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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service of progress with the Fire and Resilience Programme.		

Fire and Resilience Programme Highlights – April 2009

Issued by:

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FRS Development Division

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:

Summary

This continues the series of monthly 'highlights' notes to inform Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and senior staff in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) of progress with the Programme.

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1.0 New Dimension

NEW DIMENSION GRANT

- 1.1 Fire Service Circular 20/2009, issued on 30 March 2009, provided confirmation of the second, and final, New Dimension s31 Grant of the 2008/09 financial year.
- 1.2 It confirmed funding totalling £2.3m for Fire and Rescue Services covering:
 - training for detection, identification and monitoring (DIM), urban search and rescue (USAR) and high volume pumping (HVP)
 - crewing for enhanced command support (ECS) vehicles
 - an upgrade of USAR personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 1.3 The amounts awarded were in line with the New Dimension announcement on funding made by CLG Ministers in summer 2008 (Circular 36/2008), with the exception of the USAR PPE upgrade which was an additional element.
- 1.4 Circular 20/2009 can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/fsc202009>

2.0 Firelink

PHASE A: NETWORK BUILD

- 2.1 Drive testing is in full swing to confirm that radio coverage of the Airwave network is as expected and no significant problems are being revealed.

PHASE B: OPERATIONAL ROLLOUT

- 2.2 Rollout of radios and ancillary equipment to FRS appliances and officers' cars continues to go well, and almost 3000 vehicles have been successfully installed with Firelink equipment. Installations have generally gone well. In the few cases where there have been snags, these have been reported and corrective action has been taken promptly. The service management arrangements are bedding down and the Airwave help desk has been very responsive. The response from those FRSs who have so far received Firelink (about half of English FRSs) has been very positive.

PHASE C: REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRES

- 2.3 An Airwave reference centre has now been successfully established within the EADS complex in Newport. Work on the communications interfaces in the early Regional Control Centres (RCCs) is well underway and interfaces for the remaining RCCs are on order. Plans for Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) delivery to FRSs are being firmed up with FiReControl who are, in turn, consulting with users on the detailed requirement.

3.0 FiReControl

GAZETTEER

- 3.1 The work on developing a gazetteer for use in the Regional Control Centres (RCCs), and for Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in appliances attending incidents, is progressing steadily. The gazetteer will support call handling and resource selection within the RCCs and will be used to link identified relevant risks to specific premises.
- 3.2 The FiReControl gazetteer will deliver a property-based gazetteer for all Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) across England. FRSs currently use a variety of gazetteers to identify incident locations, and in many cases only define the location to street or even parish level as opposed to individual properties.
- 3.3 The FiReControl gazetteer is made up from a number of data sources, the main one being the National Land & Property Gazetteer (NLPG). This is a collection of property level gazetteers created by local authorities, and administered and developed by a national hub.
- 3.4 The Fire and Rescue Service address matching service, provided by Intelligent Addressing under the Mapping Services Agreement, has now been completed for those FRSs that chose to use the facility.
- 3.5 Other datasets for which agreements are in negotiation include:
- Highways Agency data, important for the provision of gazetteer data for all motorways in England
 - The Index of Place Names, a data source for mobilising resources to parish and district level in England, created by the Office for National Statistics
 - Third party datasets under discussion are British Waterways data on the waterways for which they have responsibility, Environment Agency data on flood plains and licensed waste sites, information from industrial companies such as Transco Gas & Electricity on high pressure gas pipes and high voltage power cables, detailed map references for petrochemical pipelines from Linewatch UK, and information on railway assets in England from Network Rail
- 3.6 The FiReControl gazetteer for use in Regional Control Centres and on Mobile Data Terminals will be continually maintained and updated.

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