



Command support



All operational staff have a responsibility to ensure they comply with the requirements of incident command procedures.

An initial command pump (ICP) will assist the incident commander (IC) and should be established as soon as possible whenever more than one pumping appliance is in attendance.

A firefighter should be designated as the command pump officer (CPO) who will set up the ICP and have responsibility for sending messages to control. The CPO must ensure the headlights and blue beacons of the ICP remain on for easy identification and turn off all beacons on other appliances where this does not jeopardise the safety of staff or other road users. The ICP will remain the incident focal point until relieved by a command unit (CU).

The incident command wallet (ICW) will be used when an ICP is established. The ICW provides a secure arrangement for holding nominal roll boards and may contain relevant information gathered during the initial stages of the incident. It may be positioned in any suitable location close to the ICP. On arrival of a CU, the ICW will facilitate an efficient transfer of nominal roll boards and information to the CU.

Dedicated command support is provided by eight CUs located across the Brigade. A CU will attend as the command vehicle at three/four pump incidents and above in addition to other predetermined attendances. Once the CU is in attendance and has taken over the command support role, it will be responsible for all aspects of command support across the range of command support functions. These include operations support, communications, logistics, planning and information management as well as messages to and from Brigade Control. It is the IC's responsibility to use and brief the CU crew to make the most from the broad range of facilities available.

At the early stages of a dynamic incident the IC should be aware of the number of CU staff in attendance and their capacity. The IC's objectives in relation to the provision of command support should reflect the number of staff immediately

continued on page 2

Crew safety on appliances

Safety event investigations have highlighted the need for crews to remain vigilant regarding the security of appliance doors, lockers and pull-out trays. Uncontrolled opening of any of these is a potential hazard to staff and the public. Following the successful modifications to appliance tray design, station staff are to ensure that the appropriate safety checks are carried out on doors, lockers and trays during vehicle handovers and routine testing. It is vital that lockers and trays are secured following inventories and use at operational exercises and incidents.

Traffic regulations place responsibility for the appliance and passengers with the appliance driver. However, everyone has an important part to play in order to reduce the risk of injury caused by the vehicle. The appliance commander is also responsible for the safety of staff under their control and must ensure appropriate actions are taken for the safety of the appliance crew and the public. All equipment must be securely stowed on the appliance with slide-out trays, lockers and doors in the locked position before moving the appliance. Any defects should be reported via the Babcock help desk and RMC as a potential safety event.

INSIDE

P2

Fire survival guidance calls

P2

Siting and marshalling

P3

Aerial appliances

P3

7(2)(d) visits

Operational News reflects important operational issues for staff. Topics are identified from our robust audit and review processes which include performance reviews of command and operations, supplemented with articles on new equipment or procedures that reduce risk. Where appropriate training packages on page 4 provide further information on the topics covered.

Command support (continued)

available. The option of using the CPO to assist the CU staff should also be considered. The CU team leader will advise the IC on the command support priorities including the consideration to request additional CUs to meet the needs of the incident.

CU staff will provide information relating to the incident and ensure this is displayed via the command support system to assist the IC to manage the incident. They will maintain and update the plan of the incident, including recording the duties and location of senior officers and operational crews.

Briefing

Following a recent incident which generated a senior accident investigation, it became apparent that a lack of clear briefing to initial crews was a major factor in the safety event. Staff are reminded of the importance of clear briefings. The decision making model should be used as a tool for providing briefings. It is vital that briefings are confirmed. A method of doing this is by repeating the briefing back or by confirming the risk critical information. For example, at a high rise incident the location of the bridgehead and fire floors must be confirmed before crews ascend in a lift or via a protected stairwell. Extra care should be taken to reconfirm the floor to which the lift car should travel before any buttons are pressed. When a fire lift is used, a firefighter must be designated to control the lift car (Policy 633 – High rise firefighting). This will reduce the risk of staff emerging on the affected floors. The person being briefed also has a responsibility to ensure that they have received sufficient information to carry out the tasks allocated to them and should be able to confirm their own understanding or ask for clarity if they do not understand their briefing.

FIRE SURVIVAL GUIDANCE CALLS

Policy 790 explains what a fire survival guidance (FSG) call is and describes the actions required by staff on the incident ground upon receipt of FSG information from control.

A FSG call is a call received by Control where the caller believes that they are unable to leave their premises due to the effects of fire, and where the control room operator remains on the line providing appropriate advice. Control will treat all FSG calls to a house or building as persons reported and mobilise the agreed pre-determined attendance. It is still the incident commander's (IC) responsibility to send a priority and subsequent informative message if the incident involves or is suspected to involve people.

When Control are handling two or more FSG calls from one incident or one FSG call from a high rise incident, a further dedicated attendance of a pump ladder, a command unit and a station manager will be mobilised. This attendance is additional to any other resources that have been requested or are en route and are to be deployed solely for the purposes of managing the fire survival element of the incident.

Control will gather information from the caller based on the control information forms, which are available on appliances.

These forms are to be used for recording the following information on the incident ground as it becomes available:

- Number of flat/house.
- Number of persons involved.
- Location of caller within premises and access point.
- Condition of their location, for example, heavy smoke, slight smoke.
- Proximity to fire if known.
- Latest advice given by Control.
- Time of FSG call.
- Time updated.

It is vital that Control is kept informed of the actions being taken to resolve each FSG call. The fact that Control is aware of the actions being carried out on the incident ground will greatly enhance the advice given to FSG callers. The policy lists the methods of communication available.

CUs carry a casualty information poster to record information on all FSG calls in progress at an incident. The casualty information poster is also available on the forward information board for use at a bridgehead or other scene of operations. This facility allows accurate information transfer between a CU and scene of operations. The policy also describes the post incident considerations for managers of staff at Control and of those who attend an incident involving FSGs.

SITING AND MARSHALLING

The initial approach and siting of appliances attending any incident has a critical effect on the subsequent outcome of the incident. It is extremely difficult to re-position poorly sited appliances once firefighting operations have started and hose lines have been established. It is therefore vitally important that, on arrival, incident/appliance commanders provide drivers with guidance on where to site their appliance.

Considerations when siting appliances include: access to appliances for ladders and equipment, space for the deployment of aerial or other specialist appliances and

to ensure appliances can be easily moved for redeployment. It is important to maintain a thoroughfare for other road users and other emergency vehicles where this does not endanger crews and identify a suitable rendezvous point.

The following points should be considered when selecting a marshalling area: the establishment of the area will not affect access and egress to the incident, the site should be capable of supporting the combined weight of appliances, have a sufficient turning area for the number of appliances being marshalled and have adequate access.

AERIAL APPLIANCES



The Brigade has 11 frontline aerial appliances – four turntable ladders (TL) located centrally and seven aerial ladder platforms (ALP) located around the perimeter of the Brigade. There are two versions of the ALP, the 320 and 325 and a number of hydraulic platforms (HP) are still available as spares.

Initial siting of pumping appliances should always take into account the potential for the use of aerial appliances and in particular where space may be limited. Appliance jack down-pressures on ALPs can be as high as 15 tonnes and operators are prohibited to site the jacks on pavements, suspected soft ground or within a metre of drains, gullies or inspection covers. On the arrival of an aerial appliance the incident commander (IC) should take advice from the aerial crews who will have more detailed knowledge and experience of their appliance's capabilities and restrictions.

All aerial types are capable of similar tasks, but some have specific capabilities that ICs should be aware of:

	TL	ALP	HP
Max height (m)	32	32	23.5
Max projection (m)	26.5	21–24	12.45
Below horizontal (m)	5	6	N/A
Delivery rates (l/min)	2000	2450	2275
Deployment time (sec)	60	150	120
Cage capacity (persons)	3	4	4–6

When used as a water tower, a dedicated supply pump must be provided as close as possible to the aerial. This pump's crew must then remain available to assist the aerial crew, they do not have to be aerial qualified to do this. Prior to a water tower being implemented, a thorough risk assessment must be undertaken by sector commanders and the IC. Crews should be withdrawn to a place of safety immediately prior to the water tower being used, and this must be communicated clearly to all staff in the sectors. Once the water tower is in use, sector commanders and the IC should undertake a further risk assessment before re-committing crews. Aerial monitors must never be directed into a compartment where firefighters are working, and consideration should always be given to the effect that large quantities of water (up to 2.45 tonnes/min) can have on a fire, building and floors. Safety officers should always be appointed when crews are working within a building and an aerial is being used as a water tower. ALPs and HPs (not TLs) can be deployed in place of a dry rising main when fixed installations are found to be damaged or unavailable.

In all instances when aerials are used at incidents, it is vital that a communications link is established between the aerial operators and the sector commander/IC. Aerial operators will often have risk critical information on fire development, building construction or hazards (such as solar panels on roofs) and this information must be shared at the earliest opportunity.

Stretcher facility: only TLs and ALPs should be used, with a maximum casualty weight of 30 stone (approx. 190kg). HPs should no longer be used for stretcher retrievals.

If an IC knows which specific aerial capability they require, then this should be requested, otherwise an 'aerial required' message should be sent to Control. This will result in Control mobilising the closest available aerial appliance to the incident. Stations should contact their nearest aerial appliance stations to arrange familiarisation training.

7(2)(d) visits

A core function of a fire authority is the requirement to make provision for the extinguishing of fire and the protecting of life within its area. In order to achieve this, the fire authority has statutory powers under Section 7(2)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Service Act (2004) to allow the Authority to obtain the information necessary to inform their planning process and operational response.

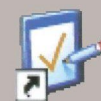
The Authority has a number of methods of gathering information about premises. However, it is acknowledged that fire station staff will often be best placed to identify significant new developments or changes to properties which are likely to have an impact on safe operations. Policy 800 – Information gathering/contingency plans, explains the risk assessment process that should be used to establish whether a premises requires visiting and describes the method of recording the data on the operational risk database (ORD). It is important that crews always refer to the risk assessment process when carrying out initial and re-visits, as changes to the building or the risk matrix within Policy 800 can affect whether the premises is added to or removed from the ORD.

Station staff must be proactive in identifying and recording any premises that may pose operational difficulties. This includes considering not just the processes taking place but also whether the premises has a complex layout.

Whenever a high rise residential building is assessed to be entered on the ORD a suitable line drawing of the layout should be included. It is also important that staff plan for the possibility that any fixed installations are unavailable, for example, if the dry rising main is out of service.

WATCH TRAINING PACKAGES

Training packages, associated with operational news issues, are available for your immediate use. They can be accessed via an ICON on your desktop which links to all the current training materials related to the items below and previous packages. Additionally there are links to trainee packages and support material. Just click on this ICON on your desktop.



Training Support
Shortcut
2 KB

Red represents training themes are mandatory for all watches.

Amber represents training themes are mandatory for all watches to which they are relevant. These will be detailed within the training guidance.

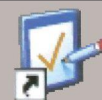
Green represents optional and can be included in the watch training programme at the discretion of the WM based upon identified watch training needs.

Article	Training	Guidance and supporting information	STEP – Recording reference (Create on STEP)
Command support	Article	Policy 541 Command support at incidents Policy 238 Incident command procedures	Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management – Incident Command/Command Support System/Command support at incidents – 541 Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management – Incident Command /Command Procedures/ Incident command procedures – 238
Crew safety on appliances	Article	Policy 210 Crew safety on appliances and other vehicles	Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management – Mobilising/Crew Safety/Crew safety on appliances & other vehicles – 210
Briefing	Article	Policy 341 Decision Making Model Policy 633 High rise firefighting	Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management Incident Command/Decision Making Model/ Decision making model – 341 Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management-Buildings and Structures/Buildings and Structures/ Firefighting in high rise buildings – 633
Fire survival guidance calls	Article	Policy 790 Fire survival guidance calls	Lecture/Subjects/Incident Management – Incident Command/Incident Command Procedures/Fire survival guidance calls – 790
Siting and marshalling	Article	Policy 238 Incident command procedures Policy 162 Officer responsibilities at incidents	There is no requirement to add another entry for 238 as it is recorded in Command support Lecture/Subjects/People-Employment/Duties of Officers/Officer responsibilities at incidents – 162
Aerial appliances	Article and package	Training pack available to watch officers through Training Support icon – Knowledge Centre – Ops News 24 – Watch training packages Policy 822 Operational use of aerial appliances	Lecture/Subjects/Training Notes/Training/ Ops News 24 – Aerial appliances Lecture/Subjects/Assets – Vehicles/Appliances/ Operational use of aerial appliances – 822
7 (2)(d) visits	Article and package	Training pack available to watch officers through Training Support icon – Knowledge Centre – Ops News 24 – Watch training packages	Lecture/Subjects/Training Notes/Training/ Ops News 24 – 7(2)(d) visits

A range of practical drill options for the above subjects are recordable under – drill/*use pull down list for appropriate drill.

SENIOR OFFICER COMPUTER BASED TRAINING (CBT)

Computer based e-learning training packages are available for your immediate use. They can be accessed via an ICON on your Desktop which links to the Brigade's knowledge centre.



Training Support
Shortcut
2 KB

Article	Training	Guidance and supporting information	Knowledge Centre – Recording reference
Aerial appliances	CBT package	E-Learning modules are available through the Knowledge Centre which is accessible through the Training Support icon on desktops. These E-Learning packages are mandatory for all group and station managers. They must be completed within three months of the publication of this Operational News.	All package completions will be recorded on individual Training Records (ITR) which will be updated on a monthly basis allowing managers to monitor progress.