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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular is in support of the recently produced guidance for Fire and Rescue Response to CBRN events.		

Tactical Guidance Document - Fire and Rescue Service Response to CBRN Events

Issued by:

Gary Jeffery

Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Managers responsible for:
Resilience and Operations**

Summary

This circular provides information to Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) on the recently issued document that provides Tactical Guidance for the FRS response to CBRN events. The guidance has been designed to assist FRS responders to effectively manage the decontamination of casualties at a CBRN type incident. The tactical guidance contained within the document replaces all tactical elements contained within the 2003 "National Guidance Document, Fire Service Mass Decontamination".

For further information, contact:

Gary Jeffery
Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser
Communities and Local Government
First Floor, Ashdown House
123 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6DE

Direct line **020 7944 5611**
Fax **020 7944 8319**
E-mail [**gary.jeffery@communities.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:gary.jeffery@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Website [**www.communities.gov.uk**](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following Risk Assessments carried out by the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat in 2002, it was identified that the United Kingdom Emergency Services required a capability to deal with incidents involving the deliberate release of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) contaminants and the subsequent potential for the contamination of large numbers of people.
- 1.2 There are a number of statutory duties placed on Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) and other agencies which have an impact on the response to CBRN events. The key statutory requirement for the FRS which is made under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, section 9, is contained in the Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007.
- 1.3 The New Dimension (ND) Programme Mass Decontamination (MD) Capability, in partnership with the FRS in England and Wales, has delivered the means to respond to and deal with CBRN events and the means to provide MD for specified numbers of ambulant contaminated people within specified timelines for designated locations within England and Wales.
- 1.4 This guidance has been produced under the New Dimension Programme by the CBRN Capability Lead, and approved for circulation by the FRS CBRN National Working Group and the CFOA lead for CBRN, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority Commissioner Ron Dobson.

2.0 The Tactical Guidance Document

- 2.1 The modelling identified within the document provides FRS with guidance on attendance requirements for effectively and safely managing CBRN type incidents.
- 2.2 The objectives of this document are:

To replace all FRS tactical elements of the 2003 'National Guidance Document, Fire Service Mass Decontamination' (however some operational information within the 2003 document may still provide a useful reference) and to provide tactical guidance to the FRS on:

- The key tasks involved in the response to and resolution of a CBRN event
- The scale of deployment required for a range of incidents up to an incident of the scale defined in the Home Office Model Response
- The interaction and relationships between the FRS and other emergency services responders (and other agencies) during a CBRN event
- The use of Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) assets to assist in the decision making process prior to MD commencing and during and after MD
- The gathering and interpretation of information and intelligence (including DIM) to inform the CBRN response process
- The use of MD assets with the aim of resolving an incident involving MD of contaminated people
- Their potential involvement in the response, recovery and restoration phases of a CBRN event.

- 2.3** Work is currently underway to produce Operational and Strategic CBRN Guidance which will be completed during 2009. This will then be amalgamated with the attached guidance and will become an overarching single guidance document in the form a FRS Guidance Manual.
- 3.0 Important Security Information**
- 3.1** This guidance has been classified as PROTECT and must be handled in a similar way to RESTRICTED, with the exception that baseline encryption is not mandatory when sharing the information electronically. However, commercial encryption (up to FIPS 140 standard) should be considered, and must be used for the transmission of personal sensitive data, particularly when it occurs in aggregate. No information that is protectively marked should be made publicly available and it should only be seen by those with a specific need to know.
- 3.2** No specific clearance is required to handle PROTECT or RESTRICTED; however all information should be shared on a strict 'need to know' principle only. For this reason, copies of the document will not be attached to this circular or available from the Communities and Local Government website. Personnel who wish to receive a copy must contact the National Resilience Assurance Team at nrsec@fireservicecollege.ac.uk.
- 3.3** Protectively marked information must not be left unattended during working hours when staff are away from their desks and are unable to lock the office / room. PROTECT and RESTRICTED can be stored in any lockable furniture.

Gary Jeffery
Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser