

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

Preventing Protecting Responding



Emergency Response Standards
to be applied by
Grampian Fire and Rescue Service



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GRAMPIAN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

POLICY ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARDS

Grampian Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is committed to ensuring that all efforts are made to minimise the risk to the public from all foreseeable and unforeseeable events. In support of this commitment, the Service has used its powers under the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 to set standards for emergency response which have been determined locally through analysis of actual risk in the Grampian area.

OUR POLICY

Risk Categories

All the incidents attended by the Service are unpredictable and occur in different areas of Grampian at different times for different reasons, and all have different risks associated with them. The Service has developed a risk map of Grampian which identifies the likelihood of dwelling house fires occurring and the subsequent risk of death and injury. These risks have been classified into five categories for the purposes of indicating emergency response times.

Figure 1: Definition of risk categories

Very High Risk	This risk profile will have the very highest likelihood of dwelling fires with resultant casualties and fatalities and will therefore attract a more rapid response than the category below and receive very substantial community fire safety risk reduction initiatives
High Risk	This risk profile will have a high likelihood of dwelling fires with resultant casualties and fatalities and will therefore attract a more rapid response than the category below and receive substantial community fire safety risk reduction initiatives
Medium Risk	This risk profile will have a medium likelihood of dwelling fires with resultant casualties and fatalities and will therefore attract a more rapid response than the category below but community fire safety initiatives will be targeted at specific trends
Low Risk	This risk profile will have a low likelihood of dwelling fires with resultant casualties and fatalities and will therefore attract a more rapid response than the category below and community fire safety initiatives will be targeted at specific trends and issues
Very Low Risk	This risk profile will have a very low likelihood of dwelling fires with resultant casualties and fatalities and will therefore attract our optimum speed of response and community fire safety initiatives will be targeted at specific trends and issues



INCIDENT TYPES

The Service has classified its attendance to all incidents into the following two categories, i.e. those that present a risk to life, and those which present no risk to life;

CRITICAL INCIDENT:

‘These are fires or other incidents that involve threat to life. For this category an initial response of two fire engines is considered proportionate and reasonable. These incidents will be given priority in the mobilising process.’

The Service will set response times for these types of incidents as detailed in Figure 2.

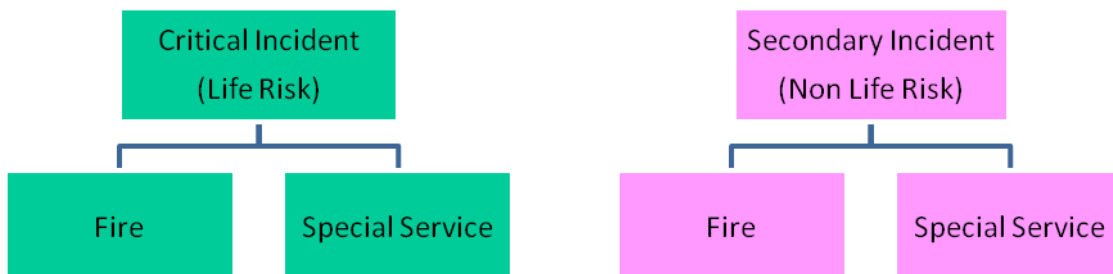
SECONDARY INCIDENT:

‘Secondary Incidents can be described as incidents which do not involve a potential threat to life. For this category a response of one fire engine may be considered proportional and reasonable. Consideration may be given to redirecting appliances mobilised to this type of incident to attend incidents of a more serious nature. i.e. the higher priority critical incidents. In this situation, another appliance will be mobilised to the secondary incident.’

The Service will not set response times for these types of incidents.

Given that the fire service attends incidents of a fire and non-fire nature, these definitions create four distinct incident categorisations. Fire incidents are quite clear in their definition, however, non-fire incidents are generally classified as special service incidents and cover a number of activities ranging from road traffic collisions (Life Risk), to recovering or retrieving objects, and making public areas safe from potential fall of debris (Non Life Risk).

GFRS will apply variable attendance standards based on risk areas and sub divisions of incident types as detailed below:





EMERGENCY RESPONSE STANDARD

Figure 2: The Emergency Response Times (Critical Incidents):

<u>ALL CRITICAL INCIDENTS (LIFE RISK)</u>		
Risk Category	Attendance Time for 1st Fire Engine	Attendance Time for 2nd Fire Engine
Very High Risk	Less than 5 minutes	Less than 8 minutes
High Risk	Less than 8 minutes	Less than 11 minutes
Medium Risk	Less than 15 minutes	Less than 18 minutes
Low Risk	Less than 20 minutes	Less than 23 minutes
Very Low Risk	Less than 25 minutes	Less than 28 minutes

Where a third fire engine is required to attend as part of a predetermined operational plan i.e. attending an incident in a residential multi storey property, this will be in attendance in less than three minutes after the stated attendance time for a second fire engine.



Secondary Incident - Fire

These types of incidents are not life threatening incidents. Typical examples of secondary incidents are vehicle fires, chimney fires, derelict building fires, grassland fires, skip fires. In order to ensure the maximum availability of resources to attend genuine life threatening incidents the response to secondary incidents – fire will be as follows:

Figure 3: Emergency Response Standards for Secondary Incident – Fire:

SECONDARY INCIDENT – FIRE	
Risk Category	The nearest available fire engine will be mobilised upon receipt of a call
All Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a life-threatening incident occurs in the same station area whilst en route, the fire engine will immediately be redirected to the life risk incident. • If a life-threatening incident occurs in the same station area whilst the appliance is dealing with the secondary incident, if safe to do so the appliance will leave the secondary incident. • In either case, the secondary incident will then be attended by the next nearest available fire engine.

Secondary Incident - Special Service

These types of incidents are not life threatening incidents. Typical examples of Secondary Incidents & Special Services are releasing persons confined in lifts, recovering or retrieving objects, and making public areas safe from potential fall of debris.

Figure 4: Emergency Response Standards for Secondary Incident – Special Service:

SECONDARY INCIDENT – SPECIAL SERVICE	
Risk Category	The nearest available incident manager or fire engine will be mobilised upon receipt of a call
All Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In certain circumstances an officer may be mobilised to assess if a fire engine is required in the first instance. • If a life-threatening incident occurs in the same station area whilst en route, the fire engine will immediately be redirected to the life risk incident. • If a life-threatening incident occurs in the same station area whilst the appliance is dealing with the secondary incident, if safe to do so the appliance will leave the secondary incident. • In either case, the secondary incident will then be attended by the next nearest available fire engine.



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