



THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL STATEMENT TO 2004 CONFERENCE

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Conference recognises that the shift to Integrated Risk Management Planning as the basis for planning future fire service activity in the areas of Prevention, Protection and Intervention has the real potential to improve the safety of communities, to reduce the risk to firefighters and to reduce property loss at emergency incidents.

The move to this system of emergency cover deployment and service delivery requires a significant change in the way that Fire Authorities approach their planning to reduce risk in the short, medium and long term.

Conference knows that safety will only be improved and losses reduced if Fire Authorities plan effectively and are prepared to invest considerable increased resources in the Fire Service.

Conference views with concern the Westminster Government's fire death reduction target to reduce the number of accidental fire related deaths in the home by 20% averaged over the 11 year period to 31st March 2010 compared with the average recorded in the five year period to 31st March 1999 – with no local authority fire brigade having a fatality rate of more than 1.25 times the national average by 31st March 2010

The Westminster Government's target effectively ignores whole sections of the population, including those whose deaths are caused by fires which have not been classified as being 'accidental' in origin. In effect the Government target creates a postcode lottery for planning of emergency cover. Those communities most at risk from death or serious injury as a result of fires not classified as having been started accidentally have been deliberately excluded from the target.

Conference further condemns the position of the Scottish Executive who to date have refused to set a target for reducing fire deaths in Scotland.

Conference recognises that the FBU's ZERO FIRE DEATHS target is the only target that is acceptable and justifiable in a civilised society. For the purposes of the FBU ZERO FIRE DEATHS target, a fire death is defined as being:

“The death of a person occurring as the direct result of a fire or the products of fire in any building or fixed structure howsoever caused, but not including the death of a person caused by fire or the effects of fire as the direct result of a deliberate act or omission of that person which is intended to end their own life prematurely, or any death resulting from an act whereby a person has been deliberately restrained against their will by a third party in such a manner that they cannot escape from fire or the effects of fire or raise an alarm of fire in such a manner that they may then reasonably expect to be rescued from fire.”

The high numbers of rescues carried out by firefighters every year consistently demonstrates the effectiveness of intervention as the primary control measure aimed at saving lives in fires, irrespective of whether the fire is started accidentally or not. Early detection and/or first call to the fire & rescue service, call handling and mobilisation by Emergency Fire Control Staff, coupled with effective speed of response and weight of attack (as determined by the Critical Attendance STandard [CAST] for the incident type), remain the critical factors in the success of this control measure.

Accordingly Conference endorses the Executive Council's recommendation to pursue the following IRMP strategy:

- Support the principle of Integrated Risk Management Planning;
- Support the campaign for a ZERO Fire Deaths target;
- Support the campaign for a Critical Attendance STandard (CAST);
- Public protection must be improved;
- Safety of firefighters must not be compromised;
- Integrated Risk Management Planning should directly address risk to life;
- Integrated Risk Management Planning should reduce risk to property;
- Integrated Risk Management Planning should reduce risk to heritage;
- Integrated Risk Management Planning should reduce risk to the environment;
- Campaign for increased funding;
- Campaign for commensurate staff levels;
- Maintain the best possible conditions of service;
 - Formalise the establishment of FBU IRMP Committees at all levels to further advise the FBU IRMP Unit/Department;
- Continue the FBU IRMP training and awareness campaign

Conference gives full support to any Brigade that takes strike action against a local employer who is attempting to divert Integrated Risk Management Planning from a process which should be aimed at reducing risk to a process which is purely cost-driven and which puts at risk public safety or firefighter safety, cuts jobs, or detrimentally affects conditions of service

Moved by the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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