

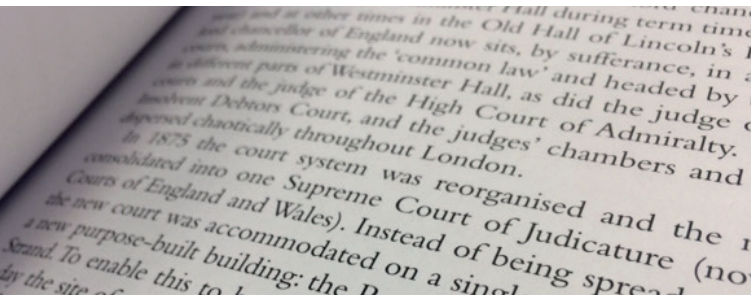
WINTER 2017

In Attendance

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FIREFIGHTER



Featuring 'On The Bell': The Journal of the Emergency Services



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Front cover:

London Fire Brigade Commissioner Dany Cotton strongly bemoans the use of the term *firemen*, saying that firefighter is far more appropriate in the modern world.

Read more on Page 10.

Consulting Editor

- Neil Wallington

Publisher

- Jeremy Mills

Design & Layout

- Ryan Wilson
- Brian Leatherbarrow

Publishing Project Manager

- Jo Dyrilaga

Administration

- Emma Dunn

All editorial, advertising and circulation enquiries to:

D&M Heritage Limited
 Unit 7, Park Valley Mills,
 Meltham Road,
 Huddersfield HD4 7BH.
 Telephone: 01484 534323
 Email: emmadunn@inattendance.co.uk

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What drives MIAS?

MIAS, the Mountain Bike Instructors' Award Scheme, is a thriving organisation that offers a range of courses for prospective and current cycling Mountain Bike Leaders (MTB).

MIAS has been in operation since 1989 and has been developed further by liaising and working with the awarding body Innovative Awarding. To date they have over 18,600 members, with 35 providers of the scheme.



MIAS meets the need for structured training for those involved in leading mountain bike trips. The award has been operating throughout the UK and abroad, and they have run many courses for the armed services in Kenya, Germany and Cyprus. The scheme has been instrumental in the development of QCF Mountain Bike accreditation.

MIAS currently offers QCF/IAO Level 2 Award in Assisting Mountain Bike Activity Leadership and shortly QCF/IAO Level 3 Certificate in Mountain Bike Activity Leadership will also be available. These QCF MTB courses are available for other organisations to use.

MIAS is an inspectorate for Adventuremark and Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC). Since teaming up with Innovate Awarding, the two organisations have worked collaboratively to develop nationally recognised qualifications for mountain bike instructors, helping to develop the leadership skills required to successfully run group mountain bike activity sessions. The skills required include preparing for and leading sessions, maintaining safe practice and personal development for the mountain bike activity leader.

The qualifications are beneficial to a broad range of industries beyond the outdoor industry and activity centres. MIAS now deliver these qualifications to the military, emergency services and members of residential care homes alongside a host of schools and colleges.

Lance Chatfield of the Plymouth School Sports Partnership shares his experience of working with MIAS: "MIAS made the whole process of ensuring myself and one of my colleagues was suitably supported in gaining this qualification and we will continue to work with them for future courses."

For training providers interested in delivering these qualifications, MIAS can offer plenty of support. Trainers receive a resource pack that includes a range of information such as lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, activity plans, course guidelines and forms. They also offer fast-track packages, and can assist teachers in developing their practical skills.

Alongside their work in the UK, MIAS are also developing their scheme on the continent. This has been so successful that they have been adopted as the training provider of choice for mountain bike qualifications in several European countries including France, Germany and Belgium. Innovate Awarding looks forward to continuing this relationship with MIAS as interest in mountain biking and demand for the qualifications continues to grow.

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Contact: Martin Nash, Director
E: martin@mountainbikeinstructor.com | T: 07721 628 114
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The Grenfell Inquiry and Electrical Fire Safety

This is the third edition of the magazine which has been published under new ownership and I hope that readers like the emerging new style and layout of *In Attendance* and *On The Bell* together with the wide range of editorial content from right across all the blue light services and supporting product industries.

The aftermath of the terrible Grenfell Tower fire in June continues to make its mark in fire safety matters, especially as the formal Inquiry into the fire gathers pace. Following the formal establishment of the Inquiry in August, the Inquiry's initial focus has been the designation of Core Participants (CP), and the securing of necessary expert involvement and the gathering of documentary evidence.

The Inquiry received an unprecedented number of CP applications, and has appointed a number of leading experts in the field of forensic fire analysis and fire engineering. Analysis has begun of over 200,000 documents received to date, with more to follow.

Advice from the team of experts is that understanding the conditions within the Tower, including the generation and movement of fire and smoke, is of paramount importance. To enable the experts to reach firm conclusions, they need evidence of conditions at different levels within the building as the fire and smoke developed, as well as evidence of the development of flames on the outside of the building.

Obtaining accounts from both the former residents of Grenfell Tower and from the firefighters who responded is key to this. About 225 residents managed to escape from the building and approximately 260 firefighters attended the fire. There are therefore about 500 witnesses to interview, together with other people who have accounts which must be heard. Taking statements from such a large number of people, many of whom have been traumatised by their experience, is a time-consuming but

essential process which has yet to be completed.

The pace of this process has also been unavoidably affected by the existence of the concurrent police investigation, since it is vital that the work of the Inquiry must not undermine any future prosecution. This means that, in many instances, the police need to take statements from potential witnesses before statements can be taken for the Inquiry. This is to ensure that the integrity of the evidence given to the police cannot be called into question at any future criminal trial.

Clearly, the Grenfell Inquiry will be a very thorough and searching event. At its conclusion its recommendations are likely to have a profound effect on the whole area of fire safety and prevention, not just in tall towers, but other types of buildings, and embrace construction materials, fire resistance testing, and active and passive protection.

In the Spring edition of *In Attendance* I highlighted one of the current safety issues facing the fire sector, not just in the UK but globally, is the unacceptably high number of fires of electrical origin.

In the UK, there are approximately 25,000 annual incidents in this category, a number of which have involved fatalities. And the problem is not just one facing this country. The United Arab Emirates, for example, also has a situation where fires of electrical origin form one of the most common causes of outbreaks, and there are similar instances in other developed countries.

Page 18 of this edition of *In Attendance* carries a report of the inquest finally held in September 2017 into a double fatal fire in a flat in North Wales that occurred back in 2014. North Wales Fire & Rescue Service were adamant that the origin of the fire was in a tumble dryer in the kitchen, although Whirlpool, the manufacturer of the tumble dryer involved in the North Wales fire strongly opposed this view.

The Coroner's verdict at the concluding Inquest was that on the balance of probabilities, the fire was caused by an electrical fault in the tumble dryer in the laundry room of the flat. He recorded a narrative conclusion.



The Llanwrst fire scene.

In Attendance has previously reported on the particularly urgent problem of fires occurring in some tumble dryers known to have a fault in their circuit boards. Although manufacturers are undertaking service recalls, it is believed that almost three million appliances are still awaiting remedial action leaving them still with a serious risk of fire.

Notices had previously been issued by Whirlpool telling customers to unplug Hotpoint, Creda and Indesit models manufactured between 2004 and 2015 after a potential fire risk was identified.

Given that the introduction of smoke detectors into domestic dwellings some three decades ago has had a very significant effect in reducing fire fatalities and other casualties and damage, it would seem that the large number of recorded fires of electrical origin do need to be urgently addressed with an innovative application of a solution to diminish this blot on the fire statistics landscape. I look forward to reporting on developments in this field in the very near future.

Neil Wallington

Firefighters on film

Forgotten film reels of the 1950s and 60s showing Middlesbrough firefighters in training and on parade have been digitised by the team at North East Film Archive to allow Cleveland Fire Brigade to showcase a bit of their history.

The ciné films, in both black and white and colour, were discovered when the brigade moved from their former headquarters at Endeavour House in Hartlepool to their new home replacement on an adjacent site last year.

From a public display of firefighting on Newport Road as part of a 1950s civil defence exercise to inspections and rigorous training at the old Middlesbrough Fire Station in the 1960s, these fascinating amateur films capture both the ceremony and the working lives of firefighters in the Cleveland area.

There is also footage of a fire service sports day at Clairville Stadium, the industrial landscape of the River Tees and an impressive parade of vintage fire engines through the streets of Middlesbrough.

Phil Lancaster, Director of Community Protection for Cleveland Fire Brigade, said: "They were just in the corner of a store room and we are hugely indebted to the skilful work of the archives for bringing them back into use. They are now a hugely valuable treasure trove as well as a training tool to show current firefighters just how far we have progressed over the years.

"They are also a wonderful glimpse into how it was all done nearly half a century ago and a remarkable memory for all those involved."

Middlesbrough became part of the Teesside County Fire Brigade in 1968. The Cleveland County Fire Brigade was then formed in 1978 and Cleveland Fire

Brigade was set-up in 1996 following local government reorganisation.

The film collection has been donated to North East Film Archive and is now preserved in special climate-controlled vaults at Teesside University for future generations to enjoy.

Graham Relton, NEFA Archive Manager, said: "Preserving important regional film heritage like this is what we do as a charity. The films offer a wonderful window onto the former Middlesbrough and Teesside Fire Brigade, at work and at play, in the 1950s and 1960s. and add to our growing collections.

"They can now be seen alongside films from the other emergency services in the North East, including Middlesbrough Police Force in the 1960s."

The films can be seen via links below:

Middlesbrough and Teesside Fire Brigade Inspection, Awards and Training 1961-1972 Reel 1

www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/film/middlesbrough-and-teesside-fire-brigade-inspection-awards-and-training-reel-1

Middlesbrough Fire Brigade Inspection, Awards and Training 1961-1963 Reel 2

www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/film/middlesbrough-fire-brigade-inspection-awards-and-training-reel-2

Middlesbrough Fire Brigade Vintage Appliances, Inspection, Awards and Training 1953-1959 Reel 3

www.yorkshirefilmarchive.com/film/middlesbrough-fire-brigade-vintage-appliances-inspection-awards-and-training-reel-3

Still images are available on request.



Susanna Huber, Archive Information Officer (NEFA) shows the films to Phil Lancaster, Director of Community Protection, Cleveland Fire Brigade.

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Young graduates in line for success

Young people given a kick-start in learning new life skills are graduating with nationally recognised volunteering qualifications.

They are the first to successfully complete a summer programme of courses with Cleveland Fire Brigade after the organisation linked-up with the National Citizen Service (NCS).

The 25 young people, aged between 16 and 17, from the Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council area, received their certificates at a special graduation ceremony.

The two courses to date have seen them take part in residential outdoor activities at Ford Castle in Northumberland and a week at Redcar racecourse with presentations from a variety of organisations involved developing team working skills through firefighter training. The organisations included Cleveland Fire Brigade's Learn and Live programme, the homelessness charity

Centrepoint and the British Red Cross, Mind in Redcar and Cleveland.

Recent participants helped Leonard Cheshire Homes celebrate their 100th birthday by staging a sponsored hose reel run at Marske Hall and raising money to provide residents with an afternoon tea and games.

They also provided afternoon tea at Briarwood Nursing and Residential Home in Eston.

In addition they worked with the MIND mental health charity shop in Redcar to design marketing leaflets, clear-up the flood damaged basement, tried their hand at stock taking and developed resources for parents, toddlers and young children to use.

The programme was organised by Cleveland Brigade's Youth Engagement Team and led by Commissioned Services Manager Sue Knott.

They were awarded with nationally recognised volunteering qualifications as well as being presented with a National Citizen Service completion certificate signed by the Prime Minister Theresa May.

Sue Knott said: "It has been hugely rewarding to see these young people tackle a wide variety of issues, grow in confidence and learn new skills which will benefit them in the future. They have really enjoyed working in the community and some have already pledged to continue volunteering in their communities.

"They have all shown tremendous enthusiasm, commitment, dedication and a willingness to learn, which will benefit themselves and the local community. They all richly deserve to graduate and we wish them every success."

Across the whole of the Tees Valley almost 1,000 teenagers completed NCS this summer, organising around 60 youth-led community projects.

The next NCS programme will be taking place during the autumn half-term and is open to 16 and 17 year olds in year 12, 13 or equivalent provision. Participants will get a chance to experience adventure in the Lake District, meeting new friends and gaining skills, before returning home to deliver a community project that has a lasting impact on the local area. Government backing means the programme never costs more than £50, with bursaries also available.



Commendations for firefighters



Protecting local communities

Cleveland Fire Brigade firefighters have been commended by Chief Fire Officer Ian Hayton for their outstanding actions.

In April this year Firefighter Andy Shea from Thornaby White Watch assisted the police in pulling a man from the River Tees at Stockton in the early hours of the morning and saved his life.

Firefighter Shea was nominated by Mike Picknett, Cleveland Fire Brigade, Head of Emergency Response, who said: "Firefighter Shea performed his task at night as a single rescue swimmer to a suicidal unpredictable male. He entered the water in full water rescue gear to recover a man who was unpredictable and non-compliant. He definitely saved his life."

He was awarded a Certificate of Commendation.

In a separate commendation, the four crew members from Thornaby Green Watch have been recognised for their professionalism in tackling a high rise flat

fire at Anson House in Thornaby in April before being immediately redeployed to assist with the attempted rescue of a woman from the River Tees at Yarm Bridge.

Dave Turton, Head of Community Protection at Cleveland Fire Brigade, who nominated the crew for commendation, said: "The crew were involved in two incidents within three hours that unfortunately both involved a fatality. They were unfazed and professional when they were redeployed from the fire to the river rescue with no recovery or reflection time in between."

Those involved were Crew Manager Adam Robinson and Firefighters Andy Whorlton, Steven Carter and Craig Cass. They were each awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.

Presenting the commendations at a meeting of Cleveland Fire

Authority, Chief Fire Officer Ian Hayton said: "These commendations are richly merited. They are outstanding examples of the professionalism, pride and passion shown by our firefighters in what are often very difficult circumstances."



Presenting and receiving the commendations (l to r) Councillor Jan Brunton, Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority; Crew Manager Adam Robinson; Chief Fire Officer Ian Hayton and Firefighter Andy Shea.

Devon & Somerset train Warwickshire's new recruits



DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Devon & Somerset
Fire & Rescue



Service's Training Academy was pleased to work with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to train their first wholetime recruits in nine years.



The 29 new recruits were divided into two groups. We are pleased to announce that the first 16 recruits on the 12-week residential course all passed and are now being introduced to the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service family. The second group will commence training in early 2018.



Andy Hickmott, Chief Fire Officer for Warwickshire Fire & Rescue Service, said: "This is not only the first time in over nine years that we have recruited to whole-time positions, but the first time that we have recruited 29 whole-time firefighters at once."

"I wish the new recruits all the very best with their training. They are starting a very long, but exciting journey into what I feel is a very privileged career."

The course took place at Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service's Training Centre in Plympton.

The 12-week course was created as a bespoke course specifically for Warwickshire to accommodate our training needs.

The skills learned on the course included the following:

- Introduction and core skills, rural firefighting, pumps and ladders
- Breathing apparatus module at the Fire Behaviour School



- First Person On Scene (delivered in Warwickshire)
- Safety at heights and confined spaces
- Road traffic collision
- Swift water rescue
- Hazardous materials
- Foam, basements, high-rise, water relay
- A station day

To mark the end of the 12 weeks, the Service held a passing out parade at Nuneaton Fire Station, to allow the recruits to celebrate successfully completing the course with their family and friends.

Area Manager Damien Borlase, Head of the Training Academy at Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, said: "We are very proud of our training facilities and it was a pleasure to work with Warwickshire to prepare their new recruits for life in a fire and rescue service."

"We can work with fire and rescue services to create a course suitable for their needs and colleagues from other



services are always welcome to come for a visit to see our facilities."

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service's Training Academy has eight Schools which are utilised by emergency services from all over the world. They are:

- Fire Behaviour
- Fire Fighting
- Fire Safety
- Incident Command
- Leadership and Development
- Driver Training
- Maritime Firefighting
- Access and Rescue



Warwickshire's recruitment campaign began in April 2017 with over 700 applications being received.

Warwickshire County Council's Portfolio Holder for Fire and Community Safety, Howard Roberts, added: "I am delighted that we have recruited so many new recruits. It is a very exciting time for the Service and I look forward to welcoming them into the organisation following their training courses. Good luck to all involved!"



London's Fire Chief calls for an end to the term 'firemen'



Firefighters should no longer be called firemen because it puts women off taking up the job, according to the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade. Dany Cotton said she wants people to drop the term as part of a drive to encourage more women to become firefighters.

Dany Cotton, who became the first female commissioner of the London Fire Brigade at the start of the year, will launch a drive to retire the term at the Women of the Year Awards. The latest Home Office statistics show that in 2016 only 5 per cent, or approximately 1,800, of firefighters in England were women. That figure was up more than a fifth from 2011.

Dany Cotton, who leads the largest fire brigade in England, said: "The first woman firefighter joined London Fire Brigade in 1982 and it is ridiculous that 35 years later people are still surprised to see women firefighters or calling them firemen."

Relating to her new role earlier this year she talked about what it is like to be a woman in the service, and Cotton is candid about being one of the few women in a male-dominated workforce. "One single thing that would help bring more women into the service? Stop saying 'fireman'. How many people still use that?" she says. "It would make a real difference if people stopped. Why did they have to go for Fireman Sam? What's wrong with Firefighter Sam? We have to change that perception of a six foot hairy-arsed bloke who can kick a door down. Women make fantastic firefighters," she says. "If all you want to do is leap on the big red shiny engine and be a hero then the fire service is probably not for you anyway."

At 47, Cotton now has 102 London fire stations, 4,800 uniformed firefighters and 800 other staff under her command and is responsible for frontline response to emergencies in a city where 100,000 incidents had to be attended last year, from fires to flooding to major road and tram accidents, and where the terrorism threat is ranked as "severe".

"You can't help but worry about terrorism but if you let that overwhelm you then you'd never come to work. If you didn't let some things scare you a little, you'd become a bit blasé," she says. "You



join the fire service to save lives and you cannot do that from home."

It is ability rather than qualifications that impresses her. "I hated education with a passion. My parents wanted me to go to university but that wasn't for me. Then I saw an advert in the Croydon Advertiser and I cut it out – it said the fire service was especially welcoming recruits who were women or from black and ethnic minority backgrounds." Her parents were horrified, thinking she would be bullied and broken in a macho environment. "I was 18 and had no concept that a woman couldn't or shouldn't do anything. I came from a family with strong matriarchs, an East End grandmother was one, and I simply had the view 'Why can't I?'"

When Cotton left training college in 1988 she was the only one of the three women in her year to make it through the course and the 30th woman to have joined a 6,000-strong London Fire Brigade. Within months she was at the Clapham rail disaster, where 35 people died.

"The first day I just thought 'crikey' – it was very, very macho. I had to prove myself twice over, four times over. Some of the blokes were quite hostile but it was a mix, some of them were fine," she says. "The management was clearly under pressure to change the force but the people under them were definitely not prepared for change. The issue for some is that if a woman can do the job, then it

isn't the big hero job it was. It de-machos their role."

Many of those attitudes still remain and Cotton believes fire brigades lag behind the police service in tackling sexism and opportunities for women. "It is definitely part of my role to change that. A lot of it is about understanding the role of a firefighter. Perhaps 70% of our work now is fire prevention, social engagement, communicating with different types of people in the community. Our fire stations are safe havens 24/7 - if you are a woman walking home alone, or a teenager running from a gang, then knock on your fire station door."

She continues: "We are identifying people most at risk, getting smoke alarms in. The biggest tragedy in this day and age is that people are still dying because they haven't got a smoke alarm. We will come round and fit you one, for free."

While house fires are in decline in the UK as a result of better regulations over combustible furniture and less cigarette smoking, poverty and mental health remain major risk factors for deadly fires. "People with no money tend to huddle close to a fire or light a candle, or fry food because it's cheap. Hoarding is really on the rise and a big issue – not only are people hoarding combustible material but also they won't be able to get out of a room easily, or a firefighter won't be able to get in. It's a very dangerous situation."

Despite her new rank, she still misses the red shiny engine. "I do miss being in the cab, although I never trained as a driver because I just didn't want the hassle. A woman fire engine driver? Just non-stop criticism and comments and cracks about my reversing. It would be unbearable. No, it wasn't worth it. I do still get abuse now. Mostly it's comments from retired firefighters who think a woman cannot do the job, or that I only got the job because I'm a woman. It doesn't occur to them that I might be the best person to do the job."

And for Cotton, doing her job does not mean being stuck behind a desk: "I still go out to fires fairly regularly, although these days I don't go in the cab but I can go in my own car kitted out with blue lights. At least there is no one to criticise my driving."

Fire loophole puts building safety at risk



A fire safety loophole means “dangerous decisions” are being made about building design that could lead to more serious blazes, the London Fire Brigade has warned.

The Brigade has made a number of recommendations to Dame Judith Hackitt’s independent review into building regulation and fire safety, commissioned following the Grenfell Tower fire in June 2017.

It said a “general lack of competence” is leading to “dangerous decisions” about building design or construction. Inspections find serious problems with buildings including significant construction defects, critical fire safety system flaws and a lack of understanding of fire safety measures by building managers.

London Fire Brigade is calling for a loophole to be closed that means some fire safety elements can be designed without the involvement of a competent fire safety professional. It also wants to

see formal qualifications or accreditation for those who install life-saving systems like smoke ventilation, fire detection and alarm and a robust, independent on-site inspection programme that ensures the fire safety elements of a building’s design are translated into the finished construction.

Dan Daly, Assistant Commissioner for Fire Safety, said: “It took a tragedy for everyone to take fire safety seriously and listen to what the brigade has been



saying for years about skills. Urgent action is needed to better regulate those who are responsible for ensuring a building’s design, construction and maintenance are fit for purpose.”

He continued: “There are countless points where a dangerous decision can be made about a building’s design or upkeep and hardly any measures to ensure that the people making those decisions are sufficiently experienced and properly qualified. This means that potentially dangerous design flaws could exist within a building until we either find it at a later date, or in the worst case scenario, it is exposed by a serious fire. We don’t have the legal powers or the resources to check the entire fabric of a building but we often uncover dangerous flaws that we can’t ignore.”

Dan Daly added: “We recognise that this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make buildings safer, and are actively supporting the review process.”

Jeremy Corbyn calls for mass government programme to fund sprinkler systems for social housing in tall towers

Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn has called upon the government in the Budget to fund a mass programme of retro-fitting sprinklers in high-rise social housing towers .

The Labour leader has put pressure on the Chancellor to set aside £1bn in the budget on the 22nd November for the upgrades in the wake of the disastrous Grenfell Tower fire. He said there was “overwhelming” evidence that sprinklers save lives, and called for the safety systems to be installed in all council and housing association blocks over 30 metres tall.

Corbyn said: “The retrofitting of sprinklers in all high-rise social housing is something that could make a vital difference to people’s safety. The evidence is clear - where sprinkler systems have already been fitted, injuries sustained from fires have been cut by approximately 80% and deaths from fires have almost

been eliminated entirely. The evidence is overwhelming. When almost every authoritative source on the matter is saying the same thing - that retrofitting of sprinklers is necessary in high-rise housing - this measure is just common sense and will protect thousands of lives. Grenfell was an avoidable tragedy. It did not have to happen and it would not have happened if adequate precautions, including sprinklers, were in place.”



He continued: “While people are living in potential death-trap homes without essential safety protections such as sprinklers, it is an obscenity that we have super-rich elites and major corporations who are allowed to avoid paying their taxes. The Government must get its act together, take on the tax avoiders and put the billions of pounds that is being taken from the pockets of the British people back into the public services and safe homes we all so desperately need.”

New training facility receives Royal seal of approval

A unique new training facility at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Headquarters was recently unveiled by royalty.

The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO, officially opened the Villa Training Centre when he visited the Service on Friday September 8. HRH was given a tour of the innovative complex of rooms, which provide improved training opportunities and contribute to the safety of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent residents and firefighters.

From the outside the structure of metal containers looks unremarkable, but the labyrinth of rooms and stairways cleverly provides realistic environments to deliver the safest and highest quality training possible. This ensures firefighters are fully prepared to tackle current and emerging risks.



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
preventing • protecting • responding

The Villa is a multi-functional space designed to provide training for firefighters in the following areas:

- breathing apparatus
- incident command training
- positive pressure ventilation (PPV) and tactical ventilation
- hazmat training (hazardous materials)
- confined space training
- search and rescue
- high rise/bridgehead
- working at height exercises
- fire investigation training



The training facility will allow the Service and partners to meet the challenge of new nationally developed concepts in operational procedure and training for staff.

Becci Bryant, Chief Fire Officer, said: "We were delighted the Earl of Wessex came to open the Villa; a fantastic addition to our training toolkit for existing and newly recruited firefighters.

"As the Service continues to transform we must ensure our training provisions keep in line with national procedures and guidelines.

"The Villa has been designed to support these changes, delivering improved and safer training for modern methods of



firefighting. It will also minimise the cost implications of sourcing external training.”

The Earl began his visit by watching a hose demonstration by newly recruited firefighters, who were in week one of their training course. This was followed by a tour of the Villa which gave an opportunity to watch a separate part of the Villa filled with smoke and a demonstration of positive pressure ventilation (PPV) before the official unveiling of the plaque. Finally, HRH watched a live sprinkler demonstration by the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association (BAFSA).



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STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE CHIEF RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service's (SFRS) Chief Fire Officer (CFO) has been honoured by a local university.

The University of Wolverhampton held their prestigious graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Arts at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on Tuesday September 19, 2017.

CFO Becci Bryant was amongst those selected to receive honorary degrees, awarded to people the university felt have made a significant contribution to their field of expertise. Ms Bryant became an Honorary Doctor of Professional Practice, an award given in recognition of her contribution and achievements in the fire and rescue service, and for acting as an inspirational leader in the field.

Becci said: "It is an absolute privilege to receive an honorary degree from a local university and I thoroughly enjoyed attending the prestigious graduation ceremony. It was very humbling to be in such inspirational company.

"When I started my career back in the 90s I never imagined I would be here today but my goal remains the same, to do my bit to help others and keep our communities safe. I'm very proud to be part of Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and accepted this honour on behalf of the whole organisation."

At the time of her appointment as CFO Becci Bryant was the only woman in the UK to have achieved this prestigious



Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service
preventing • protecting • responding

position after beginning her career as an operational firefighter with Bedfordshire and Luton Fire Service in 1992.

After moving to Cheshire Fire Service in 2002, where she spent three years working within the Central Training Unit, Becci secured a promotion at SFRS in 2005 when she joined the Service as an Assistant Area Commander at Newcastle Fire Station and later took on the role of Area Commander at Tamworth.

In 2010, Becci took on the challenge of leading the Business Transformation Team at Headquarters where she implemented a host of innovative ideas to ensure that taxpayers continue to receive a first-class service that is excellent value for money.

Becci was then appointed as Director of Organisational Development where she led the joint fire control project between Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and West Midlands Fire Service.

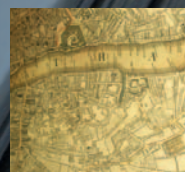
In 2014 she became the first woman in the country to achieve the role of Executive Director/Deputy Chief Executive, having started her career as an operational firefighter, before securing appointment as Chief Fire Officer in April 2016.



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Firefighter returns from tackling California wildfires



DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE

California is currently in the grip of some of the worst wildfires in recent memory and has declared a state of emergency as the fire services try to bring the blazes under control.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service Watch Manager Andy Elliott, station commander at Maiden Newton fire station, recently returned from California after spending three weeks working with the Middletown crews of Cal Fire in their Lake Nappa Unit.

Andy is one of only 12 Wildlife Tactical Advisors for the UK. He has been going to California since 2015 after being called upon to use his expertise and training to help tackle the Valley Fire, which became the most destructive fire in California's 167 year history, burning across over 76,000 acres, destroying nearly 2,000 homes and taking the lives of four people.

During his first two weeks with the Middletown crews, Andy rode with the crews attending several incidents including four structure fires, many medical incidents and a number of wildfires. Andy received training on their unique equipment and learnt new wildfire techniques as well as completing his USA Wildfire qualifications, allowing him to fight wildfires anywhere in the USA and to take initial command of incidents.

As part of his visit, Andy explored the psychological effects that wildfires have on people and communities as well as

exploring how they and the forests are recovering.

Many homes destroyed in wildfires are never rebuilt, but some communities are starting to recover. Before the fires, communities were in beautiful green forests, but now people will potentially live in a blackened disfigured landscape for years. There are signs of recovery as seedlings are sprouting and new trees are being planted replacing those that were lost, but it will take tens of years to recover.

Wildfires are not limited to the United States or Continental Europe and often occur in the UK. Conditions during the summer months, especially across the heathland and plains of Dorset and Wiltshire, often lend themselves to wildfires. To raise awareness and to discuss how we can prepare for wildfires at home, Andy and Dorset County Council organised this year's UK Wildfires Conference in Bournemouth on 7-8 November.

Andy said: "Climate change predictions are suggesting that we may see more extreme wildfire conditions in the UK. Southern Europe has suffered its most destructive wildfire season ever and this is slowly coming our way. It is important that UK firefighters learn lessons from other parts of the world to help us prepare for our own wildfires."

The theme for this year's conference is 'Wildfire Mitigation in a UK Context'

attracting first-responders, planners, land managers and landscape architects from across the country. The biennial conference, hosted by Dorset's Urban Heaths Partnership, and overseen by the England and Wales Wildfire Forum and the Scottish Wildfire Forum, will bring together wildfire practitioners from all over the UK and beyond. Speakers and workshops will be investigating how to make UK homes, communities and the landscape more wildfire-resilient in the future.

Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell from Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "We hope that the conference will generate a wide debate on the issues around wildfire resilience in the UK and lead to action to resolve any issues identified. In light of the recent wildfire tragedies around the world, it is appropriate for key stakeholders within the UK to review our position on wildfires, to ensure that we are well-prepared to meet the challenges posed by our present and future climate and fuels."

More information on the UK Wildfire Conference, plus how to book can be found at www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/uk-wildfire-conference - you can also follow its progress on social media with the hashtag #UKWildfireConf17

For more information on how to stay safe outdoors, visit: www.dwfire.org.uk/safety-outdoors



Cross Ramming - The rarely practiced art



by Ian Dunbar,
**Independent Rescue Consultant
 and member of BTCC Extrication Team**

You probably all remember that one piece of equipment that you weren't confident with in the first years of your career. In my case it was a mechanical winch, known as a Tirfor. This was because we rarely (if ever) trained with it. Maybe once a year, we would get it out and I felt like every time I touched it, I had to relearn its use. When we did train with it, we probably used it to about 20% of its potential; not solid grounding for its effective operational use. Thinking back, this unfamiliarity and lack of confidence with the Tirfor meant I would often prefer to leave it on the truck, rather than wanting to use it. My early memories of the Tirfor reminds me of today's approach to the hydraulic ram that many rescuers have.

The hydraulic ram, in my experience, is the least mentioned when it comes to discussions regarding rescue tools. The focus is primarily on cutters, followed closely by spreaders. Even the hydraulic pump (or more recently *battery*) gets more attention during training sessions. This is universal, no matter where I am in the world; so why is this the case especially when we consider the importance of hydraulic rams in many rescue situations?

Well my theory is quite simple and is based on what I perceive to be 'reduced confidence in its use'. Most rescuers I talk to, have a lack of familiarity with the ram as their training experience goes no



further than dashboard relocation (dash roll). This is further exacerbated by many peoples' preference to relocate a dash using a dash lift which *may* preclude the use of a ram altogether. (Although the ram may be inserted to prevent movement of the structure when the relief cuts are made). This very often means that the ram becomes the last tool to be used and when it is picked up it is rarely used to anywhere near its full potential.

There is no doubt that using a tool safely, effectively, competently *and* confidently requires some hours of training; time to hone skills and develop techniques in a controlled environment. This is something that rescuers generally do in all areas of their work to great effect with positive results. However, this is where the inability to effectively train with the hydraulic ram may lead to the lack of confidence explained above. In addition to this, the internet is full of instructional videos, discussion on all manner of tools and techniques, but ram applications are severely lacking; another sign that from an industry point of view, it is not a focus area.

The benefits of cross ramming

Aside from performing a dashboard roll, another key use of the ram is **cross ramming**. Cross ramming is performed inside the vehicle (horizontally or vertically) and is effective when a patient is trapped as a result of massive intrusion into the passenger cell of the vehicle following a collision. The aim of cross ramming is to move the construction of the vehicle back towards its original manufactured position (or at least as close to). This allows us to:

- **Remove physical entrapment**
- **Gain better medical access to the patient**
- **More easily apply the well-known techniques, as the vehicle is now 'car shaped' once again**

Cross ramming is a difficult technical skill for a number of reasons:

- Operators have to be inside the vehicle, they are essentially working in a confined space.



- Positioning the bottom of the ram can be difficult and a solid base is needed.
- Knowledge of vehicle construction is vital in order to perform the technique effectively.
- Wooden cribbing can be used to spread the load, but this is an inexact science and it often wastes time (the cribbing moves).

From a medical perspective it is very often the case that cross ramming is required in order to remove a physical entrapment e.g. a patient's arm may be trapped between the B-post and seat following a side impact. When this is the case, rescuers must understand the following principle.

Initial placement of the ram head is vital

Unlike a dashboard roll where we make relief cuts, cross ramming rarely (if ever) allows us to make relief cuts in order to remove strength. It is therefore imperative to remember that once the cross ramming has commenced, any slippage of the ram head will likely result in the construction 'springing back' and re-trapping the patient (as well as possibly worsening their injury). So, the initial placement of the ram head is vital; *you only get one chance to position the ram*. Therefore operators must be able to identify the ideal initial ram head placement and should also consider:

- Selecting a point of strength for the base which is stronger than the area to be moved. This ensures the hydraulic forces travel in the desired direction.
- Positioning the ram head to ensure maximum contact with the construction and negate slippage.



confidence with the hydraulic ram. It therefore remains that the best place for rescuers to learn about the skills required for cross ramming will be at a live extrication. This is far from ideal; We all know that a real incident is NOT the place to learn.

Conclusion

Human nature dictates that confidence in a subject promotes discussion; the more we know about something, the more we talk, discuss and challenge the norm. A lack of confidence, awareness and understanding leads to reticence and limits development. The extrication world is full of great information when it comes to spreading and cutting, but lacking massively when it comes to information on the safe and effective use of hydraulic rams. We tend to train with rams in a one dimensional way and default to a dashboard roll, when in reality the ram can be (and is) used for far more complex applications, which require a high degree of training and pre-planning. This in turn breeds confidence and although training for cross ramming is difficult, we must endeavor to find a way to practice such a vital skill by obtaining appropriate vehicles. Twenty five years on, I am now confident with the Tirfor; once my 'nemesis', now I can use it in my sleep.

You can follow Ian Dunbar's rescue blogs on:
www.blog.holmatro.com

- Positioning the ram head to create maximum space once the ram is extended.

Cross ramming requires good communication between rescuer and medic, especially where the operation is being carried out very close to the patient. In addition, communication between tool operators and incident commander is also vital. And the decision of initial placement must be carefully considered based on experience and acute awareness of vehicle construction. From a safety point of view, it is imperative that ram operators DO NOT position the ram head with their hands as there is the very real possibility of injury. Always decide on the desired position of the ram head, mark the area

and allow the ram to extend without guiding the ram head with your hand.

Now that we are aware of the finer points of cross ramming, let's return to the subject of training. We can immediately see that although it is easy (in most places) to obtain an old vehicle for training purposes, for many it is very difficult (or impossible) to obtain vehicles with damage that will provide a useful basis for practicing cross ramming. For those who can obtain such vehicles they will likely be old (or very old) and will not respond in the same way that a new vehicle will due to its aged construction. This automatically disadvantages many rescuers when it comes to furthering their skills, their competence and their



This night time image is of Paddington - one of London Fire Brigade's busiest fire stations. In view R to L are the stations two Pumps, and Aerial Ladder Platform. Far left is CBY 1, a 1964 AEC Merryweather Turntable Ladder, part of the LFB's historic collection which on this occasion was being temporarily housed at Paddington.

Coroner rules that electrical fault in tumble dryer was the likely cause of double fatality

A Coroner has concluded that a flat kitchen fire which killed two men in Conwy County, North Wales was most likely caused by a fault in a tumble dryer.

Bernard Hender, 19, and Doug McTavish, 39, died in the blaze above a funeral director's office in Llanrwst in October 2014. An inquest into their deaths was held in April 2017 and concluded at Ruthin County Hall in September.

The inquest heard conflicting evidence about whether the dryer was to blame. Garry Lloyd Jones, 50, who owned the flat and lived with the two men survived the fire. He said the dryer had been switched off when he went to bed, but he was woken up by the smell of smoke, and described seeing flames coming from the drum of the tumble dryer.

Notices had previously been issued by Whirlpool telling customers to unplug Hotpoint, Creda and Indesit models manufactured between 2004 and 2015 after a potential fire risk was identified.

Fire investigation experts John Loud and Dr Delmar Morrison, representing Whirlpool, told the inquest the cause of the fire was unknown. Their possible explanations included electrical faults in a light fitting or an iron, or the spontaneous combustion of towels



The Llanrwst fire scene

which had vegetable oil on them. Paul Jenkinson from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service said the fire had started "in or around the tumble dryer", and ruled out the other possible causes.

Assistant Coroner David Lewis said he found it "highly improbable that an iron or light fitting were the cause. On the balance of probabilities, the fire was caused by an electrical fault in the tumble dryer in the laundry room of the flat." He recorded a narrative conclusion.

A statement from Whirlpool extended its "profound condolences" to the families and friends of Mr Hender and Mr McTavish. "Safety is always our number one priority. We treat all incidents extremely seriously and we have a robust process that continuously reviews the safety of all our products. We will carefully review and consider the coroner's findings in this case," a spokesman said.

Speaking after the inquest Mr Lloyd Jones said he had been on a journey to "hell and back" but praised the Coroner for his "very thorough" investigations. Mr Jenkinson of North Wales Fire and Rescue Service said the inquest drew attention to "compelling" forensic evidence that suggested the cause of the fire was an electrical fault in the tumble dryer's door switch. He stressed the importance of following the tumble dryers' manufacturer instructions and the importance of having a working smoking alarm.

There were no smoke alarms fitted in this Llanrwst property.

A spokesman from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy said the government took product safety "very seriously" and it was "monitoring the situation closely." He said its product recall website makes it clear to the public which white goods are safe to use.



The aftermath of another tumble dryer fire

Widespread Fire Safety Officer losses revealed

Fire & Rescue Services in England have lost more than a quarter of their specialist fire safety staff since 2011, a newspaper investigation in *The Guardian* has found.

Fire safety officers carry out inspections of high-risk buildings to ensure they comply with safety legislation and take action against landlords where buildings are found to be unsafe.

Figures released to *The Guardian* under the Freedom of Information Act showed the number of specialist staff in 26 Fire & Rescue Services had fallen from 924 to 680, a loss of 244 officers between 2011 and 2017. Between 2011 and 2016, the government reduced its funding for fire services by between 26% and 39%, according to the National Audit Office, which in turn resulted in a 17% average real-terms reduction in spending power.

Warren Spencer, a fire safety lawyer, said the figures showed a "clear culture of complacency" about fire safety. "The government has tended to take the view that fewer people are dying in fires, fires occur less frequently, and therefore there is no need to invest in fire prevention. So there's been a total brain drain in fire safety knowledge and many experienced specialist officers have left the UK Fire & Rescue Services," he said.

"But fire safety officers have been saying to me for years that one day, there would be a big fire in a multiple occupancy building, which would make everyone sit up and take notice of the lack of fire safety provision. Tragically, that is what happened at Grenfell Tower."

David Sibert, a national fire safety adviser at the Fire Brigades Union (FBU), said the figures demonstrated the need for an urgent review of fire safety enforcement. He said: "The government's current approach to fire safety is business-friendly and very soft-touch. We are saying that this is wrong, and that we should be enforcing safety legislation on behalf of the people who live and work in these buildings, not on behalf of those who are making money out of them."

Fire & Rescue Services in Gloucestershire, Cumbria, Avon, County Durham and Darlington are among the worst affected; staffing has been cut by more than half.

The figures come after the government's announcement of an independent review



of building regulations and fire safety after the Grenfell Tower disaster in June 2017, where police believe at least 80 people died as fire engulfed the block of flats.

David Sibert commented: "Grenfell showed us that our system of building and fire safety regulation is broken. And fixing this system requires more money, more officers and more inspections to catch out landlords who are trying to cut corners."

The fall in the staffing in Fire & Rescue Services has been mirrored by a decrease in the number of inspections and enforcement notices, which are issued when a building violates safety regulations. In 2010-11, there were 84,575 audits in England, compared with 63,201 in 2015-2016 – also a drop of 25%. The number

of enforcement notices fell at a much faster rate, with Fire & Rescue Services reporting a 45% reduction over the same period, according to Home Office figures.

The Surrey branch of the FBU last month passed a motion of no confidence in the county council over funding cuts to the Fire & Rescue Service. The motion highlighted the 66% reduction in fire safety audits carried out by Surrey since 2010 as evidence that the cuts were "putting lives at risk" Figures released to the *Guardian* show Surrey has lost 17% of its fire safety staff over the same period.

A Surrey Fire & Rescue Service spokesman said: "The safety of Surrey residents is paramount in all decisions that are made and, despite the huge financial pressures we face due to the rising need for services such as social care for children and adults and school places, we're confident we'll still be able to provide an effective and efficient Fire & Rescue Service to keep them safe."

The *Guardian* sent Freedom of Information requests to all 45 Fire & Rescue Services in England and received data from 31 on the capacity of its fire safety department.

Of those which reported data back to 2011, 13 Fire & Rescue Services lost more than a third of their staff and a further six lost more than 40%. Only two fire services who responded increased their number of fire safety officers. A further four which reported figures as far back as 2013, lost a fifth of their fire safety officers, a reduction of 82 to 66 officers in the past four years.



Camberwell high rise fire.
Image courtesy London Fire Brigade

Emergency Services in South Wales confronted with screams, burns and casualties needing immediate attention in major exercise

On Sunday 24th September, as part of its commitment to safeguarding communities across South Wales, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS), the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust (WAST) and its Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) planned a major resilience exercise to test collaborative working and response.

The exercise tested the capability of the involved partner agencies to respond to, and manage, a major incident. The scenario was based on a fire at a care home in Cardiff, with persons reported missing and concern for a number of casualties as they were unable to move and could not leave the building unaided.



The Exercise scenario started at 11am, with crews from Whitchurch mobilised to deal with the initial incident and over the course of the exercise, there were 8 appliances, as well as a number of SWFRS support vehicles. WAST mobilised its triage trauma unit, as well as MedServe Wales resources.

Participants in the exercise featured "live casualties", including a double amputee, and dummies, to ensure that both fire and medical crews were able to test their trauma care skills as the incident escalated.



The Exercise concluded at 2.30pm, with a total number of 49 casualties recycled through the course of the incident.

The location permissions were granted by Cardiff & Vale UHB, as part of a drive towards collaboration working to ensure that HART, WAST and SWFRS crews maintain their high standards of training and capability to keep the communities of South Wales safe.

Eric Bellew, Group Manager of Operations at SWFRS, said: "The purpose of this exercise was to test how we work with our partner agencies.

"We wanted to simulate a major incident and have all the blue-light services working together under a common command and coordination structure and working for the same outcome as one team.

"Seeing how our crews deal with this incident will help us move forward and show us areas we need to improve."

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service would like to thank all who took part in the incident and hope to hold annual exercises from 2018.



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The Fire Fighters Charity boosts mental health support with new role



The Fire Fighters Charity has confirmed its commitment to supporting the mental health of the UK fire community with the recruitment of a new role to bolster its psychological support services.

Now recruiting for a new Psychological Services Lead, the Charity aims to strengthen its team of psychological therapists – based at three centres across the UK – with the addition of an experienced professional to drive its mental health work forward.

Dr Jill Tolfrey, Chief Executive of The Fire Fighters Charity, said of the new role: “At the launch of our new three-year Strategic Plan in April this year we said that bolstering our mental health support was one of our top priorities. Our decision to recruit into this new role reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that we meet the long term mental health needs of our community effectively and efficiently.

“As we demonstrated through our recent mental health awareness campaign – in



which we featured the story of firefighter Roger Moore from Coventry, who lives with PTSD – the often traumatic nature of incidents responded to by the fire and rescue service can have a deep psychological impact on those involved, whether working as a frontline firefighter, or as a member of support or control staff, as well as on their families.

“We saw an incredible outpouring of support for the Charity in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, as well as following the launch of our recent

mental health campaign. It was clear that, by donating and supporting us so generously, people were expressing a desire to help firefighters to come to terms with psychological trauma. This new role, together with the ambitious plans we have to bolster our support through the use of technology, will, I hope, go some way to honouring the incredible support we have been shown.”

For further information about the Firefighters charity please visit:
www.firefighterscharity.org.uk

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thefirefighterscharity

Twitter: @firefighters999

Fireworld

The National Firefighting & Rescue Museum Incorporating Heritage, Education, and Research & Development

Registered Charity No: 276571

Background

The Fire Services National Museum Trust (FSNMT) was originally founded in 1979 by a group of Chief Fire Officers, fire service enthusiasts and fire engineers who all felt that the proud history and achievements of the British Fire Service over two centuries should be permanently recorded and marked at a national level.

The *FireWorld* project was endorsed by the Home Office, various MP's, the Chief Fire Officers Association, British Fire Brigades and their fire authorities, and other professional bodies that represented the UK fire industry.

Today, the Trust cares for 45 historic fire engines from manually drawn and



pumped versions from the 18th century, 19th century horse-drawn types including steam powered pumps, early motorised pumps from the 1900's, right through to those of the dramatic Blitz years of World War II, to more modern complex fire engines of the 1990's.

The Trust has also amassed some 8,000 separate items of firefighting and rescue equipment, uniforms, models, books, magazines and technical manuals, paintings, fire brigade badges, buttons and rank markings, and fire service historical documentation and memorabilia going back more than two centuries.

The Trust has just completed a total relocation from its long-standing storage

site in Weedon, Northamptonshire, to the potential new *FireWorld* museum site near Petersfield in Hampshire.

The relocation has been a major planning and logistic exercise over a period of three months involving 20 separate journeys with low loaders, curtain side trailers and other transport plus a small team of dedicated volunteers.

The Trust welcomes new volunteers as it enters this exciting period leading to the final achievement of its aims to create *FireWorld* as the National Fire & Rescue heritage hub.

For further details see:
www.fireworldmuseum.co.uk

Stay Dry In The Water With HAMMOND

A drysuit can essentially save your life in a water rescue situation, especially when a rescuer finds themselves in the water for a prolonged period of time. For this very reason, Hammond takes pride in every drysuit that is made in their works in Dartford, Kent. They know if you can stay warm and dry, then you can maintain your focus and your actions may save the lives of others who find themselves in danger.

From first responders to swiftwater rescues, each suit made by Hammond ensures the comfort and safety of the wearer regardless of what the elements throw at them, ultimately helping to save the lives of humans or animals in the water

For those who need to work in water, there is the Hammond SR140 drysuit which has been supplied to a number of Fire & Rescue Services in the UK, as well as independent lifeboat crews, and Search & Rescue teams in areas such as Dartmoor. The SR (Search and Rescue) 140 (Nylon 140) is an extremely robust, hard wearing trilaminate fabric, with features that are designed with water rescue situations at the forefront. Each suit is made to order giving greater flexibility to the first responder than an off the shelf option. The suit can be either rear or front entry. Rear entry gives greater flexibility for the wearer, however, if you are likely to be alone when needing to don your drysuit, then front entry is best as you will be able to zip the suit easily on your own.



Additional features include the way Hammond secure their seams. All seams on Hammond drysuits are single stitched and hand taped for a longer lasting watertight barrier. The suits have a second layer

of Cordura fabric over the seat, knee and shin areas. This added layer helps protect the suit and the wearer to reduce the impact should any sharp objects try to penetrate through. Furthermore, as standard Hammond use the stronger 8bdm (8 teeth per inch) neoprene coated metal dry zip, an elasticated rear waist, and a suit bag to keep the suit protected when not being worn. The suit is available in a range of standard sizes as well as made-to-measure.

Optional extras include replacing the latex seals with neoprene ones for added comfort.

The latex socks can be replaced with Bekina Steplight X Safety Boots. To further customise the drysuits, they are available in a variety of colours and include reflective strips to increase visibility. They can be branded with appropriate corporate logos and individual names.



Hammond also meet the needs of professional dive teams, including the police force, who fully submerge themselves in water with diving equipment, with the Pro-Elite drysuit. Made from robust Condura material, this suit is equipped with a wealth of extras as standard. This dive suit, with similar features to the SR140, has the addition of a dump valve and an inflation valve. This is Hammond's top of the range diving suit, designed with the expert diver in mind.

Hammond believes that one size does not fit all and before purchasing a new drysuit, it is important to take time to research the options available. When it comes to sizing, in the winter more layers are worn than in the summer and this should be taken into consideration. Many drysuits are designed with convenience in mind, so look at what comes as standard and what options there are to adapt it to meet your needs. For instance, neoprene seals may be more comfortable against the skin than latex.

"Our goal at Hammond is to make a suit that will last," comments Chris Hammond, Managing Director. "We have customers who continue to bring their suits in for service 25 years after they first purchased it."

Hammond Drysuits see themselves as an extended part of your team. As well as making new drysuits, they maintain the suits through regular servicing and repairs, making sure they will keep you dry and not let you down when you need them the most.

Hammond pride themselves in their customer service, speak to the team about how they can work with you. Visit www.hammond-drysuits.co.uk for more details.

Fleet Safety should never be compromised

Nikkalite® from Rennicks – Designed for Emergency Services Vehicles



Rennicks, the UK's leading distributor of retroreflective and reflective materials for vehicle conspicuity, are passionate about keeping our emergency services safe on the roads.

Nic Richell, National Sales Manager at Rennicks said, "The conspicuity of a vehicle depends on its ability to stand out from its surroundings. Therefore, when choosing the material, you should ensure it's the brightest on the market."

Nikkalite® Flexible Crystal Grade from Rennicks is designed for use with emergency services vehicles. With clear visibility in all conditions it's very conspicuous, enabling early recognition of the vehicle's position to other road users.

The prisms within the material have been developed to provide optimum reflection. Each cm² of the prism layer contains in excess of 5k micro-prisms accurately aligned. As a result, it delivers outstanding reflectivity at long and short distances as well as narrow and wide angle entrances, ensuring drivers and pedestrians can see the approaching emergency services vehicle well in advance.

Nic continued, "Nikkalite® materials are extensively used throughout the UK by the Emergency Services. Their prominent reflective properties and outstanding colour pigments ensure Nikkalite® continues to be one of the leading retroreflective materials available on the vehicle livery market."

Rennicks insist fleet safety should never be compromised. "The better your conspicuity, the more safety you have. Don't compromise. It's all about keeping our emergency services and the public, safe."

Nikkalite® Flexible Crystal Grade is listed in the PSDB 14/04 document, which was put together by the team at CAST, upon their extensive research into conspicuity suitability for all emergency service vehicles.

IFE appoints new Chief Executive Officer

The Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) is pleased to announce it has appointed Dr Graham Cory as its new CEO.

Graham, who joined the Institution on 1st November 2017, was a senior civil servant before his appointment as CEO of The British Horse Society. Here he increased membership and won numerous awards for an organisation whose professional qualifications are internationally recognised and acclaimed. He also expanded its overseas operations, transformed its finances and modernised its administration.

Graham commented: "I am proud to be joining an organisation whose expertise is acknowledged worldwide. Perhaps it is my distance from the organisational status quo, and from "the way things have always been done", that gives me an advantage in identifying and capitalising on opportunities for growth and for the further promulgation of fire-related science and technical know-how. My new colleagues across the piece will ensure that the Institution's knowledge-based reputation is maintained: my purpose is to facilitate their work.

"If I understand one thing only, it is that change is the one alternative to creeping irrelevance. Professionalism across the fire sector, from academe to frontline practical, is not merely a commitment to high standards; it is a recognition



of a moral and ethical commitment to providing a thoroughly up-to-date, relevant, cutting edge public service. That recognition must provide IFE's impulse."

Peter Wilkinson, IFE Chairman, added: "We are delighted that Graham is joining the IFE. We look forward to working with him and seeing his ideas and fresh perspective to help shape the IFE's future, especially as we enter our centenary year.

"We are massively indebted to Neil Gibbins for his leadership and strategic direction over the last period as CEO. He took on the role when the Institution



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needed him most and he has remained dedicated to the task throughout. We know that Neil will remain a close adviser to the Institution to provide a smooth transition for as long as we need."

About the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE):

The IFE is a global professional membership body of fire experts striving to build a safer society. As a registered charity founded in 1918, the IFE assesses knowledge of fire and professional experience, awarding internationally recognised membership grades and fire-related qualifications. The IFE delivers over 6,000 exams annually which are recognised in the UK and internationally. Managed for fire professionals by fire professionals, the IFE aims to promote, encourage and improve the science, practice and professionalism of fire engineering.

For further information about the IFE please visit our website:
www.ife.org.uk
or for enquiries please email
communications@ife.org.uk



Picture shows
London Fire
Brigade USAR
Crews at work
during the annual
UKRO event



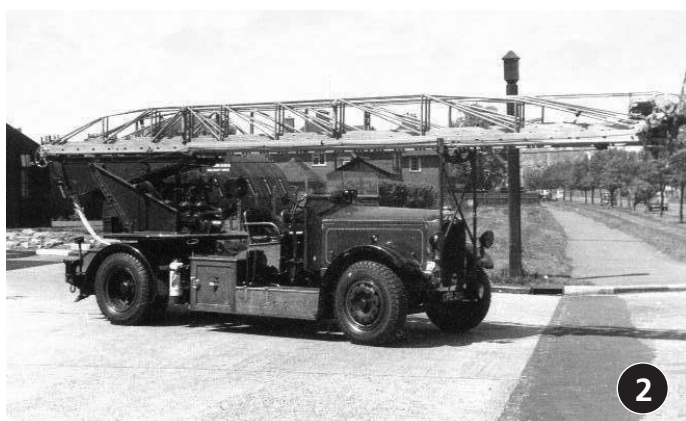
Another look at more historic fire engines...



1

1. A 1919 Dennis pump escape of London Fire Brigade pictured at the then LFB HQ at Southwark
2. A 1935 Albion Merryweather 70ft turntable ladder pictured post war serving with Surrey Fire Brigade
3. A number of 3 wheeled Scammell units and trailer pumps were issued to the AFS by the Home Office in 1938 to assist the fire protection of major commercial premises. One of these survives in the collection of the Fire Services National Museum Trust.
4. Who remembers the entry of Shelvoke Drewry into the fire engine market? This 1978 pump is pictured at the Cheshire Fire Engineering factory during road tests.

Images from the Steve Stratton Library and Neil Wallington's collection



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5. 1940 ATV;

One of many Austin K2 Auxiliary Towing Vehicles (ATV's) with trailer pump issued to the AFS by the Home Office that saw service throughout WWII and into the 1950s.

6. Street Fire Alarm

A reminder of a street fire alarm once a familiar sight in cities and towns across the UK between the wars. Malcolm Tovey, former Leicestershire FRS Sub Officer and member of the Fire Services National Museum Trust looks the part.

7. Dennis F106

This immaculately restored 1966 London Fire Brigade Dennis F106 pump escape was one of many of that time running as the standard rescue and pumping appliance of the LFB.

Images courtesy of the Fire Services National Museum Trust.

Fire service welcomes new recruits



The newest firefighters to join Hertfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service officially passed out from their basic training at Longfield Training Centre, Stevenage on Saturday 14th October.

Chief Fire Officer Darryl Keen formally welcomed 20 trainee firefighters into their roles following 15 weeks of intensive training, watched by proud family and friends.

Darryl said: "I would like to congratulate all the new recruits and welcome them to their new roles. They stand at the beginning of a unique career which offers them an exceptional range of opportunities and experiences They have worked extremely hard to achieve

the high standards we expect from our firefighters and complete this challenging course. They will now play a key role in their stations across the county to help keep the people of Hertfordshire safe."

Colin Woodward, Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Safety, said: "These new recruits should be very proud of themselves for completing this challenging training, proving their dedication.

"Each one of them has gained an essential grounding in the diverse range of skills needed to be an effective firefighter. These include both operational work and fire prevention, as they will spend a lot of their time in the community, educating members of the public about fire hazards

as well as fighting fires I'm sure they will make a great contribution to their stations and the local communities they serve."

During the course the trainees worked hard to achieve the high standards of skills and abilities necessary for the role. The course covered essential subjects such as firecraft, breathing apparatus, fire behaviour and tactical ventilation, road traffic collision, first aid and trauma care Their training will now continue at their individual stations where they will maintain and develop these skills.

At the same event, the fire service also welcomed six new fire control operators who will answer 999 calls and manage the emergency response from the service control centre in Stevenage.

Ware fire engine named after ex-firefighter

Ware's fire engine has been named 'Ernie' in honour of former auxiliary firefighter Ernest Coxall, who was stationed at Ware during the Second World War.

Ernie left £10,000 to Ware fire station in his will and, following discussions with the executors, the money has been split three ways between the Firefighters Charity, a fund to support Community Protection volunteering and the installation of a public access defibrillator at Ware fire station.

The newly named fire engine and community access defibrillator were both unveiled at the fire station earlier this month at an event attended by members of Ernie's family.

The installation of the defibrillator was made possible by the combination of Ernie's bequest, a donation from the Ware-based operation GSK and fundraising events held across the year. It requires no training to use, with easy to follow voice instructions, and will now be available to help anyone suffering a cardiac arrest in the area.

Chief Fire Officer Darryl Keen said: "We were surprised and delighted to receive

Ernie's generous bequest. Auxiliary firefighters like Ernie played a hugely important role during the war and talking to Ernie's family it's clear he loved the job and the difference it made to his community. We've made sure to use the

money in the spirit it was left to us, by using it to help keep the people of Ware safe and to support current and former firefighters, like Ernie. Naming the fire engine after Ernie was the least we could do to thank him for his generosity."



Firefighters and Ernie's relatives at the unveiling

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