



# THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004

## DEFINITION

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 replaces the Fire Services Act 1947, with a new legislative framework.



## Key dates

The Act received Royal Assent on July 22nd 2004 and came in to force on 1st October 2004.

## Overview

The first significant change has been seen on an administration front, with around 59 Fire Brigades being regionalised and reduced to 29 Fire and Rescue Authorities.

Each Authority has published an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that outlines their objectives for the future, reflecting their political aims as well as providing guidelines on how they will manage the specific risks in their area.

The new framework requires each Fire Authority to work with the community, to identify risks within the community and develop a plan to minimise the risk. This is aimed at reducing the commercial, economic and social impact of fires and other emergency incidents.

The Government and Fire and Rescue Services recognise that they cannot achieve their aims alone and the community is expected to play its part in minimising risks and reducing the level of unwanted alarms. It is therefore inevitable that this will lead to increased pressure on the owner-occupier to take the issue of Risk Management seriously as well as controlling the level of false or unwanted alarms.

## What it will mean to owners and occupiers

The key messages for owner-occupiers within each IRMP are:

- The removal of the requirement on the Fire and Rescue Services to issue Fire Certificates. This may be seen as good news, however this means that the responsibility for complying to legislation, standards and building regulations is now clearly in the hands of the owner-occupier or one of their employees.
- The response to callouts will include some form of measure of false alarm levels that will affect call out levels and response time. A guideline published by the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) on false alarm management is being adopted by many Authorities, but each IRMP should be consulted for the approach to the management of false and unwanted alarms within its territory.



# THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004



## Further information

The full transcript of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 is available from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister or from the Stationery Office.

## SUMMARY

- Get a copy of your local Fire Authority's IRMP and understand how they plan to deal with risks in your area
- Understand how your local Fire Authority is managing the call out status vs level of false alarms, and whether they are promoting the use of approved FDA suppliers

## NORTHERN REGION

David Coburn  
Northern Area Sales Manager  
07917 594356  
david.coburn@honeywell.com

## SOUTHERN REGION

David Slater  
Southern Area Sales Manager  
07768 541 022  
david.slater@honeywell.com

