

North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service

Automatic Fire Alarms Attendance Policy

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1. INTRODUCTION

This policy sets out the attendance of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to actuations of Automatic Fire Alarms (AFAs).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is:

- To reduce the number of false alarms generated by fire detection and AFAs, thereby improving fire safety in these premises.
- To reduce the number of false alarms attended by NYFRS, thereby providing a cost and capacity saving.
- To provide the most appropriate response to an unconfirmed AFA actuation, thereby meeting the likely risk with the most appropriate resources.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all premises identified and regulated under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO), which are or will be installed with automatic fire detection and automatic fire alarm systems.

It does not apply to domestic premises, including sheltered accommodation.

4. POLICY

The policy of North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service in respect of attendance at AFAs is:

- 1) Not to attend AFAs at most non-sleeping risk premises between 08:00 and 18:00.
- 2) To send one fire appliance to AFAs at sleeping risk premises and some other higher risk premises between 08:00 and 18:00.
- 3) To send one fire appliance to all AFAs between 18:00 and 08:00.
- 4) Not to attend AFAs at premises where there are repeated false alarms from AFA actuations and where the causes for these are not being addressed, or with the agreement of the premises, to charge for attendance.

In all cases where there is a confirmation that there is a fire at a premises where an AFA is actuating the normal response to a fire will be made.

Higher risk premises are those that are identified through the Service’s site specific risk information process and will generally include high risk manufacturing and heritage risk premises. Every premises that has been determined as requiring risk information will be treated as a special risk for the purposes of AFA response.

Operational staff can request an increased attendance to an AFA on a temporary basis using the variation of attendance process (VARY1 need reference).

5. POLICY GOVERNANCE

The following table identifies who within North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service is Accountable, Responsible, Informed or Consulted with regards to this policy. The following definitions apply:

- **Responsible** – the person(s) responsible for developing and implementing the policy.
- **Accountable** – the person who has ultimate accountability and authority for the policy.
N.B Only **one** role is held accountable.
- **Consulted** – the person(s) or groups to be consulted prior to final policy implementation or amendment.
- **Informed** – the person(s) or groups to be informed after policy implementation or amendment.

Responsible	Head of Risk Management
Accountable	Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Consulted	Public consultation
Informed	All operational staff and selected stakeholders

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Policy Superseding:

This policy supersedes the following policies from the date adopted date in the information panel:

- AFA attendance (revised) - SOP

6. REFERENCES

The following North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service policy documents are directly relevant to this policy:

- AFA Call Filtering - FRS Control Staff – SOP
- Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) Process SOP

The following North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service policy documents are indirectly relevant to this policy:

- Unwanted Fire Signals Reduction - SOP

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If you have any questions concerning this policy or your obligations under it, you may direct them to either your line manager or contact the Service on 01609 788500

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