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**CRM**

**UNWANTED  
FIRE SIGNALS  
FROM  
AUTOMATIC  
FIRE  
DETECTION  
SYSTEMS  
POLICY**

## **1. Scope**

There is a shared Operational and Fire Safety policy.

## **2. Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the policy is to improve the performance of fire alarm systems. The objective is to reduce the number of unwanted fire signals by working with building owners/occupiers and where necessary enforcement of fire safety legislation, particularly for 'responsible persons' who do not manage fire warning systems in a suitable or sufficient manner.

## **3. Policy**

The Authority requires that all unwanted fire signals from automatic fire detection systems should be examined and reported upon. When a building produces:

- a) two unwanted fire signals in a four week period:
- b) three unwanted fire signals in a 26-week period; or
- c) the cause of any unwanted fire signal has not been remedied within 7 days

a targeted inspection by a Fire Safety Officer will be carried out.

Information required from the inspection will include the type of building, number of fire detectors, correct address whether the address given was for a single building or a range of buildings.

From information gathered it will be possible to separate buildings for mobilising purposes and better identify problem premises. Using a formula contained in British Standards a comparative performance assessment of the fire alarm system will be carried out. If the resultant performance is below the target limit set by the CLG then enforcement action will be implemented in accordance with the Service policy.

In the event that:

- a) unwanted fire signals continue to be generated from premises despite enforcement action;
- b) remedial action has failed to reduce the number of unwanted fire signals to an acceptable level; or
- c) the occupier of the premise has refused to co-operate

the Authority may suspend attendance to the premises unless a confirmation call from the premises is received by Control. Approval to reduce the attendance in such circumstances requires approval from the Head of Community Risk Management.

#### **4. Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment**

Original impact assessment still valid.

#### **5. Reference Documents**

- 1) British Standard 5839:part1:2002
- 2) NHS Fire Practice note Number 11 – Reducing Unwanted fire signals in health care premises.
- 3) CFO 'Response to remotely monitored fire alarm systems'.
- 4) A guide to reducing the number of false alarms from fire-detection and fire alarm systems published by the ODPM in association with CFOA and BFPSA.

#### **6. Approval Agency**

Service Management Team.

## **7. Approval Dates**

This Policy was originally approved in: 2008

This Policy was last reviewed in: 2009

Next review date: 2010

## **8. Policy Sponsor**

Head of Community Risk Management.

## **9. Diversity and Equality Statement**

Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service is committed to the principles of diversity and equality and the elimination of discriminatory practices. These principles are applied to the treatment of all individuals, whether members of the public, or our own staff, be those fire officers, support staff or volunteers.

This policy will be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner. Members of Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service administering this policy are responsible for ensuring that in their application, those to whom the policy applies, shall not receive less favourable treatment because of their age, colour, disability, ethnic or national origin, gender re-assignment, marital status, nationality, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.