

The Work of the Fire, Rescue and Safety Vocational Standards Group (FRSVSG)

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Purpose of the Presentation

- Brief delegates on the work of the Fire, Rescue and Safety Vocational Standards Group
- Outline the National Occupational Standards and Qualifications available
- Introduce Apprenticeships
- Field questions



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Fire, Rescue and Safety Vocational Standards Group

- Represents all the major employers, trade unions, commercial fire safety organisations, professional associations and training organisations in the sector
- Works under the auspices of the Employers' Organisation for local government because the majority of fire fighters are employed in local authority brigades
- Includes BAA, CAA, MOD, RAF, BNFL and JOIFF
- Funded by the Sector Skills Development Agency and Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, also supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Scottish Executive



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FRSVSG Purpose and Activities

- Defines, maintains and improves National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the fire and rescue services
- Develops and maintains qualifications based on these NOS
- Develops and maintains Apprenticeship Frameworks based on these qualifications



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What Are National Occupational Standards?

- Analysis of good practice in an occupation
- Broken down into units (modules)
- Specify what the member of staff should be able to do and the standard they should achieve
- Specify required knowledge and understanding



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National Occupational Standards

- Operations in the Community (Fire fighting)
- Control Operations
- Watch Management
- Fire Safety
- Management and Leadership
- Fire Investigation
- Specialist roles, e.g. fire hydrant technician



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Types of Qualifications

- Two types – both based on NOS
 - National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (NVQs and SVQs)
 - Assess the individual's work performance and knowledge and understanding
 - Vocationally Related Qualifications (VRQs)
 - Assess the individual's knowledge and understanding



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Qualifications Available

- Awarded by Edexcel (BTEC) and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
 - Operations in the Community N/SVQ Level 3
 - Control Operations N/SVQ Level 3
 - Watch Management N/SVQ Level 3
 - Certificate for Emergency Fire Service Operations in the Community VRQ Level 3
 - Fire Safety N/SVQs Levels 2, 3 and 4



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Apprenticeships

- Structured training programmes combining on- and off-job learning
- Aimed at young people 16 – 25 inclusive
- Eligible for public funding from local Learning and Skills Councils (LSCs) in England, similar arrangements in Wales
- Two levels:
 - Apprenticeship
 - Advanced
- Currently only the Advanced level applies to Fire Services
- Only available in England and Wales



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What's in the Advanced Apprenticeship?

- NVQ level 3
- Relevant Key Skills:
 - Communication
 - Application of Number
 - Information Technology
 - Working with Others
 - Problem Solving
 - Improving Own Learning and Development
- Technical Certificate covering the Knowledge and Understanding contained in the NVQ
- Employment Responsibilities and Rights



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Other Issues

- MA Agreement
- Individual Training Plan
- Apprentice must be employed
- Duration: no fixed term but usually two years



Fire Service Advanced Apprenticeship

- NVQ – Operations in the Community Level 3
- Key Skills separately certificated in:
 - Communication
 - Application of Number
- Technical Certificate – Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Certificate for Emergency Fire Service Operations in the Community
- Employment Responsibilities and Rights covered by the Technical Certificate
- No optional outcomes



Current Work Programme

- Updating the NOS for Watch Management
- N/SVQ Implementation Guide
- Communications Strategy
- Continuous Development Awards (smaller, more focused packages of units)
- Implementation Event 27 March - lcharlwood@fireservicecollege.ac.uk

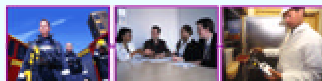


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Future Work

- Ensure FRSVSG continues to be representative of the sector
- Continue to develop and keep up-to-date the NOS and qualifications we have
- Qualifications Strategy
- Provide new NOS and qualifications as required by the sector



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