



CFOA
Chief Fire Officers
Association

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Fire Investigation as a data source. How arrangements are co-ordinated nationally



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Fire Investigation within CFOA

Seen as a vital part of the organisation because data and intelligence from reports can be used for

- Firefighter Safety
- Prevention and Protection
- Research
- Data Analysis
- Health
- Human Behaviour

However these are challenging times, financially, for Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) and it must be remembered that there is no statutory duty on FRS to investigate the cause of fires, other for returns to the Secretary of State through the Incident Recording System.



CFOA FI Strategic Steering Group

- Regional/Devolved Administration representatives from all UK Fire and Rescue Services including Channel Islands
- Police
- Building Research Establishment
- UK Association of Fire Investigators
- Institute of Fire Engineers
- Academia
- More stakeholder representation is welcome!



FISSG Role

- Position statements on behalf of CFOA Board.
- Sharing of information/intelligence/best practice
- Liaison with Government and other stakeholders
- Feed FI issues into other CFOA areas
 - Operational guidance
 - Health and Safety
 - Data Gathering Analysis
 - Home Safety
- Provision of Centralised FI guidance.



FISSG Current Priorities

1. To ensure FRS FIs are working to agreed standards.
2. To improve the ability for FIs to share and access information across the UK, between FRS and other agencies.
3. To assist in the development of the Protocol for investigation of fires and explosions for the Criminal Justice System in the UK.
4. To develop a suite of centralised guidance.



Fire Investigation – electrical causes

- All investigators start with the premise that a fire is deliberate until you see evidence that contradicts that, so Police may be involved too.
- Specialist advice is often sought, although some FIs are very experienced in electrical causes
- FRS have the power to seize items and remove for testing, but few do.
- FRS have the power to dismantle items, but must try and not damage it if possible
- Investigations can take place with insurance investigators at the same time. If testing is to be carried out, particular destructive testing, then it is good practice to do it together.
- Specialist forensic analysis may also be required.





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Any Questions?

