

National Occupational Standards for Fire and Rescue Services



SKILLS for JUSTICE
Developing skills for safer communities

Introduction

In April 2009 Fire and Rescue Services became members of Skills for Justice, allowing those working across the sector to access and benefit from the range of workforce development solutions, products and services that we offer.

We are currently developing the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) which is used to train and develop staff to meet the changing demands that face Fire and Rescue Services. It also enables individuals to assess their development needs against a set of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and seek appropriate training and development activities.

There are a wide range of NOS for Fire and Rescue Services roles, which can be used for a variety of activities and which have been developed in partnership with key stakeholders.

These NOS have been developed by practitioners who work within Fire and Rescue Services. They define common standards for the skills and knowledge needed by members of staff working in a Fire and Rescue Services setting.

We review NOS on a regular basis to ensure they are kept up to date and relevant to the roles being performed.

We produce a regular e-bulletin for Fire and Rescue Services. We also produce a fortnightly e-briefing to keep you up to date with work across the Justice and Community Safety sectors. For further information and to receive these briefings, please contact us at info@skillsforjustice.com.

We have developed a Labour Market Information (LMI) Matrix which provides a wide range of statistics and data relating to the Justice sector labour market. The LMI matrix includes Information on the demographics of the Fire and Rescue Services workforce.



Contact us

Further information

Should you require further information or wish to view and download any of the National Occupational Standards for Fire and Rescue Services please visit our NOS Finder toolkit www.skillsforjustice-nosfinder.com

Skills for Justice
Centre Court
Atlas Way
Sheffield
S4 7QQ

T: 0114 261 1499
E: info@skillsforjustice.com
www.skillsforjustice.com

Skills for Justice is registered in England and Wales as JSSC, a company limited by guarantee under Company no 4826715 at Centre Court, Atlas Way, Sheffield S4 7QQ. Skills for Justice is a registered charity in England and Wales (charity no 1107141) and in Scotland (charity no SC38928).



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Printed on FSC paper:
June 10/VI/XXXX

National Occupational Standards

National Occupational Standards (NOS) describe competence and performance in terms of outcomes.

NOS are an indispensable tool for managing a highly skilled workforce. They are used in a variety of ways to support individual and organisational development and quality assurance at all levels. They provide benchmarks of good practice across the UK.

The development of NOS is employer-led and based on the collaborative working of representatives from across the sector. Skills for Justice co-ordinate experts and key practitioners in order to assemble steering and working groups to develop standards that are robust and fit for purpose.

Once developed, the NOS are regularly monitored and revised to keep them up to date and relevant.

If you are interested in finding out more about incorporating NOS into your organisational processes, we can advise you on the best ways of doing this.

We have a wealth of experience in this area and can help you to make the best use of the NOS by offering workshops, mapping NOS to training courses and other related services.



Using NOS for Fire and Rescue Services

National Occupational Standards (NOS) can be used for a variety of purposes throughout the people management and development cycle, as well as to support team and partnership development, quality assurance and the development of organisational culture and competence. A few examples of their uses include:

Recruitment and Selection

- preparing job descriptions
- writing job adverts
- planning induction and initial training.

Workforce Development

- specifying skills and competence needs
- assessing competence
- identifying training needs.

Structuring Learning Programmes

- linking training to organisational objectives
- increasing the relevance and credibility of training and learning programmes
- identifying learning opportunities on the work environment
- developing specific learning objectives
- developing content for learning programmes.

National Occupational Standards for the Fire & Rescue Sector

National Occupational Standards for Fire Services Operations in the Community

- FF1** Inform and educate your community to improve awareness of fire and rescue safety matters
- FF2** Take responsibility for effective performance in fire and rescue
- FF3** Save and preserve endangered life
- FF4** Resolve fire and rescue operational incidents
- FF5** Protect the environment from the effects of hazardous materials
- FF6** Support the effectiveness of operational response
- FF7** Support the development of colleagues in fire and rescue
- FF8** Contribute to fire safety solutions to minimise risks to your community
- FF9** Drive, manoeuvre and re-deploy fire and rescue vehicles

National Occupational Standards for Fire Investigation

- DA5** Present evidence at court and other hearings
- F11** Prepare to investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion
- F12** Investigate an incident involving fire and/or explosion
- F13** Report on the investigation of an incident involving fire and/or explosion

National Occupational Standards for Fire Services Control Operations

- CO1** Maintain information on fire and rescue operational resources
- CO2** Take responsibility for effective performance in fire and rescue
- CO3** Gather information to co-ordinate a fire and rescue response
- CO4** Co-ordinate a fire and rescue response
- CO5** Maintain the reliability and readiness of fire and rescue control operations equipment
- CO6** Manage fire and rescue information to support the needs of your community
- CO7** Specialist or bespoke software
- CO8** Support the development of colleagues in fire and rescue
- CO9** Drive, manoeuvre and re-deploy fire and rescue vehicles

National Occupational Standards for Incident Management and Command

- EFSM1** Provide strategic advice and support to resolve operational incidents
- EFSM2** Lead, monitor and support people to resolve operational incidents
- WM7** Lead and support people to resolve operational incidents

National Occupational Standards for Fire Safety

- FS1** Identify and report hazards and risks associated with fire
- FS2** Assess risks associated with fire
- FS3** Ensure measures are in place to protect people from fire
- FS4** Work in partnership to minimise risks to the community
- FS5** Support the management of risks at incidents
- FS6** Review fire safety matters relating to existing or proposed construction
- FS7** Review matters relating to fire protection systems
- FS8** Review fire safety matters relating to premises under construction, demolition and alteration
- FS9** Review safety measures at locations that are regulated and/or licensed
- FS10** Plan and gather evidence for the purpose of fire safety regulation
- FS11** Prepare and present evidence in court and other formal proceedings in relation to fire safety matters
- FS12** Visit premises for the purposes of fire safety regulation
- FS13** Draft statutory enforceable documents for the purposes of fire safety regulation
- FS14** Serve statutory enforceable documents for the purposes of fire safety regulation

Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is the new framework for qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It aims to make the differences between qualifications easier to understand and qualifications more flexible and easier to achieve. Qualifications are made up of small units that can be achieved separately and joined together to make a qualification. This makes qualifications easier for learners to achieve and allows them to top-up or achieve additional qualifications without repeating units.

Each unit is assigned a level between entry level and level eight, which shows how difficult that unit will be to achieve. The units also have credit values which equate to the number of hours it would take the average learner to complete that unit. For example a unit with a credit value of 2 will take the average learner 20 hours to complete, including taught learning, self reflection and study and any work based learning. This makes it easy to see the size and difficulty of a unit and, by extension, a qualification.

There are three sizes of qualification on the new framework. These are:

- Award — between 1 and 12 credits
- Certificate — between 13 and 36 credits
- Diploma — 37 credits and over.

QCF qualifications are developed in consultation with employers and are therefore useful and relevant to the sector. The existing qualifications for Fire and Rescue Services are being transferred onto the QCF and the new versions will soon be available for registration. These include:

- N/SVQ in Fire Safety Level 2, 3 and 4
- N/SVQ in Watch Management Level 3
- N/SVQ in Operations in the Community Level 3
- N/SVQ in Control Operations Level 3.

All existing qualifications have to be transferred onto the new framework by the end of 2010 when the previous National Qualifications (NQF) will cease to exist.

For further information on the QCF please email info@skillsforjustice.com

All of our NOS and qualifications can be found on our NOS Finder Tool www.skillsforjustice-nosfinder.com

SKILLS for JUSTICE
Developing skills for safer communities

