

Fire and Rescue Service IMMEDIATE BULLETIN

Bulletin number: 9

11 July 2012

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The London Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer

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Title: Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

This item highlights the publication of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

Title Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

1 Background

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires a Fire and Rescue National Framework to be in place that sets out the priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions.
- 1.2 The Fire and Rescue Service Immediate Bulletin 7/2011 http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/20503171.pdf highlighted that the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP laid a Written Ministerial Statement which announced the public consultation of the Fire and Rescue National Framework Consultation document. This consultation ended on Monday 19 March 2012.

2 National Framework

- 2.1 The Fire Minister Bob Neill MP laid a Written Ministerial Statement to Parliament today announcing the publication of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England. Along side the Framework a summary of consultation responses was also published.
- 2.2 The Framework marks a key milestone in resetting the relationship between fire and rescue authorities and Government. It moves away from prescription, enabling fire and rescue authorities to deliver their services in a way that makes sense locally, while continuing to meet the wider needs of national resilience.
- 2.3 The Framework delivers on the Government commitment in it's response to the Fire Future Reports, to clearly define national resilience and to set out clear roles and responsibilities in relation to national resilience. The Framework also sets out arrangements for fire and rescue authorities to collectively engage with Government on national resilience issues through a new Fire and Rescue Strategic Resilience Board. Through this Board, we will take a collaborative approach to national resilience that is based on and drawn from local capability, expertise, knowledge and leadership.
- 2.4 The priorities in the Framework are for fire and rescue authorities to:
 - identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their area faces, make provision for prevention and protection activities and to respond to incidents appropriately;
 - work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and
 - be accountable to communities for the service they provide.
- 2.5 The existing National Framework remains in force until the new one is brought into effect, which will be over Summer 2012.
- 2.6 The Framework and summary of responses documents can be found at the Department for Communities and Local Government website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframework.

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