



***“A safer nation, an excellent public service”***

## ***The Fire & Rescue Service in England***

The fire and rescue service is one of the best performing public sector organisations in the UK. We respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, enforce fire safety legislation, prevent fires, reduce road traffic collisions and act in partnership to reduce anti-social behaviour among young people. We protect the environment and plan and deliver a response to catastrophic incidents, including nuclear, terrorism, flooding and other natural disasters.

### **Who the fire & rescue service are and what we do:**

We have 8,000 professionally trained and equipped firefighters who can respond to incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in a matter of minutes.

The service aims to provide a safe and effective operational response to meet the wide range of incidents that we encounter

- These incidents include:
  - fires
  - road traffic collisions
  - building collapse
  - hazardous materials
  - transport accidents
  - maritime response
  - international rescue
  - co-responding
  - mine rescue
  - flooding and water rescue
- The fire and rescue service is a critical part of the national resilience infrastructure, taking on the responsibility of mass decontamination and search and rescue
- The last ten years have seen us work to reduce risk and prevent incidents before they occur. We have helped to halve the number of fire deaths over the last 20 years
- Our research has identified those most at risk, which include the elderly, people with limited mobility, those suffering from mental health, drug and alcohol problems and other diverse groups



# THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

The professional voice of the UK fire and rescue service

- The service increasingly works in partnership with other public and third sector organisations to reduce risks and improve communities' well-being. We are seen as a partner of choice because we are proactive and practical
- A key factor in our success is a unique ability to engage with hard to reach groups, for instance young people

## Financial

- The fire and rescue service in England costs about £2.1 billion
- It is estimated that the service saves the public and state up to six times its initial outlay through fire prevention and risk reduction work
- Over 80% of a fire and rescue service budget is spent on firefighter salaries – any reduction in budget is therefore likely to affect frontline services
- The sector clearly understands the effects of the recession on the sector, with the Institute for Fiscal Studies stating CLG's budget will decrease by 8%
- The service continues to improve the safety and security of the UK public while reducing costs
- Over the last three years we have significantly exceeded the Government's efficiency targets

## Outcomes

- The result of all this has been a continued year on year reduction in fires and fire deaths
- The sector has found £185m of efficiency savings over the last five years
- 81% of the public very satisfied or fairly satisfied with the fire and rescue service

## CFOA asks elected politicians:

- To acknowledge the fire and rescue services contribution to the economic and social well being of the country and enable this to be maximised to protect the public
- To recognise the national resilience capability, locally delivered of the fire and rescue service
- To note the 'insurance' nature of the fire and rescue service – though fires and fire deaths are falling, they will still occur and we need to be able to meet these challenges
- To consider the impact that any reduction in budget will have on frontline services