



# **Impact Assessment Form Unwanted Fire Signal Policy**

### Impact Assessment Form

Name of policy / initiative / Service to be impact assessed	Unwanted Fire Signal Policy (Revised)
Corporate objective being addressed	S3 - Deliver value for money services which maximise community safety and minimise our impact on the environment
Department / function carrying out the assessment	Community Fire Protection
Who is responsible for the implementation of the policy / initiative / service? (function head /department manager)	Area Manager Community Fire Protection
Who is involved in the impact assessment?	Station Manager CFP Policy, Equality and Diversity Officer, Area Manager Community Fire Protection
What are the aims / objectives of the policy / initiative / service?	To reduce the number of Unwanted Fire Signals (UWFS) that Cheshire FRS responds to.
Who is intended to benefit from the policy?	Cheshire Public, Cheshire road users and members of CFRS, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire appliances being available to respond to genuine life threatening emergencies,</li> <li>• Responding to UwFS under blue light conditions poses a risk to staff and other road users,</li> <li>• Operational crews will not be diverted from other core tasks such as training and fire prevention activities</li> <li>• Financial costs are incurred for fuel along with the associated impact on the environment caused by appliance movements, implementation will reduce these.</li> <li>• On-call Firefighters require payment for being alerted and are unnecessarily disrupted during their primary employment, therefore implementation of this policy would reduce both payments and disruption.</li> </ul>
What are the main outcomes of the policy (this is key to being able to identify what monitoring is needed)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reach agreements with Alarm Receiving Centre's to introduce a call challenge approach,</li> <li>• To introduce a change to the pre-determined attendance to Automatic Fire Alarms,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enhance the advice given in response to single UwFS,</li> <li>• To implement more robust ways of managing premises with unacceptably high levels of UwFS</li> <li>• To ultimately reduce the number of UWFS that CFRS respond to</li> </ul>
Is the policy for external or internal purposes?	Both internal and external
Does this Policy affect the On-Call duty service?	Yes.
Are other organisations involved in the delivery? If yes please state who:	Yes, fire alarm receiving centres and Cheshire Premises.
What information/ past experience do we have i.e. a similar initiative and what did this information tell us? (info can be demographic data i.e. census findings, research findings, comparisons between similar policies in our Service and other Services, survey data, equality monitoring data, ad hoc data gathering exercises)	<p>A focus group has been held involving Cheshire businesses and other Cheshire public sector organisations. Commercial premises broadly supported/ NHS did not support.</p> <p>An IRMP survey has also been conducted with the following findings: Unwanted fire signals Question 6: Would you support proposals for the Service to reduce its attendance to false alarms caused by automatic fire alarms? Public (n=996) 59.7% support Staff (n=145) 42.7% support Partners (n=50) 60.0% support</p>
Has a search of the internet revealed an impact assessment conducted by other Fire and Rescue Services or local authorities of a similar policy/initiative? If yes – is it possible to adapt / incorporate findings	A search of the Intranet has been conducted with 2 other EIA's being located. Relevant points were noted.
Date of Policy Review	Policy due to be implemented on 1/7/2012 and will be reviewed 12 months after implementation.

## Equality Matrix

<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>	Very Unlikely to occur	Unlikely to occur	Likely to occur	Very likely to occur	Certain to occur
	1	2	3	4	5

<b>LIKELIHOOD</b>	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5
	0*	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>SEVERITY</b>					

Legal Action/potential prosecution/Death	5
Serious matter that may lead to negative publicity or disciplinary action within a Service context	4
Complaint	3
Minor Policy Review	2
Little impact / minor considerations needed	1
<b>Impact /Severity</b>	

This scale of the matrix reflects the likelihood of a negative outcome or impact

This scale of the matrix is a scoring for the severity of a negative outcome or impact

16 - 25	Very High
12 - 15	High
6 - 10	Medium
1 - 5	Low

Rating	Description	Level of Sign off required
<b>1 – 5 Low</b>	Minor considerations needed i.e. provision of chairs at open days, quiet room, provision of information in alternative formats, i.e. Braille, community languages	SM
<b>6 -10 Medium</b>	The policy owner will need to consider slight amendments to the policy/initiative to take account of any issues identified.	GM
<b>12 – 15 High</b>	The policy / initiative can not be rolled out until detailed external/internal consultation has taken place with those that the policy / initiative affects; the Service's legal team and (where necessary) the Volunteer and Employee Relations department, the Equality Officer	AM
<b>16 – 25 Very High</b>	Take immediate action. If legal action is certain to occur then we cannot go ahead with the policy, without fundamentally changing the policy/initiative.	BM

<p>Outlined below are relevant community groups that may be affected and against what criteria the policy/initiative could have positive or negative impacts. Enter a commentary in terms of service delivery or employment in the impacts identified text box as appropriate. Also please add any statistics you currently have (both nationally and locally) to identify who is/will be most affected by this policy/initiative i.e. 17 – 24 year olds are over represented in Killed and Seriously Injured statistics etc. Please document all effects both negative and positive.</p>				
	Likelihood	Impact	Overall	Impacts identified
Age (young and old)	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different age groups</li> <li>- Crèche and EPH premises would be classed as sleeping risk premises and therefore would still receive a PDA of 1 fire appliance for AFA's.</li> </ul>
Disabled people with; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Physical impairments (including wheelchair users)</li> <li>- Sensory impairments</li> <li>- Mental health issues</li> <li>- Learning disabilities</li> </ul>	3	1	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For any premises which contain sleeping risks the call challenge will not apply and they will receive a pre determined attendance (PDA) of 1 fire appliance.</li> <li>- Premises which contain disabled persons where there are beds will continue to receive a 1 fire appliance PDA.</li> <li>- To ensure understanding of promotional material/ campaigns the Service must ensure the use of plain English in any literature to ensure understanding. Translated material/ large print and/or brail may be required.</li> </ul>
Gender (including transgender)	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different gender groups</li> </ul>
Race	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different race groups</li> </ul>
Religion and Belief (including no belief)	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different religious groups</li> </ul>
Sexual Orientation (Lesbian, Gay, heterosexual, bisexual)	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different sexual orientation groups</li> </ul>
Socio - economic status	1	1	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No impact as there is no differentiation between different socio economic groups</li> </ul>

Please also consider the impact of this policy on those working the On Call Duty System;

On Call System / part time	5	3	15	- This revised UWFS policy will reduce the number calls that on call personnel receive. This is due to the call challenging process which will challenge the validity of automatic fire alarms (excluding sleeping risks) and the pre determined attendance being reduced to 1 fire appliance for all automatic fire alarm calls. This requires a full "On Call" equality impact assessment.
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**If this policy could have negative impacts on those working the On Call DS please contact the On Call Duty Liaison Officer and complete SIS Number: Ops 8/36 On-Call Impact Assessment.**

**Do any of the above criteria have a score of 12 and above and therefore need to move to a full equality impact assessment?**

Yes

No

If yes, please contact the Equality and Diversity Officer on 01606 868414 or e-mail [erin.fulton@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:erin.fulton@cheshirefire.gov.uk) to proceed with the full impact assessment.

If no, and the scores between 1-5 or 6-10 what control mechanisms have you put into place or amendments have been made to policies/initiatives please list below;

Persons who are very young or elderly or those who are disabled will be covered by the provision of all sleeping risks continuing to receive 1 pump for AFA's.  
 There is a recognised impact, but not discrimination, on "On Call" personnel due to the reduction in the number of call that they will receive. Therefore an on call impact assessment will be completed and required action recorded.

**What positive outcomes will there be as a result of this impact assessment and any changes that may have been made?**

### Post initiative evaluation

Please state who attended the event and any comments or complaints that were received in terms of equality and diversity.

Age range, gender, ethnicity etc of those who attended
A consideration that needs to be included in the evaluation will be the number of translations of promotional literature requested by members of the Cheshire business.
Any comments received i.e. not enough toilets etc.
This information is key when looking at who particular events/ initiatives appeal to. In the information should be used to target information at those who are most likely to attend future events.

Once completed please return to [equalities@cheshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@cheshirefire.gov.uk)