

SUMMER 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:

Heroes All. Of all the images that emerged during the Grenfell Tower fire on 14th June 2017, this photograph of just one exhausted London firefighter captures the heroic physical efforts of all the 200 plus firefighters of London Fire Brigade and other supporting brigades as they worked relentlessly during that fateful night. See Page 5.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Grenfell Tower 14 June 2017

One of the worst fire tragedies in modern British history

The fire was first reported in a 4th floor kitchen at the 24 storey Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, West London, at 00:54 hrs on 14 June and rapidly escalated into a major incident with an attendance of 40 pumps and supporting appliances with more than 200 firefighters tackling the blaze.

Described as one of the worst fire tragedies in modern British history, the aggressive external and internal spread of flames right up the tower block was probably unprecedented in its speed as it completely involved most of Grenfell Tower's floors.

It took until 01:14 hrs the following day to finally bring the smouldering tower structure under control, with the fire having severely involved most floors of the building and destroyed 151 homes, both in the tower and in the surrounding areas.

The Metropolitan Police said that while 80 people are currently presumed to have died, the final toll will not be known until at least the end of the year.

Metropolitan Police Commander Stuart Cundy said there is "a risk that sadly we may not be able to identify everybody". On 5 July he announced that the last of the visible human remains had been forensically recovered from the building. On 12 July, Westminster Coroner Dr. Fiona Wilcox said that so far 34 victims had been identified.

The Metropolitan Police say it believes there were about 255 survivors from the fire. Extensive investigations have led them to conclude 350 people should have been in the tower block on the night of the fire.



Fourteen residents were not in the building at the time, leaving at least 80 people presumed dead or missing.

The Cause of the Fire

The fire started in a Hotpoint fridge freezer in a 4th floor kitchen, but police said it was not started deliberately, thus indicating the fire was of electrical origin. Footage has shown the fire spreading up one side of the building externally, before engulfing the entire block. Owners of a white Hotpoint fridge freezer model number FF175BP or graphite fridge freezer model number FF175BG should ring 0800 316 3826 or visit the Hotpoint website.

The External Cladding

The external cladding - installed on Grenfell Tower during a recent renovation - has come under extensive scrutiny, with experts saying a more fire-resistant type could have been used. Both the cladding

and insulation on the outside of the building failed all preliminary tests by the police. The insulation samples burned more quickly than the cladding tiles.

Documents obtained by the BBC suggest the cladding fitted during its refurbishment was changed to a cheaper version. They show the zinc cladding originally proposed was replaced with an aluminium type, which was less fire resistant, saving nearly £300,000.

Cladding can create cavities which in some cases can cause a chimney effect, drawing flames up the cavity if there are no fire barriers. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) said composite aluminium panels with a polyethylene core should not be used as cladding on buildings over 18m high.

With plans for a Public Inquiry under way together with other specific technical investigations, the Metropolitan Police has said it will consider manslaughter, health and safety, and fire safety charges.

The Refurbishment of the Tower

Grenfell Tower was built in 1974 by Kensington and Chelsea London Borough Council. An £8.6m refurbishment - which was part of a wider transformation of the surrounding estate - was completed by Rydon Construction in May 2016. Work included new exterior cladding, replacement windows and a communal heating system. There was also extensive remodelling of the bottom four floors, creating seven additional homes, and improvements to communal facilities.



The firefighting heroes of Grenfell Tower



Much has rightly been said about the courage and bravery of the 200 London Fire Brigade (LFB) firefighters and those from other surrounding Brigades involved with the challenging rescue and firefighting operations during the Grenfell Tower inferno.

BA crews and some individual firefighters in BA braved very intense heat and smoke conditions close to the spreading fire to get up to some of the upper floors to rescue casualties and alert many other residents to the spreading fire and its dangers.

Bravery and gallantry in the Fire Service goes back to the 18th century and the first properly organised brigades, and remains an integral quality of modern-day firefighters up and down the country. Recalling the dreadful hours as the Grenfell Tower tragedy unfolded, the media rightly called the firefighting crews heroes, just as fireman have been termed heroes across the ages.

In fact, the mantra of Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, the-then Chief Fire Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (the forerunner of the LFB) and famous pioneer of some basic firefighting methods is still valid today. Shaw served London for 30 years and in 1866 said:

"A fireman, to be successful, must enter buildings. He must get in below, above, on every side, from opposite houses, over back walls, over side walls, through panels of doors, through windows, through skylights, through holes cut in gates, walls, and the roof. He must know how to reach the attic from the basement by ladders placed on half-burned stairs, and the basement from the attic by a rope made fast on a chimney. His whole success depends on his getting in and remaining there, and he must also carry his equipment with him....."

A 1971 Government Inquiry into the British Fire Service was led by Sir Charles Cunningham. (Home Office Cmd.4807). The Inquiry report concluded that:

A fireman must have some special personal qualities. He must have physical courage. On occasions he must voluntarily face extremities of danger which confront few other



With fresh relief crews arriving at the scene, a group of weary firefighters who have been wearing breathing apparatus in some horrendous and dangerous heat and smoke conditions inside the tower re-hydrate themselves in a resting and recovery area.

people in time of peace. It is the element of risk and the demand for courage which set the fireman's job apart from others.

But bravery is not the only personal quality needed. A fireman must be able to work as part of a closely integrated team, the watch to which he belongs. He must be prepared to obey orders without question, especially at an emergency incident. At the same time he must be able to show initiative when working on his own. All of these qualities may be needed in other occupations; but we know of none in which, together with courage in the face of danger, they are needed in combination to such a degree as in the Fire Service.

I proudly served in the London Fire Brigade for almost 20 years before commanding a large county Fire & Rescue Service, and

personally know only too well that the historic comments above still apply to the regular work of the men and women firefighters of the 21st century.

The bravery and gallantry of the firefighting crews at Grenfell Tower was in the very highest traditions of the British Fire Service. I do earnestly hope that their collective rescue work during that terrible night will be properly recognised.

Neil Wallington

In Attendance will be reporting further on the progress of the Grenfell Tower Public and other Inquiries and their outcomes in future editions of the magazine.



Later in the day several London Fire Brigade crews who were first to attend Grenfell Tower and have now been relieved are applauded by local residents as they return to their respective fire stations.

Crofton showcases latest fire training towers and aircraft fire simulators at ESS 2017

Stand K85, The Emergency Services Show NEC Birmingham, 20–21 September

Crofton Engineering, the specialist fabricator and installer of fire training buildings and live fire simulators, will showcase its most recent UK installations including its latest fire training towers and aircraft fire simulator on Stand K85 at The Emergency Services Show at the NEC, Birmingham, 20–21 September.

With renewed interest in high rise training after the Grenfell Tower fire, show visitors may be particularly interested in Crofton's recent installations for Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service including the Basingstoke High Rise Tower, commissioned after the report into the incident at Shirley Towers in Southampton.

Crofton has also recently equipped the new Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Lymm Safety Centre with a variety of equipment including a Specialist Rope Rescue Tower, as well as rope rescue, SWAH (Safe Work at Height), silo & roof ladder training at the service's Penketh facility and a new training tower at Powey Lane. It is currently working on a new high rise tower and smoke house for Surrey Fire & Rescue Service at Fordbridge Road.

The company is currently fabricating and installing a new 3-storey 10-container CFBT (Compartment Fire Behaviour Training) Unit for live fire training for Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service's new Joint Training Centre. The new installation includes an attack unit, window unit, a demonstration unit and timber storage unit.



Crofton recently constructed a fixed rescue training and firefighting (ARFF) trainer at Exeter Airport in partnership with FireBlast Global, the airport's first purpose-built firefighting training simulator. Crofton project managed the construction and installation of the new simulator and manufactured the fuselage, tail, cradle and steps. The trainer will enable the airport to carry out a wide range of live fire aircraft simulations and features a wide wing on one side with jet engine simulator, and a narrow wing and propeller engine simulator on the other side.

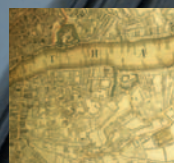
Standard and bespoke designs for all aspects of emergency services' training from Crofton Engineering include: traditional ladder drills, rope rescue, safe working at height, breathing apparatus, urban search and rescue, aircraft and ship simulators. All can be specified incorporating hot and cold smoke, carbonaceous fires and LPG technologies.

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New boat to help train for water rescues

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) are the first service in the country to take advantage of a new, larger training boat.

The boat, purchased from Excel boats, is a 5.3 metre rigid inflatable with a 40hp two-stroke motor and features powerful navigation lights. The boat will be used by the Service's training department to complete boat operation training and refresher courses for existing water rescue trained firefighters.

The boat will be used alongside the existing 3.9 metre boat which is currently used for both training and attending water rescues. The new boat can accommodate more people so will allow more firefighters to be trained at a time, as well as carrying all the equipment needed to carry out a water rescue.



**Staffordshire
Fire and Rescue Service**
preventing • protecting • responding

Matt Jenkinson, SFRS trainer, said: "Although it is very good for its purpose, the existing boat we use for training isn't very big and it can be called away at any time to attend emergency incidents.

"The new boat will allow us to carry out a much more effective training programme without the worry of the boat being needed elsewhere. It will also

mean that we can run courses for more firefighters at a time as it can carry more people.

"This is a really exciting addition to our training equipment and it will be really beneficial in preparing firefighters for the varied water rescue situations they may be faced with in real life."

Driving examiner trainer country's first

A Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service driver trainer has passed a course to become the country's first driving examiner trainer outside of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) or Ministry of Defence.

Rowan Kitton recently completed an intensive five week course at the DVSA's training centre in Cardington, Bedfordshire, and is now qualified to train emergency service examiners.

Rowan has worked as the Service's delegated driving examiner for over 10 years, testing numerous firefighters so they are able to drive fire appliances under emergency response conditions.



He has also instigated innovative collaborative work with the DVSA to open Stone and Cannock Community Fire Stations as public driving test centres.

Rowan said: "Prior to me qualifying as an examiner trainer the DVSA and Ministry of Defence were responsible for providing training to emergency service examiners.

"Because of my close work with them (DVSA), they approached me to see if I would like to expand our collaborative working by training to become an examiner trainer and I gladly accepted this amazing opportunity.

"To say the course was a challenge would be an understatement. After thankfully learning that I had got through, I found that candidates only have a 15-20 per cent chance of passing! The responsibility of being an examiner trainer is huge so they really have to scrutinise my ability to pay close attention to detail and be methodical under pressure.

"I'm really pleased that I can now provide examiner training for all emergency services around the country, bringing exciting new revenue to the Service's Community Interest Company (CIC).

"I look forward to training the first examiners who will embark on a course with me in Staffordshire between May and June."

DVSA Chief Driving Examiner Lesley Young said: "Becoming a Large Goods Vehicle examiner trainer is one of our most challenging and demanding courses and we are pleased Rowan has passed the course.

"Those who train examiners require comprehensive knowledge and a high level of driving skill, along with the ability to teach others.

"Trainers like Rowan will make sure the emergency services have the qualified drivers they need and their knowledge and skills are kept up to date."

Charity places spotlight on enabling good mental health



The
Fire Fighters
Charity

The Fire Fighters Charity has pledged to expand its services to support emotional wellbeing over the next three years, ensuring that it has the resources in place to reach and support more people with concerns about their mental health.

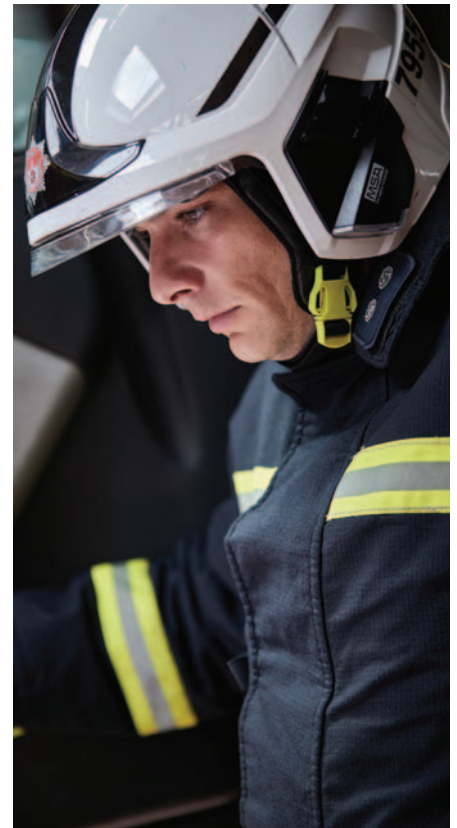
Committed to increasing the amount of support it can offer its beneficiaries, The Fire Fighters Charity launched its Strategic Plan for 2017–20 earlier this year, outlining its plans to boost the services it provides to support and enable positive emotional health and wellbeing, utilising new technologies to provide people with earlier access to effective support.

In February 2016, the Charity signed Mind, the mental health charity's Blue Light Time To Change Associations pledge, joining a growing number of emergency service employers, associations and support organisations in showing its commitment to ending mental health stigma and discrimination in the workplace.



Speaking about the Charity's continued commitment to addressing the fact that 85% of fire and rescue service staff and volunteers have experienced some aspect of poor mental health, Chief Executive Dr Jill Tolfrey said at the time; "Early intervention and support is so important in regards to mental health at work. Over the coming years we will be working to explore new ways in which we can support the fire community, not only at our centres but also in the community and in people's homes. We want to be able to help people early, to help them build resilience ensuring we can help reduce the time they are away from work and equipping them with the tools they need to better understand and support their own emotional wellbeing."

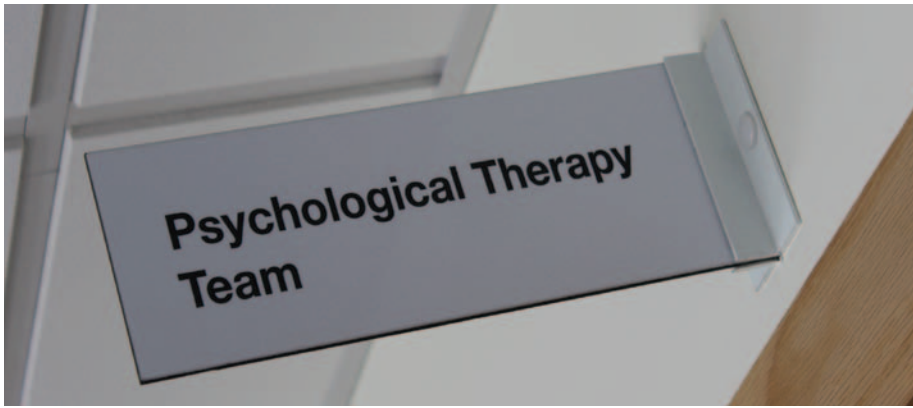
Since the launch of its Strategic Plan, however, the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower in London has cast fresh light



on the need for support to tackle the invisible injuries that may be carried by firefighters following their exposure to traumatic incidents. The Fire Fighters Charity has been overwhelmed by the generosity of the general public in the weeks that followed, receiving tens of thousands of pounds in donations and numerous gifts in kind, including the donation of holiday accommodation from hotel and cottage owners across the UK, which will be used to provide recuperation for fire personnel affected by this tragedy.

The Charity also reached out directly to fire and rescue services across the country following events in London, to remind them that it exists to support their personnel, both past and present, and their families through the provision of a range of support services for both physical and emotional needs. The Charity also provides recuperation breaks and easily accessible advice,





information and support. This remains the case today and the Charity's Services Access Line can be reached on 0800 389 8820 for anyone feeling stressed or anxious, or in any way troubled by a shout or incident they may have attended, or dealt with over the phone if working in control. The same applies for anyone across the fire community experiencing uncomfortable memories or thoughts following recent events.

Further reflecting on the Charity's plans to boost support for emotional health and wellbeing over the next three years, Chair of The Fire Fighters Charity, Andrew Lynch, added: "Working in traumatic situations inevitably has some impact on an individual's mental health, sometimes this can be long

lasting but as these injuries are not visible they often go undiagnosed and untreated. Personnel across our fire and rescue services undertake just such work, from frontline firefighters who attend incidents to control room operators who answer 999 calls from the public. We know that offering support early is the best way to help reduce the long lasting impact of such events. So, as a Charity that exists to support all of them in their times of need, it is only right that we shine a light on these invisible injuries and do all we can to support the individuals affected, as well as their families. The Board of Trustees is therefore fully behind the Charity's plans to increase its mental health support over the next three years."



Representatives from The Fire Fighters Charity will be holding a seminar at the forthcoming Emergency Services Show in September. The session – Enabling Positive Mental Health in the Fire Community – will be held from 12–12.30pm on Wednesday 20 September at the Show, which is being held at the NEC in Birmingham. The Charity will also have a stand at the Show, where team members will be on hand to answer any questions you may have in regards to how the Charity can support those with mental health concerns.



You can access the The Fire Fighters Charity support services by visiting their website:

www.firefighterscharity.org.uk

or calling their services access helpline on 0800 389 8820

(open 8am–6pm from Monday to Friday and 9am–5pm on Saturday).

Access the latest expertise & equipment at the UK's largest event for emergency services

The Emergency Services Show, Hall 5, NEC, Birmingham, 20–21 September 2017

Returning to Hall 5 at the NEC from 20th to 21st September 2017, The Emergency Services Show offers fire fighters access to the very best knowledge, training, technology, kit and support networks to prepare for future incidents and keep the public safe. All aspects of The Emergency Services Show, including the exhibition, CPD-accredited seminars, and interactive challenges are free-to-attend, as is parking at the venue. Register now for free entry at: www.emergencyuk.com

Grenfell Tower Fire

Expertise in fire safety, rescue techniques and the latest firefighting equipment can be found around the show and is likely to be of heightened interest in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire. Visitors will be able to speak to the likes of the Fire Industry Association and Fire Sector Federation who will have representatives from BSI and British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association on their stand. The latest developments in breathing apparatus and lighting solutions will be showcased by suppliers around the hall while outside, Emergency One/Clan Tools will be demonstrating the high reach of its turntable ladders. In the Lessons Learnt Theatre (sponsored by UCLan PROTECT), the British Red Cross will talk about its response to the fire in the high-rise tower block, how it worked with



and supported the local community and how this ties in with its new Community Reserve Volunteering project.

Free CPD-Accredited Seminars

The free CPD-accredited seminar programmes will have a strong focus on learning from past incidents and collaborating to protect the public and save lives. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service will lead a session on the Wirral gas explosion, with co-speakers from Merseyside Police and Northwest Ambulance Service. There will also be a multi-agency case study of the Didcot Power Station building collapse.

A new Health & Wellbeing seminar theatre will cover issues such as mental health and health and safety. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service for example will present a session on supporting firefighters dealing with the emotional impact of Emergency Medical Response and delegates will hear personal stories from emergency services personnel living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Visitors will also be updated on

the blue light wellbeing framework for all emergency services being developed by The College of Policing in conjunction with Public Health England.

Innovations in command and control and PPE will be covered in the Innovations Theatre. Visitors can also find out about the latest developments in drones and robotics and the research and development work being undertaken by Hampshire Fire & Rescue Services in partnership with the Home Office Centre for Applied Science and Technology.

The College of Paramedics will once again deliver a programme of free 30-minute CPD workshops which fire and rescue personnel are welcome to attend.

New Road Safety Feature with Extrication and Trauma Challenges

West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) will be running an Extrication Challenge, supported and judged by the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation. The Challenge will provide an arena for some of the UK's best rescue personnel to come together and develop their proficiency levels in all areas of Road Traffic Collision (RTC) rescue. Scenarios will include a car on its wheels, a car on its side and a car on its roof, and vehicles will have heavy and complex damage along with a 'live' casualty trapped inside. Spectators will have the opportunity to get close up to the action, with a viewing area just a few metres from the simulation.

Meanwhile WMFS will hold their annual First Aid and Trauma Challenge at The Emergency Services Show for the first time this year. Competing teams will experience visual and audio from an actual incident that has been set up and filmed specifically for the scenario in an Educational Immersive Tent. WMFS Casualty Simulation Group will be providing casualties with realistic make-up and prosthetics.





In Attendance

THE MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH FIREFIGHTER



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In Attendance and On The Bell are circulated every quarter to Fire & Rescue, Police, and Ambulance Services throughout the United Kingdom.

We continue to welcome your Press Releases that can include reports of operational incidents, and news of new vehicles and equipment, new premises, training, personnel including appointments and retirements, fund raising, sporting and social events.

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or visit: www.inattendance.co.uk
or www.onthebell.co.uk**

Running alongside the extrication and trauma challenges will be a dedicated Road Safety seminar programme. Speakers include the Road Rescue Recovery Association which will be explaining how road recovery firms have knowledge, expertise and resources which can assist the fire and rescue services at the scene of a RTC. Highways England will highlight the dangers contained within a car that could impact how rescuers respond to incidents. WMFS, in partnership with various vehicle manufacturers, will provide visitors with specialist information on the latest rescue tool equipment, new vehicle technology, high strength steel, airbags, SRS, hybrid and full electric vehicles and road safety.

See and Handle Latest Equipment

Around the indoor and outdoor exhibition visitors will be able to see and handle the latest kit and discuss their needs with suppliers. These include many companies exhibiting at The Emergency Services Show for the first time including APT Fabrics, Beeswift, BSP Hydraulics, Fordingbridge PLC, Jaama, Pika International, Rewards for Rescue, The Triscan Group, Pro-Cloud Bluelight and London Fire Brigade Enterprises. The organisers are glad to welcome back key suppliers including BMW, Bristol Uniforms, Excelerate, Jaguar Land Rover, John Dennis Coachbuilders and VimpeX. Other familiar names include Scott Safety which will be showcasing its latest in-mask thermal imaging technology intelligence system, Scott Sight, and Primetech which will exhibit its latest demountable MultiPod + system for pick-up vehicles with the Cobra high pressure lance-based firefighting system.



Many exhibitors will be demonstrating solutions and technology on their stands and water rescue demonstrations will take place on the Pendigo Lake outside the exhibition hall.

Collaborate for Savings and Better Products

In the networking hub of the show, The Collaboration Zone, over 80 voluntary groups, charities and NGOs will be sharing details of the support they offer. These include the CFOA National Procurement Group which is co-hosting its stand with representatives from the Home Office and Police Commercial (CLEP) and will be sharing details of the Fire Commercial Transformation Programme which covers clothing, construction and facilities management, fleet, ICT, operational equipment and professional services. Meanwhile in the Innovations Theatre, Kent Fire & Rescue Service will share details of the Collaborative PPE Project.

The UK Fire and Resilience Offer

Recognising the growing interest from abroad in the British fire protection and fire safety excellence, The Emergency Services Show has this year secured the support of the Joint International Fire Board (JIFB) and will work closely with them to develop overseas opportunities.

Register

Entry to the exhibition and seminars, as well as parking, is free. The NEC is linked to Birmingham International Station and Birmingham Airport and is directly accessible from the UK motorway network.

**To register for free entry visit:
www.emergencyuk.com**

Suffolk's Mercedes-Benz Unimogs save lives and reduce costs



1,500-litre water tank with pump and hose reel.

Fire chiefs in Suffolk have enhanced their ability to deal with a wide variety of incidents in difficult-to-access locations by commissioning three all-terrain Mercedes-Benz Unimogs.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's 14-tonne gvw U423s are based in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds, and Lowestoft. They have replaced the Unimogs on which the authority had relied for more than 30 years to undertake large animal rescues and fight fires on heaths and scrubland.

Neil Elmy, Fleet & Equipment Manager for Suffolk Fire and Rescue, explained: "Our previous vehicles gave outstanding service but we'd reached the point at which we needed to update them with modern, well engineered equipment which would enhance firefighter safety. If that new equipment could also maximise the authority's return on its investment by offering additional, enhanced capabilities, so much the better."

Supplied by Arthur Ibbett, of St Neots, Cambridgeshire, a Unimog Dealer since 1971, the new 4x4 chassis are powered by advanced 170 kW (231 hp) Euro VI engines. They are fitted with dropside bodies by Guildford-based fire engine specialist John Dennis Coachbuilders, Palfinger PK 9001-EH high performance cranes supplied and fitted by TH White, of Devizes, Wiltshire, and 6.0-tonne Bushey Hall winches.

The cranes are used primarily to rescue horses and other large animals that have become trapped in water or other hazards, with equipment such as strops, harnesses and skid boards, which is carried in a dedicated locker.

They also lift mission-specific demountable 'pods' on and off the vehicles. One, a 'rescue pod', contains an inventory for use by Suffolk's swift water rescue teams – as an extension to the Unimog's role, the new vehicles also tow rigid inflatable boats (RIBs). A second pod is a

Removal of the pods means the deck can be used to transport vital equipment which can be used, for example, when responding to train or aircraft crashes that may occur at inaccessible locations.

"The Unimog is not cheap but it is actually a highly cost-effective piece of equipment," concluded Neil Elmy. "An unrivalled combination of all-terrain performance, agility and adaptability makes it the perfect platform for a variety of applications and means that in our case it does the job of several different vehicles rolled into one."

The off-road heritage of the iconic Unimog stretches back more than 70 years. Since the first model was launched in 1946, constant development by Mercedes-Benz engineers has kept it at the forefront of the off-road pack and today it is widely acknowledged as the world's leading all-terrain vehicle, with a reputation forged in the harshest operating conditions.

There are two core variants: an implement carrier – as chosen by Suffolk Fire and Rescue – with front, side and rear attachment points, and a base truck for a range of other bodies. All Unimogs have 4x4 chassis with single rear wheels, which follow the track created by the front wheels. Gross weights vary from 7.5 to 16 tonnes and engine outputs from 156 hp to 300 hp.

www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service





Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Councillor Colin Dudley cuts the ribbon, alongside the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, Anthony Stansfeld, and Councillor Angus Ross, Lead Member for Strategic Asset Management on the Fire Authority.

Royal Berkshire's first community tri-service station opens in Hungerford

Hungerford Community Fire Station has officially opened following a major refurbishment which began in November 2016.

The refurbishment has not only delivered a modern, fit-for-purpose fire station, but it has also delivered Royal Berkshire's first community tri-service station, providing shared facilities for Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS), Thames Valley Police (TVP) and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

To mark the opening, a ceremony was held on Monday 3 July, where Councillor Colin Dudley, Chairman of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) officially opened the station.

Councillor Dudley said: "There are many reasons to be proud of Hungerford Community Fire Station. Not only is it Royal Berkshire's first station to house all three emergency services, it is a modern, fit-for-purpose station in the heart of the community it serves.

"Of course, a station is made of more than just bricks and mortar and its success depends squarely upon our firefighters, staff and partners, who work tirelessly to

ensure we have emergency cover in our time of need."

The project has been planned by RBFRS and funded by the Fire Authority to help RBFRS deliver objectives set out in its vision. One of the central intentions is to place Berkshire's fire stations at the heart of the communities that they serve, enabling people to live safe, fulfilling lives.

The completion of Hungerford Community Fire Station follows a shared commitment to collaboration on property sharing and co-location which was agreed by TVP, SCAS and the three fire and rescue services of the Thames Valley in 2015.

Councillor Angus Ross, Lead Member for Strategic Asset Management said: "Through our efforts to improve collaboration with our blue light partners, RBFRS will be able to deliver a higher quality and more efficient service. This whole project has demonstrated that by careful preparation and close cooperation by all the partners, we can provide so much more.

"This collaborative approach extends beyond Hungerford and we are exploring other opportunities for co-location of

Blue Light services across the rest of Royal Berkshire. Hungerford can serve as a beacon to demonstrate what we can achieve when we work together."

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld said: "I am really pleased to see the opening of the Hungerford Community Fire Station. The co-location of the TVP and RBFRS in the Fire Station, working in partnership, will improve their joint operational effectiveness and provide a true 'blue light service' community facility for the benefit of the people of Hungerford."

Philip Astle, Chief Operating Officer at SCAS said: "We look forward to continuing to work closely in partnership with our RBFRS colleagues at Hungerford, sharing experiences and learning from each other to provide excellent patient care and security to the local community."

The station has reopened with facilities that allow it to be much more than a base from which firefighters respond. As well as a fit-for-purpose station to house a fire engine, firefighters' modern equipment and provide a hub for police and SCAS colleagues, there will be training facilities, a community room and a gym to support the community's firefighters in maintaining their fitness standards.

The community room has been added to provide a flexible and modern space for members of the public to book. The room includes a meeting table and chairs, as well as a television monitor that can be connected to a laptop for presentations.

Hungerford Community Fire Station was delivered by RBFRS with technical design and project management services from HLM Architects, Ridge and Partners and Clegg Associates. The build was completed by Beard Construction.

The new station opened its doors to the public on Saturday, 8 July for a community open day. The day provided an opportunity for people to see the new station.



ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



“Seeing so much **new kit** under one roof is a day well spent.”

Andrew Reilly, Firefighter,
North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service

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Another choice for rescuers: straight blades or inclined?

by Ian Dunbar,
Independent Rescue Consultant

"The best thing about knowledge is passing it on".



Ian Dunbar,
Independent Rescue Consultant
and member of the BTCC
Extrication Team.

Hydraulic cutters have evolved greatly over the last 40 years, mainly due to changes in vehicle construction and technology. Cars are stronger and stiffer, and have wider profiles. These changes have been reflected in the way cutters look and feel. What has revolutionised cutter design in the last two years however, is the focus on the user of the tool in addition to the construction of the vehicles upon which it will be used.

Reduction of physical burden

Vehicle extrication is stressful, both physically and mentally. Any reduction in this burden can only make the process safer, easier and more effective for the patients trapped. Reducing the physical burden can be done in a number of ways. The most obvious, but technically challenging, is a reduction of tool weight. A lighter tool makes the process easier and reduces physical stress. Closely linked to weight is ergonomics, and this is where the greatest change has taken place.

Inclined cutter blades

The result of closely studying how a rescuer uses a hydraulic cutter has been simple but revolutionary: incline the blades by 30 degrees. By making the user the focus of the design, rescuers now have a new choice when it comes to purchasing a cutter: straight blades or inclined. The two principal advantages of inclined cutting are improved ergonomics and additional working space.

More ergonomics

Extrication does not simply involve using a cutter (or any tool) in a comfortable, waist height position standing perpendicular



The angled blade design of an inclined cutter reduces the physical burden when cutting high or low on the car.

to the vehicle. More often than not, a tool has to be used above waist (or even head) height and conversely there are many applications where the tool has to be used low down. Making relief cuts into the roof or the sill/rocker channel are the most common examples of this. The angled blades of an inclined cutter reduce the burden that is associated with such tool use and still effecting the same cut that a 'straight' cutter would achieve. For the user this means there is less reaching up high or bending down during extrication.



More room between tool and car construction with an Inclined Cutter.

Additional working space

The design and construction of modern vehicles presents stronger, stiffer and wider profiles. This is especially evident in A pillars (low down adjacent to the foot well) and B pillars, where they meet the sill/rocker channel. If we take the example of making a relief cut low down on an A pillar, as necessary during the preparations for a dash roll or dash lift, then the inclined cutter greatly reduces the effect of any tool movement towards the interior of the vehicle. The same advantage can be gained when cutting low on a B pillar, e.g. when performing a side removal. In addition, the angled blades allow more efficient cutting. This is due to the fact that with an inclined cutter, the B pillar can be cut by approaching from the side and penetrating it where its profile is narrowest. The inclined cutter's 360-degree carrying handle ensures that the angled jaw advantage can be realised in any position and on either side of the vehicle.

More information: holmatro.com/inclined

UKFSC 2018 – UK Firefighters

Set Sail in 2018



UKFSC 2018 will be the 15th United Kingdom Firefighters Sailing Challenge.

Taking place in The Solent from the 7th to the 10th of May 2018, a fleet of 30 identical 40' racing yachts each with crews of 8-10 from fire services, police, ambulance and other emergency services and industry sponsors will compete in another action-packed, fun-filled sailing regatta.

The UK's south coast offers challenging waters between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight for the largest firefighter participation sporting event in the country. Participants include Firefighters to Chief Officers and colleagues across the emergency services representing the true spirit of the event.

In 2017, over 15% of the firefighters sailing in the event were women, and included two all-women boats competing.

Guest speakers at the Gala Dinner and Prize-giving evening have included Dee Caffari, Tori James, Billy the Beefeater, Simon Weston and UKFSC Patron and ex-firefighter Mike Golding.

With the large number of boats and emergency services crews out there, racing is always competitive and exciting. On-the-water photographers capture the action at sea-level and we are planning for drone footage to capture the excitement from the air. Information, photos and images are broadcast as it happens via Twitter, Facebook and Periscope. High resolution versions of all the images are downloadable from the UKFSC website straight after the event.



2018 Event Information

UKFSC will be at the Emergency Services Show at the NEC on 21–22 September 2017 on Stand: S19.

We will be meeting with current event sponsors and corporate supporters and we are looking to engage more corporate interest from potential new emergency service industry companies who would like to add their support to the event. We will be offering a range of sponsorship packages to suit a variety of budget and publicity requirements of companies wishing to support the event and its charitable causes and share in the positive exposure the UKFSC offers.

UKFSC supports a number of charities with the help of its sponsors, supporters, crews and their friends and family. The event has so far raised more than £95,000 for charitable causes. This year saw donations going to The Firefighters Charity, The RNLI, Sail 4 Cancer and The



Magenta Project. A special donation was also made to the #GrenfellTower fire fund via the #Brixton Red Watch 3 Peaks Challenge <http://bit.ly/2t2k8YQ> to raise money for the victims of the fire.

UKFSC is grateful for the support of all its sponsors, including MJ Quinn (2016 was their last year as Event Platinum Sponsor), Barrus, W H Bence, FIUK, Boddingtons Electrical, Big Choice Group and Skilltrack Marine.



For further details on UKFSC 2018 – UK Firefighters Sailing Challenge visit : www.ukfsc.org.uk

Sailing Challenge



A whole host of other companies offer support to the event and help raise money for UKFSC's charitable causes and help make the event such a success.

There is currently an opportunity for a new Platinum sponsor available for the 2018 event and beyond as after many

years supporting the event, M J Quinn is stepping down as UKFSC Platinum Sponsor. UKFSC would like to thank Mike Quinn and his team very much for their incredible support to the event and its charities over the years.

The UKFSC Committee will be at the show actively looking to speak with prospective new event sponsors and supporting organisations. We will be meeting and greeting people at our stand with video, handouts and first-hand knowledge of the event and its success, and we will be available to meet with people around the show to discuss our sponsorship packages with a presentation and sponsorship materials for interested potential sponsors.



For more information on sponsorship packages, please see the inside front cover of this issue.

Information about our current sponsors and how to become an event sponsor can also be found on the UKFSC website: www.ukfsc.org.uk



Sponsorship Package

If you would like to find out more about UKFSC, or you would like to help organising, or sponsoring, or you want to have a go at sailing next year please make contact through any of the links below. A committee member will answer your query or put you in touch with someone who can.

If you would like to make an appointment to speak with someone from the UKFSC during the Emergency Services Show about sponsoring or supporting UKFSC 2018, email: info@ukfsc.org.uk

Further information can be found using any of these links:

Website: www.ukfsc.org.uk

Twitter: @ukfiresailing

Facebook: en-gb.facebook.com/ukfiresailing/#

Blog: www.ukfsc.moonfruit.com



Full results for UKFSC 2017 can be found on the UKFSC website: www.ukfsc.org.uk

Operation Black Kite staged at Fire HQ



Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service host national multi-agency training exercise

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue service (TWFRS) has led a national multi-agency training exercise to test emergency responses and urban search and rescue. The exercise, which lasted 5 days and was hosted across both TWFRS' training centre in Barmston and at Washington Service Station, played out the scenario of an aircraft crashing into a building, leading to its collapse.

TWFRS Assistant Chief Officer, Alan Robson commented:

"It's essential that we regularly test our personnel and equipment within challenging situations. These exercises are fantastic opportunities to bring together blue-light services and other key partners, within realistic settings, to explore how well our protocols work and how we operate together to save and protect lives."

TWFRS worked closely with its local emergency service partners – Northumbria Police, North East Ambulance Service (NEAS), Great North Air Ambulance and Newcastle City Council, as well as other local councils, the Army, and the RAF – who provided a chinook helicopter for the exercise.

Along with TWFRS' Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team, other USAR teams from Merseyside, Lincolnshire, Lancashire, West Yorkshire and West Sussex were all involved in the exercise. The exercise also involved Cabinet Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government Resilience and Emergencies Division (DCLG-RED).

Assistant Chief Constable Helen McMillan said: "This is one of a number of routine exercises organised to test how emergency services can work together with partner agencies in light of a major incident. We carry out exercises to test contingency plans and the co-ordination



of the response on a regular basis and we want to reassure the public that this is in no way linked to a specific or increased threat in our region.

The national terror threat remains at 'Severe' but recent atrocities in London and Manchester show that we have to carry out training to ensure we are prepared in the event that an attack does take place. The public should feel reassured that we are taking these steps and testing our processes.

"A huge amount of work and preparation was put into this exercise and I want to thank Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service for organising the exercise. Our absolute priority is to ensure we are in a position to keep the public safe and we will continue to test our skills and processes to ensure we are in the best position to make that happen."

The exercise has taken over 18 months to plan and is one of the many multi-agency training exercises that regularly take place across the country to test emergency response and urban search and rescue (USAR). USAR teams are used to stabilise buildings; locate and extricate casualties, and provide support to NEAS Hazardous Area Response Teams. There are currently 15 USAR teams in the country, all based within Fire and Rescue services, who deploy these specialist rescue techniques.

Strategic Head of Resilience at North East Ambulance Service, Simon Swallow,

said: "Emergency exercises such as these provide us with a great opportunity to test how we would respond together with our partners should the worst happen in our region.

"This exercise allowed NEAS to exercise all our procedures to ensure they are as robust as possible and utilise the specialist skills of our Hazardous Area Response Team and specially trained operational staff who would be deployed should such an event occur."

To bring the exercise together, and to make it as real as possible, TWFRS brought in the fuselage of an aircraft, which we buried beneath tons of rubble. Other parts of the training centre were converted into collapsed buildings to allow the urban and search and rescue teams to be tested in incredibly difficult circumstances.

Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Nick Forbes, said: "Recent terrorist attacks and the fire at the Grenfell Tower have shown us just how dependent we are on our courageous emergency services.

"These exercises are absolutely vital because they give everyone involved first-hand experience in how to work together in fast moving and challenging situations to save lives.

"I'm pleased the exercise was a success and I think the public will be reassured by that. We have recently seen just how much our emergency services are appreciated. They do an amazing job."

Over 400 firefighting, blue-light services and other personnel and volunteers were involved over the 5 days. Trained amputees actors also added to the realism to the exercise.

Fire and Rescue Services win health award for bowel cancer screening scheme

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service have won a prestigious health award for their pioneering new scheme focusing on bowel cancer screening.

The two services' Safe and Well visits have won a Healthcare Transformation Award in the category of Improving Cancer Outcomes, alongside their partners Public Health England, NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside) and Cancer Research UK.

Firefighters from the two services have regularly visited the homes of vulnerable people over 65 to give advice on fire safety for a number of years.

But, since February this year, both services have partnered with the NHS to provide some health advice as well as to try and reduce the number of emergency visits to hospital.

Crews, and specially trained fire advocates, issue advice on how to avoid a trip or fall in the home, who to contact if people want to stop smoking or drinking and, crucially, advice on bowel cancer screening.

As a result, Safe and Well visits carried out by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service generate around 120 referrals for bowel cancer screening each month.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service carried out 15,935 Safe and Well visits in Cheshire from February to June this year which resulted in 1,098 bowel cancer referrals.

Phil Byrne, Station Manager at Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, said: "Fire and rescue services have a unique ability to access homes of vulnerable people and we are pleased to be including such a worthwhile project as part of our home safety engagement work.

"The feedback from staff conducting Safe and Well visits, and the positive results, show the benefits of face-to-face communication.

"Our staff have had the opportunity to explain to clients in their home the benefits of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme and ensure the correct and appropriate screening kits are sent out directly from the Bowel Cancer Screening Hub in Rugby.



Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Station Manager Phil Byrne with Susan Spence, healthcare professional facilitator at Cancer Research UK, Cllr Bob Rudd, Chair of the Cheshire Fire Authority and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Watch Manager Ant Fletcher.

"In our first month we completed 574 Safe and Well visits generating 129 requests for screening kits. This partnership work with NHS England and Cancer Research UK will no doubt improve uptake in the screening programme and emphasise the value that the fire and rescue services bring to the safety and wellbeing of our communities."

Julie Kelly, Head of Public Health NHS England North, Cheshire and Merseyside, said: "Regular bowel cancer screening has been shown to reduce the risk of dying from bowel cancer by 16 percent.

"Screening aims to detect bowel cancer at an early stage when treatment is more likely to be effective. This initiative is an excellent example of local organisations working together for the benefit of the populations we serve."

Experts from Cancer Research UK were responsible for giving fire service staff their training on the screening scheme.

Anna Murray, Primary Care Engagement Facilitator at Cancer Research, said: "Although bowel cancer screening has been a National Screening Programme since 2006, the percentage of people who take part remains low compared to breast and cervical screening.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure that fire service personnel receive appropriate training to be able to deliver this innovative scheme.

"Any work that aims to increase early diagnosis and prevention of cancer in the population should be commended."



"An Excellent Authority"

MFRS welcomes children from Belarus affected by Chernobyl nuclear disaster

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has welcomed ten children from Belarus, who are staying in Sefton for a month as part of a project run by the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Charity.

The charity supports children and their families from Belarus and Ukraine who were affected by the Chernobyl nuclear explosion in 1986.

As well as bringing child victims of the Chernobyl nuclear explosion to the UK for recuperative breaks to give them respite from radiation, the charity also provides vitamins and healthcare products to affected children and chemotherapy medicine to those suffering cancer.

Belarus received over 70% of the radioactive fallout from the explosion and, as a result, many thousands of children are born in the region every year with, or go on to develop, thyroid cancer, bone cancer and leukaemia.

As part of their visit to MFRS, the children (all aged between 10-12) spent some time with our Search and Rescue Team, met our Search and Rescue dogs, visited our Heritage and Education Centre and met the crew at Bootle and Netherton Community Fire Station.

It was a pleasure meeting the children, and an honour to welcome them to our service.

The Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Charity raises money to fund children's trips to the UK from Belarus and Ukraine. To find out more about the charity, or to make a donation, visit www.ccll.org.uk

Fire Service and specialist flood rescue unit sign agreement

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) has signed an agreement with Surf Life Saving GB, Wessex Flood Rescue Unit to work together in the event of flooding and during other water rescues.

Surf Life Saving GB are a team of highly-trained volunteers based across the country, who already support fire crews and other emergency services at incidents, including the rescue of stranded people during the Cumbrian flooding of 2015.

DWFRS and Wessex Flood Rescue Unit (WFRU), a registered charity, signed a memorandum of understanding at Poole fire station, in view of the Poole harbour, the second largest natural harbour in the world, which formally sets out how they will work and train together.

Under the agreement, WFRU will support fire crews when called on, operating under their guidance at incidents that could include rescuing residents from flooded homes.



Dorset Area Commander Craig Baker said: 'Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is equipped and trained to carry out water rescues and this agreement will give them even more support when they need it. Wessex Flood Rescue have worked with the fire service at previous incidents and I'm pleased they have formalised this agreement to work and train together to further improve public safety.'

David Lane of Surf Life Saving GB, Wessex Flood Rescue Unit, said: 'Our crews are trained to national standards for search and rescue. Water rescue is part of our skill set and we have specialist equipment and vehicles for this role. This is a service we offer 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.'

For more information about how to stay safe in and around the water please visit www.dwfire.org.uk



Busman's holiday for French firefighter

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) this week welcomed French firefighter Geoffrey Fillet to Service Headquarters in Salisbury, as he experiences the subtle differences between firefighting in the UK and France.

Geoffrey joined the Lot-et-Garonne Fire Service in 2011, having previously been a wholetime firefighter for the Paris Fire Service for eight years. Looking at developing his knowledge of the British fire service, he contacted DWFRS through the Prevention department at the French National Federation, who already had a professional relationship with DWFRS firefighter Phil Villain.



Chief Fire Officer Ben Ansell and Firefighter Geoffrey Fillet exchanging Service crests and meeting members of the DWFRS Strategic Leadership Team.

Phil, a French national, has worked for DWFRS since 1994 and was invited by the Fédération Nationale des Sapeurs Pompiers de France to deliver a presentation at the French Fire Service National Congress in Avignon in 2014. The presentation at the Conférence Prévention covered the UK Fire Service's approach on prevention and the DWFRS Community Fire Safety model.

Phil and Geoffrey were able to finally meet earlier this year when Phil visited Agen, a city in south west France in May. During this visit, Phil was met by the Chief Fire Officer Philippe Moineau and, as tradition dictates, he was given the full tour of Agen Central Fire Station.

Phil Villain said: "It's a great pleasure to welcome Geoffrey to Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service for his two week stay. We have a packed schedule planned, covering all the main aspects of our role in the community which we hope will be both educational and enjoyable."

During his two week visit to DWFRS, Geoffrey will be meeting members of the Strategic Leadership Team and the heads of Prevention and Road Safety, as well as spending time with fire crews, the Safe Drive Stay Alive road safety campaign and Safe and Well teams.

Cuddly crews are teddy to help



It is ready, teddy go for Cleveland Fire Brigade's latest recruits as they line up to help children affected by fire or road accidents.

The Trauma Teddies, pioneered by the Australian Red Cross in the 1990s, have been knitted by ladies at the Linthorpe Women's Institute and handed over to crews at Middlesbrough Fire Station.

WI member Val Cunningham said: "We heard about these being used by other fire services in the country and decided we would like to do something to help. They are great fun to make, come complete with their own little bags and we hope they make a difference to any young person traumatised by fire or other incidents.

"We have handed over 14 so far but our members are very enthusiastic and there could be even more on the way soon.

Trauma Teddies are known to be a source of great comfort when they are given to a child affected by fire or a road accident.

Dave Turton, Head of Community Safety, Cleveland Fire Brigade, said: "We are hugely indebted to the hard work of all those involved at Linthorpe WI. It is a wonderful gesture.

"When we attend emergency incidents, we see children who are upset and who cannot understand what is happening and why we are there.

"We understand how upsetting and scary these experiences can be and Trauma

Teddies can help give comfort to those affected. The bear is kept by the child and becomes a new cuddly friend."

The Trauma Teddy was born in 1990 in Australia when the ambulance service noted the calming effect a bear had on a child who was being treated. The Red Cross stepped in and launched the new scheme.

They are now used by emergency services across the UK.

Linthorpe WI members (l to r) Gill Hodgson, Rita Brown, Alison Brownlee-Parker and Val Cunningham hand over the Trauma Teddies to Firefighter Stuart Knox, Watch Manager Paul Thompson and Firefighters Dave Elliot and Andy Smith from Middlesbrough station.



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New code of practice launched for investigators of fire and explosions

A new code of practice for the investigation of fires and explosions within the criminal justice system has been launched.

The new Code of Practice is supported by the Chief Fire Officers Association, the Institution of Fire Engineers and the UK Association of Fire Investigators, the three leading organisations representing the profession across the UK. The Code has been developed by a multi-agency team led by the University of Dundee, one of the world's foremost centres for research in forensic sciences.

The Code was presented at the Scottish Fire Symposium that took place at the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters and Training Centre in Glasgow.

It provides professional guidance for practitioners, irrespective of which agency they represent, in the examination of incidents where a crime is suspected.

Welcoming the document, Lee Howell, the Independent Chairman of the Arson Prevention Forum, said: "This Code of Practice provides significant clarity as to what can reasonably be expected of those who investigate fires and is another significant step towards providing

consistency and improved quality in this area. Arson remains one of the most difficult crimes to prosecute and improved investigation will undoubtedly assist to reduce the significant cost and consequence that Arson presents."



Sue Fletcher of the Pheasant Inn at Admaston, Shropshire, with the aftermath of a fire in her tumble dryer.

Professor Niamh Nic Daeid, of the Centre for Anatomy and Human Identification at the University of Dundee, chaired the independent multi-agency team which



The aftermath of a domestic fire caused by a carelessly disposed cigarette end.

wrote the new Code of Practice. He said: "The importance of this document cannot be underestimated. It has taken six years to prepare as we consulted with the community of practitioners from across the UK and beyond to make sure that we represented their views of where they wanted their profession to aspire to in terms of competence, expertise and practice. The Code will bring a standardised approach across the fire investigation sector in terms of good practice and understanding the obligations of being expert witnesses to the courts."

Dr Nick Carey, the President of the UK Association of Fire Investigators (UK-AFI), said: "The UK-AFI is delighted to support the Code of Practice. Several of our members were involved with the preparation of the document and a large number of members provided valuable feedback during the consultation process. The document will provide valuable generic and UK specific guidance to fire investigators."

The new Code is designed to establish clear standards to assist with the gathering and examination of evidence in any investigation. Expert witnesses in criminal cases are required to declare they have followed the Code of Practice of their disciplines, making the development of this document an important milestone within fire and explosion investigation across the UK.



A typical fire of electrical origin caused by a number of plugs connecting an audio system and several other appliances drawing excessive current and overloading a single socket.

Euro Firefighter 2

by Paul Grimwood PhD, FIFireE

Paul Grimwood joined London Fire Brigade in 1971 at 18 years of age as the youngest firefighter in the LFB at that time. I have known Paul since that time and watched over the past decades with admiration as he has developed his knowledge and passion for the wider understanding of fire behaviour and associated scientific aspects of firefighting in the modern age amid today's many hazards.

Euro Firefighter 2 is the latest book by Paul Grimwood and is something of a firefighter's 'bible' and contains an incredible amount of data and information gathered by the author during his years of research and analysis of fires, both in the UK and abroad.

Paul is credited with the introduction of a number of innovative firefighting techniques that have been adopted by the British Fire Service. An indication of Paul's extensive knowledge and work ethic is that it includes the attainment of a PhD amongst his professional qualifications.

Euro Firefighter 2 sets out the hazards associated with under-ventilated fires in the UK that are now becoming more widely acknowledged, as fire loads incorporating an increase in hydrocarbon content combine with modern energy efficient construction to create exceptionally dangerous work environments for firefighters. The



firefighter life loss in the UK has near doubled during the past decade and the relationship between under-ventilated



fires and tactical ventilation by firefighters demands far greater attention if such life losses are to be curtailed.

The book also contains a review of how modern building methods, using lightweight energy efficient modular construction, may have unwittingly exposed firefighters in the USA to greater risk. Following the dramatic increase in fast-build modern methods of construction from 1994, North American firefighters have experienced an increasing ratio in 'in Line of Duty deaths' caused through structural collapse in lightweight or engineered wood construction. Such fires now burn faster and hotter and firefighters are being exposed to the increasing risks of rapid spread and extreme fire intensity.

In his book the author analyses 6,701 building fires occurring in the UK between 1984 and 2012. The outcomes of this research have effectively shaped specific national fire design guidance and firefighting tactics over the past 25 years. Paul Grimwood's impressive manual of 449 pages should be of interest not only to fire commanders and firefighters, but also to fire engineers, structural engineers, students, architects and building control bodies.

– Neil Wallington

***Euro Firefighter 2* is published by D&M Heritage Press.**

Prices: £49.95 (hardback) and £39.95 (paperback) plus £3.95 postage to the UK

www.firebookshop.co.uk

01484 534323



An unusual 1935 Bedford pump of Horsham Urban District Council, Sussex. The photograph recorded its delivery new to the Brigade.



A Leyland FKT 1 dual purpose pump of London Fire Brigade, here running as a pump escape. New in 1939, it saw plenty of wartime service. This view was taken in 1955 when the Leyland went on to serve another five years in the front line before retirement.



Another classic fire engine seen in post-war fire brigades was the AEC Regent. This 1960 view is of a Merthyr Tydfil Fire Brigade pump escape running with a 50ft all-metal Merryweather ladder.



This London Fire Brigade Dennis pump escape pauses for the camera at Southwark HQ, c1933, and like many of its kind went on to serve throughout the London Blitz.



Two London Fire Brigade Dennis Big 4s pictured in 1948 at Redcross Street Fire Station in the Barbican area of the City. The pump on the left is a 1933 model with lateral side seating. Note the two Proto oxygen BA sets hanging behind the nearside crew, whilst the pump escape is a 1935 version with transverse seating for the crew. Redcross Street was right in the heart of the worst WW2 Blitz period but both pumps survived the war years and were retired in 1955. (Image from Neil Wallington's collection.)



A 1958 J type Bedford water tender of Fife Fire Brigade with bodywork by Hampshire Car Bodies (HCB), a company who bodied a large number of fire brigade pumps of that period.



This 1970 Dodge pump with Carmichael bodywork was new to Wakefield City Fire Brigade and is pictured outside Wakefield Central Fire Station.



Away from major pumps, this 1970 image captures Cheshire County Fire Brigade's new Land Rover L4P forward control rural light pump.

J type Bedford, Dodge pump and Landrover L4P photos courtesy of the Steve Stratton Library.

Art therapy for Grenfell Tower child victims

Four weeks after the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the BBC reveals that the Scottish based art therapy charity, the Teapot Trust, is assisting traumatised children and teenagers.

Art psychotherapist Susan Rudnik has worked for the Teapot Trust since 2016, typically supporting children with chronic illness and psychological trauma at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

Susan Rudnik also lives close to the Grenfell Tower and witnessed the tragic circumstances first hand. She quickly established the Art Therapy Hub within the ClementJames Centre based in North Kensington, where she and a team of art therapists support children and teenagers. The art therapy is being coordinated by Susan Rudnik who is supported by the Teapot Trust.

Speaking to the BBC she said, "The children just have some art materials and they're free to do whatever they want to.

"That's been enormously helpful in this crisis and trauma whereby the children are just allowed a space to process their feelings through the art when words really aren't enough or even possible quite a lot of the time."

She added: "The tower features in a lot of their drawings because it's there, it's in everybody's eye shot. It's in everything, it's everywhere we look, it's everywhere we go.

"But also, there's a lot of other stuff, there's indescribable things, a lot of mess-making, a lot of stuff that's just processing which isn't pretty pictures or even horrible pictures, it's just something in the art materials themselves that really make it possible for the children to process some of their feelings in a very visceral way."

Dr Laura N Young MBE and her husband Dr John Young co-founded the Teapot Trust in 2010 after seeing the gaps in the care of their daughter Verity, who suffered from Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE Lupus) and cancer before her tragic death at the age of eight, in 2009.



Today, the Teapot Trust is Scotland's largest employer of clinically trained art therapists, with 17 art therapists running 22 projects in 11 towns and cities, from Inverness to the Borders. It has also expanded into England, with two projects running for children at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Dr Laura N Young MBE said, "Susan Rudnik has dedicated her career to art therapy. She is an expert in her field and must be commended for her tenacity and fortitude in reaching out to support others when she herself has witnessed such a tragedy first-hand.

"The Teapot Trust needs to continue its support of the Grenfell tragedy through art therapy. We are submitting an application for grants to Comic Relief and to the London Community Fund which is supported by Simon Cowell who raised funds with the release of the charity single."

Anyone wishing to make donations to The Teapot Trust can do so by contacting the charity on: www.teapot-trust.org/donate-now or by calling 0131 273 4340.

Council panel recommends opposing PCC proposals

An all-party panel has unanimously recommended that Hertfordshire County Council should object to the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to take control of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.



The Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel was discussing the county council's response to the PCC's plans for taking over governance of the fire service from the county council, which has run the fire service in Hertfordshire since 1948.

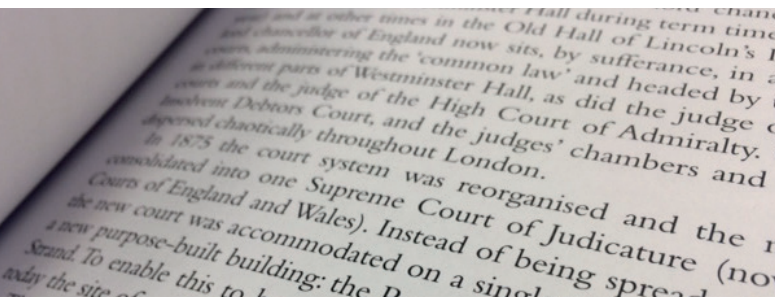
The panel is recommending that the county council should object to the PCC's proposals on the grounds that they are not in the interests of economy, efficiency or effectiveness, or in the interests of public safety.

Terry Hone, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Chair of the panel, said: "Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is an integral part of the county council and is supported by efficient back-office arrangements shared with a range of other services, all of which deliver high quality services for our residents. The existing service is much more than just an emergency service and having firefighters working closely alongside other council staff like social workers, public health specialists and trading standards makes a huge difference to keeping our residents healthy and safe.

"We do recognise that it's important for emergency services to work together, so the recommendation the panel is making to Cabinet is that the best option for the fire service would be for it to remain part of the county council, but with the PCC given a strong formal role in how it's run."

The panel is also recommending that, in order to improve collaboration between the emergency services, the Police and Crime Commissioner should be given a seat on the county council's Cabinet where he would be able to play a strong role in the governance of the fire service, without the disruption, uncertainty, risk and cost of transferring control.

The panel's recommendations will be discussed by the full County Council on 18 July, before the council's Cabinet makes the formal decision later that day on whether or not to object to the PCC's proposals.



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