

Circular number	74-2006	Date issued	8 December 2006
This circular is	For Information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This Circular is issued to advise FRS of the recent publication of the fire service manual <i>Safe Work at Height</i>, by The Stationery Office (TSO).		

Fire Service Manual - Safe Work at Height

Issued by:

Gordon Russel
HM Fire Service Inspectorate

Addressed to:

The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
The Chief Fire Officer

Please forward to:

Senior Operations Officers
Training Officers
Health and Safety Officers

Summary

This circular provides information to Fire and Rescue Services on the recently published Fire Service Manual (FSM) providing specific guidance on legislation relevant to work at height and identifies good practice, which supports safe systems of work. The guidance is for use by fire and rescue services for planning operational service delivery and training. This manual supersedes *FSM Volume 4 Guidance, Compliance and Training Framework for Rope Working* and, *FSM Volume 2 Operations, Rope Working*.

For further information, contact:

Keith Ring, Assistant Inspector
Fire and Resilience Directorate
Department for Communities and Local Government
5/C Allington Towers
PO Box 50200
Allington Street, London. SW1E 5WY

Direct line **020 7944 5694**
Fax **020 7944 5558**
E-mail Keith.Ring@communities.gsi.gov.uk

TH
9537
FRS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Work at height covers all work activities where there is a possibility that a fall likely to result in personal injury could occur. Work at Height includes access to and exit from a place of work.
- 1.2 Following the publication of the Work at Height Regulations it was agreed with the HSE that service specific guidance would be the best way forward for the FRS. It was considered important for the FRS to develop its own guidance to suit its own activities, whether for training or operational requirements.
- 1.3 A CFOA Health and Safety working group, comprising representatives from the regions and chaired by DCO L Booth, has considered the implications of the Work at Height Regulations. In conjunction with CFOA Operations Committee, it has identified the good practice and the operational procedures that should apply when working at height.
- 1.4 This fire service manual on 'Safe Work at Height' is an important document in supporting the effective management of health and safety risk with regard to working at height. The direct involvement of experienced and professional practitioners ensures that such guidance will be both relevant and authoritative.
- 1.5 The purpose of this Circular is to provide information to those responsible both at corporate and operational levels for safe work at height. The fire service manual provides guidance for those procuring equipment used for work at height, training department activities and for frontline personnel within Fire and Rescue Services.

2.0 General information

- 2.1 Regulation 4(4) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005 exempts the emergency services from the requirements of Regulation 4(3) when acting at an emergency, i.e. Police, FRS, Ambulance or other emergency services. This exemption enables the work of the emergency services during the emergency or rescue phase to proceed. Regulation 4 duties should not hinder the work of the emergency services while they are working in the emergency rescue phase when life may be in danger or life saving is being attempted.
- 2.2 The intention of the Regulations is not to hinder the speed or effectiveness of emergency services acting in this emergency phase but when this phase has passed, the Regulations will be expected to apply as normal. FRS's will be expected to have generic training and experience available to deal with risks associated with the emergency phase. They should also be able to use dynamic risk assessments to cope with changing circumstances.
- 2.3 This manual supersedes FSM Volume 4 Guidance, Compliance and Training Framework for Rope Working and, FSM Volume 2 Operations, Rope Working. Both of these manuals have been consolidated into the Safe Work at Height manual. The two superseded manuals should be withdrawn from use as soon as practicable.
- 2.4 One copy of the manual has been sent to all FRSs, further copies can be obtained from TSO at the locations listed overleaf:

Online

www.tsoshop.co.uk

Mail, Telephone, Fax & E-mail

TSO

PO Box 29, Norwich, NR3 1GN

Telephone orders/General enquiries: 0870 600 5522

Fax orders: 0870 600 5533

E-mail: customer.services@tso.co.uk

Textphone 0870 240 3701

TSO Shops

123 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6PQ

020 7242 6393 Fax 020 7242 6394

16 Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GD

028 9023 8451 Fax 028 9023 5401

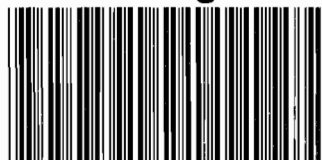
71 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AZ

0870 606 5566 Fax 0870 606 5588

Gordon Russel

HM Fire Service Inspectorate

**The Fire Service
College**



00160696