

VOLUNTEERS AND WILDFIRE OPERATIONS

INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY

All persons assisting Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in a voluntary capacity shall be insured by Surrey County Council under its public liability policy against any claims for damage to property or for personal injury which occur as a result of the negligence of a volunteer. In addition all volunteers are insured under a personal accident policy in the event of them suffering total or partial permanent disability whilst acting in their capacity as a volunteer.

Volunteers using any car, van, tractor, truck or any other mechanically propelled vehicle, item of plant or piece of machinery must ensure that the item is insured for possible claims arising out of its use in assisting Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in dealing with wildfire incidents. Surrey County Council and its insurance policies cannot deal with any claims that arise from a motor insurance policy and therefore it is imperative that volunteers ensure that they have proper and adequate cover.

Consequently volunteers owning and using mechanically propelled vehicles or items of plant whilst assisting the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service shall keep the Council indemnified in full against all direct, indirect or consequential liabilities including any costs, expense, loss, claim or proceedings whatsoever arising under any statute or at common law in respect of personal injury to or the death of any persons or any damage whatsoever providing that such injury or damage is caused by the carrying out of voluntary assistance in support of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service in tackling wildfire incidents.

Any volunteer providing a mechanically propelled vehicle or item of plant must confirm that they have in force all necessary insurance cover for the performance of the function that they have volunteered for. As and when reasonably required to do so, the volunteer shall provide Surrey Fire and Rescue Service with documentary evidence that the insurance required is in force and is being maintained.

All volunteers are required to notify Surrey Fire and Rescue Service of any incident or event that may give rise to a claim arising out of their work in assisting in wildfire operations.

I confirm that I have read, understand and accept the conditions contained within this document.

Signed:

Date:.....

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Volunteers must only become involved in attending incidents when requested to do so by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and shall act at all times under the direction and control of its officers.

- Under no circumstances should a volunteer deploy themselves at incidents independently of the Fire and Rescue Service.
- All volunteers must report to Incident Command on arrival at any incident.
- For their safety and security volunteers should never work alone. At all times a volunteer will be attached to fire service personnel in order to tackle any incident or carry out any work.
- It is imperative that volunteers provide their full name, address, email and telephone number to incident command in order that they may be contacted following an incident.
- Land Managers working with the Fire and Rescue Service must be easily identifiable by appropriate means – usually by wearing tabards and possessing identification cards.
- In the event of volunteers supplying appropriate vehicles to assist in any operation or incident, those vehicles must only be operated on the fire ground under instruction from Fire and Rescue staff.
- Volunteers will operate solely in a supporting role away from the inner cordon risk area and for specific tasks identified by Fire and Rescue staff only.

The help and support of volunteers in respect of Wildfire operations is very much appreciated and will assist Surrey Fire and Rescue Service greatly in tackling incidents of this kind.

Inevitably there needs to be clarity on both sides in respect of Health and Safety matters, operational considerations, insurance and indemnities. This document has therefore been produced in order to address those issues and to ensure that everyone involved is familiar with their responsibilities.