



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

PATI Information Statement

Name of Public Authority: Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service

Introduction:

1. The Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service is fully committed to compliance with the requirements of the Public Access to Information Act 2010.

The Purpose:

2. The purpose of this Act is to give the public the right to obtain access to information held by public authorities to the greatest extent possible, subject to exceptions that are in the public interest or for the protection of the rights of others; to increase transparency, and eliminate unnecessary secrecy, with regard to information held by public authorities; to increase the accountability of public authorities; to inform the public about the activities of public authorities, including the manner in which they make decisions; and to have more information placed in the public domain as a matter of routine.

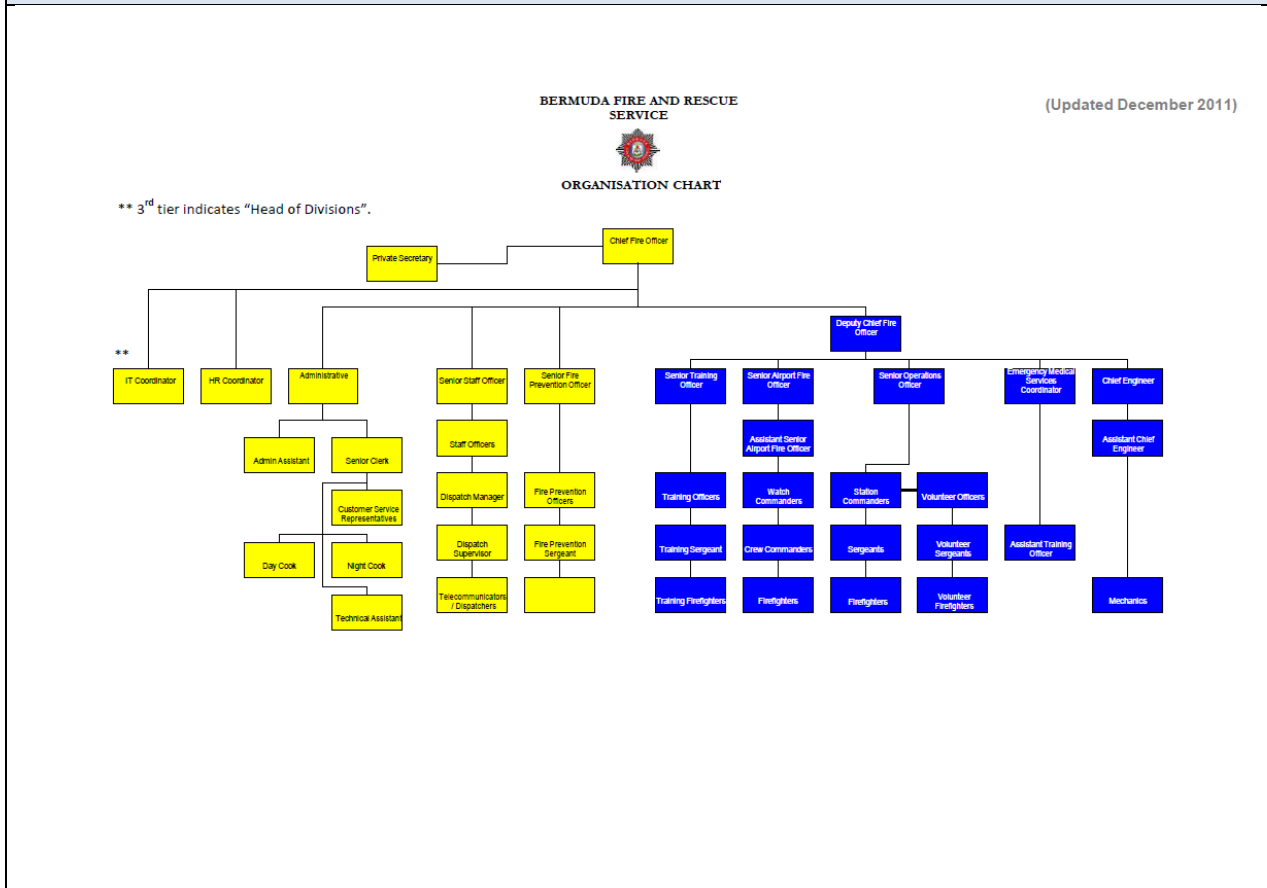
Structure and Function of Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service:

3. The Fire Service Act 1982 provides Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service with functions relating to the provision and management of emergency services.

Information access request:

4. Information regarding closed fire investigations, emergency response records (statistical data) and fire incident records are available for public access.
5. Information regarding open fire investigations, disciplinary awards, pre-hospital care forms, examination questionnaires and personnel files are exempt from public access.

Section A: Structure, Organization and Legislation [s5(1)a]



Legislation
 Fire Service Act 1982

Section B: I) Functions, powers, duties of the Authority [s5(1)b]

Fire Service Act 1982

The duties of the Department shall be to — (a) extinguish fires; (b) protect life and property in case of fire or other calamity; (bb)in the case of fire or other calamity, to assist any person who appears to need prompt or immediate medical attention by— (i) securing his safety; (ii) resuscitating or sustaining his life; and (iii) reducing his suffering or distress (c) carry out such other duties as may be imposed on it by law or by any direction of the Minister; (d) do anything which is necessary or desirable to carry out effectively any duty which is specified in this section or imposed under paragraph (c). (2) For the purposes of paragraph (bb) of subsection (1), it shall be the duty of the Minister to consult with, and act in accordance with the advice of, the Minister for the time being responsible for health, in respect of— (a) the training to be undertaken by such fire officers as are intended to be assigned to the duties specified in

that paragraph; and (b) the qualifications which must be attained by those fire officers prior to such assignment. (3) A fire officer who does not satisfy the requirements of subsection (2) as to training and qualification shall not be assigned to duties under subsection (1)(bb).

Powers in respect of extinguishing fires 11 (1) Any fire officer, who is on duty or any police officer may enter and if necessary break into — (a) any premises or, place in which a fire has or is reasonably believed to have broken out; or (b) any premises or place which it is necessary to enter for the purpose of extinguishing a fire or preventing the spread of fire or of protecting the premises or place from acts done for fire-fighting purposes; or (c) any such premises or place for rescuing any person or property therein; or (d) any such premises or place for the purposes of section 6(1)(bb), and any such entry or breaking may be carried out without the consent of the owner or occupier thereof and the person effecting such entry or breaking may do all such things as he may deem necessary for extinguishing the fire or preventing its spread or for accomplishing any of the purposes giving rise to the entry or breaking. (2) The senior fire officer present at any fire may take all reasonable measures to ensure that water supplies for fire-fighting purposes are adequate, and may use any convenient and suitable supply of water with or without the consent of the owner: Provided that, where water is taken from any private storage tank, arrangements shall be made by the Chief Fire Officer as soon as practicable after the fire for the quantity of water taken to be replaced. (3) The senior fire officer present at any fire may — (a) close to traffic (whether pedestrian, animal or vehicular) any street or may stop or regulate such traffic in any street whenever in the opinion of that officer it is necessary or desirable to do so, for fire-fighting purposes; and (b) designate a fire zone into which no unauthorized person shall be allowed to enter or remain except for firefighting purposes.

Our Vision

A safer community

Our Mission

To provide protection and medical services for all areas of these islands, to extinguish fires, protect life and property in case of fire, road traffic accident or other calamity as defined by the Fire Service Act or subsequent regulations.

Reporting Framework

As we are a disciplined service, our reporting framework is as follows:

- Firefighter, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Divisional Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Chief fire Officer
- Civilian, Supervisor, Chief Fire Officer
- Chief Fire Officer, Permanent Secretary, Minister Of National Security

Section B: 2) Obligations under PATI Act [s5(1)b]

To provide an **information statement** for the public and promulgate it [s5],

- To provide **other information** to the public so that the public needs only to have minimum resort to the use of the Act to obtain information [s6]. This includes:
 - General information, e.g. activities of the Authority

- Log of all information requests and their outcome
- Quarterly expenditure (upon request) [s6(5)]
- Contracts valued at \$50,000 or more.
- To **respond to information requests** in a timely manner [s12-16]
- To **track information requests**, and provide this data to the Information Commissioner
- To respond to requests from the Information Commissioner [s9]
- To **amend personal information** held by the Authority that it is wrong or misleading following a written request by the person to whom the information relates [s19]
- To conduct an **internal review** if formally requested [part 5]
- To give evidence for **review by the Information Commissioner** [part 6, 47(4)], or for **judicial review** [s49], if required
- To provide an **annual written report** to the Information Commissioner of the status of information requests [s58 (3)].
- **To do anything else as required** under the PATI Act and subsequent Regulations [s59, 60], including:
 - **Fees** for Requests for information
 - Management and maintenance of **records**
 - **Procedures** for administering the Act
- To **train staff and make arrangements** so as to facilitate compliance with the Act [s61]
- To **designate one of its officers** to be the person to whom requests are directed [s62]

Section C: Services and Programmes [s5(1)c]

Services:

The Fire Service provides services including:

- Fire Safety
- Fire Prevention
- Operational firefighting
- Emergency medical services
- Rescue

Programmes:

- Fire Safety Week
- Fire Safety Home inspections will be implemented in the near future

Section D: Records and documents held [s5(1)d]

The current classes of records kept by the Fire Service include: Fire incident records, Fire Investigation reports and statistical data of Emergency Response records.

Section E: Administration (all public access) manuals [s5(1)e]

The Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service are governed by the guidelines outlined in Fire Service General Orders. Training with equipment is outlined in current Training Manuals.

Section F: Decision-making documents [s5(1)f]

The Fire Service has a a set of Discipline Regulations by which disciplines are conducted.

Section G: The Information officer [s5(1)g]

Information Officer for Bermuda Fire and Rescue Services
Sergeant Russann Francis
P. O. Box HM 1199
Hamilton HM EX
refrancis@gov.bm
Tel: 441-292-5555

Section H: Any Other Information [s5(1)h]

Section I: Any Other Information To be Provided? [s5(1)i]

Section J: Information Statement: Copies and Updates [s5(2,3,4,5)]

Every public authority shall update its information statement at least once a year, and make it available for inspection by the public at reasonable times by [s5(1-5), PATI Act]:

Date Information Statement was updated: March 31, 2015

Locations of Information Statement:

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| • Your principal office: (15 Waller’s Point Road, St. David’s DD 03) | Y |
| • The Bermuda National Library; | N |
| • The Bermuda Archives; | N |
| • Available electronically, | Y |
| • Website for public authority (www.gov.bm) | Y |
| • Have you published a notice in the Gazette indicating the places where the information statement is available for the public? | N |
| • With the Information Commissioner. | N |

Sign and Date: R. Francis, March 31, 2015