

All CFO's
Commissioner LFB

18 March 2011

Incident Command Manual – Interim Review

As you are aware as the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser I have the responsibility for the commissioning and production of Operational Guidance for the Fire and Rescue Service in England. To ensure that the wider fire and rescue service is fully engaged the cross sector Operational Guidance Programme Board (OGPB) oversees the Operational Guidance Programme supported by the Operational Guidance Group (OGG).

As chair of the OGPB I am writing to invite you to contribute to an interim review of the Fire and Rescue Manual on Incident Command.

The Operational Guidance Programme Board (OGPB) has agreed, based on recommendation from the Operational Guidance Group that an interim review of this operational guidance is undertaken.

As you will be aware the 3rd Edition of the Fire and Rescue Manual Volume 2 Fire Service Operations Incident Command was published by HM Government in 2008.

In the period since the publication the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser has been made aware of a number of issues raised in respect of the accuracy of some details in the text and the need for clarity of some points of process.

It is also recognised that other operational guidance has been published including the National Coordination and Advisor Framework (NCAF), published in 2009 and there is a need to closer align this guidance.

This operational guidance is specifically seen as supporting and underpinning the interoperability between the fire and rescue service which in turn supports National Resilience.

An initial desk top review of the 3rd Edition has concluded that the vast majority of the guidance is accurate and clear, however there are some areas, such as Analytical Risk Assessment ARA and Incident Liaison Officers where there is a need for clarity or further guidance.

It would be the intention that on completion of the review the recommendations for any amendments or change would be presented to the National Command and Control Working Group and agreed with the Operational Guidance Group.

Dependent on the scale of amendments it is intended that the amended guidance would then be reissued in an electronic version only. The hard copy of the document will not be reprinted however an addendum note will be published by TSO to reflect the changes.

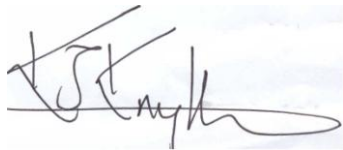
An electronic version of the document can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/incidentcommand.pdf

We would welcome any comments or observations on the guidance and nil returns to be sent to ChiefFire&RescueAdvisers@communities.gsi.gov.uk by **20th April 2011**.

It is anticipated that a revised version of the guidance will be ratified and published in June 2011

If you require any further information on this review. Please contact karen.schofield@communities.gsi.gov.uk at the Office of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser.

I look forward to receiving your comment



Yours sincerely

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL
Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser

cc.

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John Barton	RFU
Glyn Morgan	FOA
Peter Holland	CFOA President
Simon Pilling	CFOA
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