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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular is in support of the newly published Fire and Rescue Service Manual – Volume 2, Fire Service Operations – Incident Command.		

Fire and Rescue Manual Volume 2: Fire Service Operations - Incident Command (3rd Edition)

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
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Training Managers
Operational Personnel**

Summary

This circular provides information to Fire and Rescue Services on the recently published Fire Service Manual (FSM) providing specific guidance on Incident Command. The guidance is for use by Fire and Rescue Services for planning operational service delivery and training. This manual supersedes FSM Volume 2, Incident Command 2nd Edition.

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Incident Command System (ICS) is a standardised, on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept which provides a common framework to ensure that all those involved in an incident can work together effectively.
- 1.2 The procedures that form the ICS should be an integral part of a fire and rescue service's (FRS) organisational systems for managing risk during incidents.
- 1.3 The ICS consists of procedures for managing incidents and provides a mechanism to control resources, personnel, facilities and equipment, whilst maintaining effective communications. It is designed to be used or applied from the time an incident occurs until the requirements for management of operations no longer exist.

2.0 The Manual

- 2.1 The ICS manual and supporting processes constitute a template against which incident command policies and procedures can be written, and the training and assessment of individuals and teams to operate those systems safely and effectively can be conducted.
- 2.2 ICS is the recognised 'nationwide safe and effective system for managing operations'. It presents the key elements of effective incident command in three functional areas; these are:-
 - Organisation on the Incident Ground
 - Incident Risk Management
 - Command Competence
- 2.3 The manual reflects the need for FRSs to be able to work effectively within a broader multi-agency incident management framework. Building upon changes to legislation and supporting guidance, the broader role of FRSs at incidents other than fire is considered in relation to the capacities, objectives, and constraints of other responding agencies. FRS commanders need to understand clearly the roles and responsibilities of key people and organisations at various levels within the UK's resilience framework, including knowledge of the powers and duties of officials at key levels.
- 2.4 This latest manual is the 3rd edition and it supersedes previous editions.
- 2.5 One copy of the manual will be sent to all FRSs. Further copies can be obtained from TSO, details are listed below:

TSO
PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN
Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522
Fax orders: 0870 600 5533
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