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# In Attendance

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Publisher: Jeremy Mills  
Design: Dawn Cockcroft  
Accounts: Yvonne Logan

Editorial and circulation enquiries to

**In Attendance / On The Bell**  
editorial@inattendance.co.uk

Advertising enquiries to  
stuart.cassidy@inattendance.co.uk

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Victoria Palace  
Photo: British Transport Police



# British Transport Police Civil Protection Command



British Transport Police Civil Protection Command is part of the Forces B-Division which covers London and south east United Kingdom from Somerset to Norfolk. Within the Division the Command is part of Central sub-Division headed by a Superintendent and covers the Transport for London parts of the Division.

*“BTP has a very different set of priorities to other forces in the UK. In particular, it has to be acutely aware of how its actions impact on the running of the railway.”*  
Chief Constable Paul Crowther OBE

The Command is headed by a Police Inspector and operates from three main locations; Camden, Stratford and Broadway/St. James’s Park where it is headquartered, with two satellite locations at Acton and Battersea which are crewed when necessary.

Civil Protection Command is comprised of three main components; namely the Network Incident Response Team (NIRT), Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and the Resilience Planning Unit (RPU) with each Section being headed by a Sergeant or Police Staff equivalent. The separate components were combined into one Command in early 2017 in order to enhance the combined capabilities of the individual elements and to build resilience



within the Service having previously existed as largely autonomous sections. The Police Officers within the Command have been trained as Medics by London Ambulance Service which whom they work very closely, as they also do with the London Air Ambulance (LAA/Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)) and London Fire Brigade (LFB). The

Command also collaborates on training with the School of Paramedic Science at St. George’s Hospital University of London. The Civil Protection Command Police Officers are also trained in JESIP Incident Management and Forensic Body Recovery, with some of the Team having additional skills as Public Safety Cycle Responders or Policing at Heights.







The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places obligations on Category One and two Responders; BTP being a Category One Responder and London Underground a Category Two responder.

The Act requires Category 1 responders to:

- maintain plans for preventing emergencies;
- reduce, control or mitigate the effects of emergencies;
- take other action in the event of emergencies.

“Additionally Co-operation between organisations is fundamental to emergency

preparedness. A large number of organisations will need to co-operate when responding to emergencies, so it is right that organisations co-operate closely in preparedness and planning as well.”

“The government aims to ensure all organisations co-operate in emergency preparedness, and robust co-operation arrangements are in place at every level.” (Cabinet Office 20th Feb. 2013)

While the obligations on London Underground as a Category Two Responder are much lower they still have obligations as “co-operating bodies”. They are less likely to be involved in the heart of planning

work, but will be heavily involved in incidents that affect their own sector.

Category 2 responders have a lesser set of duties - co-operating and sharing relevant information with other Category 1 and 2 responders. (Cabinet Office 20th Feb. 2013)

One of the functions of Civil Protection Command (CPC) is to help BTP discharge part of its CCA obligations in a structured way which enhances day to day incident management. From a London Underground perspective they assist the cooperation process by providing a Network Incident Response Manager (NIRM) to join with the BTP Police Officer. It is the combined capabilities of the NIRM with the Police Officer that together creates a Network Incident Response Team (NIRT).

The Network Incident Response Team (NIRT) operating from Broadway in Westminster operate vehicles which carry the various specialist medical equipment utilised by the Police Medics and LAS for dealing with Underground related Emergencies, (such as persons struck by trains), in addition to some lineside equipment which may be used by the NIRM for creating a safe system of work on the railway. Routinely the Command parades two NIRT vehicles and when appropriate a third vehicle crewed solely by BTP Civil Protection Police specialists. The non-NIRM vehicle is utilised in support of the vehicles crewed with a NIRM so that both NIRTs are not routinely tied up at the same incident. Additionally where the deployment of the NIRM is not necessary the Police only vehicle will be the primary







responder in addition to its core policing and staff engagement function.

This third vehicle can also be supplemented by the use of Police Mountain bikes; these are not only very well received by the public and staff but are very effective in reducing response times alongside being a welfare safety valve.

Welfare is a key issue for the Command given that the forty personnel who comprise it deal with some of the most physically and mentally traumatic incidents which can be encountered in the UK urban environment. With much of the trauma they deal with being akin to battlefield injuries; some of which prove fatal, but the majority of which result in horrific life changing injuries. Additionally cardiac arrests and Passengers Ill on Trains are routine calls to which Officers are deployed. Alongside the day to day incidents the Command also deployed to the Terrorist incidents of 2017 and the tragedy of Grenfell Tower. The Command is regularly supported by the Railway Mission Chaplaincy and the Forces Wellbeing Services which have some special protocols/monitoring of personnel in the Command due to the level of exposure to challenging incidents.

The police aspect of the Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is another component of the Command, which has existed in its current form following the Lady Justice Hallett inquiry into the response to the 7/7 London Bombings and in preparation for the 2012 Olympics/Paralympics. The ERU without Police Officers was initially created by London Underground in 1993. The addition of the BTP Civil Protection Officers 24/7 at Camden and Stratford has not only significantly reduced response times to life threatening blue light emergencies but has also supported greater cooperation across all of London's Emergency Services.

The ERU was first formed to combine in a standing team the emergency engineering support and technical expertise necessary to keep London Underground on the move, coupling this with the CCA Category One capabilities of British Transport Police has magnified the benefits of the combined skills "Working Together to Save Lives – Reduce Harm" in line with the Joint Emergency Services Principles (JESIP). In addition to helping to reduce the human impact the initiative has also saved hundreds of thousands of pounds for Transport for London as well as London business as a whole that would have

been adversely affected by delays to the transport network.

When appropriate BTP Civil Protection personnel are also posted to the ERU at Battersea or Acton, the ERU vehicles have reversible markings so that when they are not being crewed by a Police Officer they are still available for use by London Underground. The additional capability is provided when events in London or adverse weather may make it more difficult to reach emergencies.

The third Component of the Command is the Resilience Planning Unit (RPU) – which engages with all the Local Resilience Fora (LRF) within the Division. The RPU is staffed by four Resilience Planning Officers who have each have responsibility for individual LRFs and the Borough Resilience Fora within London. The RPU is a key enabling function and integral part of multi-agency working in support of the CCA and Business Continuity. The Unit also has the capability to deploy when appropriate to incidents such as the Croydon Tram multiple fatality crash. The RPU also oversees and facilitates multi-agency exercising either as the lead or facilitating LRF's to do so, helping prepare them for railway related incidents.



In support of this some of the RPOs are also trained National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers as are the Police Officer Managers within the Command. The integration with the NILO structure has paid dividends when dealing with incidents from adverse weather to Extinction Rebellion and day to day more routine emergency matters. This facet has also supported the integration and joint working with London Ambulance Service and London Fire Brigade, which in turn supports wider London Resilience; ultimately benefitting residents, workers, visitors and businesses.

Examples of the integrated working include London Ambulance Service Cycle Response Unit teams utilising BTP facilities as stand by points, not only reducing response times to LU related incidents but also benefitting all through the exchange of knowledge and building teamwork in a cost neutral way.

By having a small Command of specialist Police Officers who are used to the London Underground operating environment and can balance the policing duties with those of keeping London moving interventions are more expeditious and can be tailored to achieve the optimum outcome based on the circumstances. The Command also maintains a cadre of Reserve Medics who are routinely deployed from standard police stations, then drafted in to support the whole-time Command as required. Additionally having the Reserve Medics deployed in routine roles means that there is a spread of the capability which can be employed as Medics when necessary whether that be in support of daily activity or for a significant incident which generates a number of casualties.

### **Summary**

The Command has hosted visitors from around the world that have been to see how we achieve what we do, this is a great accolade and will also support the London Mayor in their desire for London to become one of the Global Resilient Cities.

Civil Protection Command bring together the specialist policing for the railway, with Medical skills tailored to the railway environment and close working with London Underground plus blue light partner agencies in an efficient cost effective way completely in line with JESIP – “Working Together to save Lives and Reduce Harm”.

*“The need to minimise disruption will become even more important on an expanding, busier railway. Even greater emphasis will have to be placed on preventing unnecessary cost and disruption from temporary closures of stations or railway lines without compromising our duties”.*

BTPA Strategic Plan, 2012-19



# Saving Lives At Sea: Raise A Glass At Great Lifeboat Pubs



One of the UK's best loved & most supported charities, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is certainly the largest charity saving lives at sea around the coasts of the UK, Eire & the Channel Isles as well as on some inland waterways.

The RNLI is principally funded by legacies and donations, whilst most of the members of its lifeboat crews are unpaid volunteers; there are 237 lifeboat stations which operate 444 lifeboats.

Thousands of people and animals, mostly dogs, are rescued every year, often in dangerous situations, both for those being rescued and for the lifeboat crew; also, RNLI lifeguards operate on more than 200 beaches.

## **RAISE A GLASS AT GREAT LIFEBOAT PUBS**

There's a lifeboat crew at the heart of so many communities and in most cases there's a particular public house there too - a special place that's kept local lifesavers fed and watered for generations; there's obviously a limit to how many we could feature here but we've included just a few in this feature besides some details on a few lifeboat stations:



Criccieth's Lifeboat Station in Gwynedd, Wales, was established in 1853, located on the northern shores of Cardigan Bay and currently operating a B class Atlantic 85 lifeboat. Just before Xmas in 2018 and just after midnight, the crew successfully came to the rescue of a yacht aground in the Porthmadoc Estuary

Filey's Station in North Yorkshire is celebrating over 200 years in operations; its crew have received 8 awards for gallantry and the current crew have a

combined all-weather lifeboat experience of over 350 years. Two rescues earlier this year included assisting coastguards in search for teenagers and call-out to a vessel with engine failure.

Salcombe's Station in South Devon, established for 150 years, is currently operated by a team of 34 local men & women, 21 sea-going, 12 shore-based & 1 lifeboat medical adviser. The two boats in operation are a 25 knot Tamar Class All-Weather and a 35 knot B class Inshore





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Sheringham's Station in North Norfolk, has been established for over 180 years; their current lifeboat is an 85 Atlantic rigid inflatable boat named "The Oddfellows" after The Manchester unity Order of Oddfellows who donated the cost of this boat which is one of the new generation of RNLI Atlantic B-class inshore lifeboats first developed by the RNLI from a design originated at Atlantic College in South Wales. Best wishes to long-serving crew

member Trevor Holse who retired earlier this year after 57 years service.

Wells-next-the-Sea's Station, also in North Norfolk, has been saving lives since 1830 although the first RNLI Lifeboat Station wasn't built

until 1869 and is located on a sand and shingle spit just a mile north of the town; the All-Weather & In-Shore lifeboats are manned by a volunteer crew who, earlier this year, came to the Mayday rescue of a 33 ft ex-fishing vessel, Effie, which had run aground in the approach to Blakeney Harbour on a rising tide but with the great efforts of the crew, eventually all was well.

Whitby's Station in North Yorkshire, has been in operation for 200 years, have received RNLI awards for gallantry 36 times & currently operates one In-shore and one All-Weather lifeboat. At the end of March this year the crew were called out to rescue a couple & their dog who were trapped by the high Spring tide & were taken to the nearest slipway at Robin Hood's Bay; earlier in the year the all-weather lifeboat was launched after a 3-manned coble fishing boat raised a May-day alarm when it began to take on water & was eventually chaperoned to Whitby Harbour.



# A Tribute to our local Emergency Services

St Austell Brewery has long been a supporter of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, raising money for this incredibly important charity locally through its 180 pubs and hotels across the South West, as well as from head office in St Austell through sales of its Cousin Jack Cornish ale.

Brewed in collaboration with England Rugby Union star Jack Nowell, over £15,000 has been raised over the last three years through a contribution from each pint sold. Rising Rugby Union star Jack Nowell became St Austell Brewery's Charitable trust ambassador in 2017 and, as a true Cornishman, was determined to work with the company to create something for a charity close to his roots, which led to the spring brew using his name being created as a means of raising funds for the RNLI.

The Brewery also supports the Cornwall Air Ambulance through regular donations



of equipment, such as a £15,500 ventilator in 2018 which has proven to be 'like and additional member of the crew' for the paramedics aboard the helicopter.

More recently, the Brewery has teamed up with the Cornwall Search and Rescue organization, sponsoring new equipment

through the company's Charitable Trust with a view to further support across the next few years. As always, St Austell Brewery is happy to raise a glass in Tribute to all of the emergency crews that work so hard to keep our coastline and countryside safe for visitors and locals alike.

An advertisement for Tribute Cornish Pale Ale. The background shows a sailboat with a purple sail on the water. In the foreground, a tall glass of golden beer with a white head of foam is shown. The glass has the 'TRIBUTE' logo and 'CORNISH PALE ALE' written on it. The text 'THE PERFECT CREW MEMBER' is overlaid in large purple letters. In the top left corner, it says 'drinkaware.co.uk for the facts'. In the bottom right corner, it says 'QUALITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF'.



# Work Begins On First Blue Light Tri-Service Hub In Nottinghamshire

Work has officially started on a new blue-light tri-service hub in Hucknall which will be shared by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, Nottinghamshire Police and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) – the first of its kind in Nottinghamshire.

The hub, which will be based at EMAS's existing ambulance station site in Annesley Road, will enable the three emergency services to work closer together and provide an even more efficient and effective service to the public.

Building works began last month and are anticipated to be completed next year.

The project involves two extensions being constructed at the site to be used by the police and fire services.

Ian Pritchard, Assistant Chief Officer at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "Having all three emergency services in one building is an exciting step in our collaboration journey and one which will benefit the community.

"This will allow us to jointly make a saving on our estates budget, help us to develop the service we provide and be at the heart of the community.

"It creates an opportunity for us to work closely with our blue light partners. Sharing knowledge and best practice will ensure we all continue to provide a high-quality service to the public."

Craig Guildford, Chief Constable at Nottinghamshire Police said: "We've been reviewing all of our estates over the past few years in order to make efficiency savings and reduce running costs.

"Since 2013, this has resulted in a move towards a smarter way of working



*From left Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping, Chief Constable Craig Guildford, Greg Cox, General Manager for Nottinghamshire at East Midlands Ambulance Service and Ian Pritchard, Assistance Chief Officer at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service at the site where the new tri service hub will be built.*

alongside our partners sharing buildings and facilities where appropriate.

"This has been successfully implemented in several areas across Nottinghamshire. Through these measures, we have been able to improve efficiency and effectiveness and maintain a significant police presence in our neighbourhoods, something that we are committed to.

"Building this shared facility will mean we can move our neighbourhoods and response teams into the new building, enabling them to work even more collaboratively alongside fire and ambulance service colleagues.

"Agility, flexibility and sharing has the ability to reduce our non-pay budget and to focus upon core front-line deliverables in a changing world. By sharing more with local partners, we are able to contribute to collective efficiencies which is very much in the public interest."

Nottinghamshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping added: "It's common sense: if we share buildings with our partners, we share the running costs across the public sector which is better use of public funds. Co-locations bring operational benefits too, enabling us to have closer

working relationships with our blue light colleagues. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Greg Cox, General Manager for Nottinghamshire at East Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "This is the first tri-service station to be created in Nottinghamshire so we are especially excited to see the building work starting.

"By welcoming our fire and police colleagues to join us at our Hucknall site, we will be able to make the best use of public money and find new ways of working together which will further strengthen our ongoing professional relationships.

"Our ambulance crews are looking forward to sharing mess rooms and kitchens with their blue light colleagues during their breaks, which will help to build a greater understanding of each other's services.

"As it is the first of its kind in Nottinghamshire, this tri-service hub will give us the opportunity to see whether this style of collaboration is the future for our ambulance stations in the county.

"We have worked hard with our emergency service colleagues to get to this point, and we now look forward to moving into this implementation phase and to continue to develop an already excellent working partnership."



# PSNI take delivery of their first accredited crime prevention qualification

Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI) Crime Prevention Academy have been working with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Crime Prevention Unit to provide delivery of the first accredited crime prevention qualification for PSNI officers and staff.

The Level 4 Certificate in Crime Prevention is aimed at officers and staff working in specialist roles and is delivered exclusively by the PCPI Crime Prevention Academy, which is an approved centre for the awarding body ProQual.

Speaking on behalf of the Academy, the Head of Learning and Development Guy Collyer said, "We have been delivering accredited qualifications for the officers and staff of police services and partner agencies across the UK since September 2018. This course was delivered by locally based trainers to ensure that the content is relevant to the ongoing work conducted by PSNI."

Speaking on behalf of the PSNI Crime Prevention Unit, Chris Sloan said: "This is first time that officers and staff from the Police Service of Northern Ireland and staff from the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships have taken part in the Level 4 Certificate in Crime Prevention course and they have all found it to be extremely helpful for their roles.

"We have just recently appointed a number of new crime prevention officers across our organisation and this training forms part of their continued development programme to become a fully accredited Crime Prevention Design Adviser.

"Delivering this locally based course highlights the PSNI's commitment to partnership working and provides improved resilience in the prevention of crime and keeping people safe across Northern Ireland.

"We look forward to working with PCPI in the delivery of further prevention training as part of the longer term Crime Prevention Strategy."

Delegates attended the classroom phase of the qualification at the Police College of Northern Ireland, having completed preliminary work including e-learning. Local delivery ensured that specific legislation and local policy documents could be referenced and relevant inputs from internal and external subject matter experts sourced.

The Level 4 Certificate in Crime Prevention for Practitioners content includes the context of crime; the application of a problem solving process; correct and effective use of security products; site security surveys and environmental visual audits; working in partnerships and related legislation; and running a crime prevention initiative.

The Level 4 Certificate provides a stepping stone to the Level 5 Diploma in Crime Prevention – Designing Out Crime.

The Level 4 Certificate is part of the new generation of accredited, regulated and portable qualifications in Crime Prevention and Designing Out Crime. The qualifications provide learning and CPD opportunities for those within the Police Service and other public organisations. This includes Local Authority departments, Community Safety Partnerships, Fire and Rescue, Health and Probation services. The qualifications are also available and relevant to private sector businesses such as security staff and managers, architects and planners.

As well as scheduled national delivery, the qualifications can be delivered locally dependent on delegate numbers and available budget of an organisation. To find out more about the qualifications delivered by the Academy and scheduled dates for



Guy Collyer.

delivery in 2019/2020, please contact: [info@crimepreventionacademy.com](mailto:info@crimepreventionacademy.com)

The Police Crime Prevention Academy is just one initiative belonging to Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI) and is an Approved Centre for the awarding body, ProQual. The accredited qualifications which it delivers are regulated by Ofqual.

PCPI is a police owned organisation that works on behalf of Police & Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables to deliver a wide range of crime prevention and demand reduction initiatives across the UK. It is a non-profit organisation and Board Members include senior police officers from each of the four Home Nations who control and direct the work PCPI carries out on behalf of the Police Service.



# “Many other police officers and staff will follow in her footsteps”

A West Midlands Police staff member is one of first in the country to achieve crime prevention qualification success.

West Midlands Police staff member Susan Joyce has become one of the first people to successfully complete a Level 4 Certificate in Crime Prevention, an accredited qualification delivered by Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI) Crime Prevention Academy.

Susan, who joined West Midlands Police in 1995, was a supervisor within West Midlands Police’s Birmingham Partnerships before joining the Force’s Design Out Crime Team in early 2018.

Guy Collyer, Head of Learning and Development, Police Crime Prevention Initiatives, said: “Susan should be congratulated for being one of the first candidates to achieve an accredited qualification in Crime Prevention with us.

“Many other police officers and staff will follow in her footsteps, and we encourage all other agencies who have staff working in this area of the criminal justice arena, to speak to us about the qualifications we now deliver for them as well.”

West Midlands Police’s Designing Out Crime manager, Mark Silvester, said: “I am really pleased to have Susan as part of my team of Designing Out Crime Officers, she has settled in to the role very well. I am immensely proud of the fact Susan is the first person to have passed the new Level 4 course.

“Susan joins the forces team of nine DOCO’s in West Midlands Police, and working alongside the four colleagues for the areas covered under the Birmingham Neighbourhood Police Unit.”

The Level 4 Certificate in Crime Prevention is part of the new generation of accredited, regulated and portable qualifications in crime prevention and designing out crime which become available from September 2018. The qualifications provide learning and CPD opportunities for those within the Police Service and other public organisations that have a statutory duty around delivering safer communities. This includes Local Authority departments, Community Safety Partnerships, Fire and Rescue, Health and Probation services. The qualifications are also available and relevant to private sector businesses such as security staff and managers, architects and planners.

As well as scheduled national delivery, the qualifications can be delivered locally dependent on delegate numbers and available budget of an organisation. To find out more about the qualifications delivered by the Academy and scheduled dates for delivery in 2019/2020, please contact: [training@police-cpi.co.uk](mailto:training@police-cpi.co.uk)



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The PCPI Crime Prevention Academy is an Approved Centre for the awarding body, ProQual, and the accredited qualifications which it delivers are regulated by Ofqual.

# USAR Awarded Police And Crime Commissioner Partnership Award

During the Annual Dyfed-Powys Awards, held at Dyfed-Powys Police Headquarters on Friday 10 May 2019, the Wales Urban Search and Rescue Team (USAR) received recognition for their role in the operation that commenced following the fatal incident at Tŷ Belgrave House, Aberystwyth, on the 25th July 2018.

Awarded the Police and Crime Commissioner Partnership Award, the award specifically recognises accomplishments and contributions from partners who the Police force collaborates with to improve working practices, reduce costs, and ultimately achieve the mission of ‘safeguarding our communities together’.



# Northern Ambulance Alliance Saves £1 Million Through Joint Procurement Of Fleet Management System

The Northern Ambulance Alliance (NAA) is improving the way it manages fleet information whilst simultaneously reducing costs and creating the ability to benchmark data across three ambulance trusts through a shared five year contract with Civica Tranman.

The NAA has undertaken a joint procurement to replace existing fleet management systems with an innovative, fit for purpose system which will support fleet managers to reduce vehicle costs through more efficient data capture and analysis.

This is the very first time a collaborative procurement has been undertaken by the NAA which is an alliance between North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) and North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). The trusts have joined forces with the objective of identifying and developing opportunities for joint efficiencies and innovation. East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) is also an associate member of the NAA.

This project has been led by NWAS Assistant Director of Estates and Fleet Neil Maher with the support of colleagues at NEAS and YAS, as well as the NWAS programme management office. Further support has been provided by a project team including key representatives from fleet, finance, procurement and information management and technology teams at NWAS, YAS and NEAS.

The project went live in early March following workshops with Civica to ensure the new system meets the specification and needs of each of the trusts involved.

The key benefits of the new Tranman fleet management system are as follows:

- Only one tendering process was carried out instead of three individual tenders, reducing duplication.
- Only one lot of set up costs were required across the three trusts.
- One common system will help to drive efficiencies within the ambulance fleet as a whole.



- There is an overarching reporting and management suite across the member trusts.

Neil Maher, Assistant Director of Estates and Fleet at NWAS said: “There have been significant savings achieved in the procurement of this system, however we see the real value of it as a long term investment for the three trusts in terms of future operating costs, process redesign, organisational learning, fleet quality, and the ability to make better informed decisions for future fleet procurements.

“It certainly falls within the ethos of Lord Carter’s report on operational productivity and performance in English NHS Ambulance trusts, and goes a long way to laying the foundations for achieving the aims of the report in terms of operational fleets in the North West, North East and Yorkshire.”

Rod Barnes, Chief Executive at YAS commented: “Our fleet is so critical to patient care that we welcome having improved visibility from the new system. This will allow all three trusts to improve



the quality and efficiency of their operations which is an important step in supporting Lord Carter’s recommendations to increase productivity and create greater efficiencies together.”

Lynne Hodgson, Director of Finance at NEAS added: “There are a number of projects being pursued by the estates, fleet and procurement workstream of the overall NAA programme, all aiming to achieve standardisation and value for money. The teams are committed to working together to deliver efficiencies and drive forward best practice. The joint procurement of the new fleet management system is a significant milestone in this programme of work.’





## London Ambulance Service volunteers meet man whose life they saved

A man whose heart stopped nine times has enjoyed a tearful reunion with the volunteer responders who saved his life.

Amin Akbar, 40, from Southall was working at DHL in Heathrow when he began feeling chest pains in June of last year.

"I told my supervisor and he told me to go to the break room to chill out for a bit but I began to feel worse so he called for the ambulance," said Amin.

Volunteer Emergency Responders Peter Biddle and Garry Patrick responded, and Amin went into cardiac arrest shortly after they arrived.

On a usual day Peter, from Chessington, teaches people to drive lorries, buses and coaches while Garry, from Isleworth, works as a manager at a carpentry and joinery firm. But in their spare time they are volunteer Emergency Responders, specially trained by London Ambulance Service in life saving skills who respond to emergencies with almost identical vehicles and similar lifesaving equipment as regular crews.

They used their defibrillator to deliver a shock, upgraded the call and commenced CPR before the first ambulance crew arrived. Their defibrillator was used to deliver further shocks to restart Amin's heart before an ambulance crew arrived to continue his care and took Amin to Harefield Hospital.

Amin: "I was waiting for two angels and they came; it is because of Garry and Peter them that I am here today. The first thing I remember after waking up is a huge pressure on my chest and I heard Garry say 'good man, you're still alive'.

"At the hospital the doctor told me I had died nine times. He said I had to give my credit to the first people that arrived to help me because they didn't give up."



From left Peter Biddle (ER), Amin Akbar, Gary Bassett (ER)

Peter said he joined the Emergency Responder scheme after the tragic death of his son eight years ago.

Peter said: "I was lost for the first year after that happened. That's why I started volunteering as an Emergency Responder; I knew I needed to do something to help others. I wanted something worthwhile to come out of what had happened.

"When word got back to us on that same shift that Amin was sitting up in bed and talking it was the biggest buzz we've ever had. It has been a very emotional experience meeting Amin. He is such an inspiration in the way he has changed his life around. It's outcomes like this that make you look forward to your next shift."

Amin has now returned to work after six months his colleagues at DHL have hosted a fundraising dinner to donate to

the London Ambulance Service Voluntary Responder Group. DHL will match fund the staff members' contribution to double the amount.

Amin said: "I am perfectly fine now. I have given up smoking, junk food and fizzy drinks. I'm looking after myself. The first thing I did when the doctor allowed me to travel is to take a pilgrimage to the holy cities. It's something I've always wanted to do."

Garry: "It was almost as if Amin had waited for us to arrive. I feel well trained by the LAS so I feel confident in dealing with something like this."

Amin has now returned to his job at DHL in an office role.

# Police Officer Thanks 20 SWASFT Lifesavers After Cardiac Arrest



A police officer has been reunited with more than 20 people, including South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) staff, who were involved in saving his life when his heart stopped twice.

Avon and Somerset Police Constable, Ben Perrin, had a sudden cardiac arrest at Chipping Sodbury Police Station near Bristol on the evening of 17 March after attending a police incident.

Ben, then 43, had reported feeling unwell, before colleagues found him unconscious and not breathing.

They called 999, did chest compressions, and shocked him several times with a defibrillator in an effort to get his heart beating again.

In hospital Ben had a severe pulmonary haemorrhage and a second cardiac arrest. He was not expected to survive the night.

However, he remained alive, and has gone on to make an extraordinary recovery.

Ben made a special visit to the force's headquarters in Portishead on Tuesday 21 May to meet and thank some of the estimated 100 hospital, ambulance, air ambulance and police staff who were directly involved in treating him.

Ben, who has no memory of the incident, said: "I feel like I'm the luckiest man on earth. I shouldn't be here; I should have died."

"I'm very grateful for all the care I received from everyone including my colleagues.

"If you find someone unconscious and not breathing, stay calm and call 999 for an ambulance. And try CPR because you can't make the situation any worse."

PC Nathan Sollis, who gave the initial CPR to his colleague and close friend, said: "The adrenaline took over, and we got on with it until the ambulance crews took over.

"We were told he wasn't going to recover. It was difficult to comprehend what had happened to a very good friend. But he managed to pull through; Ben's a miracle man!"

SWASFT Emergency Medical Dispatcher, Sigourney Keyte, guided the caller, PC Ryan



Thomas, through the basic life support procedure. Meanwhile PC Nathan Sollis did CPR and used the defibrillator, with support from PC Katie Etherton.

A large team of responders – including paramedic land crews, specialist cardiac arrest support tier (CAST) paramedics, and a critical care team from Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC) – provided advanced life support in a continued effort to resuscitate Ben.

The critical care team used a mechanical CPR device to administer automated chest compressions on Ben. They also gave him another two shocks with a defibrillator.

Ben was transported to the Bristol Royal Infirmary by ambulance in a critical condition. Paramedics managed to restart his heart in the ambulance before they reached the hospital.

But during heart surgery the significant bleed occurred, and Ben's heart stopped again.

Hospital staff were able to get his heart beating for itself again. They restored his oxygen levels and his condition improved.

After being in an induced coma for several weeks, he was released home on Good Friday.

Rhys Griffiths, SWASFT Operations Officer, who was one of the first ambulance responders to the incident, said:

"Ben is a success story where early intervention from his colleagues no doubt saved his life. Without their rapid actions, Ben's story may have been different. Police staff laid a great foundation for SWASFT to continue resuscitation and utilise our advanced treatment. They deserve much praise for their swift actions on the night of his cardiac arrest.

"This was an ultimate team effort from police, hospital staff, air ambulance and ambulance staff. We all train and educate ourselves to a high level, and it is always an incredible feeling to be involved in making such a huge difference for a patient."

Dr Sanjoy Shah, Clinical Chair of the Division of Surgery at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Ben suffered a cardiac arrest and was critically ill.

"His survival is a testament to the team work of the SWASFT team and the Bristol Royal Infirmary emergency department, cardiac catheter labs and intensive care unit teams. With excellent care and a huge amount of hard work and determination from the staff, Ben, his family and his police colleagues, he has made a brilliant recovery.

"We're thrilled with Ben's recovery and wish him all the best for the future."

If you suspect someone is having a heart attack or cardiac arrest: call 999 immediately, begin CPR, and use a public access defibrillator if one is available.



# Sapper Support looks to recruit New Volunteers in 2019

Sapper Support was created in the winter of 2014.

A friend of mine took his own life after suffering from PTSD when returning from Afghanistan.

When I looked into what help was available (in 2014) I couldn't believe there wasn't a 24:7 helpline staffed solely by veterans.... so I started one.

There were helplines out there, but not staffed 100% by veterans. It seemed obvious to me that this was what was needed, as veterans can empathise with what sufferers have experienced.

So, for less than the price of a night out, I started SAPPER SUPPORT.

Initially aimed at helping Royal Engineers (Sappers), this very quickly changed after a month or so, as we were being called by differing 'cap-badges' and family members of sufferers.

So, we became a tri-service charity.

Gaining our full charity status, a year later (Charity Number 1167986) and then becoming full members of Cobseo, we won Best New Charity 2017.

Within 2 years we had doubled our initial volunteers from 5 to 10. Creating a second helpline number and text facility. We are also, contactable on many formats across the social media spectrum.

Not one for wasting resources, I made the decision to also give help to the 999 community. This decision was easily made as 80% of my volunteers worked within the emergency service arena.

The ability to understand what our callers have been through, is key to our success.

With 1:4 of emergency workers now being veterans, this gave us our 3 demographics.

Veterans, 999 employees and those who have served in both.

Time constraints seem to be an issue for other charities. Not at SAPPER SUPPORT. We will talk for how ever long is needed. We never hang up the phone..... this is down to the caller.

Our aim is to have the caller in a better frame of mind, happier than when he/she called and in possession of a strategy to get them through the night, day or weekend until they can contact their G.P. or other specialised support agency when they hang up.

One other thing that is unique to SAPPER SUPPORT is that we are in a position to pay for private assessments. A doctor's referral can take up to 4 months. A timescale that I found wholly unacceptable, as this gave rise to the possibility of veterans/999 not making it to their appointment, due to suicide. So, SAPPER SUPPORT now funds private assessments to determine a diagnosis. No one has had to wait more

than 2 weeks for an assessment. Thus, removing the 4 months wait.

We also, help to fund treatment up to the cost of £500.

This can be for callers, or their family members, as their health (stress) impacts on the health of our chosen demographics.

Since our creation we have been extremely successful in preventing individuals from self-harming or taking their own lives. This can be proven by the number of letters and testimonials we have received saying this.

We have also, been honoured with awards for our work.

- Best New Charity 2017
- Best Charity 2018
- Best Mental Health Support Charity 2018/19
- Duke of York Community initiative Award 2019

Our Founder, Tim Evers was awarded a British Citizens Award for his services to mental health in 2019.

We plan to recruit a further 28 volunteers to create a national framework of support hubs around the UK. This is our next goal.

Lastly, SAPPER SUPPORT created the UK's only PTSD (associated Mental Health issues) Memorial in 2018, situated at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

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# Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer To Receive Queen's Ambulance Medal

An Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer from West Midlands Ambulance Service, whose career spans 28 years, has been recognised in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honour's List.

Steve Wheaton, Resilience and Specialist Operations Director and one of the Trust's Assistant Chief Ambulance Officers, has been awarded the Queen's Ambulance Medal (QAM) recognising his dedication and distinguished service to the ambulance sector which carries the same level of Royal recognition as other members of the emergency services.

Steve found his passion with the ambulance service at the tender age of ten when he became a cadet with a local volunteer ambulance service. In 1991, he went on to become a cadet with London Ambulance Service where he spent ten years progressing to become a registered Paramedic. In 2001 Steve obtained a promotion to Duty Officer at the, then Essex Ambulance Service before moving up the ranks to Station Officer, Divisional Commander and the Head of Emergency Planning.

In 2008, Steve made the move to West Midlands Ambulance Service to head



up and expand the Trust's Emergency Preparedness and Specialist Operations team where he remains today. 2013 saw Steve seconded to the role of Deputy Senior Responsible Officer at the Home Office where he was responsible for rolling out the national Joint Emergency Service Interoperability Programme (JESIP) across all emergency services in England.

West Midlands Ambulance Service Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Marsh, said: "I have known Steve for 15 years and, in that time, I have watched him progress and flourish within the ambulance service to become a knowledgeable and well-respected individual in his field. I am incredibly proud that Steve has been



recognised in this way and would like to thank him for his tremendous service and for the thousands of patients he has helped along the way."

Speaking about his award, Steve, said: 'I am immensely proud and humbled to receive this award. It is a truly great privilege to be recognised with a QAM and it took some time for the news to sink in'.

'I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to not only my family for their never-ending support and understanding throughout my career, but also to my ambulance family for enabling me to do a job which is immensely rewarding.'

# SWASFT: Magic Mike Retires After 50 Years Service

Stroud paramedic Mike Merrett has spent fifty years serving his community and treating hundreds of patients in their time of need with medical emergencies. Now it is time for 'Magic Mike' (as some of his patients call him) to hang up his defibrillator and pack away his clinical equipment as he celebrates his career with friends and his 'green' family.

Mike's colleagues at South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust say he's an inspiration; "Mike's a compassionate and caring paramedic whose longevity has inspired all around him, he is a loved member of Team Stroud."

When Mike started working as an ambulance 'Driver Attendant' back in 1969 he was 20 years old and was only armed with a first aid box and a small oxygen tank - how times have changed with emergency medicine since.

"I just love the job, it is the best job in the world (apart from being a Top Gear presenter). I've enjoyed seeing the people I've treated who have survived traumatic injuries walking around. Saving people's lives really has got job satisfaction."

One of Mike's lucky survivors has met up with him and crew who saved her at Stroud Ambulance. Mandy Palk from Stonehouse in Gloucs said; "I've known Mike since I was



little and I was so glad it was him who came to help me when I wasn't feeling well. I collapsed and had a cardiac arrest at home one evening 6 months ago and it was Mike and the team who were there to help save me. It took them six shocks to get my heart started again. I just felt calm when Mike was there and knew it would be OK."



# DFLEKT Limited join Secured by Design with their innovative home keybox to tackle wireless key vehicle theft

DFLEKT Limited is one of the latest companies to join Secured by Design (SBD), the national police crime prevention initiative, with their DFLEKT home keybox having achieved Police Preferred Specification.

The DFLEKT company mission is to eliminate the Relay Hack, the method by which thieves boost wireless key signals and steal cars from drives without having to enter a house. This type of theft can often take as little as 20 seconds.

The DFLEKT home keybox is made with an aluminium enclosure which creates a very strong faraday cage around the box. When the box is closed the faraday cage is created which blocks signals entering or leaving the box. It has been designed to sit harmoniously alongside household ornaments, can hold up to four sets of keys and their spares.

The DFLEKT home keybox has been designed so it can be operated with one hand, ensuring it can easily be operated, and is self-closing. You can find out more about this SBD accredited product here:

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/member-companies/sbd-members?view=companydetail&sbdoldcompanyid=956>

SBD Development Officer Hazel Goss said: "It has been a pleasure to sign DFLEKT up as a new Secured by Design member. I love this product - not only does it stop keys being boosted due to the RFID elements, it also is unique in design and style.

"The DFLEKT RFID Decorative Wooden Key Box is an ideal product to store your keyless car keys and credit cards in due to its design and the space that it offers. It comes in a lovely design with different finishes blending in with most household decor and is not out of place sitting on a sideboard or table. This is another exciting product that we have within the Secured by Design accredited product range and I am looking forward to working with the company for years to come".

Bill Fraser, DFLEKT said: "The Relay Hack is a prevalent crime in the country at the moment and the ease of access to technology which can boost car key signals



is contributing to the volume of cars stolen each year.

"Dflekt hopes to redress the balance in car thefts by ensuring your car key signal, and therefore your car, is protected. We are very excited to be working with Secured by Design and promoting their crime prevention initiatives".

SBD is part of Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI), a police owned organisation that works on behalf of the Police Service to deliver a wide range of crime prevention and demand reduction initiatives across the UK. PCPI is a not-for-profit organisation and Board Members include senior police officers from each of the four Home Nations who control and direct the work PCPI carries out on behalf of the Police Service.

SBD plays a significant crime prevention role in the planning process to design out crime in a wide range of building sectors. It has achieved some significant success including one million homes built to SBD standards with reductions in crime of up to 87%.

SBD have many partner organisations, ranging from the Home Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and the Police Service through to local authorities, housing associations, developers and manufacturers and work closely with standards and certification

bodies to ensure that their publicly available standards actually meet the needs of the police and public alike.

SBD is the only way for companies to obtain police accreditation for security-related products in the UK.



# Where Emergency Services meet to talk business



**Source new suppliers and solutions**

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This an industry-only event and NOT open to the general public. Visitors under the age of 16 will not be admitted. The organisers reserve the right to refuse entry.

Find out more at **[www.emergencyuk.com](http://www.emergencyuk.com)**



# The Changing Role of the Firefighter and their PPE

Hainsworth Technology speaks to firefighter Peggy Male about her experiences selecting new kit from the Collaborative Procurement Framework. Peggy has been a firefighter with West Midlands Fire Service for 19 years. She is a member of White Watch at Bilston Community Fire Station.

“During the last few years I have been fortunate enough to be able to get first hand insight into the detailed processes involved in selecting the PPE worn by firefighters.

“Most recently, this has involved being one of a small number of firefighters taking part in UK wide trials to choose our new kit under the Collaborative Procurement Framework led by Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

“I took part in tests held at the Fire Service College in Moreton-in-Marsh which involved us testing a range of kit from different suppliers against different operational scenarios.

“We had no idea who the suppliers were and gave our opinions which were then factored into detailed evaluation taking place in the background.

“I was also invited to take part in a physiology study undertaken by Portsmouth University. Over a five day period, they examined the effect of the preferred kit on the firefighter’s body.

“It was fascinating to be involved in the trials and to know that the feedback of the end users really meant something to those having to make the decisions.



“There is no question the kit worn by firefighters today is a lot better than it was 19 years ago when I entered the service.

“It continues to evolve as new technologies and innovations become available. When I started, the vast majority of firefighters were male but as more women have become operational so more consideration has been given to body shape and sizing. I think we have something like 28 different sizes available at West Midlands!

“Whenever new kit is introduced, there are always comments about things like colour, but that is pretty irrelevant. What matters most is am I safe in it and do I trust

it to protect me in the range of different situations I am likely to face as a modern day firefighter.

“Having been involved in the trials for the new kit, I appreciate the two-way process that is involved between the manufacturers and the end users. We both learn from each other.”

[www.hainsworthtechnology.co.uk](http://www.hainsworthtechnology.co.uk)

# Firefighters and Paramedics Fly 6,000 miles for A Training Expedition Like No Other

Firefighters fly 6,000 miles to share their knowledge, skills and comradery with counterparts in Kenya – and see how their contribution is saving lives overseas.

A group of more than 20 emergency service staff have continued to build a lasting relationship with Kenyan firefighters during a trip to the African country.

The volunteers from fire and rescue services in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire were joined by paramedics from the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) for the two-week trip in the Spring.

Former Bedfordshire FRS firefighter Ray Willet co-founded the project with Fred Akandi, who lives in Dunstable but was born in Meru, Kenya. They established the partnership in Kenya over a decade ago, with volunteers from the Service first visiting in 2009 following a donation of vehicles and equipment.

Since then, there has been a strong bond between the Kenyan and British partners, which has seen all three fire and rescue services and ambulance trust donate tens of thousands of pounds of life-saving equipment to their Kenyan counterparts.

The focus of this trip – the longest one ever completed – was to train Kenyan firefighters on the equipment most recently donated and pass on valuable skills and experience to help them on their firefighting mission.

Bedfordshire FRS donated two fire engines fully loaded with equipment at the end of 2018 and on this expedition, took bags full of old personal protective equipment (PPE) with them.

All 75 Kenyan firefighters along with police officers were also taught basic first responder skills, immediate medical care and bandaging techniques by ambulance staff.

Firefighter Ryan Phillips, based at Stopsley and Biggleswade in Bedfordshire, helped organise the trip and explained how lots of planning made sure everyone got the most out of it.

He said: "It's a massively rewarding experience; you see an immediate change in the people you're training. I found the Kenyan firefighters were very



practical and learnt the techniques we were showing them quickly. They have really developed and grown in confidence because of the skills passed onto them by the volunteer trainers."

Activities included basic firefighter training like how to use the fire engine, operate the pump, run out hose, vehicle marshalling, ladder pitching variations, knots and lines, hauling aloft and getting jets to work.

FF Phillips explained the English of their students was very good and it was simply a case of occasionally stripping back or adapting language to ensure everyone got the most out of the busy days.

He continued: "One of the biggest challenges is water supply as they have few hydrants. They do not have many complex structures in the more rural areas where we were training but they do have shanty towns where you can't drive a fire engine to the fire so working through problems like this and giving them solutions was rewarding."

Road traffic collisions are now becoming a big part of what the Kenyan fire crews are tackling and last year, Bedfordshire and Holmatro donated old cutting equipment.

FF Phillips explained: "A big challenge in training them to use the cutting equipment was obtaining a car to cut up and practise on. Vehicles are worth so much money, even if they're a write off, so for us to get a car to train with and demonstrate the techniques on was fantastic. Working with what was available, we had a local timber yard make up wooden blocks to replicate the rubber ones we use for stabilising a vehicle. In another training scenario we used a live building site which was the perfect location for ladder pitches due to its exposed staircase.

"An additional challenge the various Kenyan fire services face is obtaining good working equipment as well as maintaining and repairing what they already have. This is a challenge with the older donated fire engines as replacement parts are rare and expensive. We continue to do what we can to support them.

"Since our return they've been sending us videos of what they've been doing with our training and it's great to see it put to use."

Paramedics also had the chance to visit a local hospital, which reported the difference the fire service has made in the last year with its ability to rescue people





from RTCs as having made a huge impact on the number of crash victims surviving.

The volunteers were joined for part of their trip by Bedfordshire's Chief Fire Officer Paul Fuller CBE and former Chairman of the Authority Cllr Paul Downing, who met with Kenyan Government Officials to discuss the fire and rescue service moving forward.

CFO Fuller explained how the training and supply of equipment is futureproofing the capabilities and providing resilience to small teams of Kenyan firefighters. He added: "Since we've been supporting this partnership, the areas that have benefited from equipment have reported many genuine cases where lives have been saved in both fire and rescue circumstances and on our trip this year I was encouraged by the continued passion and dedication of disaster management officials we met."

Mr Downing added: "The trip was both eye-opening and encouraging. I was able to see first-hand that what BFRS has supplied is being put to best use. It was good to see the energy and commitment of local staff and good to discuss with the officials how they might expand."

The trip is only possible thanks to the generosity of the partners involved and the volunteers that contribute.

FF Phillips added: "People have put in a tremendous amount of effort to enable this extraordinary exercise to take place. From the volunteers who drove us to and from the airports, to those colleagues who work in stores, workshops, technical and driving – the list is endless. Thank you all so much. We hope you agree it's a worthwhile cause."

If you want to find out more about how your Service can donate equipment or volunteer, contact FF Phillips: Ryan. [Phillips@bedsfire.gov.uk](mailto:Phillips@bedsfire.gov.uk)

**Trip in numbers:**

- Visited: April 23 – May 6
- 20 British emergency service personnel attended (9 Bedfordshire, 5 Buckinghamshire, 1 Hertfordshire, and 5 EEAAT)
- 9 days of training were completed
- 75 Kenyan firefighters were trained
- Training took place in 3 locations: Kisumu, Chuka, Meru



# London Fire Commissioner Announces Her Retirement



After 32 years of dedicated service to London, Dany Cotton, London Fire Brigade's first woman Commissioner, will retire from service in April 2020.

Speaking after informing Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, and Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross of her decision to retire, the Commissioner said:

"I have worked with the best people in the world on some of the most exciting projects, and also some of the most painful incidents to have occurred in London Fire Brigade's history.

"The utter devastation of the Grenfell Tower fire and its impact on so many people will never leave me. I want to reassure my staff and all those affected by the tragedy that I will remain dedicated to leading London Fire Brigade through any findings from phase one of the Public Inquiry and into phase two which is expected to begin next January.

"When I joined London Fire Brigade, I was one of a handful of women in the service. It was a very different organisation, with very different attitudes, and I hope that through my work I have helped change the perception of what an incredible professional career the fire and rescue service offers, equally, to both women and men."

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, said: "I would like to pay tribute to Dany for her hard work, courage and dedication during her 32 years of service at London Fire Brigade and as London's Fire Commissioner.

"Dany has led the London Fire Brigade through an unprecedented period of major incidents, including the awful Grenfell Tower tragedy, and has proven time and again that she is a truly exceptional firefighter.

"I'm sure all Londoners would like to join me in thanking her for doing everything she can to keep our city safe.

"She is a true role model who has broken down barriers for women in London and inspired people who wouldn't otherwise have considered being firefighters to join the fire brigade.

"I wish her the very best in retirement when she leaves the Brigade next year."

Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience, Fiona Twycross, said: "It has been a privilege and an honour to work so closely with Dany in recent years, and I have seen at first hand just what an inspirational firefighter and leader she truly is.

"Dany has led the Brigade through some very difficult times for our city and deserves enormous recognition for her heroism, determination and bravery when Londoners needed it the most."

Due to the early notice given by the London Fire Commissioner, plans to appoint a new Commissioner are not yet final.

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*\*Class A required 30kg of ballast*

*\*Class B required 5kg of ballast*

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*\*Class A required 25kg of ballast*



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 in the most severe conditions.**

# Infographics Supports Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to Streamline and Enhance the Thames Valley Fire Control Service



Infographics today announced it has successfully streamlined and enhanced the mobilisation processes used by Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) within the Thames Valley Fire Control Service.

By integrating FireWatch and Capita Vision, RBFRS can now automatically share intelligent vehicle availability data between systems, and remove manual processes.

This latest phase builds on work undertaken as part of the wider deployment of Infographics' FireWatch Fire Service Management platform, which connects RBFRS' data, back office teams and front

office operational staff to deliver a 'complete picture' of live organisation status.

The integration provides a level of live, connected management information and increased efficiency not achievable with separate silo systems. The result is a reduction in administration and enhanced mobilisation process within Thames Valley Fire Control Service.

The FireWatch-to-Capita Vision integration includes sharing directly via FireWatch this information, and the impact of live changes on vehicle needs and availability, with data coming from across the following areas:

- Real-time, integrated HR, Training, Fleet and Availability
- Vehicle level availability status based on resource needs and priority calculated to-the-minute
- Graphical County-wide Availability Map status and change notifications of the same data
- Mobile-optimised client, with booking on/off duty facility and real-time status views
- SMS-based workflows and booking on/off duty processes with crewing exception notifications for managers

# Newark Fire Station Shortlisted For National Award



A state-of-the-art redevelopment of Newark Fire Station has been shortlisted for an award at the prestigious Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards 2019.

The new £3.0m Newark Fire Station took just over 12 months to construct and replaces the previous 1960s station. The new build includes office space, meeting rooms, fire engine bays and external training tower. The new facility includes several energy-saving features, including intelligent lighting and solar panels fitted to the roof, both of which will reduce future running costs.

Ian Pritchard, Assistant Chief Officer at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "To be shortlisted for this award is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved with the project.

"This was the first time we kept a full-time fire station operational whilst a new facility was built on the same site.

"This would not have been possible without the collaborative approach taken by Turner & Townsend, The Gelder Group and Maber Architects."

Richard Cropley, District Manager for Newark and Sherwood said: "I think the station shows the Service's commitment to serving the community in Newark for many years to come – with the station expected to have a life of 50 years."

Mark Deakin, Director at Turner & Townsend in Nottingham, added: "It was great to have the opportunity to support the Fire Service in the development of Newark Fire Station. Through a true team effort, we were able to overcome the site's challenges and ensure that the

scheme could be delivered on time and within budget."

The RICS Awards recognise excellence in the built environment and showcase the successes of RICS professionals and their impact on local communities.





# Deployment Of Edesix Body Worn Cameras Within The UK

**Body Worn Cameras (BWC) are fast becoming an accepted and relied upon piece of equipment within today's society, with police officers, rail staff, and security personnel utilising them on a daily basis. As a deterrent to aggression and violence, a means for gathering evidence and a tool for disputing claims and allegations, BWCs offer many features designed to make the job of public-facing staff safer and more efficient.**


It is therefore no surprise that the deployment of BWCs within the UK has now reached other Emergency Services, with Fire Departments and First Responders now widely using them. Edesix Ltd. an Edinburgh-based manufacturer of BWCs, has deployed its range of VideoBadge cameras to fire services and first responders throughout the UK, where they are used, not only for evidence gathering & staff protection, but to monitor

best practice, assess equipment in the field and train new staff.

The VideoBadge VB-300 series from Edesix offers shift-long battery life of up to 14 hours, meaning your camera is always ready to record; HD video recording for indisputable evidence gathering; and is Wi-Fi enabled for real-time footage streaming and offload. The cameras also come with Edesix's VideoManager software, a flexible back-end solution which ensures footage is secure, encrypted, accessible to the right people, and simple to use.

West Midlands Fire Service, a customer of Edesix since 2016, was the first UK Fire Service to deploy BWC to its front-line crews, with their Watch Commander quoting "These cameras will play a key role in helping our firefighters and incident commanders be the best they can be."

More recently, a trial commenced with the North East Ambulance Service who deployed Body Worn Cameras to around 40 front-line staff in a bid to lower the rising rates in physical violence which had risen by 23% from the previous year. Alan Gallagher, Head of Risk, said: "...using body worn video cameras will mean that our staff can record evidence of abuse or assaults when they happen."



**PROTECTING FRONT-LINE PERSONNEL WITH BODY WORN CAMERAS**

Edesix VideoBadge cameras offer protection from threats and abusive behaviour, and have proven to be a valuable asset for facilitating training and operational de-brief.

*"These cameras will play a key role in helping our firefighters and incident commanders be the best they can be."*

- Watch Commander, West Midlands Fire Service

[www.edesix.com](http://www.edesix.com)

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# 30 Years of Water-Jel in Europe

Back in 1989 the revolutionary product line of gel-soaked dressings and blankets were introduced to the European pre-hospital markets. For 30 years Water-Jel burn care products have helped patients across all countries in Europe by stopping the progression of burns, cooling the wound area, relieving pain and preventing further contamination.

We at Water-Jel are very proud of our history in the development of prehospital burn treatments and our role within the industry. We would also like to thank you all, first aid providers, EMTs, paramedics, doctors, fire men,



police officers and soldiers for your trust and support over the last 30 years! Thank you.

Now >> *fast forward* >>, we are launching the all new Water-Jel 24 in autumn 2019! Stay tuned.



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**AUTUMN**

**THE NEW WATERJEL 24**

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**2019**

[info@waterjel.net](mailto:info@waterjel.net)



# UK's First Fire Control District Goes Live

In what is believed to be a UK first a Watch Manager from Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service's Control room has set up a National District exclusively for Fire Control personnel. WM Matt Stokes contacted the British Fire Service Association (BFSA) to see if they would be willing to host a Control District under their remit as the BFSA have had a long tradition going back to 1882 in developing and promoting the interests of firefighters both local authority and industrial.

WM Matt Stokes said, "I was fully aware of all of the associations and Institutes for our operational colleagues but there was nothing to promote and celebrate the vital work of all of the Fire Control, I wanted to try and raise our profile in a non-political way in an association that is available to all."

"We are the first incident commanders and a large part of a successful outcome is how well Fire Control personnel manage the initial call and understand what is



required in a timely manner to maximise the effectiveness of arriving crews, and I think that more should be made of our largely unsung work in the public arena."

The National Fire Control District was adopted at the recent BFSA General Council meeting held on the 13th April 2019 at Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ with the desire to promote the work and people of all Fire Control rooms whether local authority, industrial or military. Membership

is open to anyone who works in a Fire Control room.

It is also hoped that as more members join that a Fire Control Conference (inviting existing and new suppliers into the Control market) can be established along with an annual dinner and award ceremony to celebrate the work of Fire Control.

The BFSA and Matt Stokes will also be present at this years Emergency Services Show to be held at the NEC, Birmingham from 18-19 September should anyone wish to enquire about the BFSA or the National Fire Control District.

For those who wish to join, Fire Controls can join either as a whole FRS as a Control group or as individuals at the following website: <https://bfsa.org.uk>

For further details contact: WM Matt Stokes at [matt.stokes@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:matt.stokes@hantsfire.gov.uk) or [BFSAControl@outlook.com](mailto:BFSAControl@outlook.com)

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# Thames Valley Emergency Services celebrate far-ranging Collaboration Programme

- Thames Valley Collaboration Programme highlights region's emergency services
- Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS), Oxfordshire County Council Fire & Rescue Service (OFRS), and Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) plus police and ambulance services
- Collaboration projects underway across three counties with more to follow

Emergency services across Thames Valley are working in close collaboration to bring innovation, efficiency, and better value for money for the people of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire.

Emergency Services Collaboration in the Thames Valley sets out the ambitious strategy behind the collaboration and explains in detail the type of cross-county work that is already underway or planned for the near future.

This ongoing programme of collaborative activity also involves Thames Valley Police (TVP), and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), as well as the region's three fire and rescue services.

## What does Collaboration look like?

Collaboration takes many forms, including

- Joint control rooms
- Shared estates and assets
- First response and co-responding
- Information sharing
- Recruitment
- Shared specialist capabilities

Many of these elements are already underway across the emergency services within Thames Valley, with several other innovative projects planned for the coming months.

## Case Study: Thames Valley Fire Control Service

Thames Valley Fire Control Service, based in Calcot, Reading, is a joint fire service control room serving the people of Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Berkshire, helping a combined population of two million people with the help of the most up-to-date technology.

Since opening in April 2015, the service has delivered significant savings to all three services. By the end of 2024-25, total savings of nearly £16 million are expected thanks to the increased efficiency and improved performance the shared control room allows.

## Case Study: Jointly purchased fire engines

The next generation of fire engines is now serving in the Thames Valley following a successful collaborative project run in a partnership between Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire fire and rescue services.

A total of 37 new fire engines will be delivered by 2021, with 15 delivered in 2017, eight for Buckinghamshire, three for Oxfordshire and four for Berkshire. This project will lead to estimated savings of more than £700,000. The vehicles are based at stations close to the three services' shared borders and replace existing vehicles.

## Case Study: Shared premises

Hungerford Community Fire Station officially opened following a major refurbishment which began in November 2016. The refurbishment not only delivered a modern, fit-for-purpose fire station, but also Berkshire's first community tri-service

station, providing shared facilities for RBFRS, TVP and SCAS.

More recently, the Witness Care Unit from TVP and Victims First, part of the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), began sharing office space within the Reading headquarters of RBFRS.

In Oxfordshire, work started March 2019 on refurbishments to Chipping Norton and Woodstock Fire Stations, which will become joint Fire and Police stations serving their communities.

## What happens next?

Case study: Milton Keynes Emergency Services Hub

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority is working with SCAS and TVP to move into a new purpose-built 'hub' that will see all three services operate from one site, based at West Ashland in Milton Keynes.

The building will allow the three services to leave five existing sites in the Milton Keynes area, which will free-up those sites for alternative use and provide substantial savings to taxpayers from reduced running costs. The new site should be ready for occupation by around October 2019.







In Berkshire, there are plans for Theale to host a new fire station, with facilities provided for both SCAS and TVP on the premises. Crowthorne will also be rebuilt to house a similar new building, with work due to commence in 2019.

In Oxfordshire, plans are being finalised to build the Carterton Community Hub. The temporary Carterton Fire Station was opened in December 2018, which will move into the Community Hub when it has been built. The Hub will provide a base for emergency and communities services in the area and be a resource for the local community.

**Future opportunities**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Simon Jefferies, collaboration lead for RBFRS, said: “The blue light services of the Thames Valley have a proud tradition of collaboration and by working together with our emergency services partners we can ensure that we provide the best value for money for the people we serve.

“This important document outlines the collaboration that has been going on for a number of years between the three fire and rescue services and our partners, including the move to a shared Thames Valley Fire Control Service in 2015.

“The existing willingness to work together, combined with a new legislative approach will provide structure and a renewed emphasis for emergency service partners to develop, improve and maintain their collaborative working arrangements with new and existing partners.”

Lynne Swift, BFRS Director of People and Organisational Development, is the collaboration lead for BFRS. She said: “Working together and sharing accommodation with other emergency services both increases opportunities for more partnership work and provides savings for the public.



“We will continue to explore opportunities to collaborate and where possible share accommodation with other emergency services to ensure that we provide the best possible service and value for money to the communities of Thames Valley.”

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Rob McDougall, collaboration lead for OFRS, explained: “The Thames Valley region is a leading example of public sector collaboration which is not only an effective and efficient way of working, but a moral duty to help protect the communities we serve. It further embeds shared working practices and allows us to better align our response to ensure our communities receive an effective response no matter which side of the county border they live in.”



# The future is burning bright for William Wood Watches



Fast forward 3 years from today and we have outlined our grand vision for our unique Fire & Rescue luxury brand William Wood Watches (WWW).

## *William Wood Watches, HQ*

Our Vision 2021 is to be in over 100 countries, be on our 3rd exclusive collection, diversify into our luxury upcycled accessory range, and most importantly, open our HQ inspired by a British fire station retaining all original features and gadgets.

## *The Ride*

Parked in front of our HQ is a beautiful salvaged fire truck which will be refurbished and branded with our logo. The truck will be used to sell watches and coffees as we travel the length and breadth of the UK spreading the William Wood message!



## *Inside Our HQ*

Our HQ is taking inspiration from the features of a traditional British fire station with exposed brickwork and

an open plan environment. All of our staff will be uniformed wearing upcycled fire hose aprons with original fire hose rolls hung on the walls.

## *Chill out*

Spread throughout our HQ are red luxury chill out areas as we create an experience for people to relax, as well as shop.

## *Ring The Bell*

Every time a watch is sold in our HQ the customer can ring a large old bell salvaged from an original fire truck symbolising that they are now part of the William Wood family.





Our Chivalrous Collection comprises of 5 stunning colours each limited to 250 pieces. What makes our watches unique are their design which we know is the only registered design in the world right now! We've melted down an original 1920's British brass firefighters helmet and made it into a limited edition commemorative coin which is placed in the back of each watch.



*\*Captured by Northumberland firefighter Neil Stalker*



*\*Captured by Canada firefighter Dave Mason*



We now have firefighters from all corners of the world wearing our watches including the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, Kuwait, Japan and Chile to name a few. Here is a review first hand from a firefighter in Canada who purchased a Midnight Blue William Wood watch.

*"My career as a firefighter started in the UK 18 years ago and now I'm fortunate enough to carry on that career on the West Coast of Canada. As soon as I saw the images of William Wood Watches, I knew I'd have to get one. I wasn't disappointed! The toughest part..... which model?! For me, it was Midnight Blue. I'm a proud firefighter and to own a quality piece of British firefighting heritage combined with great style, is the perfect package! Awesome work Jonny and your team there! I have a feeling this won't be my last William Wood watch!"*

**- Dave Mason, Firefighter, Canada**

William Wood Watches are kindly offering all In Attendance readers an exclusive 10% discount when they purchase a watch through their website [www.williamwoodwatches.com](http://www.williamwoodwatches.com) using the discount code **INATTENDANCE** at the checkout.

Retailing for only £299.99 with free worldwide shipping they really are affordable luxury. You can be the proud owner of a limited edition William Wood watch, to avoid disappointment, purchase early as limited stock is now available. Take action, and choose your favourite William Wood watch and help us create a burning bright future together.



**British Racing Green**

**Midnight Blue**

**Rose Gold**

**Peacock Edition**

**Tuxedo Black**

# Alorair Solutions UK Ltd Drying Room Dehumidifiers

AlorAir UK have had their dehumidifiers in drying rooms for several years now, helping dry products along with forced air and heat. These are the 3 key ingredients to get products dry - 1. Air Flow, 2. Heat, 3. Water Removal.

We all know on a warm or hot windy day clothes on a washing line dry the quickest, unfortunately in the UK these are few and far between – especially when you need them drying in a hurry but don't want the costs of tumble drying. AlorAir Solution is to have the room with a heater, one of AlorAir's Air Movers and one of the AlorAir's dehumidifiers. Warm air is moved over clothing, pulling the moisture into the atmosphere where the dehumidifier then removes it, and returns dryer air. The room is sealed so once up to temperature no additional heating is required, the dehumidifier will continue to remove moisture until the correct Relative Humidity (RH) is attained (ie: dry clothes) and then will turn itself off (but will continue to monitor the RH in case more clothes are brought in).

Ducting from the dehumidifier can be secured over open mesh lockers which can further provide air onto the uniforms to assist in the drying.

The system can be easily retro fitted to old mesh locker systems or can be installed new as part of a new drying room.

The "Clean Water" collected from the room is pumped or drained away easily.

Depending on the size of the drying room and how wet things are will depend on how many dehumidifiers you would require – large rooms may require more than one unit (see picture).



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# Fire Service Women Empowered At National Development Event

A group of women from Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service spent a weekend understanding how they can contribute to building a more progressive fire service.

The team of four took part in the Women in Fire Service Development Event (June 21-23) where they met others from across the sector, were given the opportunity to develop skills and learn more about the equality agenda.

Four different areas of the organisation represented Bedfordshire at the event in Gloucestershire: Station Manager Lorraine Moore, Home Safety Advisor Stacey Moore, Watch Manager Control Nerys Church, and Diversity Administrator Katie Martin.

Throughout the weekend, delegates took part in a huge range of activities that aimed to push them out of their comfort zone, try things they never had the opportunity to before and build confidence in their abilities. It gave non-operational staff the chance to turn their hand to firefighting, and experienced operational crews were able to develop more advanced skills involving things like hazardous materials.

Station Manager Moore attended the event with her daughter Stacey and said it was a fulfilling and challenging weekend. SM Moore, who is based at Kempston HQ, said: "I enjoyed meeting women from different fire and rescue services, in an environment where I was able to interact, network and built good contacts.

"I really enjoyed driving a fire appliance for the first time, along with abseiling and self-defence classes – this was something I thought I would never have a chance to do.

"Going back to the fire service college with my daughter, where I saw her complete her pass out parade 12 years ago, was amazing – we had the opportunity to do a lot together over the weekend, which was really lovely."

Keynote presentations were held from female leaders, including London Fire Brigade Commissioner Dany Cotton, and delegates also took part in physical workshops like abseiling, self-defence classes and mentoring.

Katie, who works in the Diversity Team, said: "I'm pleased I finally decided to attend after years of registering others to go. There were lots of great things about the weekend. Fire behaviour was amazing, I loved the opportunity to watch a fire develop and have it flash over our heads.

"Driving the fire engine was outside of my comfort zone but I managed to manoeuvre it safely through all the different challenges. The driving blinded folded challenge resonated with me how much trust our firefighters have to put in each other. It



Katie and Nerys take part in firefighter drill

was great to have lots of opportunities to network to share best practice and hear others stories."

Nerys and Stacey also completed an urban search and rescue workshop that involved working with a team that travel the world, and who more recently, worked at Grenfell. Following a simulated explosion the duo worked as a team to crawl and drag through tunnels and voids to locate a casualty safely.

Since forming in 1993, Women in Fire Service have sought to influence the equality agenda, taking active roles in research, for example into women's fit fire kit, supporting positive action initiatives, working with the government in nationwide campaigns for recruitment and playing a part in national groups with other stakeholders.



Katie takes to the hot seat for a driving course



The group of four BFRS women

# British Firefighter Challenge



## BRITISH FIREFIGHTER CHALLENGE

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will be hosting this year's edition of the British Firefighter Challenge. The annual two-day event, taking place in **Watford** on **July 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**, will see over 250 fire service professions from 19 countries competing for the top spot while raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity. The 2018 contest saw 8,000 spectators attend, with a further 35,000 watching through online streams, raising just over £5,000 to support the mental, physical, and social health of serving and former fire service professionals.

The British Firefighter Challenge features teams of firefighters from around the world coming together to compete in a series of gruelling strength and endurance

challenges for the fastest time across eight stages, all whilst wearing full Personal Protective Equipment and Dräger Breathing Apparatus. The eight stages that replicate a real life rescue;

1. START Crofton six flight stair climb – not so easy in heavy gear
2. Hauling a 20kg Angus Fire hose pack aloft – its heavier than it looks!
3. Descending the stairs – downstairs is no easier than up
4. Door entry technique - striking a 4lb hammer against a 72kg block
5. 60m Angus Fire hose drag – it gets heavier with each step
6. 20m Angus Fire hose make up – roll, lift, carry, drop

7. 10m equipment carry – 4 x jerry cans each weighing 20g
8. 60m Ruth Lee casualty rescue weighing 70kg to the FINISH

### **An International Event**

It is a truly international event, with registrations from countries such as Germany, Czech Republic, and some as far as Kenya and USA! British Fire and Rescue services from around the country have also entered, including Leicestershire, Suffolk, London, and Hertfordshire, who took 1st place in the UK Fire Service category in 2018. Martin Hebenstreit – a German volunteer Firefighter and overall winner of the 2017 event, said; "It's a great competition. It doesn't matter whether you're good or bad, or which country you're





from. You are supported by everyone. It's like a big family."

With over 250 competitors travelling from all over the world to compete and with an anticipated audience of over 100,000 across two days the British Firefighter Challenge 2019 is set to be their best event yet! The contest provides an insightful view into the job millions of Firefighters across the globe undertake, allowing the public to see how incredibly arduous and dangerous each incident can be. It's also an event that brings communities closer together, with men, women and children of all ages clapping and cheering throughout the day.

***Incredibly arduous and dangerous***

John Gregory, Firefighter from Leicestershire and part of the organising team for the BFC said "The event doesn't have an age restriction, Firefighters of all ages are encouraged to take part and challenge their UK counterparts. Each competitor races for the fastest time within their gender and age category, with the overall winner declared the British Firefighter Challenge champion".

Looking for a family weekend away? The BFC has it all; "Around the event there will be community safety activities for all the family, Fire Engines Police and Ambulance, Fire Museum, the Mini Fire Engine, plus your children can now enter the Junior Course and see if they have what it takes



to be a future Firefighter! There is literally something for everyone!"

The younger generation will have opportunities to experience Fire and Road Safety demonstrations thanks to Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, the chance to sit on a Fire Engine and even don some Fire Kit and try out the Junior Firefighter Challenge! Chris Trendowicz, Firefighter from Nottinghamshire and part of the organising team for the BFC said "Children watch their heroes competing and they want to try. So, we have created a Junior Firefighter Challenge, a hands-on activity for toddlers and small children". To begin, the Junior Firefighter will dress in full Fire Kit, helmet and boots, before completing the course. They must run up a

small set of stairs, down a slide, complete a 10m hose drag, a 10m hose make up and finish by pulling a small Ruth Lee manikin to safety. "Hopefully we can inspire a new generation of UK Firefighters!"

***Check Out The Junior Firefighter Challenge, A Hands-On Activity For Toddlers And Small Children***

Dean Keeber, a Firefighter from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue said at the 2018 event, "The highlight for me was it being family-friendly. It allowed all my family, including young children, to come down and stay all day. Also, meeting Firefighters from around the World and extending our Firefighter family!"

The High St, Watford will come alive this year, the competitive atmosphere will be heard from afar, with music and cheering an enticing combination. Local bands, and a DJ will be setting the tempo for our Firefighters to race along to, plus you can catch the action on the enormous outdoor cinema screen and live streams available on Facebook.

Age categories range from 18 – 60+ years old, females and males making it a very inclusive event, and all the more inspiring for those watching. The eight age categories are; Male 18-29, Male 30-34, Male 35-39, Male 40-44, Male 45-49, Male 50-54, Male 55+, Female 18-34, Female 35+. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals are available to win in each category, as well





as the overall male and female British Firefighter Challenge Champions. Numbers of Female entrants have grown year on year from 3 in 2016 to the 31 entered in 2019, showing a growing confidence by female Firefighters who are now more self-confident in tackling such a physically demanding challenge.

#### **'MOTIVATION & MEANING FOR THE SPORT'**

Austrian Firefighter and Gold medal winner in the 2017 Female category, Petra Buresch, said "We travelled to England to meet our friends from the British Fire Services and of course to defend my second place from 2016. To win Gold in my category was fantastic, I am very proud of my performance and I am convinced that my physical fitness is sufficient to help in case of emergency. This is my motivation and the meaning for this sport. The British Firefighter Challenge receives amazing support from spectators who are cheering and jubilant throughout. Children were fascinated by their mums and dads competing in 2017 and I look forward to this year's event!"

The British Firefighter Challenge, a not-for-profit event organised by Firefighters for Firefighters, is funded by various Fire

Service Equipment providers including Ballyclare, Ruth Lee, PBI Products, Angus Fire, Dräger, HAIX, Delta Fire, Hunter and other local and national companies. All monies raised at the event are donated to the Firefighters Charity, which provides a range of services including rehabilitation activities to help beneficiaries with health problems, nursing support, recuperation after a life changing event, child and family programmes and advice.

John Gregory said; "We are extremely proud to organise this annual event that brings families, communities and

countries together. Working closely with Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, we invite you all to join us at Watford High St on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th July 2019.

If you are a Firefighter interested in competing, a business interested in sponsorship, or simply a spectator wanting to enjoy a day out with the family, visit our website or send us an email. **#Watford19**  
**#TeamBFC**

W – [www.britishfirefighterchallenge.co.uk](http://www.britishfirefighterchallenge.co.uk)  
E – [hello@britishfirefighterchallenge.co.uk](mailto:hello@britishfirefighterchallenge.co.uk)





# Conference held to mark 40th anniversary of Manchester Woolworths fire

THE 40th anniversary of the Woolworths fire in Manchester was marked with a conference for staff members from fire and rescue services across the country and those who work in the field of fire investigation at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's training and development centre.

The event, on May 8 2019, was arranged by staff members from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with sponsors to coincide with the anniversary of the tragic and historic incident which claimed the lives of 10 people in 1979.

The blaze is thought to have started by a damaged electrical cable, and ended up having great implications on the future of fire safety in Britain. The fire is believed to have ignited a piece of furniture, with the polyurethane burning rapidly – reaching temperatures of around 700c.

The fire was brought under control by firefighters after several hours, with 47 receiving hospital treatment, 27 people being rescued by the fire service and 10 people losing their lives on scene.

The conference focused on investigations into the devastating fire, and also the subsequent changes in the furniture regulations - with a number of guest speakers sharing knowledge and experiences with attendees.

The event was opened by Dr Chris Foster, from Burgoynes, who presented on his original investigation into the Woolworths fire.

Next on the agenda was a session led by the Fire Protection Association looking at the changes to the furniture regulations and tests that are carried out.

Watch Manager Mike Broadley from GMFRS said: "I was looking into the history of the Woolworths fire a couple of years ago and we decided to arrange an event to mark the 40th anniversary – focusing on the fire investigation carried out following the blaze, furniture standards, and also the human factors around the reasons why people didn't evacuate straight away.

"Working with The Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) Manchester group and United Kingdom Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI) we planned the



event which included a number of guest speakers such as Dr Chris Foster from Burgoynes, David Crowder from Building Research Establishment, Phil Reynolds from Fira and GMFRS fire officer Steve Wilcox.

"While planning the conference I also approached Mr Bob Graham and interviewed him, as he had led the original investigation and was instrumental in the furniture regulations being changed in the 1980s."

The investigation conducted following the blaze played an important role in The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Act coming into effect in 1988 after Mr Bob Graham's campaigning. The Act forces manufacturers to use flame-resistant foam when making products.

WM Broadley continued: "A number of key factors were prevalent during the fire investigation - fire exits had been blocked inside the Woolworths store, there were no sprinklers, and also the furniture being piled up in front of heaters in a small space.

"Following the investigation and the introduction of The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Act, furniture stores were required to have sprinklers and staff members trained accordingly."

The first afternoon session was run by British Research Establishment, who talked about fire tests conducted following the investigation into the fire.

The event was also attended by retired firefighter Bob Bonner, who oversees GMFRS' museum in Rochdale, and concluded with a session about human behaviour and decision making by Steve Wilcox, who is also a serving member of GMFRS at Bury.

All speakers received a gift from event organisers and sponsors at the end of the event.

We would like to thank our sponsors UK-AFI, IFE, Burgoynes, Gardiner Associates and the Elektric Apple for their support.



Woolworths speakers and sponsors

# Rosenbauer To Use TotalKare Column Lifts For Fire & Rescue Vehicles

Cable-free mobile column lifts from TotalKare are supporting the UK's future firefighting efforts, following their introduction at Rosenbauer UK's Holmfirth premises in Yorkshire.

Officially the largest global manufacturer of fleet and equipment options to Fire & Rescue Services, Rosenbauer's UK division delivers a completely Anglicised range of Fire Service trucks and equipment backed up by the industry's most prestigious service team.

That service team now benefits from a set of TotalKare T8DC cable-free mobile column lifts, supplemented by large wheel bump plates to enable the lifting of a variety of fire & rescue vehicles including the new Panther seen above.

#### **Enhanced Service To Customer Base**

"We enjoy an enviable reputation in the industry as the premier manufacturer of

fire and rescue vehicles, but this would count for very little if not underpinned by our high-quality service offering," said Thomas Gosney, Service Coordinator at Rosenbauer UK, "By introducing TotalKare's mobile column lifts, our service operatives can be more productive, resulting in enhanced service to our customer base.

"We were especially impressed with the T8DC mobile column lifts because of the ability to set a height limit, which was important due to height limitations in our workshop."

#### **Helping To Save Lives**

Recognising the value of support, Rosenbauer UK has agreed a comprehensive AfterKare package with TotalKare which includes regular servicing and Reports of Thorough Examination.



"It's a pleasure to have provided Rosenbauer UK with our market-leading mobile column lifts, and even moreso when it means we are indirectly helping to save lives," said Jack Longstaff, Area Sales Manager for TotalKare, "We look forward to developing a longstanding relationship with Rosenbauer UK for years to come."

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# Wales & West Utilities Embrace the Future of Fit Testing

Wales & West Utilities are the latest company in the UK to change their face-fit testing equipment over to the Quantifit controlled negative pressure (CNP) system.

The business, which owns and maintains more than 35,000 kilometres of gas supply pipes, transports gas supplies to 2.5 million homes and businesses throughout Wales and the south west of England servicing 7.5 million customers.

Within their team are over 600 employees who wear two types of face mask. For these staff members, correctly-fitted RPE is critical whilst working on maintaining and upgrading the extensive pipeline system.

Peter Sherfield, Product Specialist Manager at Shawcity explains: 'As an existing supplier, the team approached us to look at an alternative to their traditional aerosol particle counting fit testing kit. Once they saw the Quantifit, which measures air leak rate from the mask and doesn't rely on particle generation, they were immediately impressed.'

'The fact Quantifit can test anywhere, indoors or outdoors, is an added bonus as it means team members can be fit-tested in the field, which has a big impact in terms of convenience and down time. Quantifit's speed of set-up, simple testing procedure and ease of use were also major factors in their decision.'

Wales & West Utilities has since purchased four Quantifit units and received free, full competence and user training from Shawcity in early 2019.

Quantifit has now been rolled out as the new fit testing system for their entire mask-wearing workforce in the UK.



***Quantifit is already widely used across the world by industry as well as government security services, fire departments and other first responders and emergency services.***



## Quantifit is Changing Fit Testing

- Measures air leak rate, not particles
- No contamination or consumables
- Virtually maintenance-free
- Low cost of ownership
- Test indoors or outdoors, even offshore
- CNP technology referenced in HSE OC 282/28.

[www.shawcity.co.uk](http://www.shawcity.co.uk) | [info@shawcity.co.uk](mailto:info@shawcity.co.uk) | 01367 899419



Shawcity is delighted to announce that they have been awarded International Distributor of the Year 2018 by OHD LLLP, manufacturers of the Quantifit fit testing system.