

*These notes refer to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
(c.21) which received Royal Assent on Thursday 22 July 2004*

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2: Functions of Fire and Rescue Authorities

Assistance in discharge of functions

Sections 13 and 14: Reinforcement schemes and directions as to reinforcement schemes

31. These sections re-enact the existing provisions of the Fire Services Act 1947 on reinforcement schemes and extend them to apply to road traffic accidents and other serious emergencies (as defined by order under section 9). Section 13 obliges fire and rescue authorities to group together, so far as practicable, to provide mutual assistance. If there are cases where fire and rescue authorities are unable to come to an agreement about forming such a group, and one of the authorities concerned requests it, section 14 enables the Secretary of State to direct the fire and rescue authorities involved to make, vary or revoke such a scheme.
32. Before giving a direction, the Secretary of State must give all authorities concerned the opportunity to make representations to him and he may hold an inquiry.