



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan

Wales a Safer Country

A Summary



Foreword



This is a summary of the **Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan – Wales a Safer Country** guidance and allows easy reference to the main policy. The Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan is intended to provide strategic direction necessary for Fire and Rescue Authorities to address risk in a structured way whilst embracing the increased emphasis on prevention.

Fire and Rescue Authorities need to manage a complex environment where they may have competing demands on their resources. Each Authority's Risk Reduction Plan will clearly identify priorities for their Fire and Rescue Service. Fire and Rescue Authorities need the freedom to develop innovative solutions in their quest to manage and reduce risk.

Proposals made under the Authority Risk Reduction Plan must be made in an open and transparent manner, based on evidence that is robust and reliable. Authorities must engage with all stakeholders throughout the development of their plan. Communication, consultation and participation are key to this process.

It is in everyone's interest that Wales becomes a safer place to work, visit, travel and live. I am confident that the **Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan – Wales a Safer Country** will help us achieve this.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwina Hart".

Edwina Hart AM, MBE
Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

What is the Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan?

The Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) is a strategic document that sets the agenda for both the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) alike. Each FRA must produce a RRP and an annual action plan that focuses on community and corporate risk.

Each RRP must be accessible in a clear and concise manner to citizens, communities, businesses and other stakeholders.

A Risk Management Framework

Why should FRAs adopt a risk management framework?

- It should allow FRAs to deliver services that are good value;
- It should result in better decisions for the communities of Wales;
- It should contribute to the better use of resources in reducing risk; and
- It should improve teamwork and promote a shared trust in the FRAs among stakeholders.

Risk control rarely eliminates risk - it serves to control it within acceptable levels.

Risk will change with time. Therefore, regular reviewing and monitoring will be essential.

What should FRAs do?

- They should communicate effectively to build a culture that promotes innovation;
- They should ensure risk management is embedded within management decisions;
- They should link risk management to corporate objectives; and
- They should develop a framework that is transparent, open and repeatable.

Principles of the Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Plan

An Authority's RRP must make an assessment of risk, analyse the risk and deploy resources appropriately.

Aim of Fire and Rescue Authority Risk Reduction Planning

The aim of RRP is to reduce risk through a managed framework that integrates the FRAs within the wider social justice agenda in Wales.

Objectives of Risk Reduction Planning

In order for FRAs to achieve the targets of the Welsh Assembly Government they must establish a strategy aimed at:

- Reducing the number of fires and other emergency incidents;
- Reducing the loss of life in fires and other emergency incidents;

- Reducing the number and severity of injuries in fires and other emergency incidents;
- Reducing the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents;
- Safeguarding the environment and heritage, both built and natural;
- Providing services that are Value for Money (VFM); and
- Integrating the activities of their FRS within the wider social justice agenda.

Who is responsible for preparing the RRP?

Responsibility for preparing the RRP rests with the FRA.

The operating environment will determine the longevity of the current RRP. **Annual action plans must identify the focus of the FRA for the following financial year** and must be clearly linked to the current RRP.

The plan will identify ways in which the FRA can work in partnership to deliver their services to the citizens and communities of Wales.

FRAs must consult widely and allow a minimum of 12 weeks for the consultation process.

FRAs must present their RRP in an open and transparent manner and demonstrate they have considered responses from their consultation.

What I can expect to see in a RRP?

Each RRP is specific to the risk identification of individual FRAs but is expected to contain the following:

- Identification of risk;
- Effectiveness of current control measures;
- Identification of opportunities for improvement;
- Service Standards; and
- Outcome of proposed changes.

In any review of stations FRAs must not only consider existing and anticipated activity levels, but also the interoperability of the station, changing levels of demand throughout the day, week or time of year and the wider role of the station in providing resilience.

The desired outcome of deploying FRA resources must be the reduction of risk.

Addressing Risk

Education and Prevention

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 places a statutory duty on each FRA to promote fire safety in its area. Community fire safety is a key role in meeting the Welsh Assembly Government's targets.

Education and prevention must be directed at the most vulnerable within the community, ensuring those who need the services of the FRA actually receive it. Feeling safe is a very important factor in the well being of the population, FRAs need to adopt a targeted response to ensure this is achieved.

Service Standards

There is an expectation from the citizens and communities of Wales that fire appliances and resources will arrive quickly to a fire in their home or workplace.

Service Standards will be introduced in Wales and will focus on life risk.

FRA's must clearly demonstrate the level of service that citizens and communities can expect to receive.

FRA's must proactively target their community fire safety strategies in an attempt to prevent fires in the home from occurring.

Training and Development

It is essential that all FRS personnel possess the required competence to effectively and safely manage their working environment, whether it be operational or corporate.

Corporate Risk

Identifying corporate risk is critical to the sustainability and continuity of the vital services FRA's provide to the communities of Wales. FRA's may wish to consider some specific areas during its corporate assessment of risk, such as: strategic aims, operational effectiveness, financial stewardship, compliance with legislation, business continuity and technology advances.

Evidence Based Development

FRA's must produce RRP's that address local risks. RRP's must be forward-looking and shaped by evidence rather than a response to short-term pressures that tackle causes and not the symptoms.

Fire Services Emergency Cover Toolkit (FSEC)

FSEC is the Welsh Assembly Government's preferred tool for gathering and interpreting evidence to inform the development of proposals contained within the FRA's RRP.

The use of computer modelling must not be the sole factor in taking such decisions.

Evidence must be presented in a form that the audience can understand. Authorities must ensure they explain the benefits and assess the implications of any proposals upon citizens and communities.

Integration of RRP and Risk Management within the Wider Public Service Agendas

Public services in Wales, including the FRAs, need to focus on the needs of the communities and individuals. Account needs to be taken of Welsh Assembly Government policies and strategies.

Consultation and Participation in the Development of RRP

Why do FRAs need to consult?

- It is a statutory duty;
- It is a means of engaging individuals and organisations in the development and delivery of policy;
- It is a means of testing proposals and options contained within the RRP; and
- It involves citizens, communities and personnel, which will lead to better and more inclusive policy-making by the FRA.

Who must the FRAs consult with?

The Welsh Assembly Government expects the FRAs to consult as widely as possible and with those who are directly affected by any proposals being made.

Will consultation and participation make a difference?

Wide inclusive consultation and participation with all stakeholders will ensure robust and inclusive decisions are taken, whilst promoting ownership, responsibility, transparency and openness. Internal to the FRS it should also increase motivation, morale, learning and teamwork.

How can I find out more?

- You can contact your local Fire and Rescue Authority;
- You can access the full RRP guidance at www.housing.wales.gov.uk/index.asp?task=content&a=n1con
- You can contact the Fire and Rescue Services Branch at the Welsh Assembly Government on 029 2082 6734 or e-mail Julia Letton at julia.letton@wales.gsi.gov.uk