



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Fire and Rescue Monthly Bulletin

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**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: New Developments for the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit](#)

This items highlights updates and new developments to the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit

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This item highlights the publication of the consultations on the guidance for Statements of Assurance and on the revision of the Intervention Protocol.

## Fire Kills Campaign Annual Report 2011 - 2012

### 1. Background

The Department for Communities and Local Government published the Fire Kills Campaign Annual Report 2011-12 on 10 September 2012.

### 2. Annual Report

The annual report provides detail on the activity undertaken by the campaign in 2011-12 including information about the delivery and impact of the national advertising as well as the supporting Public Relations and national partnership activity. The report highlights how the national activity has facilitated and supported local delivery by fire and rescue authorities and provides some examples. The close collaboration we have with fire and rescue authorities on the campaign is one of its key strengths and we will continue to work closely with the Fire Kills Practitioners' Group.

The report can be found via this link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/firekillsreport201112>.

For further information please contact:

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## Fire Kills Campaign National Advertising 2012 - 13

### 1. Background

National advertising for the Fire Kills campaign will begin on Monday 15 October. Its focus is again to encourage people to test their smoke alarms when they turn back their clocks over the weekend of 27/28 October 2012. The campaign's national advertising strategy remains as set out in Fire and Rescue Bulletin 15, issued in October 2011: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsb152011>

### 2. National Advertising

An evaluation of last year's 'clock change' national advertising campaign reported that one in seven people tested their smoke alarm over the clock change weekends in October and March. We want to build on this success in 2012-13 and have reflected findings of the evaluation in the new media schedule.

Radio advertising will start on Monday 15 October 2012 with its frequency increasing up to and including Saturday 27 October 2012. Press advertising will support the radio message: in national newspapers, TV listings and women's weekly magazines. In addition, 'out of home' advertising – specifically, posters in bus shelters - will be trialled in two fire and rescue authority areas; the West Midlands and Tyne and Wear. All print adverts will feature 'burnt clock' images similar to those used last year.

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## Fire Procurement Pipelines

### 1. Background

Neil O'Connor's letter of 25 September 2012 to all Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Fire Officers copied to Fire Finance Groups requested assistance from fire and rescue authorities in publishing medium-term plans, identifying the potential procurement opportunities likely to arise over the next 3 years to give suppliers the confidence to invest for the future and compete on a level playing field via Contracts Finder.

This is a free facility for small and medium-sized businesses to find online public sector procurement and sub-contracting opportunities which has been extended to provide new pipeline data. Contracts Finder can be found at: [www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/](http://www.contractsfinder.businesslink.gov.uk/).

### 2. Procurement Pipelines

Contracts Finder ensures that any gaps between demand and supply can be identified and that pipelines of opportunities are published. Progress has been made in this way with the tunneling industry and this will ultimately help strengthen the United Kingdom supply chain and other organisations, including fire and rescue authorities, with minimal effort.

Contracts Finder can also:

- Find live procurements and potential opportunities in the pipeline
- Show tender and contract information
- Find out who a contract was awarded to
- Allow users to specify which contracts they are interested in and details will be emailed free of charge
- Cut away unnecessary bureaucracy and waste by streamlining the procurement process
- Improve the transparency of public procurement opportunities
- Make it easier for suppliers, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to find and apply for public sector contracts

Many sectors are already publishing lists of future procurements in response to the commitments made in the 2011 Autumn statement. Other sectors such as fire are being asked to commence publishing pipelines. The Department has already approached certain fire and rescue authorities to help populate pipelines and is very grateful for the assistance given to date. The Department is now asking all fire and rescue authorities for help to get as much information on future procurements for the pipeline.

Type of information required for pipelines:

- Description of the requirement
- Confidence rating (low/medium/high) recognising that the pipeline will comprise of potential opportunities
- Estimated value of the contract by financial year
- Location where project will be carried out
- Estimated date of the new procurement
- Estimate of when the goods/services will be delivered
- Type of contract

Fire and rescue authorities should already be publishing this information under the Local Government Transparency Code. The Fire and Rescue Suppliers Association, the trade association representing the suppliers to the fire and rescue sector, strongly supports the pipeline initiative. By identifying and sharing projected data on key procurement categories on a three year schedule, this will assist suppliers and individual fire and rescue authorities in pursuing collaborative processes that will drive efficiencies from the time of product demonstrations and trials all the way through to contract delivery.

Derek Gotts, Chair of Fire and Rescue Suppliers Association, stated 'This will help industry develop ideas and solutions to upcoming risks and changes in working practices. The trade body, representing a significant proportion of UK suppliers, believes that producing and sharing this information will help all major stakeholders, including its members that can align their businesses to meet projected demand and respond effectively to requirements for innovative new products.'

If you are interested please let the Department (Anna Wadsworth) know by **Monday 15 October 2012**. You can provide links to any other portals that contain relevant information about forthcoming purchases.

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## New developments for the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit

### 1. Background

The Fire Service Emergency Cover toolkit is a suite of software that is used to assist with the planning of fire and rescue authority activity. The toolkit allows each fire and rescue authority to carry out a risk-based assessment of their area in support of Integrated Risk Management Planning. The Fire Service Emergency Cover process consists of three main components: risk assessment; response planning and modeling the consequences of resource deployments.

### 2. Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit, updates, further development and support

Fire Service Emergency Cover update 21 has now been released which:

- Provides additional support for the display and querying of Incident Recording Data within the Fire Service Emergency Cover
- Enhances the Fire Service Emergency Cover model with a new driver to support risk modeling at a sub national level
- Allows the Toolkit to be used to manage the Provision of Operational Risk Information process. This functionality will pre-populate a Provision of Operational Risk Information assessment database with the other building site assessment information already contained within the Toolkit. This will assist fire and rescue authorities with harmonising their data holdings and following a structured data gathering operation

Further development work is also continuing. Work currently underway includes:

- Moving to a more varied appliance crewing model with greater control of shift pattern modeling
- Modeling incident distributions throughout time of day and also split by weekday/weekend
- Updating the special service model to reflect a better understanding gained through Incident Recording Data
- Moving to linear rather than step functions for response time fatality relationships
- Enhancing the other buildings module to include individual risk calculations
- Modeling outcomes in terms of casualties as well as fatalities
- Tools to assess the impact of the introduction of response standards on risk, and to support the development of risk based attendance standards
- Working with ordnance survey to support the AddressBase gazetteer
- Inclusion of the 2011 Census data

New arrangements for the Fire Service Emergency Cover Toolkit support service are due to be in place by the end of October 2012.

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## Publication of Consultations on guidance for Statements of Assurance and Intervention Protocol

### 1. Background

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England ('the Framework'), published 11 July 2012, sets out that "Fire and rescue authorities must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in this Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance."

Section 23 of the *Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004* requires that an Intervention Protocol be prepared, and for the Secretary of State to have regard to it, in the exercise of his powers of intervention under section 22.

### 2. Consultations

On 20 September Minister for Fire and Rescue Brandon Lewis MP published consultations on draft guidance on the Statements of Assurance and the Intervention Protocol revision. The Minister wrote to all Chairs of Fire and Rescue Authorities and Chief Fire Officers to highlight publication of the consultations.

The Framework highlights/sets out:

- **Statement of Assurance** - the measures that will ensure that fire and rescue authorities provide local scrutiny arrangements and access to a range of information to help communities influence and be assured of the robustness of local delivery arrangements
- **Statement of Assurance** - to publish an annual statement of assurance and noted the forthcoming provision of guidance on the nature of the assurance statements
- **Statement of Assurance** - each fire and rescue authority is expected to sign off their statement, ensuring that it has been subject to the authority's scrutiny arrangements
- **Intervention Protocol** - that the Government intention to use its intervention powers only as a last resort, for example, where the risk of failure is deemed so serious as to require immediate and directive action to resolve. Any use of intervention powers will be in accordance with the intervention protocol as set out in section 23 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

The light touch guidance sets out suggestions on the contents of Statements of Assurance though the format is a matter for fire and rescue authorities to decide on. The proposed revision to the Intervention Protocol sets out the process should formal intervention be considered necessary e.g. where the Secretary of State considers that a fire and rescue authority is failing, or is likely to fail, to act in accordance with the Framework which requires immediate government action to address. This Intervention Protocol applies to all fire and rescue authorities in England.

The consultation documents are available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/guidanceonstatementsofassurance> and  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/governmentprotocol>.

They are both eight week consultations which end on **15 November 2012**. Please send responses to [fsed6@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fsed6@communities.gsi.gov.uk) (with any attachments in Microsoft Word).

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