



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/11/19
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	29 JULY 2011
SUBJECT OF REPORT	EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS - NON-DOMESTIC FIRES & ENTRAPMENTS (NON-ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS)
LEAD OFFICER	Director of Service Support
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>(a) <i>that the outcome of the extended pilot into proposed emergency response standards for non-domestic premises and entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions), as set out in Section 4 of this report, be noted;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>that, in light of the outcome of the extended pilot:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>the emergency response standard for non-domestic premises as set out in Section 2 of this report (and based on the attendance of the first fire appliance within 10 minutes for the reactive standard) be formally adopted; and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>that the emergency response standard for entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions) as set out in Section 3 of this report (and based on the attendance of the first fire appliance within 15 minutes) be adopted.</i></p>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Service should be able to demonstrate that, when deploying its emergency response resources, it meets locally set response standards and ensures firefighter and public safety. With emergency response standards now in place for house fires and road traffic collisions (RTCs), the Authority will complete the work on adopting locally, risk-assessed emergency response standards through the introduction of new emergency response standards for non-domestic fires and entrapments (non- road traffic collisions).</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An initial consideration has not disclosed any issues of such significance as to warrant a full Assessment
APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2010 the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority (DSFRA) approved and introduced new emergency response standards (ERS) for house fires and road traffic collisions (RTC). At the same time, however, it was recognised that the Service is called to attend many different types of emergency incident for which there is also a need to set response standards.
- 1.2 The Service should be able to demonstrate that, when deploying its emergency response resources, it meets locally set response standards and ensures firefighter and public safety. With emergency response standards now in place for house fires and RTCs, it is now intended that the Authority complete its work on adopting locally, risk-assessed emergency response standards through the introduction of the following:
- new emergency response standards for non-domestic fires
 - new emergency response standards for entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions).
- 1.3 The research conducted for the development of the house fire and RTC standards in 2007/08 laid effective foundations for recommending the proposed standards for non-domestic fires and entrapments. The proposed standards are based on the principles already established and agreed by the Authority that reflect the time taken for the first appliance to attend the incident and the number of crew.
- 1.4 Implementation of these proposals will reduce the variation of pre-determined attendance standards and resource levels currently in use. Under current resource distribution and deployment processes there will be no lessening in the level of service provision and in some cases a potential for a small increase.

2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS FOR FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES

- 2.1 Non-domestic fires are defined in two categories, residential risk and commercial/non-residential risk. In this context residential risk does not include domestic dwellings. In considering non-domestic buildings it must be borne in mind that this title covers a wide range of buildings and therefore represents a broad range of risk.
- 2.2 Whilst to a certain extent life risk may be lower, it should still form a fundamental element of any planning considerations as survival time remains the same when life is threatened, irrespective of whether this is in domestic or non-domestic premises. Consequently, the 10-minute thresholds established for domestic dwelling fires should remain the benchmark for our initial attendance at non-domestic dwellings.
- 2.3 The proposed response standards are presented overleaf as proactive and reactive standards. The proactive response standard addresses how the Service will aim to prevent an incident occurring in the first place. The reactive response standard deals with how the Service will mobilise its resources in the event of an emergency incident. These standards will ensure the most appropriate provision of vehicles and equipment will be available to respond to ensure firefighter and public safety.

Proactive Response Standard

PREMISES LOCATION	ACTION
All non-domestic premises	Application of the DSFRS targeting of enforcement activity policy

Reactive Response Standard

INCIDENT TYPE & LOCATION	1st ATTENDANCE
Residential (non-domestic) premises e.g. hotels, sheltered accommodation etc	10 minutes
Non-domestic premises confirmed fire e.g. shops, factories	10 minutes
Prescribed attendance due to specific risk	No change to existing prescribed attendance

- 2.4 For all non-domestic incidents, the general standard of 10 minutes will apply to the first attendance which will comprise a single fire appliance and a minimum crew of 4 personnel. The full attendance standard will depend upon the location of the incident as follows:
- Where it is considered that the initial attendance will be made within 10mins the full attendance will comprise of at least one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 9 personnel.
 - Where it is suggested that the initial attendance may exceed 10 minutes, the full attendance will comprise of at least one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 12 personnel.

3. EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS FOR ENTRAPMENTS (EXCLUDING ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS)

- 3.1 With the potential exception of traffic management, the factors affecting the effective management of an entrapment are very similar to the management of a road traffic collision (RTC) extrication. Therefore it would be appropriate to carry forward the reactive response standards for RTCs. It is not practicable, however, to express a definitive proactive response standard for entrapments as the variety of potential incidents is extremely wide.
- 3.2 The reactive response standard set out below addresses how the Service will mobilise its resources to an emergency incident. This standard will ensure the most appropriate provision of vehicles and equipment in responding to ensure firefighter and public safety.

INCIDENT TYPE & LOCATION	1st ATTENDANCE
Entrapment, off road (person(s) trapped)	15 minutes

- 3.3 For all entrapment incidents, the general standard of 15 minutes will apply to the first attendance which will comprise a single fire appliance and a minimum crew of 4 personnel. The full attendance standard will depend upon whether the entrapment is minor or major as follows:
- All minor entrapments (off road) will attract the attendance of one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 4 personnel

- All major entrapments will attract an attendance of at least one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 6 personnel, except where the entrapment is on a road where the full attendance will comprise at least one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 8 personnel for single carriageway roads and at least one fire appliance and a minimum crew of 10 personnel for dual (or more) carriageway roads.

4. PILOT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ERS FOR FIRES IN NON-DOMESTIC PREMISES AND ENTRAPMENTS (EXCLUDING ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS)

4.1 The emergency response standards for non-domestic premises and entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions) have been subject to an extended trial during 2010/11.

4.2 The approved Corporate Plan 2010/11 – 2012/13 set out, amongst other things, the intention that - pending the successful evaluation of a pilot - the Authority would be invited to consider formal adoption of the standards.

The Pilot

4.3 The pilot commenced on 1 April 2010. During the pilot, appliances were mobilised to incidents as per current policies and the performance against the proposed new emergency response standards was measured.

Outcome of the Pilot

4.4 The tables below sets in percentage terms those occasions when the proposed new standards were met during the period of the pilot (from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011).

INCIDENT TYPE AND LOCATION	1 ST ATTENDANCE IN 10 MINUTES
Non Domestic - Residential (confirmed fire only) e.g. hotels, sheltered accommodation etc.	75% (45 out of 60)
Non Domestic - Non Residential (confirmed fire only) e.g. shops, factories – Does NOT include BARN FIRES	69.3% (190 out of 274)

INCIDENT TYPE AND LOCATION	1 ST ATTENDANCE IN 15 MINUTES
Entrapments (person(s) trapped)	86.9% (113 out of 130)

4.5 When recording performance against the standards, experience gained from the use for the standards set for dwellings and RTCs has been considered and applied where appropriate.

4.6 During the pilot there were regular reviews of the performance based on the new standards. This performance was compared with the experience from the previous standards for domestic dwellings and RTCs. This provided for performance to be measured based on a number of different scenarios, whilst not altering the standard. In summary, the outcome of the pilot been good and compares favourably with the Service's current performance against the existing standards for domestic dwellings and RTCs.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Following approval as part of the 2010/11 – 2012/13 Corporate Plan, proposed emergency based response standards for non-domestic properties and entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions) have been subject during the 2010/11 financial year to an extended pilot.
- 5.2 The outcome of the pilot has proven very positive in terms of comparing performance of the new standards against performance secured under the existing standards. Consequently, the new emergency response standards for non-domestic properties and entrapments (excluding road traffic collisions) are now commended for formal adoption. In so doing, the Authority will have completed its work in adopting locally determined, risk-assessed emergency response standards.

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