

RESILIENCE →))))))))) NEED TO KNOW GUIDE

Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) response

The supplied BPPP report can assist the user to understand what it will take by way of notification to invoke a response from local FRS (AFA Policy) and whether the response is likely to be meaningful to saving the property and its contents in terms of time, weight and reliability of response (FRS response). For the reasons given above fire spread may initially go unnoticed in heritage buildings after which development may well be very rapid. The management plan must identify likely effectiveness and where FRS response is deemed to be insufficient seek other means of achieving an acceptable loss outcome.

Impairments to firefighting

Fire and rescue services can only be effective where sufficient resources are provided and their use is permitted. The supplied data may highlight both the inadequacy of water supplies and factors that may curtail firefighting activities such as the presence of protected underground water supplies and environmentally sensitive areas. The remoteness of many historical buildings and poor naming/addressing conventions in large postcode areas can make locating these properties difficult and cause further delay. Pre-planning with the fire service and other likely first responders is essential and should include familiarisation exercises and salvage order planning.

Specific hazards

The supplied report can inform on flooding and security risks at the property's location. Slight dilapidation is known to encourage problems such as vandalism and arson.

Understanding Heritage Building Risk Control Challenges



Historical buildings are often characterised by:

- Remote locations
- Combustible materials of construction
- High content loadings which are more readily ignitable and combustible than modern equivalents
- Unoccupied outside normal hours of business or seasonal
- Public access during the day
- Located in environmentally sensitive areas
- Large and complex layouts
- A lack of fire compartmentation and presence of voids throughout the building (routes for hidden fire spread)
- Poor defence against a committed intruder
- High value (heritage and financial) building and contents
- Periods of enhanced risk during events and associated decorations (ie Christmas trees etc)
- They can be difficult to protect by conventional means

