in which the planned activity has been reduced / stopped to assess the organisational implications that have arisen from largely unplanned events.
- 2.4.3 For example, serious hospital fires nationally, Lakanal House (high rise) and Peckham fire (timber framed construction) all have had implications for the NFRS and the Fire Protection department have to react to ensure that any organisational risks are highlighted, assessed and actioned as appropriate. However these events and actions have significant negative effects upon the preplanned inspection programme and other workloads.
- 2.4.4 The negative impacts are varied, but predominantly, it reduces the ability to satisfy the preplanned activity and causes a great deal of inconvenience to those persons/ businesses who are awaiting an inspection and may find that it has been cancelled.
- 2.4.5 The new FSO also provides a number of challenges regarding to the new type of premises that the NFRS are now responsible for and in order to fully assess the impact of these aspects a 'pathfinder' group is seen to be the best way to deal with these types of issues.
- 2.4.6 The recent transfer of responsibility from the Special Risk Group (to the geographical Fire Protection groups) provides an opportunity for the department to manage these instances and other similar issues in a different manner and for 2010 onwards a small group of Officers will form the Project group and will be responsible for a range of projects commencing 2010/11. Each project will be properly scoped with key dates for completion.
- 2.4.7 It will also provide some resilience to the mainstream inspectorate as and when required.

2.5 Performance Management and Expectations

- 2.5.1 It is recognised that in order to continuously improve our Fire Protection service delivery, then appropriate management systems need to be put in place and a robust system of managing performance is essential to produce information relating to targets and objectives.
- 2.5.2 The key component of the approach to evaluating effectiveness is a suite of expectations and toolkit. The production of a self assessment tool kit is based upon key qualitative and critical organisational themes and forms the basis of the departmental review process; with each theme or key lines of enquiry containing specific expectations.

2.5.3 The toolkit is used by Fire Protection Station Managers to self assess their teams performance prior to an annual review and shortfalls strengths or weaknesses form the basis of an expectations report and inform the production of a team improvement plan. This is used to identify process issues and share best practice.

2.6 Specialist Fire Protection Training

2.6.1 Over the past 3 years there have been a number of new joiners to the department. This was reflected across the CFOA region and resulted in a number of courses being coordinated regionally. This dynamic has subtly changed; as the emphasis is now clearly upon refresher training and the majority of training over the lifetime of this plan will be refresher based.

2.6.2 A CFOA regional Training sub group is fully established and has the responsibility in assessing the needs of the region and will work collaboratively when appropriate. This group reports directly to the regional East Midlands Fire Safety CFOA group.

2.6.3 A specialist Fire Protection training budget sits within the NFRS budget and allows the department to assess the training requirements and work regionally (where possible) to ensure that these needs are met.

2.6.4 As from 10/11 four development days will be held locally and they will concentrate upon CPD type events and will enhance the more formal training from external providers

2.7 Workforce Planning

2.7.1 Following the refinement of the Fire Protection structure in 09/10 which principally included strengthening of CFRMIS support arrangements, appointment of both a Group Manger and four non-operational posts the structure is seen to be fit for purpose and no such further refinements are envisaged over the period of this plan.

2.7.2 At the time of writing, the Department is fully established and in terms of envisaged/ known leavers, the next anticipated retirements take place in early 2011 and are included in the planning processes.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications arising out of this report are to be met from within existing Service budgets already allocated to meet the statutory enforcement obligations.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

The human resources implications arising out of this report are outlined above within Paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

No direct equality implications have been identified from this report. Each supporting policy is equality impact assessed.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no identified implications for Crime and Disorder, arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Fire Authority legal obligations in relation to statutory fire safety enforcement are well understood and outlined within the Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 and the Fire Safety Order (2005).

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Fire Authority has a statutory duty to police and enforce the FSO and is at risk by not maintaining and evolving its risk based inspection programme.
- 8.2 This report supports the way we satisfy our duties and responsibilities under the FSO.
- 8.3 The Fire Protection activity detailed in this report refines our approach to risks and further ensures the robustness of our statutory Fire Safety duties.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members support the approach being undertaken by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to deliver against its statutory duty with regard to Fire Protection.

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

- The 'Fire Protection Activity 2010-13' document, which is designed to be a reference point for the Fire Protection department, will be available for circulation at the meeting.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

THEMES AND PRINCIPLES – FIRE PROTECTION ACTIVITY

Group A Premises

Hospitals

These premises are obviously potential high risk and although compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be good: national fires/ trends and our discussions with local NHS Trusts, require that we should maintain a key involvement within these premises.

The concentrated activity will be focused on patient care areas/ high risk areas in large Hospitals

Commencing 10/11, PRI activity will be used to identify any potential risk issues and these will be used to inform audit activity. Subsequently, within the first six weeks of each year's activity each major hospital site and significant standalone hospital premises will receive two evening PRI inspections.

Further inspection activity for the remainder of the year, will be assessed post PRI visit and planned as appropriate.

Medical Centres/Health Centres / GPs Surgeries

These types of premises are becoming used more frequently for day surgery and this increased use of people receiving anaesthetics, increase the risk within this category of buildings.

Subsequently, audit activity will be undertaken within the large Medical Centres/Health Centres / GPs Surgeries that administer anaesthetics.

Hotels

2007/8 saw significant fires and loss of life within this category of premises. Additionally NFRS have encountered a number of problems in these premises and have progressed some of these issues as successful prosecutions. Subsequently these premises continue to be a significant priority and we will seek to maintain a high level of intervention in these properties as a high priority.

Inspection activity will concentrate on:

- Public houses/mixed commercial use premises
- Those being used to house persons from Local Authority/ Social Services referrals and;

- Those falling outside the previous Fire Certification process e.g. above 2 storey's, accommodating over five guests.
- Sample inspections of larger 'national' chain hotel premises

Whilst under the Fire Precautions Act there were a number of certificated hotels the FSO brought every premises providing this type of accommodation under its remit. Subsequently there are a number of premises that are still unknown to NFRS and in order to assess the numbers and weight of interventions required each group (as a priority) needs to spend time in identifying these types of premises. It is envisaged that many of the premises could be found from internet searches, etc and that the FP administrative functions would be used to undertake this process.

Due to the anticipated large number of these premises in 10/11, it is anticipated that the majority of inspections will be thematic. This will enable data to be obtained which will further inform the remaining years' inspections.

Care Homes

These premises are obviously potential high risk and although compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be good: there have been some significant fires nationally over the past 2 years and these premises will continue to be seen as a priority and similar levels of inspection (inc. PRI) to be allocated as per 2009/10.

Any outstanding resource available after the targets have provisionally been planned should be allocated against care homes.

It is felt that within this type of premises, the general consensus is that standards are low during evening shifts and that PRI should continue to be an important part of our inspection programme.

The emphasis of these inspections will concentrate upon:

- Evacuation arrangements for locating residents above ground floor;
- Principles of horizontal/ phased evacuation (where applicable) are understood and systems in place.
- Fire Routine/ roll call arrangements are understood.

We will seek to maintain a minimum 50% audit/ PRI of all known Care Homes

Boarding Schools

These premises are obviously potential high risk and although compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant; we will continue to inspect as in previous years.

Each premise will be audited every 24 months. The emphasis of these inspections will particularly concentrate upon night time routines, systems of work,

If resources allow then a sample of PRI's should be implemented and / or there are concerns about night time routine(s) then this should be addressed by PRI's as appropriate.

Hostels

These premises are obviously potential high risk and although Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory: national fires/ trends suggest that we should maintain a key involvement within these premises.

There is some potential crossover between certain MORB premises and hostels; both of which may be used to house homeless, those with drug issues, etc.

Dependant on the levels of compliance found, PRI activity should be considered as appropriate.

Group B Premises

Children's Homes

These premises are obviously potential high risk and although Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory: it is important that we maintain a key involvement within these premises.

A significant sample of these premises should be undertaken.

Licensed Premises

Licensed premises, particularly within the City area, presents a significant risk which is seen to be higher than many other cities and a comparison with our local neighbours sees the number of premises 3 – 4 times greater.

It is generally accepted that those under the influence of alcohol, large numbers gathered together within premises are generally more at risk, and the intensity of development, particularly in the City area, imposes a potential risk.

Subsequently, we will continue to inspect a range of licensed premises and as from 10/11 this will be the responsibility of each geographical group.

Those potential high risk licensed premises, which are primarily identified as a 'Top 100' premises within CFRMIS will received an audit every 24 moths and a PRI annually.

Sample inspections will be undertaken within:

- Restaurants
- Café/Food Outlets

- Bingo Halls
- Casinos
- Cinemas
- Holiday Centres (i.e. Centre Parcs)
- Theatres
- Village Halls
- Snooker/ Billiard Halls

Following the transfer of this category of premises from the SRG groups will need to re-evaluate the premises that fall within their areas; particularly the 'top 100'

Student Accommodation (Campus Sites)

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however, there is some potential as high life risk and sampling of these premises will be undertaken.

Sheltered Housing

Some of these types of premises, which allow independent living for older people, may be designed to incorporate communal interlinked facilities and whilst many are seen to be low risk, sampling should take place within those larger more complicated premises that present a potential higher risk. These premises need to be identified and sampled as appropriate.

Multi Occupied Residential Buildings (MORB)

Further to the Harrow Court fire and fatalities there are a number of issues to be addressed and visits to these premises will be undertaken by Response Crews, who will assess the firefighting risks, etc

There may be follow up visits required by FP staff (in the event of fire safety issues being highlighted by crews)

Ops crews should be used to inspect/information gather in these premises and will form part of the Ops inspection activity.

Group C Premises

Day Care/ Nurseries

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however due to the potential sleeping risks presented a sampling inspection regime will take place.

If these premises comprise of 2 or more floors (basement counted) and/ or they are large purpose built premises, then they are considered to be at risk, and Fire Protection should continue to inspect.

We will seek to maintain sample inspections of sole day care premises.

FE Buildings / Colleges / Academies

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however, due to the potential risk, particularly relating to complex premises that their occupants were often not used to the building.

We will seek to maintain sample inspections of FE Buildings / Colleges / Academies.

Universities

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however we will maintain an ongoing sample of inspections to continue to assess for potential risk.

Libraries

Generally low risk and will not form part of the pre planned inspection activity.

Community Centres

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however we will maintain an ongoing minimum sample of inspections to continue to assess for potential risk and this will be directed at the larger Community centres.

Law Courts

These are Crown premises and do not form part of the inspection activity.

Schools

Whilst compliance levels within the NFRS area are now seen to be relatively compliant, past history and some present concerns from Officers relating to ownership of Risk assessment processes, etc raises some issues and levels of activity within this sector will remain.

We will continue to inspect the larger secondary schools and sample those schools that had problems on previous inspections.

Special Schools/ Independent schools

This particularly applies to Independent schools including day and residential school and to include pupil referral units. Whilst compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be relatively compliant, however, the nature of these types of premises present a higher risk than traditional schools and we will maintain an ongoing sample of inspections to continue to assess for potential risk.

We will (as per the Memorandum of Understanding /CFOA Circular 2009/1034) inspect all schools prior to their registration with the DCSF. These workloads are seen to be minimal and may result in 1-2 pre registration inspections per year.

Shops

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory; however we have had some issues, following complaints of restricted means of escape. The successful Iceland Foods prosecution also saw significant issues relating to poor management and blocked means of escape, etc.

Subsequently, we will maintain an ongoing sample of inspections to continue to assess for potential risk and this will be focussed upon Shops with more than 2 storeys/ and or basement levels frequented by customers.

We will also ensure that the large shopping centres are audited within the 12 month period. E.g. Idlewells; 4 Seasons; Victoria Centre; Broadmarsh.

Additionally the smaller shops will be targeted at around the pre Xmas period to identify any aspects relating particularly to means of escape. These inspections will predominantly be thematic.

Leisure Centres / Sports Halls

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory, however with potentially large numbers of public visiting; coupled with uncertainty of layout of building, we will continue to inspect these premises.

Group D Premises

Warehouses

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory, however with some large fires nationally and Fire fighter deaths over the past years, they are still regarded as a potential high risk group.

We will continue to inspect, concentrating upon medium to large storage units.

Factories

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory, however with some large fires nationally and Fire fighter deaths over the past years, they are still regarded as a potential high risk group.

We will continue to inspect, concentrating upon medium to large units.

Offices

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory, within

this low risk group and with few problems identified, the number of inspections may be reduced.

A sample number of inspections will be maintained achieved concentrating on Offices of more than one storey.

Multi Occupied Premises

Compliance levels within the NFRS area are still seen to be satisfactory, however with the complexity these premises can bring, then we will maintain a good sample of multi occupied premises; particularly concentrating on those premises with mechanical work processes and those of more than one storey/ larger premises

NFRS Premises

Whilst it is accepted that we cannot enforce against ourselves; sample audits of fire service premises will take place. These should be planned so that over the life of this plan each premise is audited.

The normal outcomes/ paperwork should be produced and sent to the relevant District Station managers for their information and copied to the Health and Safety department at Fire Service Headquarters.

Major Consequence Fire initiative

Response and Fire Protection undertake a number of visits to premises, throughout the county, which result in an assessment of potential risk and result in a range of outcomes; which may include the creation of Ops 1 information, Operational tactical plans, etc.

This system is relatively robust and is founded upon a risk based approach to the premises within Nottinghamshire.

However, there are a group of premises located throughout the County that do not present an obvious Fire Fighter risk and also do not present themselves very high on the risk matrix utilised by the Fire Protection department, when implementing its inspection programme. Some of these premises would significantly affect the County if lost to fire and this report seeks to identify these buildings and recommends an integrated approach to ensuring their safety.

Fire Protection will undertake a full audit, within the 12 month period at each of the designated premises. Please see Appendix ?? for the premises list.

Heritage/Listed Buildings

As per IRMP note 4, Heritage buildings form a part of the risk based approach to the County's premises and the inspection programme.

It is difficult to create an exact definition for those premises falling under this premises group, however, it is felt that 'buildings that are of special architectural or historic interest' will form this premises group. These buildings may be included on a list kept by the Secretary of State for the Environment. Additionally the building may form part of English Heritage, who are the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, more officially known as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

A sample number of inspections will be maintained within this risk group.

Fireworks / Explosives

In addition to the obvious risks pose by fireworks and their associated storage, there has also recently been an explosion at the premises of a firework display operator which resulted in the deaths of two fire service personnel and injuries to a number of others.

Subsequently, NFRS wish to ensure that these premises are subject to inspection and that the relevant information is passed through to Operational crews.

At the most basic level smaller stores must be registered with the local licensing Authority and larger stores must be licensed. In the event of a licence application, HSE writes to the local Fire and Rescue Authority to give it the opportunity to comment on potential fire safety issues.

A sample number of inspections will be maintained within this risk group.

Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH)

COMAH applies mainly to the chemical industry, but also to some storage activities, explosives and nuclear sites, and other industries where threshold quantities of dangerous substances identified in the Regulations are kept or used.

Companies subject to COMAH are those which manufacture, store or transport dangerous chemicals (including petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals) and explosives in excess of the specified threshold quantities.

These premises are potentially high risk and are regulated to prevent major accidents and mitigate their consequences. Subsequently, NFRS wish to ensure that these premises are subject to inspection and that the relevant information is passed through to Operational crews.

A sample number of inspections will be maintained within this risk group.

BASIS

The use of Agro-chemicals on farms and their toxic properties especially when subjected to fire makes their safe storage essential and CFOA and the British Agrochemical Standards Inspection Scheme (BASIS) have established and agreed joint working arrangements. These arrangements enable NFRS to acquire

operational information about their operational risks and to ensure fire protection resources are targeted towards higher risk to life premises. A guidance document is designed to adopt CFOA guidance and assist Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) to inspect BASIS registered premises.

We will inspect all high risk BASIS sites as defined by the BASIS registration scheme.

Outdoor Events

There are many events that take place throughout the County and whilst many of them will be subject to application through the Licensing Authorities e.g. Licensing Act 2003; it is likely that the event will be also be covered by primary fire safety legislation.

It is vital that all venues to which the public are admitted are as safe as possible from fire and that the organisers know how to protect the public and staff from injury or death in any emergency situation. Whilst, NFRS have produced a guidance note setting out the important fire safety points to be considered, we need to have a system of dealing with the more larger and complicated events.

This predominantly an issue for our Response crews and subsequently, NFRS wish to ensure that these events are subject to Response crews intervention and that Fire Protection may become involved if requested and/or if due to the type of temporary structures it is felt that an inspection is warranted.

As from 2010/11 Response will assume responsibility and be the single point of contact for risk information for these type of events. They will liaise with Local Authorities, etc to ensure risk critical information is obtained and actioned.

Unwanted Fire Signals (UwS)

In December 2009, NFRS implemented a new UwS policy and the strategy for reducing our response to UFS calls is based on a number of principles including liaising with and educating the responsible person taking full responsibility for the alarm system and all fire safety measures in premises as detailed in the FSO.

Subsequently and in line with the policy the FP Department will ensure that they;

- Provide consistent enforcement decisions and best advice in respect of new building projects and alterations to existing buildings to ensure that appropriate detection is used in order to prevent possible UwS. UwS advice will be included in all building regulations consultations.
- Prior to inspections; FPO's will interrogate the UFS page of the premises CFRMIS file, any recorded UwS should be noted and discussed with the responsible person during the inspection.
- On all premises visits, FPO's will take the opportunity to discuss the management of the fire alarm system and UwS reduction where appropriate to

do so. In multi-occupied premises they will ensure that suitable and sufficient procedures between the occupiers are in place.

In addition to the above, there are a number of triggers relating to the number of individual premises UWS.

If premises cause four UWS within a six-month period, FP support will generate a letter to the premises explaining the issues these unwanted signals cause NFRS and indicating that future UWS will generate an FP inspection.

If that premises continues to generate Uws, then a sixth event within the six month period will generate an inspection under the remit of the FSO.

This will generally be an audit, however, if this is not appropriate then a thematic inspection should be undertaken concentrating on the aspects that have caused the level of unwanted fire signals to the NFRS.

NFRS UWS policy gives more guidance.

Post Fire Inspections

As previously detailed, a fire or other incident may be a significant indicator that the fire safety management arrangements at a premises, have failed. Therefore, it is important to visit these premises to identify any breakdowns in fire safety management leading to the fire or other incident and to assess the adequacy of structural fire precautions, etc to assess if there can be any lessons learned.

Subsequent action taken by the Inspecting Officer will need to be proportional to the outcome of the investigation ranging from good will advice to possible enforcement action. It is also important to ensure that any lessons learned can be highlighted and discussed as appropriate.

These post fire visits are designed to look at a number of factors, for example;

- Failure in Structural Fire Precautions (fire spread)
- Fire Safety Management Systems
- Dangerous Substances
- Fire fighter Safety
- Involvement of other Agencies and Departments
- Effect of Incident on the Business
- FSEC Data Gathering

On a weekly basis FP groups will interrogate MIS/ CFRMIS relating to fires within their area and will visit as required, within a maximum of 2 working days. The inspection will also validate the IRS (Fire report) data to seek to ensure that it correctly reflects fire damage. Premises details, etc. The outcomes from this will be fed back to Response.

The levels of types of interventions are as follows;

Group	% to be inspected within 2 working days
A	100%
B	50%
C and D	25%

Therefore, any fire within a group A premises will receive an inspection from the Fire protection department and the premises assessed for compliance, etc.

Generally, the inspection will be of a 'thematic' type, however, the inspector can apply their own discretion as appropriate.

The post fire is the 'reason for inspection' and should be detailed accordingly.

Further detailed information can be found within the post fire guidance documentation.

Follow up Initiative

Whilst, over the past few years, it has been a conscious decision to reduce the number of follow ups arising from initial inspections, it is felt that a sample of previous offenders should take place to ascertain whether or not these premises continue to breach FSO articles.

This will inform future direction relating to how and what the Fire Authority follows up.

Subsequently, each group will sample (by a thematic or audit inspection) from those premises that over the past 18 months have been issued with a Notice of Deficiencies. Premises to be visited should be considered against the seriousness of the original contraventions.

Reason for inspection should be detailed as 'follow up initiative'.

Fire Protection Group Initiative

It is recognised that there may be more local issues that Inspecting Officers would wish to investigate in order to assess if there are any risks that may be presented to those frequenting the building and that may not be covered by the County wide risk based inspection programme.

This may involve working with other NFRS departments e.g. response districts weeks of action may be an opportunity for some inspection activity and these initiatives need to be discussed with the relevant stakeholders/ departments.

Subsequently, Groups will undertake a local initiative, that will be supported by sound evidence and reasoning. Outcomes from this initiative will be reported back and assessed for wider implementation.

Research will be undertaken by the Support Team, in 2010/11, to identify potential weeks of action/ themes that are Fire Protection driven and that will be able to be undertaken by the geographical groups.

Large Projects

As part of the planning processes, any known future projects of an extensive nature; e.g. town centre developments or a large hospital complex, which result in a continuing involvement should be assessed and time allotted separately e.g. The provision of a new large shopping centre complex within the city may require 6 days Officer time and this may be included in the City group plan for the relevant year.

Alternatively the Fire Protection Project Group may be asked to lead on a known major project and will include the geographical group officers as an integral part of the project expectations. These responsibilities will be discussed at the time the large building project is known and allocated accordingly.

The same principle will apply to the 'unknown/ unplanned' large projects that require FP resources through the life of this plan.

Geographical group Station Manager will raise these matters when they feel there is some conflict that requires additional resourcing.

Activity on large projects should be recorded as a specific – with the reason being detailed as 'large shopping centre complex' and actual involvement can be assessed against these records.

Enforcement Action – Potential Prosecution

Whilst, not an inspection in itself, this work should be recorded within the relevant section of CFRMIS; enabling the Department to assess the ongoing commitment to this work and to compile a costs schedule, in the event of the breaches reaching Court.

This activity begins when it is believed that there is potential for prosecution and a member of the enforcement team is tasked to lead and establish a case file.

Fire Safety Training Programme

It has been identified through a number of meetings within Fire Protection and with Response that, whilst the systems of work are in place to ensure risk critical issues are identified, etc; the 'face to face' interaction with Response needs to be strengthened. It is stated in the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2010-2013, stating that Fire Protection will work with operational crews to make sure they have a clear understanding of technical fire safety issues.

This will raise awareness of fire protection issues and modern day building design, with our operational staff.

Each operational Watch and Section will be visited by specialist staff, focusing on issues such as fire protection structures, fire safety legislation, audit process links, and the collation of firefighter safety data.

On a rolling basis, year by year, in the first 6 months each Operational Watch will be visited by the nominated inspecting group and this visit will concentrate on a number of issues including; Fire Protection structure; Fire Safety legislation, audit processes slinks, Fire fighter safety data collation, Ops thematic inspections. In the second six months a further visit will be made and concentrate on issues relating to Building Construction, Compartmentation, Fire fighter safety measures within premises, etc.

Presentations, for both visits will be prepared by the Fire Protection Support team.

Additionally, those Firefighters within their probationary period are required to undertake certain FP experience; including shadowing FP officers on certain audits. Whilst Response will arrange to release these Firefighters to attend the local FP office and make the relevant arrangements, the local FP Officers will accommodate this input as appropriate.

Validation of Data

Since the inception of the FSO in late 2006, NFRS are responsible for a greater number of premises that previously did not fall under the remit of fire safety statute. It is accepted that the data sets are still not satisfactory and work needs to continue to further ensure that the risk based approach is founded upon good data sets. Each group needs to continue to identify anomalies in their data and work toward validating this and ensuring that key premises data is captured. Additionally FP Support team will continue to contribute to this area as a matter of priority and is included as an integral part of its core work.

Maintaining Officer Availability

Each Group will maintain at least one officer who is available to respond to events that may occur within the geographical area. This will particularly relate to complaints and the Officer will be available from 0900-1700 hours (on each normal working day).

This 'availability rota' will be maintained by each Station Manager and be centrally accessible, thereby, allowing the fire protection advice line administrator to contact Officers as appropriate

HMOs

A joint Protocol between Local Housing Authorities and Fire and Rescue Authorities was published in 2007 and sets out the interrelationship between the two most important pieces of legislation relating to fire safety in homes, the Housing Act 2004 and Fire Safety Order 2005.

This predominantly relates to maintaining safety from the risk of fire in the home, especially in mixed use premises, or where the occupiers share vital parts of the building with persons who are not members of the same family.

When it comes to fire safety both the Local Housing Authority and the Fire and Rescue Authority have a range of responsibilities and it is important these are exercised with a common purpose and in a consistent way.

NFRS assess this group of premises as presenting a significant degree of risk potential to those residing in these premises and fully support the protocols intent to improve fire safety in this category of premises.

However, the area of HMO and associated social Housing and its duplication with the Housing Act 2004 is a complicated issue and requires more work, definition and clarity.

Subsequently the FP Project Group will undertake the work aimed at defining NFRS role in these and associated premises. This will include identifying partners, joint working protocols and establishing quality data sets.

It is not envisaged that, in 2010/11, further inspecting resources will be required within the traditional HMO.