

Rescue Service (FRS) in the UK

- b) Eric Pickles MP, the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government, with responsibility for considering any legislative changes required to implement any of these recommendations,
- c) Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Fire & Rescue Service, with responsibility for disseminating these recommendations to every FRS
- d) Mark Prisk MP, the Minister of State for Housing (and Local Government), with responsibility for disseminating these recommendations to every social housing provider in the UK.

All these primary recipients listed above should disseminate these recommendations to every FRS and social housing provider in the UK so that they shall promptly consider these recommendations in relation to high-rise buildings within their locality, decide what to do about them and inform the primary recipient of such decisions.

Rule 43 Recommendations for Consideration in relation particularly to the risk of fire in High-Rise Buildings

- 1 Guidance and clarification is required with regard to search procedures as set out in Technical Bulletin 1/97 (Breathing Apparatus Command and Control Procedures), to ensure that:
 - e) Thermal imaging cameras are used to search for fire in smoky conditions
 - f) Fire-fighters understand the importance of fully extinguishing fires before proceeding past or above the fire scene
 - g) Methodical search patterns are undertaken e.g. area by area, room by room or floor by floor.
 - h) Search patterns are standardised across every FRS in the UK so that there is common understanding and procedure when fire-fighters from different FRSs are engaged in joint working.
- 2 It is recommended that a review is undertaken to ensure that the teaching and training of those fire-fighting techniques used to contain and cool compartment fires, on the one hand, fully complement techniques designed to attack and extinguish fires, on the other. A review should be undertaken into the training provided in relation to the circumstances and manner in which each technique should be used. For example, a pulse spray technique should not be used in a fully ventilated compartment fire, the severity of which will not be controllable by pulse spraying and gas cooling approach.
- 3 It is recommended that a review is undertaken to ensure the adequacy of teaching and training of tactical ventilation procedures in compartment fires to highlight the effect ad-hoc ventilation can have on fire development and to confirm the associated dangers.
- 4 It is recommended that all FRSs should consider the implementation of measures to reduce the risks associated with fallen cables. In particular consideration should be given to:
 - a) Providing insulated wire cutters, or other means of severing cables, to all breathing apparatus teams;

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b) ensure that signage indicating flat numbers and emergency exits in high rise premises are placed at a low level to increase visibility in smoke conditions.

I am sure that due consideration will be given to all these recommendations and policies formulated to ensure the safety of firefighters and the minimalisation of risks to the occupiers of high-rise flats.

Yours faithfully

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