# WMFS Response to Incidents involving Flooding

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Station Commander for
Kings Norton Fire Station



#### Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

#### **Core Functions:**

- 6. Fire Safety;
- 7. Fire-fighting;
- 8. Road Traffic Accidents; and
- 9. Emergencies.



## 58 Meaning of Emergency

In this Act "emergency" means an event or situation that causes or is likely to cause:

- (a) one or more individuals to die, be seriously injured or become seriously ill, or
- (b) serious harm to the environment (including the life and health of plants and animals).



# WMFS Categories of Special Service Call

- Category 1 Requires a response by WMFS due to an emergency (non-chargeable);
- Category 2 Request for WMFS to engage in actions which are chargeable involving the use of WMFS resources; and
- Category 3 A combination of Category 1 & 2.



### Examples of Categories of Incident

- Category 1 Flood water affecting electrics;
- Category 2 Flood water entering a house;
- Category 3 Rescue of persons trapped by flood water and in danger of drowning in house;
- Road closures in Emergency Phase; and
- False Alarm Calls.



#### Localism Act 2011

- F&RSA has been amended by the Localism Act 2011 giving additional guidelines in relation to freedoms and restrictions for charging for specific actions carried out by a F&RS;
- WMFS does not receive any specific funding for non-emergency activities, so will make every attempt to recuperate its costs.



#### **Current Costs of WMFS Resources**

Major pumping appliance - £412.80 per hour.



#### WMFS Water Incident Resources

- 58 Major Pumping Appliances carrying a major pump, ultra-lightweight portable pump & mini ejector pump;
- Water Rescue Unit;
- Technical Rescue Unit (TRU); and
- High Volume Pumping Unit (HVPU).



#### 28th June 2012

- 400+ requests for assistance across
   Birmingham & the Black Country over a 3 hour period;
- 20 minutes notice from Met Office;
- Fire Control used "Stacking" system to deal with requests for assistance; and
- 2 elderly women rescued from car on Barnes Hill.



# Quote from CFO Vij Randeniya

"These are things we can easily deal with, but if you ask me that question in two years time after cuts have taken effect then the answer will be very different."

BBC News Website – 28th June 2012.



