



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY – STATEMENT OF INTENT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 13 December 2024

Purpose of Report:

To advise Members that the Service's written Health and Safety Statement of Intent has recently been reviewed and no changes are required at this time.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the contents of this report and approve the continuing use of the current Health and Safety Statement of Intent.
- Approve the proposal to move this report from annual to two yearly reporting.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) is required to produce and review a written Health and Safety Policy which outlines its approach to identifying the hazards and associated risk to employees and others who may be affected by the work of the Service.
- 1.2 An important part of the Health and Safety Policy is a Statement of Intent (SOI). The SOI indicates the commitment of the organisation, and the senior person in the organisation, to effectively managing and delivering health and safety responsibilities.
- 1.3 The current SOI was last considered and endorsed by the Fire Authority on 15 December 2023.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The content of the SOI has been reviewed to reflect best practice of ensuring that the most senior person within the organisations sends a personal message to lead the direction of health and safety management. The review identified that no changes are necessary at this time.
- 2.2 Health and Safety Legislation requires a SOI to be reviewed on a 'regular' basis but allows the employer to set these review schedules. A recommendation of this report is that the review period moves from an annual to a two-yearly review. A two-year review is proposed for the following reasons:
 - The two-year review period will allow for further development of the NFRS Safety Management System using a consistent ethos as directed by the Chief Fire Officer.
 - The two-year period is in alignment with best practice guidance associated with health and safety SOIs which advises of review periods of between one and five years depending on the nature of the organisation.
- 2.3 In the event of an internal review, for example after a significant safety event, a change of management direction, or changes in legislation/guidance, where changes to the SOI are proposed, a report would be presented to Members for consideration prior to the fixed review date.
- 2.4 Endorsement signatures on the SOI of the Chief Fire Officer, the Chair of the Fire Authority, and representative bodies, continue to provide a collective, high-level commitment to the management of health and safety.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the Health and Safety Policy Statement of Intent.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

It is a requirement of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 that the Statement of Intent is brought to the attention of all employees. This will be achieved through the NFRS health and safety induction process, notice boards and MyNet. The communications plan will be reviewed by the Service's Health and Safety Working Committee.

5. EQUALITIES AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

The statement of Intent is an open and honest statement that will be available to all employees and relevant stakeholders, informing all of the cultural and ethical practices relating to health and safety.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental or sustainability implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

It is a legal requirement under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 for employers to prepare and as often as may be appropriate, revise a written Statement of Intent, with respect to the health and safety at work of their employees.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Health and Safety Statement of Intent is the basis for the Service's commitment to having an effective health and safety management system.
- 8.2 An effective health and safety management system ensures a proactive approach to identifying, managing and mitigating risk, thus ensuring the safety of staff, partners and communities.
- 8.3 Failure to have a statement of intent could lead to enforcement action from the Health and Safety Executive.

- 8.4 A Health and Safety Statement of Intent is a requirement for the Service's insurance providers. Failure to have one could lead to increased premiums or not being able to obtain insurance cover leading to increased costs and liability for the Service.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are no collaboration implications arising from this report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the contents of this report and approve the continuing use of the current Health and Safety Statement of Intent.
- 10.2 Approve the proposal to move this report from annual to two yearly reporting.

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

None.

Craig Parkin
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER



Health and Safety – Statement of Intent

The Fire Authority, trade unions and I are committed to establishing a positive safety culture and ensuring that all our employees stay safe.

To achieve this, I commit that:

Compliance with published Acts, Regulations, procedures, and processes shall be the minimum requirement of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) and its employees – my aspiration is to go beyond these where practicable.

We will consult and engage with the workforce and others to promote and maintain safety, health (mental and physical), wellbeing, and welfare.

Adequate resources, structure, and a Safety Management System (SMS) will be provided to support health and safety practices.

You will receive the relevant training, information, and instruction for your position.

We will provide and maintain systems for safe plant and equipment, for safe handling of substances, maintain safe and healthy working conditions, and implement emergency procedures as required, reviewing all on a regular basis.

We will remove hazards and reduce risks as low as reasonably practicable using the hierarchy of controls as described in the Safety Management System.

Firefighters work in high-risk environments to protect our communities and the environment. In these situations, your training, risk management controls and preparations will be of the highest importance.

All contractors will be required to meet our minimum health, safety and welfare standards.

I expect:

Managers to ensure that health, safety and welfare is part of their management thinking and processes.

All employees to be proactive in looking out for their health, safety and welfare by training and reporting safety critical incidents, accidents, near misses, or other dangerous occurrences.

“To all my colleagues in NFRS – please stay safe”

**CREATING
SAFER
COMMUNITIES**

Chief Fire Officer Craig Parkin



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Michael Payne
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