



Position Statement

COVID-19

March 2020

Introduction

The government's objectives are to deploy phased actions to **'Contain'**, **'Delay'**, and **'Mitigate'** any COVID-19 outbreak, using **'Research'** to inform policy development.

As a result, the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has issued the following strategic intentions to fire and rescue services which should be considered alongside local business continuity plans, the FRS flu pandemic guidance document, LRF pandemic flu plans and Public Health advice to employers and the public.

This advice reflects the government's decision to move from 'contain' to 'delay', action taken in order to slow the spread across the country and to lower the peak impact, while moving it away from the winter season.

Strategic Intent

To 'Delay' and 'Mitigate' the impact of COVID-19 across the UK in order to protect our communities.

Strategic Intentions

- To proactively protect our communities and limit the spread of COVID 19
- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of our staff in the pursuance of their duties
- To maintain an effective Emergency Response - we will continue to respond to all incidents.
- To maintain essential Preparedness activity - we will continue to prepare, train and exercise against foreseeable risk with a focus on core competencies.
- To Protect our communities from fire - we will adopt a risk based approach to Protection activity, enforcement action will continue based on a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.
- To Prevent the impact of fire and other emergencies on our communities - we will adopt a risk based approach to Prevention - very high risk interventions (Home Safety Checks / Safe and Well Visits) will continue based on a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

- To ensure effective business continuity, procurement and recovery arrangements are in place throughout the sector.
- To ensure that sectors response is coordinated and integrated with other responding agencies, promote shared situational awareness and joint understanding of risk.
- To support a return to normality

Guidance will be provided for each of the Strategic Intentions – these are being developed by the NFCC Committee Chairs.

Raising areas of concern

Should you have specific issues related to any of the areas identified please raise them with the specific lead i.e. procurement of facemasks with CFO Stuart Errington. This should be done by emailing covid19.enquiries@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

NFCC advice

- If there is a COVID-19 case in your service, use [Public Health advice on self-isolation](#).
- NFCC will signpost to any new [Public Health](#) guidance as it is produced.
- Signpost [to PH first responder guidance](#) and [guidance for employers](#).

NFCC Updates

Home Office Reporting

- Daily – commencing this Thursday (19th March 2020)
- Data to be provided by 1200 each day to National Resilience Hub for collation and circulation to Home Office.

National Fire Gold Command Roles

- Fire Gold – Phil Garrigan
- Response – Chris Lowther
- Preparedness and Resilience – Nick Searle
- Protection – Mark Hardingham
- Prevention – Neil Odin
- Workforce – Ann Millington
- Business Continuity/Resources – Stuart Errington
- Strategic Support and Governance – Steven Adams
- Communications – Jane Eason (Central Hub)
- Intelligence cell – Ged Devereux, Scientific Advisor, TBC x2 (HMICFRS)
- NFCC Leadership – Roy Wilsher (principal public face), Phil Loach, Huw Jakeway
- Devolved Administrations

All enquiries should be directed to covid19.enquiries@nationalfirechiefs.org.uk

For further information and updates please refer to www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/COVID-19

The **government's action plan states**: "Delaying the spread of the disease requires all of us to follow the advice. The benefits of doing so are that if the peak of the outbreak can be delayed until the warmer months, we can reduce significantly the risk of overlapping with seasonal flu and other challenges (societal or medical) that the colder months bring. The Delay phase also buys time for the testing of drugs and initial development of vaccines and/or improved therapies or tests to help reduce the impact of the disease."

"Some actions will have social costs where the benefit of doing them to delay the peak will need to be considered against the social impact. The best possible scientific advice and other experts will inform any decision on what will be most effective."

Committee
Operations

Date for Review
Ongoing – on or before
the 26th March 2020