

LAKANAL HOUSE INQUEST CORONER'S RULE 43 LETTERS – ACTION PLAN MONITORING REPORT

Action plan - recommendations issued to the Brigade by Coroner following inquest into the deaths of 6 members of the public in Lakanal House, London

R.A.G. Progress Codes:

Red = Target date overdue, Amber = Action being taken to address, Green = On target, Blue = Completed

Action No.	Coroners recommendation	LFB action	Lead	Target date	R. A. G.	Action Update - August 2013
1	<p>The Brigade should consider how to improve dissemination of fire safety information to achieve effective communications with residents of buildings like Lakanal House.</p> <p>NB: The full wording of this recommendation did make it clear that this is a matter that primarily concerns housing providers.</p>	Explore how communications with partners may be improved through the following:				
		a) Establishing a Fire Safety High Rise forum	AC FSR	August 2013		<p>An outline paper on scope of the forum, membership and terms of reference has been drafted.</p> <p>AC Fire Safety Regulation (FSR) met with London Councils on 10/05/2013 to discuss Fire Safety issues arising from Lakanal and confirmed the issues that the High Rise Forum would aim to progress.</p> <p>Invitation letters to Forum attendees have been issued.</p> <p>Inaugural Forum meeting scheduled for 04/10/2013</p>
		b) Review existing information provided to residential high rise dwellers	Third Officer & AC FSR	August 2013		<p>All Home Fire Safety guidance has been reviewed and specific guidance for high rise dwellers drafted and consulted on with the Community Fire Safety (CFS) and Communication teams.</p> <p>The LFEPA Web site has been updated to reflect the revised guidance.</p>

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						<p>AC FSR will communicate this guidance to London Councils at the forthcoming Fire Safety High Rise Forum. The information has also been sent to DCLG for consideration as national guidance.</p> <p>25 000 leaflets on Compartment Fires with revised messages are now available for use by station staff and Community Safety teams.</p>
2	The Brigade review procedures for sharing information gained as a result of section 7(2)(d) visits, familiarisation and home fire safety visits with crews from both within the station in question and at other local stations.	a) Review existing policy related to information gathering and contingency plans	Third Officer & AC FSR	December 2013		<p>A review of PN 800: 'Information Gathering / Contingency Plans' has been completed and officers have agreed that it would be appropriate to include the additional 7(2)(d) guidance in this note rather than create a new stand alone policy.</p> <p>A joint working group has been established with Ops Prevention & Response (OPR), Ops Procedures (OP) and FSR to agree the specific additional information required to update the policy note.</p>
		b) Create an inspection regime targeted at high priority buildings	Third Officer	December 2013		<p>Details of existing 7(2)(d)s and AFA/ Non domestic building fires over the past three years have been collated. The data is currently being cross referenced to ensure the 7(2)(d) visit and Operational Risk Databases include known risks and high priority buildings.</p>
		c) Develop new policy/guidance to address known outstanding risks identified through home fire safety visits	Third Officer	December 2013		<p>Research has been undertaken with operational staff to establish how serious outstanding risks are identified, reported and dealt with currently and what improvements are required to ensure consistency of approach and availability of information, acknowledging the importance of data protection principles.</p> <p>A flow chart is now being developed to support station based staff, which will be accompanied by policy guidance. This guidance will elaborate on the means available to lower fire risks, including new advice on issues such as dementia and mental illness, where an individual's capacity to respond to a smoke alarm</p>

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						may be impaired. Discussion is on-going with the Information Management Team (IMT) to determine the most appropriate data capture process.
		d) Set corporate targets for 7 (2) (d) activities	Third Officer	December 2013		<p>Discussion is on-going between OPR and IMT concerning a percentage based indicator that monitors whether all fire station staff have successfully completed their allocated number of 7(2)(d) visits.</p> <p>Once the data collation exercise described in point (b) above has been completed, work will be finalised to create a suitable indicator that ensures each station has a performance target for visiting the correct number of premises.</p>
3	The Brigade review its policies and procedures concerning incident command, having regard to whether it is effective for the choice of the IC to be tied closely to the number or types of appliances attending an incident, and training be given to ICs to enhance their training in relation to the following:	a) Implement recommendations from the report 'Review of incident command and support levels'.	Third Officer	December 2013		<p>OPR are working in conjunction with Ops Assurance (OA) to commission training for the revised Incident Command thresholds for Group Managers and Deputy Assistant Commissioners.</p> <p>Consultation relating to this policy change is on-going with staff side. The FBU Middle Management rep has recently (August) requested additional information regarding these proposed changes.</p> <p>This has been supplied and officers are currently seeking to secure IR agreement for these policy changes.</p>
		b) Review incident command training to ensure the 7 points are adequately covered	Head HRD	September 2013		<p>Babcock have recently completed a full review of incident command training and a draft Course Review report was received by officers on 2 August 2013. This is now being considered and will inform revisions and improvements to the suite of incident command training solutions.</p> <p>Officers also instructed Babcock to confirm that all 7 incident command related recommendations are sufficiently and</p>

Absolute Target was my view

Finalized? No.

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	1. Use of the Dynamic Risk Management model and other management tools to enable ICs to analyse a situation, and to recognise and react quickly to changing circumstances.					comprehensively covered within the existing suite of training courses. Babcock has confirmed that all 7 issues are covered in the existing suite of command training albeit, that there may be opportunities to emphasise the Lakanal event during some inputs. This will be discussed at the next Incident Command Forum meeting, which is scheduled for 05/09/2013.
	2. To recognise when to escalate attendance by more experienced ICs.	c) Introduce a case study training package, to incorporate learning outcomes from the inquest	AC OA	December 2013		In addition to the wider course review, detailed specifications for a number of new 'case study' training packages are currently being developed, which will also cover the key Lakanal incident command themes. One of these packages covering methodical search patterns will be launched as part of Ops News 25. This is due to be published to operational staff by the end of Sept 2013. A further 'case study' training package detailing the specific issue arising at the Lakanal incident has also been commissioned. This package will highlight other highrise incidents where similar issues/challenges were experienced, e.g., the Shirley Towers fire in Hampshire.
	3. To anticipate that a fire might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle.					In addition to the above activities officers have recently commissioned a further training package that will cover role identification, briefings and command structures. This will be included within Ops News 26 that is due to be published to operational staff by the end of January 2014.
	4. To be aware of					

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	<p>the risks to those above and adjacent to the fire flat.</p> <p>5. Handover from one IC to the next and effective deployment of outgoing ICs</p> <p>6. The collection of information from all possible sources</p> <p>7. Use of methodical search patterns</p>					
4	The Brigade considers whether training be given to operational crews about Brigade Control practices and procedures	a) Staff to be reminded of revised FSG practices	Third Officer	March 2014		<p>An Ops News publication covering Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) protocols was issued to all operational staff in March 2013. A pilot for a joint Brigade Control and Command Unit training exercise was successfully completed in late 2012/13 and six exercises have now been planned in quarter 3 of 2013/14.</p> <p>A new online system which enables operational staff to be assessed, in the workplace, on their knowledge of Brigade policies and procedures was launched in June 2013.</p> <p>Two boroughs have arranged specific FSG exercises at station level and the remaining borough commanders have included this in their annual training plan. All these exercises will include station</p>

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						based staff and senior officers.
		b) Develop specification for a new training solution covering Brigade Control practices and procedures	Third Officer	February 2014		<p>A specification requiring changes to the initial training packages for trainee firefighters has been drafted. These changes will be introduced as part of the revised trainee firefighter programme once recruitment recommences.</p> <p>A commissioning document is also being drafted by officers, which will require Babcock to develop a new training solution aimed at raising awareness of Brigade Control practices and procedures. Once completed this training package will be made available to all staff via the Training Icon available on the Brigade's desktop computers.</p>
		c) Arrange for training, solution, detailed in b) above, to be undertaken by all operational staff.	TBC	March 2014		Dependent on the above.
5	The Brigade considers whether it would be beneficial to use additional breathing apparatus radio communications channels and personal radio channels at major	a) Engage with the training contractor to ensure that issues relating to incident communications are embedded within current operational	AC OP	December 2013		<p>Two training packages have been commissioned for Babcock to provide training to all operational personnel on the available communications equipment and its effective use at operational incidents. The incidents chosen within these packages include both high-rise and sub-surface, with scenarios that demonstrate how certain communication issues can be resolved using LFB equipment currently carried on Command Units.</p> <p>The target date for roll-out of these training packages is November 2013.</p>

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	incidents to reduce the amount of traffic on each channel	training.				