

Title of Paper	Fire Standards Progress Report
Decision or Information	For information
Title and Date of Meeting	LGA Fire Services Management Committee 9 July 2021
Attachments	None

Summary

This paper provides members of the Fire Services Management Committee (FSMC) with a summary of the progress on Fire Standards since the last report in May 2021. The Fire Standards Board has not met again since the last update to FSMC. It meets again on 14th July 2021.

There are now six Fire Standards that have been developed, approved and published. They are available on the [Fire Standards Board](#) (FSB) website. They include:

- Emergency Response Driving
- Operational Response encompassing:
 - Operational Preparedness
 - Operational Competence
 - Operational Learning
- Code of Ethics
- Community Risk Management Planning

Further Fire Standards from the first phase delivery plan are in development with both Prevention and Fire Protection nearing completion and publication. A second phase of delivery to be undertaken over the next 12-18 months has been agreed by the Board, subject to funding availability.

Details of progress against all standards is included in this report.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- note the contents of this report for information; and
- request the support of fire authority members in enabling and empowering their services to achieve the Fire Standards as part of their local continuous improvement journeys.

Background Information

The Fire Standards published to date and in development will form part of a suite of complimentary and linked Fire Standards for services in England.

Given the various stages of development required and the time needed for engagement with services in the early stages as well as through formal consultation, development work and publications are staggered. This is primarily done to align capacity and resources in a considered way, but also to pace the rate at which standards are released to services.

Once approved, Fire Standards will be shared on the [Fire Standards Board website](#).

A forward plan for the next phase of development over the next 12-18 months is shown below:

Key:

Green shading indicates Fire Standard now published

Blue shading indicates Fire Standard in development

P indicates planned date for publishing

Grey shading indicates a period for implementation support

ID	Fire Standards	2021												2022								
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Phase 1																						
1.1	Emergency Response Driving		Published																			
1.2	Operational Response - Preparedness		Published																			
1.3	Operational Response - Competence		Published																			
1.4	Operational Response - Learning		Published																			
1.5	Code of Ethics				Published																	
1.6	Community Risk Management Planning				Published																	
1.7	Prevention							P														
1.8	Fire Protection									P												
1.9	Data Requirements & Management																			P		
1.10	Well-Led Organisation (Leadership)											P										
Phase 2																						
2.1	Safeguarding											P										
2.2	Fire Investigation																	P				
2.3	Developing Leaders (Leadership)																		P			
2.4	Emergency Planning & Resilience																			P		
2.5	Workforce Management																				P	

The remaining areas to be considered for Fire Standards are listed below. It will not necessarily follow that a single Fire Standard will be developed for each activity in the list, but these are the areas that remain outstanding. Early development work in each area will help clarify and confirm the standards needed and the scope of each one, this is then agreed with the Board.

- Digital and Information Technology
- Communication, engagement, and consultation
- Collaboration and strategic partnerships
- Health and wellbeing (of staff)
- Resources (potentially including procurement, contract management, commercial activities, fleet, and estates management)
- Assurance (potentially including external and internal audit, evaluation, and operational assurance)

Progress to Date

A summary of progress of the remaining Fire Standards in the Phase One delivery plan is summarised below.

Prevention Fire Standard

- The consultation on this standard has been completed and the feedback analysed.
- The post-consultation Fire Standard is being presented to the Board at the July meeting to request sign-off to proceed to Quality Assurance.
- It is anticipated this standard will be published in late July 2021.

Fire Protection Fire Standard

- The consultation on this standard has been completed and the feedback analysed.
- Considerable changes have been identified through the consultation process and the working group are now finalising revisions to the Fire Standard. It is not envisaged a further consultation is required but the working group are currently considering this.
- The anticipated publication date for this Fire Standard is now September 2021.

Data Requirements and Management

- Work on the scoping phase of this Fire Standard has been paused until further work is completed in the NFCC Digital and Data programme who are supporting the development work.
- This is a complex area of work with many potential implications; therefore, time is being taken to fully understand where a Fire Standard may add value and the appropriate timing of that.
- Meetings are scheduled with the NFCC programme team and the FSB Chairs to understand current timelines and impact before a further discussion at the Board meeting in July to agree the best way forward.

Leadership

- Following early scoping work and conclusions from this, the requirements of the Leadership Fire Standards have been re-defined.
- The Board's intent is to establish Fire Standards that bring clarity about the role of leaders of fire and rescue services for the general public, the employees of the services, as well as for all other stakeholders.
- Initially two Leadership Fire Standards were commissioned by the Fire Standards Board which included:
 1. **Well-Led Organisation** – to encapsulate what leadership of a well-led and managed fire and rescue service looks like
 2. **Developing and promoting good leadership** – to encapsulate what is required to develop and promote good leadership at all levels within the fire and rescue service
- As a result of the scoping work on both of these areas, a further Fire Standard has been identified and is being included in the next phase of Fire Standards development which is focussed on **Workforce Management and Planning**.
- All Leadership related Fire Standards will reference the core responsibilities and required behaviours of leaders linking to the NFCC Leadership Framework already in place and the Code of Ethics Fire Standard.

Well-Led Organisation

- Work on this Fire Standard is underway with scoping work completed and early drafting work currently taking place.
- This will lead to a period of peer review before moving to a full and open consultation.
- Work on many products and tools that will support these standards is also underway through the NFCC People Programme who will be working with the Fire Standards team on the development of these Fire Standards.

Developing Leaders

- Work on this Fire Standard has been rescheduled to allow work on the Well-Led Organisation to progress first.
- Early scoping work is now taking place with a view to start development in early September 2021.

Background notes for information

The Fire Standards Board (FSB) is responsible for the identification, organisation, development and maintenance of professional standards for fire and rescue services in England. Led by an independent Chair and Vice Chair, membership of the Board includes the NFCC, employers (both the LGA and the APCC) and the Home Office. The LGA representative on the Board is Cllr Nick Chard.

The FSB continues to meet regularly to review the progress made on Fire Standards development. Its next meeting is scheduled for 14 July 2021.

Services should now be aware of the requirements being placed upon them through these Fire Standards. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HIMCFRS) will be referencing the standards in their inspection arrangements and therefore services should be prepared to evidence their progress towards achieving them.

The Fire Standards Board would welcome and appreciate the support of fire authority chairs and members in:

1. ensuring their services engage in development work and peer review through releasing their subject matter experts to support development work through the NFCC where appropriate and feasible;
2. respond to the Fire Standards consultations as they are published; and,
3. support activities to achieve those Fire Standards through implementation once approved and published.