

Training to the Rescue

Fire Service takes advantage of new FSEC training programme



Photo: Nick Emberson, Emberson Photographic Services

Back in 2003, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, now called Communities and Local Government, asked each Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The idea behind this was to integrate all aspects of service delivery, including Community Fire Safety and Emergency Cover, in order to help improve community safety and the productive use of fire service resources.

After several years of development, testing and validation to support IRMPs, the Fire Safety Emergency Cover Toolkit (FSEC) was launched and rolled out in 2004.

Since this time, the FSEC Toolkit has been utilised, but often not maximised, by the majority of FRSs. So, in 2006 Communities and Local Government tendered a contract for a training organisation to write and deliver a programme that would provide a new set of training courses to help individual FRSs develop their understanding and effective use of FSEC.

Training4GIS, renowned for its training and consultancy work within Central Government, bid on the contract and was awarded the training in September 2006. Training4GIS' team of professional trainers has since created a comprehensive training programme that continues to roll out across Great Britain that incorporates a flexible, modular and sustainable approach for three levels of training:

- **Practitioners' Modules** - practical training in the risk assessment methodology and effective use of FSEC
- **Team Leaders' Workshops** - to inform and educate those who manage the FSEC team
- **Chief Fire Officers' Briefings** - to raise awareness of the benefits of FSEC to senior management

The individual courses, provided in digestible chunks of learning, combine theoretical understanding with practical application for all the modules of the FSEC toolkit. The **Practitioners'** set of modules enables FRS to choose the courses that are appropriate to them to attend and they will receive a full training pack that includes exercises that can be completed on their return to the desk.

The **Team Leaders' workshops** provide a strategic overview on the FSEC technology and focuses on how the results from the system can be utilized to support decision making and feed into the strategic planning of the FRS.

The **Chief Officers' briefings** link into existing conference programmes to minimise the impact on time. The briefings are short in length, as the name suggests, and free to attend. They raise awareness and enable the Chief Officers to appreciate the potential for the FSEC toolkit to senior management.

The FSEC Toolkit Training Programme has been awarded Continuing Professional Development status by the Association of Geographic Information. Delegates are eligible to receive CPD points towards achieving and maintaining the Chartered Geographer (GIS) status or potentially use them towards their own professional development scheme.

To date, over 100 members of FRS staff have received training from this programme including those from the following Fire & Rescue services:

Kent, Shropshire, Dorset, Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, Highlands & Islands, Nottingham, Northamptonshire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Humberside, Leicestershire, Isle of Wight, West Sussex and London Fire Brigade

Here's what some of our delegates say:

"Well structured and presented course, helped to provide better understanding through practicals and discussions. Good course material provided. Very helpful. Thanks."

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.

"As a user with limited experience the content improved my overall understanding and how the software can help planning."

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service

"Very informative. All the techniques were covered and will be used on a day-to-day basis. Looking forward to the different modules."

Cheshire Fire Service

"Very informative and intuitive. Well presented."

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue



For further information and bookings or to find out how to host a course at your office, please call the Training Administrator on 01223 880077 or log on to www.training4gis.com/fsec.