Publication of research reports – Guide to risk assessment tools, techniques and data

Issued by:
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Addressed to:
Please forward 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

Summary
This circular announces the publication of a guide for Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) based on the findings of research into risk assessment tools, techniques and data.

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Website
www.communities.gov.uk
1.0 Background

1.1 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was introduced to provide a framework for civil protection in the UK. LRFs were created to bring together all organisations that have a duty to co-operate under the Civil Contingencies Act. LRFs assess the risk of emergencies occurring in their area and use this to inform contingency planning.

1.2 Integrated Risk Management Plans (IRMPs) were introduced in 2004/05 for every FRS as part of the FRS modernisation process. IRMPs set out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities, in partnership with neighbouring authorities and other agencies.

1.3 Greenstreet Berman produced a report “Risk assessment tools, techniques and data for the Civil Contingencies Act and Integrated Risk Management Planning” which was published by CLG in May 2008. It was then decided that a more concise report, specifically aimed at providing guidance for FRSs and LRFs, was required.

1.4 A guide has therefore been produced to serve this purpose. This guide is not related to the Generic Risk Assessments on the Fire and Rescue Service published by The Stationery Office.

2.0 Findings

2.1 The guide considers each risk category separately, such as transport, industrial accidents and severe weather. It also considers the ‘domino’ effects of one risk impacting on another. The report:

• Provides an overview of the form of risk assessment that is possible for each risk category

• Identifies specific tools, techniques and data where they exist and summarises these

• Notes the limitations of current tools, techniques and data

• Provides references and sources for use by LRFs and FRSs

2.2 The report can now be found at: 
http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/researchpublications/fulltechnicalreports/

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