

# Major Hazards Intervention Policy and Objectives

## Standard Operating Procedure No. TFS - 031

**Document Overview:** This document sets our policy and objectives for Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (Wiltshire FRS) intervention with Major Hazardous Installations (MHI). Within Wiltshire FRS both Technical Fire Safety and Operational Response will be co-operating to ensure there is a holistic and optimum use of information.

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## **1. Introduction:**

- 1.1. This document sets our policy and objectives for Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (Wiltshire FRS) intervention with Major Hazardous Installations (MHI). Within Wiltshire FRS both Technical Fire Safety and Operational Response will be co-operating to ensure there is a holistic and optimum use of information. This inter-departmental co-operation will be referred to as Major Hazardous Installation Team (MHIT).

## **2. Scope:**

- 2.1. For the purpose of this document and associated policies and procedures a Major Hazardous Installation is considered any:
  - Top-tier COMAH establishments;
  - Lower-tier COMAH establishments;
  - Sub-COMAH premises e.g. premises that are outside the scope of COMAH but which have dangerous substances with major hazard potential such as those subject to the Planning (Hazardous Substances Consent) Regulations 1992.

## **3. Policy**

- 3.1. Wiltshire FRS MHI Intervention Policy is to:
- 3.2. Ensure the MHIT will have the appropriate resources and competences required in relation to the risks presented by MHI (emerging and existing) within Wiltshire.
- 3.3. That the MHIT will effectively share and distribute information and databases of MHI sites and sites which present significant hazardous the community and to Wiltshire FRS Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)
- 3.4. Interaction with MHI by the MHIT will endeavor to reduce the burden on the organisation, by effective use of clear information, visible procedures and proportionate follow up activities.
- 3.5. New premises of a hazardous nature will be assessed for whether they should be addressed by the MHIT or referred to the groups for action under normal procedures.

## **4. Aims and objectives MHIT:**

- 4.1. Staff of the MHIT will ensure that the competencies required for their roles are included in their training needs analysis to ensure they are maintained.
- 4.2. Staff of the MHIT will report and notify senior management in Communities Risk Registry (CRR) of any aspect which will prohibit the successful implementation of the MHI Intervention Policy.
- 4.3. The MHIT will establish robust and effective communication channels between:

- The Operational Response and Technical Fire Safety strands of the MHIT.
- The MHIT and the Technical Fire Safety Group Office Managers.
- The MHIT and the appropriate operational management.
- The MHIT and the senior management of CRR.
- The Technical Fire Safety strand and the appropriate department of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

4.4. The procedure of fire safety audit will be consistent with the ethics of the Technical Fire safety Enforcement Policy and Enforcement Concordat. Any enforcement action from the Technical Fire Safety strand will be done in consultation with the Operational Response side. This is to ensure that any enforcement action does not have a detrimental affect on the partnership working with the Operational Response strand.

4.5. Visits to MHI sites will be initiated only after consultation with the two strands of MHIT. This will be done to ensure that the site management are presented with consistent service delivery.

4.6. Any assessment of premises will be based on the criteria set out in Planning (Hazardous Substances Consent) Regulations 1992. A transparent and practical assessment methodology will be implemented.

## **5. Aims and Objectives: Operational Response:**

5.1. To form partnerships with MHI's to enable co-operation and consistency towards effective operational preparedness on MHI sites. The partnerships will be conducted in a transparent manner with clear contact points with site management.

5.2. To supply suitable information and records on MHI for Area and Group operational management and crews.

5.3. To provide accurate and relevant safe systems of work for Wiltshire FRS personnel through the maintenance and management of related documentation and procedures.

## **6. Aims and Objectives: Technical Fire Safety:**

6.1. To ensure the sites are compliant or are actively working towards compliance with the general fire precautions as set out in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

6.2. To provide standard operation procedures and parameters for the fire safety auditing of MHIs.

6.3. To provide standard operating procedures for the inspection of sites which are hazardous but fail to meet the criterion set out in the MHI premises assessment.

6.4. To provide technical support to the Community Safety Inspectors on the following matters:

- The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations 2002.
- Interaction and contact with the HSE.
- Information on hazardous substances, articles or processes and associated process fire precautions.

6.5. To ensure training on the Fire Safety National Occupational Standard FSB7: “Advise on fire safety measures in locations using hazardous materials” is available to ensure those who are expected to undertake such work are competent. Competency will be assessed as part of the QA methodology.