Operational Guidance
Generic Risk Assessments

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:
Training Managers
Operational Personnel
Health and Safety Department
Service Delivery Departments

Summary
This circular informs Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) of the publication of Operational Guidance relating to management of risk in the operational environment. This operational guidance is the first to be published through the Operational Guidance Programme and has been developed through close collaboration with key stakeholders from the Fire and Rescue sector.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

1.1 The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11 sets out a responsibility for the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser (CFRA) to commission, quality assure and publish operational guidance.

1.2 CFRA established the Operational Guidance Programme Board (OGPB) to ensure wide engagement within the Fire and Rescue sector. The OGPB have an agreed risk based Operational Guidance Programme (OGP) of projects to revise, refresh and develop Operational Guidance.

1.3 There are currently 14 projects within the OGP including a project to review the guidance previously published in 1998/99 relating to management of health and safety in the fire service, which included the suite of Generic Risk Assessments (GRAs).

1.4 The project has now completed the review and refresh of a number of the GRAs and this operational guidance is the first to be published through the OGP.

1.5 Operational Guidance published through the OGP is different to the style and format of previous operational guidance and is available in an electronic format to improve accessibility, currency of information and version control.

1.6 Further details of the Operational Guidance Programme and the published Operational Guidance is available at: www.communities.gov.uk/fire/runningfire/CFRA/operationalguidance

2.0 Generic Risk Assessments (GRAs)

2.1 The GRAs have been developed in collaboration with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), Health and Safety Executive, Fire and Rescue Services, Representative Bodies and other key stakeholders.

2.2 Each GRA sets out the significant hazards and risks and key control measures associated with a generic activity. The GRAs will assist fire and rescue services through the provision of information on factors that should be considered when assessing the risk to its staff and the wider community within the context of local conditions and existing organisational arrangements.

2.3 This initial publication includes:-

- A foreword to the series by Sir Ken Knight, the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser
- A revised introduction to the GRA series (to replace the current version)
- An updated index
- A redesigned folder for storage of the GRAs
- A set of section dividers

A full set of this initial publication will be supplied to all FRSs.
2.4 The table below sets out the GRAs which have now been reviewed and refreshed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRA Reference</th>
<th>GRA Title</th>
<th>Superseded GRA Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRA 1.1</td>
<td>Emergency response and arrival at the scene</td>
<td>GRAs 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRA 5.8</td>
<td>Flashover, backdraught and fire gas ignitions</td>
<td>GRA 5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5 The superseded versions should be removed from A Guide to Operational Risk Assessment: Fire Service Guide volume 3 and destroyed.

2.6 For ease of use it is recommended that FRSs transfer the GRAs from the current volume, A Guide to Operational Risk Assessment, volume 3 into the new folder Fire and Rescue Service, Operational Guidance, GRAs.

2.7 It is planned that the project to review and refresh the guidance relating to the management of health and safety in the fire and rescue service will publish further GRAs at a rate of approximately two per month. The GRA roll-out plan is available at: [www.communities.gov.uk/fire/runningfire/CFRA/operationalguidance](http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/runningfire/CFRA/operationalguidance)

2.8 Further copies of the initial publication can be obtained from The Stationery Office (TSO). GRAs will also be available in an A4 and A5 sized format. The TSO web site provides full details: [http://www.tsoshop.co.uk](http://www.tsoshop.co.uk)

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