



DRAFT - Health and Safety Policy Statement

The Authority will:

1. Provide for the health, safety, and welfare of all staff and volunteers and those who may be affected by what the Service does.
2. Establish clear direction for the organisation through this policy and the implementation of effective procedures which aim to minimise injuries and ill health (both physical and mental); protect the environment and reduce unnecessary losses and liabilities.
3. Ensure there are arrangements in place for effective policy development, organisation, planning, monitoring, performance management, audit, and review of the Service's health and safety practices to maintain its compliance with relevant statutes, regulations, and codes of practice.

The Service is committed to ensuring:

4. The continuous improvement of the organisation's occupational health and safety management system and that it is implemented across the whole Service.
5. The continuous prevention of workplace injury and ill health through effective risk management and the implementation of safe systems of work.
6. The periodic review of the Service's legal compliance and occupational health and safety management system to ensure that it remains relevant and appropriate for its undertakings.
7. The allocation of proportionate financial and physical resources to ensure that the occupational health and safety management system is effectively established, maintained and implemented.
8. That the place of work is safe and without risks to health (physical and mental) and where, in the case of emergency operations this is not possible, to protect personnel from identifiable hazards.
9. The necessary information, instructions, training and supervision are provided to ensure staff and volunteers are fully aware of their responsibilities and are accountable when carrying out their duties. This will also allow staff and volunteers to carry out their duties effectively and safely and to ensure the highest levels of competence.

10. The monitoring and reviewing of the Service's occupational health, safety and welfare performance and objectives to ensure standards are maintained and progressing to ensure continuous improvement.
11. The development and maintenance of a positive health and safety culture, where staff are consulted with regarding health and safety matters as it is recognised that staff can make a vital contribution to health and safety procedure formulation and implementation.
12. The investigation of all accidents, incidents and near misses with the objective of establishing root causes and preventing reoccurrence.
13. That suitable and sufficient assessments of all significant risks to staff, and those who may be affected by the Service's activities, are undertaken and recorded. Safe systems of work are provided and maintained to reduce risk to health to the lowest level possible.
14. That operational personnel are prepared for the foreseeable hazards associated with emergency incidents through operational training where risk is both assessed and managed. In the operational environment, the Service will control health and safety risks to its fire fighters by employing the Firefighter Safety Maxim, and in exceptional circumstances apply the operational discretion in pursuance of saving human life; taking decisive action to prevent an incident escalating and in incidents where taking no action may lead others to put themselves in danger.

Compliance and assurance:

The Authority delegates these policy objectives to the Chief Fire Officer. The Chief Fire Officer will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy through maintaining a suite of supporting procedures and by monitoring, auditing, and reviewing the Service's health and safety practices to maintain its compliance with relevant statutes, regulations, codes of practice and International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 45001) Occupational Health & Safety management system Certification. They will also undertake an annual assurance of this policy to support the Statement of Assurance required under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, which will be approved by the Authority. The Service will also assure through reports received and judgements made by independent external BSI auditors and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.

Document Management:

Responsible Person	Chief Fire Officer
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