



Fire Authority for Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards & Integrated Risk Management Action Plan 2006/07

April 2006

You can obtain a copy of this Plan, on request, in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, disc and audio cassette and in minority languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English. For further information contact:

In writing: IRMP Team
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
1 Seymour Street
Lisburn
BT27 4SX

By telephone: 028 9266 4221
By textphone: 028 9262 8800
By Fax: 028 9267 7402
Via email: irmp@nifb.org

	Page
Chairman’s Foreword	5
Background	6
Consultation Overview	7
Section 1 Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards	9
1.1 Introduction	10
1.2 Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards	10
1.3 Summary of Consultation Responses	14
Section 2 Projects 1 - 8	21
2.1 Introduction	22
2.2 Summary of Key Projects and Consultation Responses	23
Project 1 - Carry out a Review of Emergency Cover across the Service Area	23
Project 2 - Carry out a Special Service Incident Risk Assessment	24
Project 3 - Review of Unwanted Fire Signals Policy	25
Project 4 - Introduce a Risk Based Home Fire Safety Inspection Programme	27
Project 5 - Examine the role of non-uniformed Community Safety and Training Centre staff	29
Project 6 - Business Continuity Management Plan	30
Project 7 - Standard Operating Procedures	31
Project 8 - Manage, Monitor, Produce and Publish Future IRMPs	32
Section 3 IRMP Action Plan 2006/07	33
3.1 Introduction	34
3.2 IRMP Action Plan 2006/07	34

On behalf of the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland, I am delighted to present our Emergency Response Standards and Integrated Risk Management Action Plan for 2006/07.

Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) is our new approach to providing emergency cover in Northern Ireland. It is working towards improved community safety and strong partnerships with other agencies, to reduce injuries and deaths across a wide range of life threatening emergencies such as fires, road traffic collisions and other special service related incidents.

IRMP is at the heart of all our activities in Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service and it is also fully integrated into the Fire Authority's Strategic Plans.

IRMP is key to the modernisation agenda for fire and rescue services right across the UK and our IRMP Action Plan is a tailor made solution for Northern Ireland's changing needs for emergency cover. We have now developed our own local Emergency Response Standards for Northern Ireland, which will replace the generic national standards on 1 April 2006.

This third IRMP Action Plan is on a continuum with the first and second Action Plans. It will help us to deliver an even better fire and rescue service for everyone in Northern Ireland.

This document provides an overview of our 12 week consultation period which concluded on 28 February 2006, and is divided into three sections.

Section 1 - Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards

The first section is our key IRMP project – new local Emergency Response Standards that have been specifically developed for Northern Ireland. This section provides a reader friendly summary of the new local standards. All views received during the consultation period have been taken into account and considered by the Fire Authority. The analysis of the responses received in relation to the proposed Emergency Response Standards is also included in Section 1.

Section 2 - Summary of Key Proposals and Consultation Responses

This section includes details of new projects for our third year Action Plan and includes an analysis of the responses



Mr W F Gillespie
Chairman of the Fire Authority

received during the consultation period, specifically in relation to Projects 1-8.

Section 3 - IRMP Action Plan 2006/07

This section contains the Fire Authority's IRMP Action Plan for 2006/07.

All of the projects contained in our IRMP Action Plan 2006/07 will ensure NIFRS continues to provide an effective firefighting, rescue and fire safety service.

If you would like to find out more about your Fire & Rescue Service please log onto our website www.nifrs.org.

William F Gillespie OBE TD MBA JP DL
FCIOB FSCA
**Chairman of the Fire Authority for
Northern Ireland**

Background

The Fire Authority

Ultimate responsibility for producing the Integrated Risk Management Plan rests with the Fire Authority, with the support of the Chief Fire Officer and his staff.

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service is responsible to the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland, which is a Non-Departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS).

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

NIFRS provides emergency cover for the whole of Northern Ireland - an area of over 5,500 square miles, with a population of 1.7 million. Emergency cover is provided at Fire Station level by a current establishment of:

- * 901 Wholetime firefighters
- * 980 Retained firefighters
- * 12 Volunteer firefighters
- * 59 Control staff
- * 208 Support staff (plus 53 part-time Caretakers)

Management of Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

NIFRS is managed by the Chief Fire Officer who is the Chief Executive, assisted by a Deputy Chief Fire Officer, two Assistant Chief Fire Officers and three non-uniformed Directors, collectively known as the Principal Officers and Directors Group.

The Area Command structure is supported by a District structure, made up of 14 Districts, strategically placed across Northern Ireland. District Commands were introduced to create a community focus for NIFRS activities. Area Commanders, each responsible for one of the four Area Commands in NIFRS, manage operational activity on a day to day basis.

Fire Stations

NIFRS has a total of 67 Fire Stations, eight of which are staffed by Wholetime (full-time) firefighters, six are staffed by a combination of Wholetime and Retained (part-time) firefighters and the remainder are staffed by Retained firefighters with one volunteer Fire Station on Rathlin Island.

The Wholetime firefighters based at Fire Stations in the larger towns and cities throughout the Province are immediately available to attend an emergency incident.

Wholetime firefighters are organised into watches (shifts) and crew Fire Stations 24 hours per day. The Retained firefighters based in their own towns go about their daily business in the normal way until they receive an emergency call. They then make their way to the Fire Station and respond to the incident.

Consultation Exercise

The Fire Authority's Consultation Document: "Proposed Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards & Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2006/07" was issued for public consultation on 1 December 2005, for a period of three months.

To assist in obtaining the views of the public the Fire Authority included a questionnaire containing questions relating to the proposed Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards.

The consultation process was widely advertised, both internally and externally, with the main messages being communicated via email, NIFRS intranet, Service Circular, posters, leaflets and letters of introduction. Extensive media coverage included news articles in daily papers, the DCFO on a popular BBC phone-in radio show, as well as coverage in weekly community newspapers across Northern Ireland. News articles generated for proposed Emergency Response Standards were further complemented with public notices in the main daily newspapers.

We targeted our major stakeholders with letters of introduction to this year's draft IRMP and proposed Emergency Response Standards, plus a copy of the consultation document and invited a response by 28 February 2006.

Our major stakeholders include:

- * Public Representatives (via Local Councils and elected officials)
- * Local Authorities
- * Education and Library Boards
- * Stakeholder Organisations (including Emergency Services, Housing Executive, Health & Social Services, Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety, Government Departments)
- * Representative Bodies
- * Members of the public who have requested to be included in NIFRS consultations

The Consultation Document was also made available to all staff in each of our 67 Fire Stations, Area and District Headquarters, NIFRS Training Centre and the Library at NIFRS Headquarters.

Seven in-house consultation meetings were held in January 2006, one at each Area Command, one at NIFRS Training Centre and two at NIFRS Headquarters.

A consultation meeting was offered to all Representative Bodies and this was accepted by the Retained Firefighter's Union. A representative from the Fire Brigades Union availed of the opportunity to attend an internal IRMP presentation.

Summary of Consultation Responses

Six written responses were received from:

- * Ards Borough Council
- * An employee
- * Fire Brigades Union
- * Police Service of Northern Ireland
- * Retained Firefighters' Union
- * Southern Health & Social Services Board

An additional 15 completed questionnaires were received from:

- * Ballymena Borough Council
- * Belfast City Airport Fire Service
- * Unibase
- * Down District Council
- * Employee x 7
- * Member of the Public x 2
- * Police Service of Northern Ireland
- * Western Health & Social Services Board

Consultation Overview

The in-house consultation meetings were attended by both uniformed and non-uniformed staff with the following attendances at each meeting:

* NIFRS Headquarters	60+
* Southern Area Command	15
* Eastern Area Command	8
* Western Area Command	30
* Northern Area Command	10
* Training Centre	9

A number of comments were recorded at these internal Consultation Meetings.

A summary of consultation responses is contained within this document. However, if you would like a copy of the full consultation responses (with the exception of those where confidentiality has been requested) please apply in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
NIFRS Headquarters
1 Seymour Street
Lisburn
BT27 4SX

Section 1 Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards

1.1 Introduction

1.2 Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards

1.3 Summary of Consultation Responses

1.1 Introduction

This section details our key IRMP project – new local Emergency Response Standards that have been specifically developed for Northern Ireland.

Proposal 4 of the Fire Authority's IRMP Action Plan 2005/06, published in April 2004 committed the Fire Authority to the following project:

“The Fire Authority will introduce new standards of emergency cover and provide the appropriate speed and weight of attack to deal with incidents which may occur”

NIFRS Proposed Emergency Response Standards were issued for consultation at the same time as the Fire Authority's proposals for the IRMP Action Plan 2006/07 (contained within Section 2 of this document).

A questionnaire relating specifically to NIFRS Proposed Emergency Standards was included in the Consultation Document to encourage responses from all internal and external stakeholders.

This Section contains an overview of this proposal, a summary of consultation responses and the Fire Authority's response.

1.2 Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards

Background

Since the 1930s Fire Authorities have utilised National Standards of fire cover to assess risk in their respective geographic areas. These standards were based on property and encouraged Fire Authorities to target their resources towards high density areas to provide an appropriate speed and weight of response. Priority was not given to areas of high life risk due to dwelling fires. Further the standards did not consider risks other than those involving fire, e.g. chemical incidents or road traffic collisions.

The introduction of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) in 2003 tasked Fire Authorities to develop 'Local Standards of Emergency Cover' to meet the needs of local communities. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) made available to Fire Authorities the results of the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) project to assist with this task. The Fire Authority for Northern Ireland adopted this methodology to develop its new standards. In April 2004 Central Government withdrew the National Standards of Fire Cover.

The Risk Assessment Process

The FSEC process allows Fire Authorities to assess the risks in their geographic area in order to model the appropriate response, taking into consideration costs and benefits to the community, social demographic factors and historical incident data.

The process is carried out using four definitive stages:

1. Dwelling Fire Risk Assessment.
2. Special Service Risk Assessment.
3. Buildings (other than dwellings) Risk Assessment.
4. Risk Assessment of Potential Major Incidents.

Proposal 4 of the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland's IRMP Action Plan 2005/06 involved the completion of the dwelling fire risk assessment and the development of levels of emergency response to meet that risk. Future risk assessments will reinforce the new local standards.

The Dwelling Risk Assessment

The risk analysis was completed using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to model the effects of different response options on dwelling fire fatality rates.

The analysis utilised:

- * Four years actual incident data 2000-2003 inclusive
- * 2001 Census data, including:
 - social demographic indicators
 - population figures of each Output Area
- * Mathematical model developed for FSEC

There are 5,022 Census Output Areas in Northern Ireland. Census Output Areas are geographic boundaries which are subsections of electoral wards. They are used by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) in the analysis of census data and are recognised by all Government Departments. These were individually risk graded and placed in a Fire Rate Category ranging from Very High to Very Low.

Community Fire Safety

Integrated Risk Management Planning is not only about providing an operational response to incidents; it is also about preventing those incidents from occurring in the first place. The risk analysis is therefore used to target not only appliances and equipment but also Community Safety Resources.

A national study has shown that there is a relationship between instances of dwelling fires and rented accommodation/lone pensioners. These demographics have been used as part of a risk analysis.

The results of this risk analysis have already enabled NIFRS to target those most at risk from fires in the home, providing appropriate advice in an attempt to reduce the risk of death or injury.

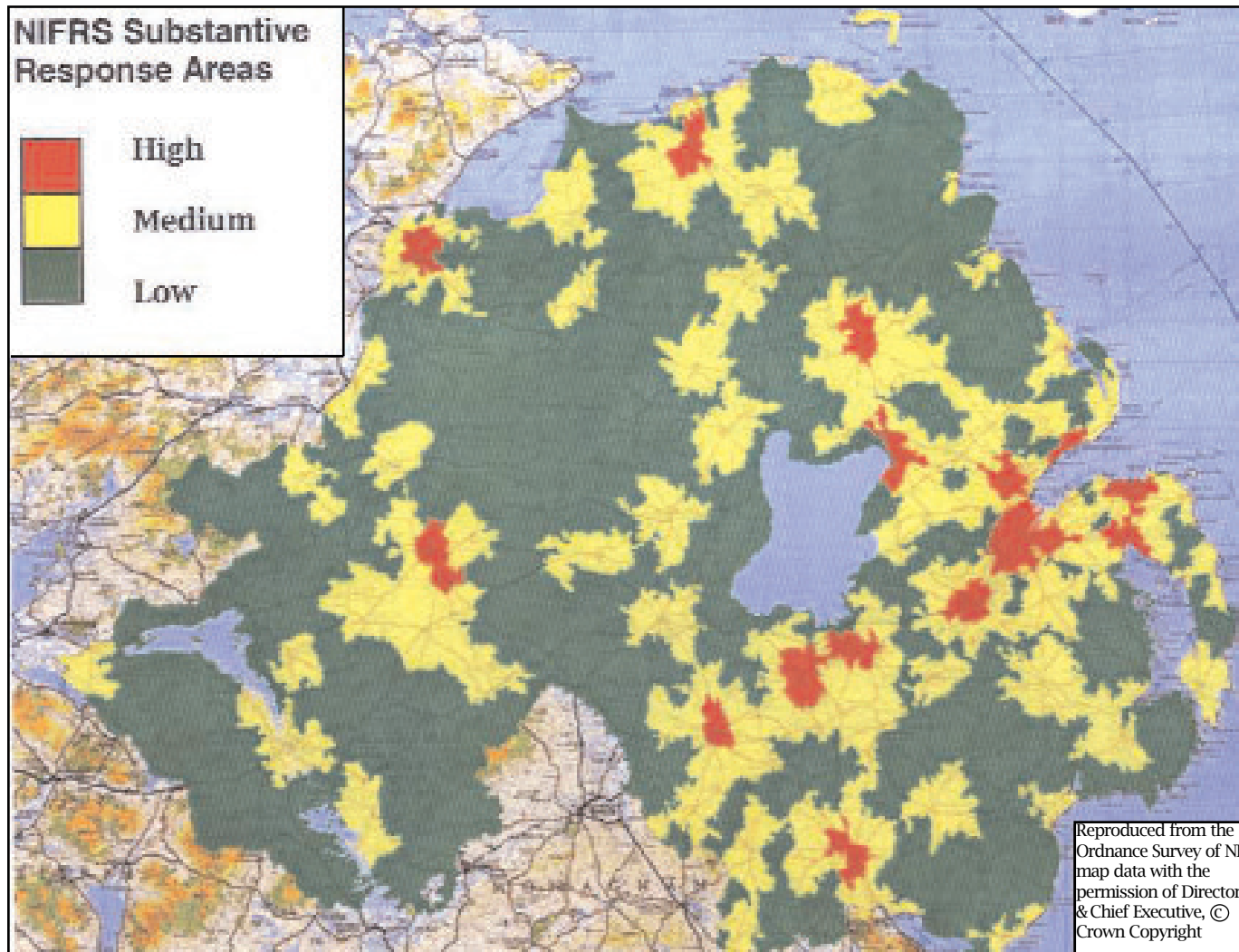
Response – Making a Difference

A fast response to incidents can make the difference between life and death. The FSEC process therefore concentrates on the effect of attendance times as the primary driver for reducing risk to life by operational means.

It is also important that the correct number of firefighters attend each incident to enable firefighting operations to be conducted in a safe and effective manner. Collectively this response is known as the 'speed and weight of attack'.

The Fire Authority completed an extensive cost benefit analysis to determine where we can make a difference in the most cost effective and efficient way.

This work has resulted in the determination of new substantive response areas and development of attendance times to provide appropriate resources to meet the risks.



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Substantive Response Areas

The Fire Authority proposes to respond to substantive response areas in accordance with the table below:

Substantive Response Area	Attendance Time of Appliances*	
	1st Appliance	1st Appliance
HIGH	6 mins	9 mins
MEDIUM	12 mins	15 mins
LOW	21 mins	24 mins

Emergency Response Standards

The new standards require a crew of five personnel on the first appliance and four on the second. NIFRS will continue to send an enhanced response of three pumping appliances to fires where persons are reported as missing.

* Attendance Time of Appliances will be measured from the time NIFRS Control receives the call to the time of attendance at the incident.

Secondary Fires

Secondary fires are those fires involving derelict buildings or derelict vehicles, single buildings under demolition, fires confined to chimneys, other outdoor fires such as those involving grassland, gardens and fences, refuse and refuse containers.

Under normal circumstances secondary fires do not usually pose a risk to life but constitute the largest percentage of calls received by NIFRS. In determining the life risk model for dwelling fires and allocating resources to meet this risk NIFRS will also provide sufficient resources to deal effectively with secondary incidents.

Life risk incidents will take precedence over secondary incidents.

Issues arising from Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards

1. Life risk incidents shall take precedence over secondary incidents**.
2. Community Fire Safety initiatives are to be targeted in accordance with the levels of risk, and priority will be given to targeting Community Fire Safety initiatives in Output Areas of very high risk where it is not feasible to meet the fastest response time.
3. The Emergency Response Standards will be measured from the time NIFRS Control receives a call to the time of attendance at the incident.
4. The Emergency Response Standards are based on substantive response areas for each station and these standards are to be met on at least 75% of occasions.
5. There is potential to provide full-time firefighters during the busiest periods on some more stations.
6. The Emergency Response Standards include a Cost Benefit Analysis.
7. A further study of NIFRS area will be undertaken to determine emergency cover arrangements taking into consideration the new Emergency Response Standards.
8. The Response Area Map of Northern Ireland shall be incorporated into NIFRS Command & Control system.
9. The Sophlogic Management Information System (MIS) will be updated or replaced to allow measurement of performance against the new standards.
10. The effectiveness of Community Fire Safety on levels of life risk is to be measured on a three yearly basis when appropriate alterations may be made relating to operational intervention.
11. In line with IRMP a further risk assessment will be carried out to determine Emergency Response Standards to Special Service Incidents.
12. Calls to Automatic Fire Alarms will initially not be measured under the new Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards, although NIFRS will continue to monitor and measure these calls, as part of its overall performance management policy.

*** Secondary incidents are those fires involving derelict buildings or derelict vehicles, single buildings under demolition, fires confined to chimneys, other outdoor fires such as those involving grassland, gardens and fences, refuse and refuse containers.*

1.2 Summary of Consultation Responses

The primary purpose of the Consultation Document was to obtain views from as wide a range of stakeholders. Opinions and ideas were sought on a range of proposals that may affect our communities. To assist this process, the Fire Authority published a consultation questionnaire, specifically relating to our Proposed Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards, which was included in the Consultation Document.

This Section contains both quantitative (tick-box questions) and qualitative (semi-structured questions) responses obtained from this questionnaire. In addition, we have included the key themes emerging from the staff forums which were very useful in gauging staff attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences and reactions in a way which would not have been feasible using a questionnaire.

All consultation responses have been considered by the Fire Authority and its comments have been highlighted in red.

Question 1:

Do you agree/disagree with the proposed Emergency Response Standards?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Strongly Agree	33.3%	5
Agree	46.7%	7
Disagree	6.7%	1
Strongly Disagree	6.7%	1
No Opinion	6.7%	1

Consultation Summary:

- * 80% of respondents agreed with the proposed Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards.

*“..we are encouraged to see that the Emergency Response Standards target many areas of risk within Southern Health & Social Services Board boundaries.”
(Southern Health & Social Services Board)*

“The FBU in Northern Ireland fully supports the principle of risk based fire service planning and the concept of risk based emergency cover provision, based on the principles of the FSEC methodology” (Fire Brigades Union)

* The Fire Authority is pleased to note the general support for the Standards of Emergency Cover, including that from the Fire Brigades Union, Southern Health & Social Services Board, Belfast City Airport Fire Service, Ards Borough Council and the Police Service of Northern Ireland

* In relation to the change from national to local standards of emergency provision one respondent felt that the previous National Standards allowed a degree of uniformity across the UK which local standards did not provide. Some others felt that the Emergency Response Standards represent an increase in response times in some areas.

* It is recognised that risk is not uniformly distributed across the UK and all Fire Authorities have been tasked by Central Government to examine risk on a local basis and set standards of response to meet that risk.

* In relation to the comments regarding an increased response time when compared to the previous National Standards, the Fire Authority believes the proposed local Emergency Response Standards offer an enhanced

level of emergency cover, targeted specifically at life risk. The current location of Fire Stations and the provision of personnel and equipment in provincial towns across Northern Ireland has not changed. Consequently, the response times provided by personnel at these locations will be at least the minimum that was provided under the old National Standards. However, where it has been identified that there is a high life risk the standard of response will be increased.

- * A number of respondents questioned the time period of the historical incident data used in the risk assessment process; some felt it was not a sufficient time period and others were concerned it was not the most up-to-date information.
- * The Fire Authority is satisfied that NIFRS has used incident data which covers a sufficient period of time in line with national guidance and that it is the most up-to-date, geographically accurate data available.

- * One respondent expressed support for a performance measurement system to be developed for Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards, however some queries were raised as to the how exactly the Emergency Response Standards would be measured and how a benchmark of 75% was decided upon.
- * The percentage benchmark was set for the Emergency Response Standards in line with what was required to be achieved under the previous National Standards of Fire Cover. This has been set as an initial target by the Fire Authority with an aim towards continual improvement. As Fire Authorities are now required to set Emergency Response Standards on a local basis, it is necessary to determine a suitable method to benchmark performance. NIFRS propose to benchmark the new standard internally using comparisons between Area and District commands. The Emergency Response Standards will be measured in 3 parts:
 - (a) Number of firefighters attending an incident
 - (b) Number of appliances attending an incident
 - (c) Response time of appliances from time of call

- * Two respondents felt that a 21 minute Response Standard was not sufficient for low risk areas. One believed that 100% of households should (as far as possible) receive an emergency response within 10 minutes, with identified high risk areas receiving a 6 minute response. Some other respondents believed that 90% of properties should be guaranteed a Fire Service response within 12 minutes.
- * The predictive analysis used in the Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) process enables the Fire Authority to provide the correct resource level for the perceived risk. FSEC is a National model providing best practice and is used by many Authorities across the UK. The Fire Authority is satisfied that the response times indicated by the Dwelling Risk Assessment provide an effective solution for the people of Northern Ireland.
- * There was general agreement with the proposed 'weight of attack' - 9 personnel and 2 appliances within 3 minutes of each other, however there was some concern that this 3 minute minimum time period would not be achievable.

- * The Fire Authority is committed to providing a Safe System of Work at all incidents and will therefore strive to meet the proposed attendance times on all occasions
- * It was suggested by some respondents that the inclusion of call handling time in the overall response time could have caused miscalculations in the risk assessment process and therefore impact on effective service delivery.
- * The Fire Authority believes that in the interest of being open and transparent, the public be made aware of the actual time taken to respond to an emergency incident from the time a telephone call is received. We are satisfied that the Emergency Response Standards have been developed in line with national guidance and will continue to analyse all of the times involved in the calculation of emergency response.

Question 2:

Do you agree/disagree that the Emergency Response Standards should be based on the newly defined substantive response areas for each station?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Strongly Agree	33.3%	5
Agree	40.0%	6
Disagree	6.7%	1
Strongly Disagree	13.3%	2
No Opinion	6.7%	1

Consultation Summary:

- * 73.3 % (11) respondents indicated that the Emergency Response Standards should be based on the newly defined substantive response area for each station.
- * Some respondents felt that risk should be based on historical incident data only i.e. the number of fires and the numbers of casualties involved in these fires.

- * The Dwelling Risk Assessment uses historical incident data and NIFRS has a proven correlation between the Socio-Demographic indicators used in the risk assessment (numbers of Rented Accommodation and Lone Pensioners) and the actual casualty rate at incidents. This provides the basis on which the risk to life can be predicted depending upon the speed of operational intervention.
- * One respondent pointed out that Lough Neagh and Lough Erne, useful landmarks for navigating the Province, were not visible on the Substantive Response Area map.
- * The Fire Authority acknowledges this point and the Substantive Response Area map has been redrawn to show Lough Neagh and Lower and Upper Lough Erne.

Question 3:

Do you agree/disagree that the Emergency Response Standards should be based on the Cost Benefit Analysis?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Strongly Agree	40.0%	6
Agree	33.3%	5
Disagree	13.3%	2
Strongly Disagree	6.7%	1
No Opinion	6.7%	1

Consultation Summary:

* 73.3% (11) respondents agreed that the Emergency Response Standards should be based on the Cost Benefit Analysis with only 20% (3) of respondents disagreeing.

* The majority of respondents agreed with the use of a Cost Benefit Analysis.

“The Service must include cost benefit to any issue” (Belfast City Airport Fire Service)

** Secondary incidents are those fires involving derelict buildings or derelict vehicles, single buildings under demolition, fires confined to chimneys, other outdoor fires such as those involving grassland, gardens and fences, refuse and refuse containers.

* One respondent felt that the application of a cost benefit analysis to a public service was not appropriate.

“I believe that looking at cost benefit analysis further removes the ‘service’ from being just that to a business” (Member of the Public)

* The Fire Authority like all Public Services is required to ensure prudent use of public funds. Cost Benefit Analysis is a framework widely used across the UK to ensure public services provide value for money. In accepting this principle however, the Fire Authority is committed to ensuring that this approach is not at the expense of operational effectiveness.

Question 4:

Do you agree/disagree that life risk incidents shall take precedence over secondary incidents?**

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Strongly Agree	80.0%	12
Agree	13.3%	2
Disagree	0%	0
Strongly Disagree	0%	0
No Opinion	6.7%	1

Consultation Summary:

* There was complete support from all respondents for this proposal.

“Life risk is of paramount importance when compared with attending a rubbish fire” (Employee)

* The Fire Authority is pleased to note the overall agreement that life risk shall take precedence over secondary incidents. As a consequence of providing an emergency response for life risk incidents NIFRS will also be putting in place sufficient resources to deal effectively with secondary incidents**.

Question 5:

Do you agree/disagree that priority should be given to targeting Community Safety initiatives in Output Areas of very high risk where it is not possible to meet the fastest response time in accordance with the levels of risk?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Strongly Agree	53.3%	8
Agree	26.7%	4
Disagree	13.3%	2
Strongly Disagree	0%	0
No Opinion	6.7%	1

Consultation Summary:

- * There was general support from respondents for this proposal. 80.2% (12) agreed, compared to 13.3% (2) who disagreed.
- * Some responders expressed concern that some Community Safety initiatives have yet to be proven as effective in reducing the risk to life in an area.

“Community Fire Safety targeting should be in the first instance an interim measure until the levels of response can match the levels of risk. It has been proven that a faster response makes a difference in terms of life risk, whilst it has yet to be demonstrated that Community Safety on its own can reduce the risk to those most vulnerable.” (Employee)

* The fundamental principle of IRMP involves the integration of fire protection, prevention and intervention to reduce the risk to life from fires and other incidents. The Fire Authority recognises that community fire safety measures alone have not yet been proven to be effective. It is therefore our proposal to target risk using both safety initiatives and intervention measures. Any reduction in the number of operational incidents will be measured, giving NIFRS an indication as to the effectiveness of community fire safety initiatives.

Question 6:

Are there any other issues that the Fire Authority should consider in relation to the development of Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Yes	46.7%	7
No	46.7%	7

Consultation Summary:

- * One respondent felt that the Dwelling Risk Assessment does not take account of NIFRS operational response during busy periods when the workload is high.
- * The Fire Authority agrees that the Dwelling Risk Assessment alone does not take account of response workload and therefore have included a proposal in the 2006/07 IRMP Action Plan to “Carry out a Review of Emergency Cover across the Service Area”. This review process will consider the outcomes of the Dwelling Risk Assessment and the effect on the overall workload of our resources, thus providing a sound basis upon which to base our emergency provision.

- * Another respondent suggested we take account of changes in the population and built environment when planning emergency cover.
- * The Fire Authority recognises that changes to the built environment and social demography will alter the risk profile over time. It has therefore been decided that we will carry out a full review of the risk assessment process every three years, with appropriate changes being made in how we target our resources.
- * One respondent suggested that in planning emergency response standards the Fire Authority needs to examine Special Service Incidents, Major Incidents and other buildings of specific or historical interest. Other respondents suggested that consideration should be given to multi-agency emergency planning including issues such as incidents at airports, firefighting on ships and civil contingencies planning
- * The Fire Authority recognises that there are risks to the community which are beyond the scope of the current Dwelling Risk Assessment. The Fire Authority therefore proposes to carry out an additional range of risk

assessments to include Special Service risks, risk to society and the environment and Major Incident risks. Planning for Major Incidents is already undertaken by NIFRS including planning for some of our major risks throughout the Province. Major Incident Plans already exist for all our airports, seaports and major chemical and radiation risks.

Question 7:

With regard to the Section 75 Groups are there different needs, experiences, issues and priorities that you think should be considered in relation to the development of Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards?

Tick-Box Responses:

	%	Frequency
Yes	26.7%	4
No	66.7%	10

Consultation Summary:

- * From the tick box responses, four respondents provided suggestions for consideration by the Fire Authority.
- * Respondents stated greater consideration needs to be given to the impact on rural communities and those living in out lying areas.
- * Special consideration should be given to the effectiveness of the proposed NIFRS response for disabled and elderly people who live alone, often in rural areas.

- * Internal respondents felt efforts should be made to ensure that those who are less able to help themselves are provided with additional assistance where possible.
- * Since May 2005 NIFRS has been involved in a partnership initiative for emergency text messaging for the Deaf Community. This works alongside our safety campaign targeting deaf and hard of hearing people
- * External respondents made reference to the accessibility of interpreters; NIFRS personnel should learn sign language; and NIFRS posters should have the main points in other languages.
- * NIFRS has links with interpreter services through the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety (DHSSPS) translation services. A DHSSPS Regional Tender for Translation Contracts is due to be launched in April 2006 and this will help to further develop this initiative.
- * NIFRS in partnership with the Fire Brigades Union, have progressed the Union Learning Fund (ULF) initiative. ULF has provided opportunities for NIFRS personnel to undertake language courses to enable them to interact more effectively within their local communities.
- * NIFRS have issued multi-lingual fire safety literature complemented with a targeted media campaign.
- * NIFRS personnel have been given the opportunity to learn sign language, using an accredited training programme.

Question 8:

In addition to mainstreaming equality, NIFRS wishes to rural-proof the proposed Northern Ireland Emergency Response Standards. What do you know to be the different experiences, situations and roles of people living in rural areas which might impact on how they may be affected by these proposals?

Consultation Summary:

- * Four responses were received.
- * Respondents requested a greater awareness of farm accidents as agriculture is a high risk profession and subject to serious incidents.
- * The Fire Authority recognises that industrial accidents, including those that occur on farms, have potential to cause serious injury. For this reason the Fire Authority has included a review of our current Standard Operating Procedure in this year's IRMP Action Plan (Project 7). The review of Special Service Incidents will also take account of incidents on or near farmland.

2.1 Introduction

2.2 Summary of Key Projects and Consultation Responses

2.1 Introduction

In this Section we summarise a number of specific projects aimed at improving the way the fire and rescue service operates in Northern Ireland.

The projects contained in Section 2 of this document build upon work already completed from the Fire Authority's IRMP Action Plans 2003/04 and 2004/05.

All of these projects were examined and reviewed in light of the consultation responses received during the 12 week consultation period.

A summary of consultation responses has been reported on under each specific project title. These responses have been considered by the Fire Authority and its comments have been highlighted in red.

The projects will be subject to a screening process to identify any impacts on equality of opportunity. In addition, all Projects will be rural-proofed to take account of rural circumstances or needs.

2.2 Summary of Key Projects and Consultation Responses

Project 1 - Carry out a Review of Emergency Cover across the Service Area

During 2005/06 we carried out a review to determine the levels of risk from fires in dwellings throughout the Province. This review provides a sound basis upon which the core services, such as targeting Community Safety resources and responding to incidents can be based.

New Emergency Response Standards developed during the project will allow the Fire Authority to provide resources appropriate to the risk. For example, there are station areas where current intervention levels are appropriate while other areas of high life risk will require an enhanced attendance time. As an interim measure Community Safety resources are already being targeted to drive down levels of high risk during this resource review.

Consultation Summary

- * There was general support for this project.

“It is important that this review be carried out to ensure that the correct level of cover is provided to meet the risks identified during the risk assessment process” (Employee)

- * The Fire Authority is pleased to note that there is general support for a review of emergency cover across the Service Area.
- * There were cautionary comments from some respondents on resilience and whether account will be given to societal, commercial and special service risks as part of the review process.
- * The Fire Authority recognises that the nationally accredited methodology will provide for future assessments to take into account other risks to the community. The Authority also recognises the importance of maintaining resilience to deal with the larger terrorist and environmental threats. The Fire Authority is therefore committed to ensuring that these issues are contained within the Emergency Cover Review.

Project Tasks:

- (1) We will carry out a review of the intervention strategy across the Service area. We aim to provide the optimum solution in resource allocation, while ensuring that we meet the new Emergency Response Standards. This review will be completed by September 2006.
- (2) Following a period of consultation, implement the findings of this review by April 2007.

Project Manager:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Project 2 - Carry out a Special Service Incident Risk Assessment

The Fire and Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 will place new responsibilities on the Fire and Rescue Service. These new responsibilities will include making provision for dealing with Road Traffic Collisions and other non fire related emergencies. Collectively these are known as 'Special Service Incidents'.

The Fire Service Emergency Cover (FSEC) toolkit is nationally developed computer modelling software which allows Fire Authorities to plan their emergency cover at a local level.

We used the first phase of this methodology to develop new Emergency Response Standards based on risk to life from dwelling fires. The second phase of this project will enhance the risk assessment allowing a targeted approach to provision of resources to deal with Special Service Incidents, in particular those involving imminent and serious life risk.

Consultation Summary

- * Respondents expressed general support for this proposal.
- * **The Fire Authority is pleased to note the general support for this proposal**

and welcomes the suggestions which will be considered throughout the term of the project.

- * Some respondents suggested elements for inclusion in the Risk Assessment, for e.g. type of equipment used at different types of Special Service Incidents
- * **The Fire Authority welcome this suggestion and will consider it during the course of the Special Service Incident Risk Assessment.**
- * One query was raised as to why this proposal is being carried out after the Dwelling Risk Assessment.
- * **The Fire Authority has been attending Special Service Incidents for many years although we have not had a statutory duty to do so. Our statutory duty is to attend fire related incidents it was therefore essential that a risk assessment of dwelling fires should take precedence over the Special Service Risk Assessment.**
- * One respondent asked if Co-responder would feed into this project.
- * **This proposal is not related to the issue of co-responding, which is an ongoing**

IRMP project involving liaison between the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and ourselves.

Project Tasks:

- (1) We will carry out a complete risk assessment of Special Service Incidents and provide appropriate resources (appliances) to deal with that risk by September 2006
- (2) Produce report with recommendations based on (1) above by October 2006
- (3) Following a period of public consultation, implement the recommendations contained within the report by April 2007.

Project Manager:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Project 3 - Review of Unwanted Fire Signals Policy

During 2005 NIFRS introduced a policy to reduce the number of attendances to Unwanted Fire Signals. Prior to this the Service had been attending large numbers of incidents caused by signals from Automatic Fire Alarm systems (AFAs). The majority of these incidents were subsequently determined as false alarms.

The Unwanted Fire Signals policy is in line with National Guidance and has been successful in releasing valuable resources to deal with risk reduction strategies. However, as a matter of good practice NIFRS proposes to review this policy and its implications one year after its introduction.

Summary of Written Responses:

* Respondents generally welcomed the proposal to review the Unwanted Fire Signals Policy.

*“The Policy should be reviewed to ensure that the outcomes are as were expected”
(employee)*

* One respondent voiced concern that the reduced attendance was inadequate to safely deal with incidents.

* NIFRS currently responds to 100% of all automatically generated fire alarm signals of which statistically just under 2% warrant the attendance of an operational response. Of 26,777, only 559 resulted in some form of fire incident (Jan 02-Dec 04).

Automatic Fire Alarm activations (Jan 02-Dec 04)

System Faults	6667
Cooking fumes - Toasters	5523
Workmen & Engineers	1767
Dust	1586
Steam	1296
Fumes & Aerosols	990
System Tests	933
Cigarette smoke	809
Break Glass Points	1684
False Alarm – Good Intent	3791
Other – Non categorised	1172
Fire incidents	559

Fire Incidents (559)

Secondary Fires	72
Primary Fires	487*

* Of the 487 Primary Fires, 28 where outside premises and 314 where ‘out on arrival’ of NIFRS personnel.

* These figures quite clearly demonstrate that on 98% of occasions there is no need for NIFRS to mobilise to an AFA. However, NIFRS has maintained a precautionary response of at least one appliance to all such incidents. Our policy defines all of the fail safe measures that allow NIFRS to adjust this response as and when required.

* Some respondents suggested that NIFRS should be working with premise owners and occupiers to reduce the number of unwanted fire signals.

* The Unwanted Fire Signals Policy clearly defines the processes that are to be adopted with all premises occupiers and/or responsible persons to address all unwanted fire signals. It sets out the procedures, the follow-up policy and the consequences to those persons tasked to rectify the situation if they fail to meet the statutory requirements imposed on them regarding the management of an automatic fire alarm system under the Fire Precautions Workplace Regulations 2001.

* As with all educational programmes the first step is to engage with the target audience and advise them of what the problem is. NIFRS Community

Development Department has done this via media campaigns, information days and through the delivery of provision of support material. This has provided efficiency savings that will release personnel to assist in the delivery of the next phase. Educational material targeting high frequency causes of unwanted fire signals, will be distributed across the Province in May 2006. These educational publications will target occupiers who fail to advise NIFRS they are testing their fire alarm system and a second publication will address the issue of burnt toast which consistently generates fire signals. It is anticipated that, through engaging with these two groups initially and by continuing our work with the industry suppliers, the frequency of unwanted fire signals will reduce in the future.

- * Some respondents enquired if the 'worst offenders' were informed.
- * All Area Commands have been supplied with standard letters and support material, delivered by operational personnel to occupiers, owners and/or responsible persons, highlighting the problem and detailing possible solutions.

- * Some respondents raised concerns regarding the chain of command (line manager) being kept informed of changes to pre-determined attendances (PDAs) in each Area.
- * PDAs are the responsibility of each Area Commander. The Unwanted Fire Signals Policy only reduces the attendance to a single signal received from an Automatic Fire Alarm System. Any change or increase to PDAs are only amended following a risk analysis and must be authorised by the respective Area Commander.
- * By adhering to these procedures, NIFRS ensures the availability of appliances, previously committed at these non-emergency incidents, thereby providing more effective and efficient emergency cover for the communities of Northern Ireland.

Project Tasks:

- (1) We will carry out a full review of the Unwanted Fire Signals Policy to determine its level of success by September 2006
- (2) If required, implement appropriate measures resulting from (1) above by December 2006

Project Manager:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)

Project 4 - Introduce a Risk Based Home Fire Safety Programme

The risk assessment process completed for the review of emergency cover (see Proposal 1) allows the Fire and Rescue Service to target areas most at risk from dwelling fires. The Fire Authority intends to use the data provided by this detailed risk assessment to target areas identified as most at risk and, where appropriate, provide assistance to prevent fires starting in the first place.

Target groups will include:

- * Older people - they are statistically more at risk of injury from fire and are less likely to own a working smoke alarm; and
- * Areas of high density rented accommodation - there is a correlation between rented accommodation and incidence of dwelling fires.

Summary of Written Responses:

- * Respondents were generally in support of this proposal.

"This is an important part of the Integrated Risk Management process" (employee)

- * Some respondents stressed the need for Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) to be targeted to those areas most at risk.

- * The Fire Authority is aware data already exists to demonstrate NIFRS targets educational messages and programmes at those most at risk. HFSC will assist in improving this process not in isolation, but in unison with other existing and other programmes currently under development.
- * One respondent commented that areas most at risk are the hardest to gain access to.
- * The Fire Authority accepts that potentially the most vulnerable in the community will be the most difficult to engage. With this in mind it is anticipated that 'cold door stepping' can be managed out. NIFRS literature has been designed to advise potential clients the reason why we called, when we will call back and how they can contact us if they require a HFSC.
- * One respondent queried if the extra budget allocated to Community Development was to be used solely for HFSC.
- * In October 2005, DHSSPS released additional funding of £210,000 for Community Development initiatives. A proportion of this was allocated to the introduction of HFSC. In this financial

year additional funding has also been allocated specifically to address this issue. HFSC is but one of the many educational programmes being supplied by NIFRS and supports the generic educational programmes that have been delivered over recent years.

- * A few internal respondents voiced concern regarding the dissemination of information to Areas and Districts regarding HFSC, and how the HFSC programme will be delivered.
- * The HFSC policy (currently in draft format) sets out clearly all of the processes, practices and support available to deliver HFSC equitably to all of the community across the Province. The policy highlights the protocols for referrals, whom to contact and how to initiate action. Once finalised, training will be delivered upon Area demand. NIFRS Headquarters, with the assistance of District and Area Commands, will identify existing and proposed partnerships with other key stakeholders. Firefighters have the experience to deliver HFSC. However, top up training will be offered. In addition, NIFRS deliver Community Fire Safety training to all new trainees. The HFSC programme will be

supported by dedicated trained staff at Area Commands and Headquarters.

- * One respondent queried how the success of HFSC is quantified?
- * The HFSC scheme in Southern Area Command has proved very successful and has, in conjunction with other schemes delivered in other Area Commands, assisted by raising smoke alarm ownership in the Province to 98%. However, the Fire Authority acknowledges that as existing programmes have varied in different parts of the Province and due to limitations of funding specific research is not available to quantify any specific scheme's contribution. The Fire Authority will measure the effectiveness of its Community Development activities by completing the risk assessment process every three years. In this way a reduction in fire casualties will be reflected in the predicted fatality rate. This will provide a revised risk map against which our resources will be targeted.
- * Some respondents stressed that resources and time allocated to HFSC must remain in appropriate proportion to intervention and protection activities.

- * The delivery of HFSC will be monitored to establish timeframes and shortfalls (if any) and will be reviewed in accordance with the timeframes set

- * Additional consultation was requested by one of the Representative Bodies.
- * Additional consultation is currently ongoing with the Representative Body concerned.

Project Tasks:

- (1) Develop an inter-agency Home Fire Safety Methodology by April 2006
- (2) Provide a risk based approach defining the viable target areas by April 2006
- (3) From the results of the Risk Assessment, commence in tandem with relevant partners, a targeted Home Fire Risk Programme within three District Commands by April 2006
- (4) Review the effectiveness of the Pilot programme and report on results by April 2007

Project Manager:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)

Project 5 - Examine the role of non-uniformed Community Safety and Training Centre staff

Traditionally NIFRS has recruited Community Safety staff and Training Instructors from within its existing uniformed staff. Recently NIFRS has had difficulty in filling some of these specialist posts. The Fire Authority would therefore wish to examine whether these positions can be filled with non-uniformed personnel.

Summary of Written Responses:

- * The Fire Brigades Union and the Retained Firefighters' Union both responded negatively to this proposal. Respectively, their concerns were that it was "driven by cost imperatives" and that Retained fire personnel would know their communities better than other members of the public.
- * Some respondents expressed concern that non-uniformed staff would lack operational knowledge and that this would limit them in performing their duties.
- * There were several suggestions as to how fire service personnel, both past and present, could be utilised for these roles. For example, Retained staff for Community Development and retired operational staff. There were also proposals for specialist promotions,

alternative crewing and weekend working.

- * Other responses included comments on a "high turn-over of non-uniformed staff" and some suggested reasons as to why existing staff had not been attracted to the various vacant posts in these areas.
- * **The Fire Authority takes the view that NIFRS can no longer sustain allocating jobs to solely uniformed personnel without initially reviewing whether these jobs can be filled from outside NIFRS in a more cost-effective manner. This is in keeping with the modernising agenda for the whole of the UK fire service.**
- * **The perception of high turn-over of non-operational staff is inaccurate. On the contrary, problems have arisen in the past because in some instances, operational personnel moved quickly through the ranks on promotion, thus creating instability. This would not arise amongst non-operational personnel to the same degree and there is a greater likelihood of continuity.**
- * **The reasons for staff not applying for the posts in the past could well have been influenced by the personal circumstances of staff as well as duty**

patterns etc. and it is impossible to draw a meaningful conclusion on this.

- * **In summary, it is unreasonable that we continue to automatically assign uniformed personnel to these posts without exploring how else they might be filled.**

Project Tasks:

- (1) Consider the current workload in Community Development and Training and which jobs need to be filled to fulfil Service obligations;
- (2) Describe each of the posts in question and draw up the person specifications setting out the required skills, knowledge and experience;
- (3) Decide whether there is any requirement for them to be filled by operational staff or any requirement for them to include operational fire cover;
- (4) If (3) is negative, advertise the posts externally and fill them as non-operational posts by April 2007.

Project Managers:

Director of Human Resources &
Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)

Project 6 - Business Continuity Management Plan

Disaster can strike any organisation at any time. Storms, flooding, fire, terrorism, action by community or pressure groups, illness and the failure of vital equipment can all have an adverse affect on business continuity.

Business Continuity Planning (BCP) can be defined as:

“The planning which takes place before a serious interruption to the core business of an organisation, which will allow that organisation to continue to deliver its core services”.

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is an ongoing process of risk assessment and management with the purpose of ensuring that the business can continue if risks materialise.

In line with national best practice, the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland has recently developed a NIFRS Business Continuity Plan.

Summary of Written Responses:

- * All respondents were in support of this proposal.

“worthwhile piece of work” (Employee)

- * One respondent queried if the Business Continuity Plan took account of national strike action.
- * **The Fire Authority recognises that the BCM Plan does not contain a specific contingency for strike action. However, specific plans relating to potential strike action are developed separately. The Business Continuity Plan provides a generic response and can be adapted to meet the needs of specific events. The Emergency Response Plans are currently being validated in line with PAS 56 (Publicly Available Specifications) ‘A Guide to Business Continuity’ 2003 and any shortfalls in the initial plans will be addressed within the financial year 2006-07.**

- * One internal respondent queried the accessibility of the Influenza Pandemic Response Plan.
- * **A BCM Influenza Pandemic Response Plan is currently being finalised by NIFRS. Once complete, a ‘Business Continuity Influenza Pandemic Response Plan fact sheet’ will be available to all personnel.**

Project Task:

- (1) Complete the Business Continuity Planning process within NIFRS:
 - * validate individual Emergency Response Plans submitted by various NIFRS Departments/Areas by June 2006
 - * Identify training needs by the BCP process by September 2006
 - * Incorporate training needs into NIFRS training strategy by October 2006
 - * BCM training will be complete by January 2007
 - * Test selected Emergency Response Plans by April 2007

Project Manager:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Project 7 - Standard Operating Procedures

The Fire Authority provides guidance to operational personnel on procedures to be followed when dealing with specific types of operational incidents. This guidance is collectively known as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

These SOPs are based on information and guidance from HM Fire Service Inspectorate, national and local experience, as well as input from training establishments and outside agencies. Interagency liaison and cooperation is an essential element in the production and implementation of safe operating procedures. Currently NIFRS maintains close working relationships in operational matters with many agencies including the Environmental & Heritage Agency, Forest Service, Central Emergency Planning Unit and District Councils.

NIFRS currently has 31 SOPs covering a diverse range of incidents from hazardous materials, animal rescue, water rescue, explosive devices, through to incidents involving secure establishments. We propose to review our existing Standard Operating Procedures based on a three-year cycle.

Summary of Written Responses:

- * Respondents welcomed the proposal to develop four new SOPs and review four existing SOPs.
- * Some respondents queried how the four new SOPs and the four selected for review were chosen and prioritised.

“SOPs should be prioritised taking into account the safety of firefighters” (Employee)

- * The Fire Authority agrees that SOPs are developed to provide safe systems of work to ensure firefighter and public safety. Topics are identified through a risk assessment of national and local issues and discussion with Group Commanders (Operations).
- * SOPs are reviewed based on two criteria: (i) Need: If new safety critical information becomes available or an incident of note occurs existing documents may require revision; and (ii) Time: The review cycle is normally three years.
- * Staff from Eastern Area Command asked to have an input in the review of SOP relating to Civil Disturbance.
- * SOPs are developed following in-depth research into best practice both nationally and locally. Considerable

effort is made to ensure meaningful consultation occurs with specialists, relevant departments and Area and District Commands prior to the finalised document being issued.

- * Staff suggested SOPs should be issued in various formats to assist with and standardise the training of Operational personnel.
- * The Operations Policy Unit is working with NIFRS Training Centre to produce Training Packages, which will be issued in conjunction with the relevant Standard Operating Procedures

Project Tasks:

- (1) Produce four new SOPs by April 2007
 - * Incidents involving Aircraft on and off Airfield
 - * Light Insulated Sandwich Panels
 - * Man Made Mineral Fibres
 - * Agro-Chemicals
- (2) Review four SOPs by April 2007
 - * Incident Command
 - * Performance Review of Command
 - * Incidents on or near Farmland
 - * Incidents resulting from sustained Civil Disturbance

Project Manager:
Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Project 8 - Manage, Monitor, Produce and Publish Future IRMPs

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister requires all Fire and Rescue Authorities to produce annual IRMP action plans on which they have fully consulted their local communities, allowing twelve weeks for the consultation.

Following consultation and the publication of the Fire Authority's first Integrated Risk Management Plan in April 2004, we have published a second year Action Plan, and this is will be our third.

This IRMP is a strategic forward looking document which will impact on NIFRS Annual Action Plans, Business Plan and Priorities & Targets. This Plan, along with the two previous IRMPs, will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that we continue to meet community needs and changing priorities.

As part of the consultation exercise it was proposed this Project would be re-aligned to the Director of Corporate & Planning Affairs.

Summary of Written Responses:

- * No external responses were received in relation to this proposal.

- * Respondents were generally in disagreement with the proposal to re-align IRMP to the Director of Planning & Corporate Affairs and recommended the production of future IRMPs should remain within the Operations Directorate.
- * Five respondents argued the DCFO should remain the lead officer for IRMP, with only one consultation response supporting the realignment of this project to the Director of Planning & Corporate Affairs.

“IRMP should remain under Operational staff” (Employee)

- * **The Fire Authority accepts that IRMP is part of the business planning process. However, the Fire Authority has delegated responsibility for the management of IRMP to the Deputy Chief Fire Officer on its behalf.**
- * One respondent stated the IRMP Action Plan should form an integral part of NIFRS Corporate Plan.
- * **IRMP is an integral part of the overall planning process within NIFRS and priorities and targets within are monitored by the Fire Authority.**

Project Tasks:

- (1) Report on progress from first, second and third year IRMPs by September 2006 and March 2007
- (2) Collate tasks for Fire Authority's IRMP 2007/08 by September 2006
- (3) Produce draft IRMP 2007/08 by October 2006 for 12 week consultation period to commence November 2006
- (4) Publish finalised IRMP 2007/08, taking consultation responses into consideration by April 2007

Project Manager:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer

Section 3 IRMP Action Plan 2006/07

3.1 Introduction

3.2 IRMP Action Plan 2006/07

3.1 Introduction

The following Section contains the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Action Plan for 2006/07.

Each Project has been included in the 12 week consultation period, and some Project Tasks have been expanded following consultation responses.

We will review each Project contained within the Action Plan on a six-monthly basis.

Project Title	Project Tasks	Target Date	Project Manager
Carry out a Review of Emergency Cover across the Service Area	We will: (1) Carry out a review of the intervention strategy across the Service area. We aim to provide the optimum solution in resource allocation, while ensuring that we meet the new Emergency Response Standards.	Sept 06	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
	(2) Following a period of consultation, implement the findings of this review.	April 07	
Carry out a Special Service Incident Risk Assessment	We will: (1) Carry out a complete risk assessment of Special Service Incidents and provide appropriate resources (appliances) to deal with that risk.	Sept 06	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
	(2) Produce report with recommendations based on (1) above.	Oct 06	
	(3) Following a period of public consultation, implement the recommendations contained within the report.	April 07	

Project Title	Project Tasks	Target Date	Project Manager
Review of Unwanted Fire Signals Policy	We will: (1) Carry out a full review of the Unwanted Fire Signals policy to determine its level of success (2) If required, implement appropriate measures resulting from (1) above	Sept 06 Dec 06	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)
Introduce a Risk Based Home Fire Safety Programme	We will: (1) Develop an inter-agency Home Fire Safety Methodology (2) Provide a risk based approach defining the viable target areas (3) From the results of the Risk Assessment, commence in tandem with relevant partners, a targeted Home Fire Risk Programme within three District Commands (4) Review the effectiveness of the Pilot programme and report on results	April 06 April 06 April 06 April 07	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)
Examine the role of non-uniformed Community Safety & Training Centre staff	We will: (1) Consider the current workload in Community Development and Training and which jobs need to be filled to fulfil Service obligations; (2) Describe each of the posts in question and draw up the person specifications setting out the required skills, knowledge and experience; (3) Decide whether there is any requirement for them to be filled by operational staff or any requirement for them to include operational fire cover; (4) If (3) is negative, advertise the posts externally and fill them as non-operational posts.	April 07	Director of Human Resources & Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)

