

<b>Title of Standard</b>	Fire Protection		
<b>Business Area (ref Activity Framework)</b>	Service Delivery		
<b>Sponsoring NFCC Committee</b>	NFCC Protection and Business Safety Committee		
<b>Date of approval</b>	[for office use]	<b>Date of Issue</b>	[for office use]
<b>Reference Number</b>	[for office use]	<b>Review Date</b>	[for office use]
<b>Desired Outcome</b>			
<p>A fire and rescue service that improves the safety of the built environment and wellbeing of its community, complying with its statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>One that delivers efficient and effective fire protection activities, targeting its resources in line with its community risk management plan and utilising data and business intelligence to maximise resources. It proactively plans, responds, and adapts to the changing needs of its community.</p> <p>Developing a learning and sharing culture, it seeks to improve and innovate Fire Protection activities and work collaboratively with other regulators, partners and stakeholders to fulfil its functions and improve the safety of its community.</p>			
<b>To achieve this Fire Standard</b>			
<p>To achieve this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. identify and understand the risk profile related to the built environment in the area of its responsibility through its community risk management planning;</li> <li>2. gather and store evidence and information in a manner that is compliant with legislation and be able to extract, use and share that information to serve its fire protection, emergency response crews and other functions, where it is appropriate;</li> <li>3. ensure there is a mechanism for both fire protection officers and emergency response crews to feedback any new or emerging risks discovered in the built environment to ensure the service maintains an accurate risk profile for the community it serves, and to keep employees safe when carrying out their duties, including but limited to, fire protection or response activities;</li> <li>4. have appropriate plans in place to demonstrate how fire protection activities will be used to mitigate the impact of identified risks relating to the built environment, the community it serves and its employees;</li> <li>5. maintain an ability to deliver necessary fire protection activities at all times;</li> <li>6. maintain a competent fire protection workforce by adopting the Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators (the framework) in full by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. embedding it into local policies, procedures, tailored guidance, and training materials;</li> <li>b. ensuring that Fire Protection employees have the appropriate skills, knowledge, experience and behaviours to be competent in their role by providing training and continued professional development, including training related to specialist premises as defined in the framework;</li> <li>c. recording and monitoring competence of Fire Protection employees; and</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			

- d. ensuring all protection officers:
  - i. Meet and maintain the competence requirements outlined in the framework by undertaking recognised prior learning where required, and continued professional development;
  - ii. who work on higher-risk premises, have the requisite competence and accreditation as defined in the framework;
  - iii. have access to a competent fire safety engineer for the purpose of assessing and regulating premises involving fire engineered solutions;
  - iv. are assigned to a fire safety competent manager or nominated equivalent, who is responsible for the development and competency of the Protection Officer and the quality assurance of all their fire safety work.
7. have in place necessary succession planning to maintain a sustainable competent fire protection workforce;
8. collaborate with fire and rescue services and other partners to conduct regulatory inspection and enforcement activities in the most efficient and effective way possible;
9. explore opportunities for operational employees to undertake Fire Protection activities if appropriate, ensuring any that do have the relevant levels of understanding about the built environment through appropriate training and support;
10. support those responsible for achieving and maintaining satisfactory standards of fire safety in the built environment by undertaking regulatory activities and risk-based inspection programmes (RBIP), in line with legislation and guidance;
11. engage with the business community in a constructive and helpful way on all matters relating to fire safety legislation, and proactively support Primary Authority partnership schemes, where appropriate;
12. conduct statutory and non-statutory consultations relating to proposed and actual building construction work;
13. investigate the cause of fires, and work with other relevant partners when appropriate and where Fire Investigation is managed within the Fire Protection function;
14. demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity within its community and providing fire protection planning, activities and enforcement of regulations which are non-discriminatory and support equality;
15. demonstrate how it monitors and evaluates the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of its protection activities; and
16. generate a culture which embraces organisational learning allowing it to identify and capture feedback from a range of sources; evaluate, share and act upon it to drive innovation and continuous improvement and enhance future performance.

To support this Fire Standard, a fire and rescue service should:

17. contribute to the continual improvement of fire protection activities coordinated through the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) network.

### Expected benefits of achieving the Fire Standard

1. Improved safety, health and wellbeing of communities, this includes:
  - a. safer built environment and improved compliance by businesses with fire safety legislation;
  - b. reduction in injuries, serious injuries or fatalities;
  - c. reduction in economic loss to business owners;
  - d. reduction in psychological impacts to business owners; and
  - e. reduction in preventable response undertaken by firefighters.
2. a reduction in the false activation of fire alarm systems which will result in better utilisation of service resources;
3. fire safety technical guidance and legislation is applied consistently;
4. improved professionalism, competence and safety in the Fire Protection and Operational Response workforce;
5. national consistency in the planning, collaboration, development, and deployment of fire protection;
6. improvement in the quality of Fire Investigation, where this function is managed within Fire Protection;
7. improved positive outcomes following formal fire protection activity, including prosecutions;
8. a more flexible workforce where fire protection is embedded in other areas, such as Operational Response;
9. standardised and nationally approved approach to fire protection activities will increase efficiency of cross border, collaborative and national working opportunities;
10. continuously improves the quality of service provided to the public;
11. public reassurance and continued trust in and reputation of the service through the maintenance of positive relationships with stakeholders, including residents;
12. public reassurance that high-level enforcement activities, including prosecution is proportionate, non-discriminatory and in the public interest; and
13. improved standardisation in the use of data and business intelligence will aid information sharing, evaluation of activities and sharing of good practice.

### Legal Requirements or mandatory duties

1. [Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#)
2. [Environment and Safety Information Act 1988](#)
3. [The Petroleum \(Consolidation\) Regulations 2014](#)
4. [The Explosives Regulations 2014](#)
5. [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#)
6. [Building Safety Bill](#)
7. [Fire Safety Bill](#)
8. [Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#)
9. [Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987](#)

10. [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#)
11. [Regulators Code](#)
12. [Fire Precautions \(Sub-surface Railway Stations\) \(England\) Regulations 2009](#)
13. [Criminal Procedures and Investigations Act \(CPIA\)](#)

#### Linked qualifications, accreditations, or Fire Standards

- a) Code of Ethics Fire Standard
- b) Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard
- c) Apprenticeships:
  - i. [Fire Safety Advisor](#)
  - ii. [Fire Safety Inspector](#)
  - iii. Fire Safety Engineer (Available from March 2021)
- d) Fire Investigation Fire Standard (development to commence in 2021)

#### **For all buildings regulated under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005:**

- e) Fire Safety Advisor – Level 3 Certificate in Fire Safety
- f) Fire Safety Inspector – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety
- g) Fire Engineering Design Technician – Level 5 Diploma in Fire Engineering Design
- h) Fire Safety Engineer – Level 6 Degree in Fire Safety Engineering and/or MSc in fire engineering
- i) Senior Fire Safety Engineer – Level 7 MSc in Fire Engineering

#### **For Higher Risk Buildings:**

- j) Fire Safety Inspector – Level 4 Diploma in Fire Safety and relevant registration with a professional body
- k) Fire Engineering Design Technician – Level 5 Diploma in Fire Engineering Design and registration as an Engineering Technician with the Engineering Council.
- l) Fire Safety Engineer - Level 6 Degree in Fire Engineering and/or MSc in Fire Engineering and working towards interim (or full) registration for Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council.

#### Guidance and supporting information

- a) Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators
- b) Work Related Death Protocol (WRDP)
- c) Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
- d) Code of Practice (Fire Investigation)