

LAKANAL HOUSE WORKING GROUP ACTION PLAN MONITORING REPORT

R.A.G. Progress Codes:

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

CORONER'S RULE 43 RECOMMENDATIONS

Action No.	Coroners recommendation	LFB action	Target date	R. A. G.	Action Update - March 2014
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	August 2013		<p>The inaugural high rise forum meeting was held on 4 October. This was well attended by 22 delegates representing both public and private sector landlords, including London Councils, the national Social Housing Fire Strategy Group, the Association of Residential Letting Agents and a number of other umbrella associations. The forum covered a range of topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the forum • Issues raised by the Coroner in her Rule 43 letters • A discussion on the RRO and the experiences of each organisation regarding its effectiveness and how it could be improved • Expectations and outcomes of the forum and other topics for consideration

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					The forum has since met on two more occasions. At this stage, the group has had promising discussions and has good prospects for useful work into the future.
		b) Review existing information provided to residential high rise dwellers	August 2013		<p>All Home Fire Safety guidance has been reviewed and specific guidance for high rise dwellers prepared. 25,000 leaflets on Compartment Fires with revised messages for residents are now available for use by station staff and Community Safety teams.</p> <p>The LFEPA Web site has been updated to reflect the revised guidance. The Fire Safety (Regulatory) department is now working with London Councils and a number of housing providers to determine how this information will be effectively communicated to residents.</p> <p>Over and above this requested work the Communications Department are also now working on a wider communications strategy (see item c below)</p>
		c) The Brigade's communications department will run a campaign in 2014 targeted at housing providers and people who live in purpose built blocks of flats	February/ March 2014		<p>A communications plan has been produced and shared with London Councils (represented by local authority heads of communications), the Fire Safety Hise Rise Forum and the LHWG.</p> <p>Campaign development is well underway following the above meetings. The campaign will include a website containing information for both housing providers and the public; advertising to promote fire safety in high rise properties; and</p>

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					public affairs activities to encourage scrutiny that housing providers are actively promoting fire prevention guidance. The campaign is schedule to launch 28 March 2014
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	December 2013		A review of PN 800: 'Information Gathering / Contingency Plans' has been completed and the final draft of the policy has been produced following Head of Service consultation. The revised policy has now been submitted for formal IR consultation with comments due back by 24 March. Once the policy has cleared IR consultation it will be submitted to BJCHSW.
		b) Create a 7(2)(d) visit regime, targeted at high priority buildings	December 2013		Guidance has been created for station based staff as to the priority order of visits that should be applied to different premises types. This guidance ensures that staff at stations visit the highest priority premises first. In addition, details of premises where the Brigade has attended an AFA or non-domestic fire over the past three years have been identified to ensure that 7(2)(d) visits are carried out at these premises.
		c) Develop new policy/guidance to address known outstanding risks identified through home fire safety visits	December 2013		Guidance has been developed to support station based staff, which shows the action to be taken when a serious outstanding risk is identified. This may be a risk from fire which cannot be fully resolved through installation of smoke alarms, e.g. where the resident's risk factors may mean that we would also recommend provision of resources

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					<p>such as fire retardant bedding, a telecare link, and in some cases, sprinklers.</p> <p>The serious outstanding risk may be of a non-fire nature, e.g. when a member of the Brigade feels that the vulnerability of a resident needs further consideration and help to avoid future problems. This risk could manifest itself in a number of different ways. Therefore, the objective of this new guidance is to lower the risk of harm coming to the individual/s.</p>
		d) Set corporate targets for 7 (2) (d) activities	December 2013		A corporate target has been established where all 7 (2) (d) activities will be completed within the specified timeframe, as defined in policy guidance (ranging between quarterly up to once every two years).
3	<p>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:</p> <p>1. Use of the Dynamic Risk</p>	a) Implement recommendations from the report 'Review of incident command and support levels'.	December 2013		Changes to incident command thresholds for Group Manager and above were implemented on 22 November 2013, following agreement with the Representative Bodies.
		b) Review incident command training to ensure the 7 points are adequately covered	September 2013		Officers instructed Babcock to confirm that all 7 incident command related recommendations are sufficiently covered within the existing suite of training courses. Babcock responded confirming that all 7 issues are covered in the existing suite of command training, albeit that there are opportunities to emphasise the Lakanal

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	<p>Management model and other management tools to enable ICs to analyse a situation, and to recognise and react quickly to changing circumstances.</p> <p>2. To recognise when to escalate attendance by more experienced ICs.</p> <p>3. To anticipate that a fire might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle.</p> <p>4. To be aware of 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>				<p>event/issues during some inputs.</p> <p>Babcock have also been directed to theme a number of the routine Incident Command Exercises (ICEs) using high rise premises, featuring some of the issues that were experienced at the Lakanal House fire. Further opportunities to highlight the challenges of managing high rise incidents have been taken through the IC assessments that form an integral part of the promotion process. In 2013 this covered SM, GM and DAC selection rounds.</p> <p><u>Station Based Training</u></p> <p>To reinforce the routine training inputs from Babcock and the ICEs a number of the Incident management themes highlighted by the Coroner have been included in the Brigade's Operational News publications. A number of these Operational News articles have been supported with new or updated station based training packages.</p> <p>Over the past couple of years the Brigade has taken every opportunity to exercise high rise operations at realistic venues. This has resulted in a number of large scale exercises being held in high rise premises, including the Shard, a residential tower block in Southwark and most recently a derelict tower block in east London. These training opportunities, which have included the involvement of the Casualty Union, have enabled operational staff to practice high rise</p>

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					<p>operations and command in a realistic environment.</p> <p>In addition to the above, command related issues are being routinely monitored at the weekly LFB/Babcock incident management liaison meetings, which review the issues and themes arising from operational incidents attended.</p>
		c) Introduce a case study training package, to incorporate learning outcomes from the inquest	December 2013		<p>The first draft of the case study solution was reviewed in late December. This identified that additional content was needed and a further meeting to progress this item was held in January.</p> <p>As a result of this latest review the completion date for this case study has been rescheduled for the end of March 2014. Once the case study has been 'signed-off' a suitable date to launch the package will be agreed. (this is likely to be April 14)</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	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 a further six exercises have been scheduled for (2013/14).</p> <p>Two boroughs have arranged specific FSG exercises at station level and the remaining borough commanders have included this topic in their annual training plan. All these exercises will include station based staff and senior officers.</p>

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		b) Develop specification for a new training solution covering Brigade Control practices and procedures	February 2014		<p>A specification requiring changes to the initial training packages for trainee firefighters has been developed and agreed. These changes will be introduced as part of the revised trainee firefighter programme once recruitment recommences.</p> <p>A commissioning document has been drafted that required Babcock to develop a new training solution aimed at raising awareness of Brigade Control practices and procedures. This training package has now been completed and 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.	March 2014		The new training package is scheduled to be piloted in April.
5	The Brigade considers whether it would be beneficial to use additional breathing apparatus radio communications channels and personal radio channels at major incidents to reduce the amount of traffic on each channel	a) Engage with the training contractor to ensure that issues relating to incident communications are embedded within current operational training.	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 first of these packages has now been</p>

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	NB: in responding to the Coroner the Brigade made it clear that it did not accept this particular recommendation. Therefore, the activities detailed in this plan only relate to a commitment the Brigade has made to undertake some additional comms familiarisation.				completed and published. The second package, which is aimed at senior officers, was signed off on March 14 and will be published in April.

MEMBER'S WORKING GROUP ACTIONS

Action	Target Date	R A G	Action Update
Draft a letter from the Chairman and Commissioner to DCLG following up on the original correspondence sent by the Commissioner covering the RRO issues	30 Sept		Complete - Letters from the LFEPA Chairman and Commissioner were sent to the Fire Minister on 26 September 2013. Replies were received and subsequently a meeting held, between officials. These exchanges are assessed by officers as having been helpful in confirming the approach being taken by LFB, which is to take action against the landlord where fire safety issues pertaining to tenants from doors compromise the exit route provided by the corridor. DCLG's view is that it is then up to the landlord to use their contractual agreements with the tenant to rectify this and not for us as the enforcing authority to deal with the tenant.
To confirm with BRE whether the refurbished window design for Lakanal House was 'one-off' bespoke solution	14 Nov		Oral update to be provided at the November 2013 meeting.
To produce a report addressing	14 Nov		This report was on the agenda for the November 2013 meeting.

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the concern that building control processes may not be effective in protecting the fire safety integrity of a building during significant refurbishment projects		
To produce a Communications Strategy that aims to further engage residents and the key stakeholders in the issues arising from the Lakanal House incident	14 Nov	This report was on the agenda for the November 2013 meeting.
To produce an overview report detailing the changes that have already been implemented and those in progress relating to improving the incident command function at incidents.	Jan 2014	This report was on the agenda for the January 2014 meeting.
Update the Rule 43 Action Plan	Jan 2014	Standing agenda item.
Prepare two briefing notes for the working group covering cabling within properties and firefighting lifts	14 Nov	The two briefing notes were circulated with the papers for the November 2013 meeting.
Officers report back to the LHWG further relevant updates, as appropriate, from all Borough Commanders as to: (a) their awareness of significant refurbishment projects in high rise residential	March 2014	A report covering this item is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.

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premises; and (b) whether these refurbishments have been sensitive to considerations of fire safety integrity			
Officers report back to the Working Group on the potential for also including follow-up inspections by the Brigade when specific advice is given following a fire investigation and boroughs have confirmed they are to take action in respect of that advice	March 2014		A report covering this item is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.
Officers liaise with the BRE as to the possibility of their Lakanal House presentation (as provided to the Working Group by David Crowder) being copied (possibly to DVD) and widely distributed to boroughs, housing providers and other interested parties	March 2014		Further presentations have been made by David Crowder, to the London District Surveyors Association and to the Borough Commanders and Area DACs. The Borough Commanders and Area DACs reported that they got a huge amount from the input and they are now pursuing arrangements for more locally based presentations, involving partners.
Officers report back to the Working Group as to the possibility/legality of LFEPA borough Members being copied in to advice forms highlighting structural fire safety issues in their boroughs, in order to be able to follow up	March 2014		A report covering this item is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.

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issues as appropriate or reinforce the need for follow-up action		
Officers explore the possibility of including a short-term/high impact promotion, in a similar vein to Fire Safety Week the communications department delivered in 2010	March 2014	This activity will be considered as part of the communications campaign scheduled for 2014.
Invite representatives from the Sceaux Gardens Tenants and Residents Association to the next meeting of the LHWG.	Jan 2014	Invite was sent for the January 2014 meeting
Copies of the Commissioner's letters to Harriet Harman and the Sceaux Gardens Tenants and Residents Association following the meeting on Control and call-handling issues be forwarded to Working Group Members	Jan 2014	Copies of these correspondences were sent to the Clerk in January 2014 of the working group for onward circulation to Members.
Provide copies of the Brigade's 'After the Fire' publication to members of the LHWG	Dec 2013	This publication was circulated to Members in Dec 2013.
Officers report back to the Working Group on the level of victim support provided by the Boroughs through their emergency planning offices. (Director of Operational Resilience and Training)	Jan 2014	A separate briefing note on this issue was circulated with the papers for the January 2014 meeting.

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<p>Cable Management -</p> <p>i) officers to ensure this issues is picked up in the work that has been passed to the Strategy Committee (Review of the RRO)</p> <p>ii) officers to promote new standards for cable management (arising from the Hampshire Rule 43) with the Electrical Safety Council</p>	Jan 2014	<p>For item i), officers will ensure that this is picked up in the wider review of the RRO that will be reported back to the Strategy Committee.</p> <p>For item ii), a briefing note on this issue was circulated with the papers for the January 2014 meeting.</p>
Firefighting lifts	Jan 2014	A briefing note covering this issue was circulated with the papers for the January 2014 meeting.
Paint layers	Jan 2014	As above.
Prepare two draft 'Guides for Councillors'	March 2014	A report covering this item is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.
Provide an update on the High Rise Communications Plan	March 2014	A report covering this item is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.
Invite the FBU to attend the March meeting	March 2014	Invite was issued by the Clerk of the LHWG.
Prepare a draft report from the LHWG to the Strategy Committee	March 2014	This report is on the agenda for the March 2014 meeting.
Officers to provide further information to Members on the review of the emergency services carried out by the London Borough of Lewisham's Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Feb 2014	Circulated to Members in January 2014.

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RELATED ISSUES BEING PROGRESSED BY THE STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Action	Target Date	R A G	Action Update
The regulation of leasehold properties within high rise buildings (how landlords are dealing with leaseholders making modifications to doors/interior walls, etc. which potentially compromise the fire safety of buildings)	TBC		This issue forms part of wider report entitled 'Fire Safety Legislation – review of current legislation', which was presented to the Strategy Committee on 12 November 2013.
The need for a recognised Government standard for 'competent persons' carrying out fire safety risk assessments	TBC		As above
Looking at how the Brigade prioritises its inspections of residential high rise buildings	TBC		As above
The Strategy Committee be made aware of the problem in accessing 'private' high rise data (as highlighted by the enquiries made by Councillor Truesdale in Lambeth) and officers investigate the possibility of accessing such information via Council Tax info	TBC		As above