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National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework

Issued by:

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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
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Summary

This circular appertains to the publication of the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework document, which provides a structure designed to offer assistance to key stakeholders during incidents of national significance and/or that require national co-ordination.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 This circular introduces the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) which provides a structure designed to offer assistance to key stakeholders during incidents of national significance and/or those that require national co-ordination.
- 1.2 The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11 outlines the role of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser (CFRA) and identifies some of the responsibilities of the position for national co-ordination and advice during incidents of national significance.
- 1.3 The NCAF is the result of work undertaken by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser to ensure that the aforementioned responsibilities are discharged through an effective national framework.
- 1.4 The development of the NCAF has been designed to ensure that a robust, yet flexible and adaptable, framework is in place that enhances national support arrangements.

2.0 National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework

- 2.1 The NCAF document provides a structure that offers national support to affected FRS(s) during incidents of national significance or those requiring a level of national coordination. It sets out the arrangements for an enhanced support provision including:
 - Guidance and support to the affected Fire and Rescue Service(s) and the government department responsible for the FRS
 - The provision of support and information to the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser
 - Guidance and support to enable national interoperability
 - The provision of professional Fire and Rescue advice and support to Ministers and the Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR)
- 2.2 The NCAF provides guidance for the respective roles and responsibilities for the various components of the framework, demonstrating the direct lines of communications that will ensure accurate and timely information is shared in the support of the requirements of the incident(s). The framework has been designed for co-ordination, advice and to ensure the provision of national support to the affected Service(s).

The roles include:

- The Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser (CFRA)
- The National Strategic Adviser Team (NSAT)
- The National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT)
- Subject Matter Adviser (SMA)
- The CLG Emergency Room CLG (ER)
- The Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC)

2.3 The NCAF, or any components within it, does not remove any of the statutory duties of the local Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) or responsibilities of the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) or Commissioner.

2.4 The incident commander deployed by the Service in question retains the responsibility to resolve the incidents that occur within their area.

2.5 The framework supplements and augments the existing response arrangements and does not replace them.

2.6 The NCAF should be read in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue Service Manual for Incident Command: 3rd Edition.

3.0 Future development

3.1 The NCAF is designed to be a flexible and adaptable document. Therefore, it is envisaged that it will continue to evolve and develop in response to changes within the wider context of changing national risks, technological changes and the refinement and improvement provided by the expertise of key stakeholders.

3.2 A limited amount of hard copies will be sent out to each FRS and other stakeholders as part of the initial launch. It is envisaged that future iterations will only be available in an electronic format.

4.0 Further Information and Briefing Sessions

4.1 Regional briefing sessions will take place over the next few months once the arrangements have been finalised. The details of the events will be publicised in a later circular.

4.2 Queries should be addressed to Martin Smart, Office of the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser, at martin.smart@communities.qsi.gov.uk

4.3 An electronic version of the NCAF document is available at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/opguidancencaf>

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