



SHROPSHIRE

Fire and Rescue Service

<u>CONTENTS</u>	Page No
INTRODUCTION	1
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	2
REVIEW	2
FIRE COVER STANDARDS/ ASSESSMENT OF RISK	2
PROSE DESCRIPTION	3
POINTS FORMULA	3
SPEED AND WEIGHT OF ATTACK	4
DEVELOPMENT	4
Appendix A - Fire Services Act 1947 Provision of Fire Services	
Appendix B - Fire Risk Categories	
-	

**BRIGADE ORDER
OPERATIONS
NO. 2**

PART 1

**STANDARDS OF
FIRE COVER**

BRIGADE ORDER OPERATIONS NO. 2

PART 1 – STANDARDS OF FIRE COVER

INTRODUCTION

The categorisation of a brigade area by risk is the key to determining resource requirements. The risk categorisation largely determines the fire cover for each area within the brigade. The need to provide fire cover also determines the number and location of pumping appliances together with their crewing systems.

Risk Categorisation	Speed And Weight Of Response	Number, Location And Type Of Station
Type and size of Buildings	Number of pumping appliances	Number of firefighters
Use of property	Time taken to reach incident	Wholetime or retained

The Brigade's existing assessment of fire risk categorisation is based on the guidance of the Central Fire Brigades Advisory Council which was recommended to brigades in Fire Service Circular No: 4/1985. From the interpretation of these guidelines the Brigade can determine the minimum recommended level of service. However, the guidance does not take account of several other important points. The minimum makes no provision for serious incidents, which require the resources of several stations to be deployed at one incident, nor does it take into account the workload of stations or the likelihood of further incidents occurring at any one time in an area.

It is therefore for Fire Authorities to take an individual view based upon the professional judgement of the Chief Fire Officer when setting the minimum standards and the level of service deemed necessary to meet the Fire Authority's statutory duties under the Fire Services Act 1947, Section I. (Appendix A)

The 1947 Act also provides for arrangements for assistance between neighbouring brigades:

- Section 2** Arrangements for mutual assistance; and
- Section 12** Discharge of functions of fire authorities through other fire authorities or persons.
- Section 3 (e)** Gives the fire authority the power to employ the fire brigade maintained by them, or use any equipment so maintained, for purposes other than firefighting purposes for which it appears to the authority to be suitable and, if they think fit, to make such charge as they may determine for any services rendered in the course of such

employment or use. (Special services)

Reciprocal arrangements in accordance with Sections 2 and 12 of the Fire Services Act 1947 for cross border mutual assistance are established with Hereford and Worcester, Cheshire, North Wales, Mid and West Wales, Staffordshire, and West Midlands.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer will be responsible for the day to day control of the Standards of Fire Cover across the Brigade.

REVIEW

This Order will be reviewed annually in January by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Performance and Quality Manager and the Performance Review Officer, and as and when organisational changes take place.

Alterations and amendments to this Order will be communicated via "The Pink" and will show the date reviewed. The Officer responsible for ensuring the regular review of this Order is the Performance Review Officer.

FIRE COVER STANDARDS / ASSESSMENT OF RISK

The standards of Fire Cover were introduced in 1947, with reports in 1958 and 1995, and recommends that certain minimum requirements should be laid down for three typical classes of area:

- congested urban areas;
- smaller towns with mainly residential property, more widely spaced, and few if any important risks; and
- mainly rural areas with scattered villages, hamlets and remote homesteads.

The current recommended standards of fire cover were set out in Fire Service Circular (FSC) 43/1958 and subsequently more clearly defined, revised and consolidated in FSC 23/1974 and FSC 4/1985 respectively. Fire risk assessment of an area is based on the guidance contained in

these circulars, which consist of a prose description of the risk categories and a formula designed to determine a points rating or fire grading of a particular premises.

Taking the prose descriptions and the points formula together, the "risk" is determined by a combination of three elements:

- The likelihood of fire occurring.
- The potential for fire spread.
- The potential for casualties or severe property damage to occur.

PROSE DESCRIPTION

The prose description provides a starting point for the examination of part of or the whole of the Brigade area in general terms. This is usually a visual inspection, with the aim of identifying in broad terms, different areas of risk.

Once areas of risk have been categorised then individual assessment of the buildings can be carried out using the points formula method.

POINTS FORMULA

The points formula serves as the second stage of the examination process. It is designed to assist with calculating the potential risk category of individual premises, within an area. It should be used to determine the points rating used, the formula can determine the points rating, or fire grading of a particular premise.

There is no optimal size of a risk category area. In practice, most areas comprise of a substantial number of quarter miles, or half kilometre squares which, when joined together constitute a predominant risk area. Shropshire has adopted a policy of five or more adjoining squares constitute a predominant risk.

To summarise the above:

- Every building within a square is inspected and given a points rating using the formula.
(ie: of 30 buildings, 20 = 'B' risk, 10 = 'C' risk, the remainder of the square is rural or 'D' risk)
- The square itself is then given a risk category (the predominant risk of the square is 'B' with 'C' risk within)
- When completed and colour coded according to its risk category, a number of adjoining squares or an area are then given an overall risk category.

SPEED AND WEIGHT OF ATTACK

FIRST ATTENDANCE

When the risk category of an area has been determined the Home Office criteria demands that the fire service response to emergency fire calls meets minimum requirements in terms of speed and weight of attack.

Risk Category	No of Pumps in First Attendance	Approximate Minimum Time Limits For Attendance (in minutes)		
		1 st	2 nd	3 rd
A	3	5	5	8
B	2	5	8	-
C	1	8-10	-	-
D	1	20	-	-

SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT CALLS

Second and subsequent calls are those which give rise to simultaneous demands on fire service resources. As such, they have implications for the extent to which the Brigade is able to respond to an incident, or incidents within the recommended standards of fire cover.

TURNOUT TIMES

The turnout time of a station is, the time taken between the station being alerted and the appliance booking mobile.

Home Office figures currently used for Fire Cover Modelling Purposes are:

Wholtime Stations = one minute
Retained Stations = five minutes

The Brigade Health and Safety Order No 8 Part 11 - The Wearing of Seat Belts When Responding to Emergency Calls provides guidance on the correct balance between the level of urgency in response to a call for health and the safety of firefighters responding to an incident.

DEVELOPMENT

Home Office guidelines suggest that a review of the Standards of Fire Cover is carried out at between five and seven year intervals, and although a comprehensive review was carried out in

1995 the Brigade continues to monitor the risk categories of the County and update its records accordingly.

This is carried out in a number of ways:

- County and District structure plans are periodically examined and any development considered against the current risk category of the areas involved.
- Plan proposals for industrial and/or commercial development are inspected by the Brigade's Community Fire Safety department, areas of concern are then forwarded on to the Assistant Chief Fire Officer resulting in closer inspection by the appropriate District Officer.
- Plan proposals received by the Brigade for consideration under other statutory legislation (hydrants etc) are also inspected and a risk assessment is carried out in accordance with the guidance to determine any changes to the risk category of any particular area. This is carried out by the Incident Commanders at the same time they assess water supply provisions and access.

This is supported by a series of generic operational risk assessments and specific incident procedures that advise fire crews of the risks associated with particular fire and building types and provides information on the control measures and safe systems of work to adopt.

Fire Services Act 1947
(10 and 11 Geo. 6 c. 41)

PROVISION OF FIRE SERVICES

- (1) It shall be the duty of every fire authority in Great Britain to make provision for firefighting purposes, and in particular every fire authority shall secure-
 - (a) The services for their area of such a fire brigade and such equipment as may be necessary to meet efficiently all normal requirements;
 - (b) The efficient training of the members of the fire brigade;
 - (c) Efficient arrangements for dealing with calls for the assistance of the fire brigade in case of fire and for the summoning of members of the fire brigade;
 - (d) Efficient arrangements for obtaining, by inspection or otherwise, information required for fire-fighting purposes with respect to the character of the buildings and other property in the area of the fire authority, the available water supplies and a means of access thereto, and other material local circumstances;
 - (e) Efficient arrangements for ensuring that reasonable steps are taken to prevent or mitigate damage to property resulting measures taken in dealing with fires in the area of the fire authority;
 - (f) Efficient arrangements for the giving, when requested, of advice in respect of buildings and other property in the area of the fire authority as to fire prevention, restricting the spread of fires, and the means of escape in case of fire.

FIRE RISK CATEGORIES

CATEGORY A RISK

Found in the largest cities and towns and include main shopping and business centres with concentrations of theatres, cinemas, clubs or high-risk industrial and commercial property.

CATEGORY B RISK

The built up areas of large cities or towns not deemed to be within category A also, large holiday resorts, industrial or trading estates and concentrations of older multi-storey residential properties.

CATEGORY C RISK

Suburbs of the large towns and built up areas of smaller towns. Residential areas and industrial or commercial where there are few higher risk properties.

CATEGORY D RISKS

All areas not falling within categories A to C or Remote Rural (see below).

REMOTE RURAL RISKS

Areas isolated from any centres of population containing few buildings.

SPECIAL RISKS

Premises, which require a first attendance over and above that appropriate to the risk which predominates in the surrounding area and include major petro-chemical or other high-risk industrial plants, airports, hospitals, prisons and tower blocks.