

Appendix A

Proforma that can be used as a guide to capture information immediately after an incident and will assist you to make contemporaneous notes. This is to be completed as soon as possible after the incident.

INCIDENT AT: Grenfell Towers

DATE OF INCIDENT: 14,07,2017

RECORD OF ACTIONS OF OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN ELECTRONICALLY TO [REDACTED]@london-fire.gov.uk

NAME:

1. Please confirm your posting, watch and how long you have been there?

GM John Graham ,Special operations group, North Rota 4

2. Did you have any previous knowledge of this premises via visits or previous incidents?

Yes I was stationed at North Kensington as SUB officer back in 2000 and have attended fires there before, before any external refit.

3. Where were you when you received the ordering?

HQ but had previously been informed and discussed the relief plan with DAC Fenton so was ready to go when pager activated.

4. What appliance were you riding?

Own Vehicle

5. From which direction did you approach the incident?

South from Holland park

6. Where was your appliance initially sited?

Treadgold street

7. Did this position subsequently change?

No

8. Can you describe the scene on your arrival?

Organised chaos, the scene resembled a war zone but there was a clear command structure and there was order, there were clear resource areas and sectors and we appeared to be making progress.

9. What could you see of the fire situation when you arrived?

There were still fires on all floors from 4th upwards and debris still falling.

10. What were you tasked with doing on your arrival?

Provide a detailed description please with times if possible

On arrival I eventually found the unit, the units were spread around and had different functions at that point. I gave my role board in through the window and was immediately tasked by AC Andy Roe with taking over the fire and Search sectors from GM Goulbourne and GM Welch following a brief from both AC Roe and DAC Andy O'Loughlin, the DAC showed be around the fire ground and route into the building (via Public order police shields) my brief was to take over the internal fire and search sectors from the two GMs but with a clear brief to shadow both until a clear picture of operations and issues are understood, also so all information that they and the staff working with them was not lost. Not sure of the exact time but between 7-8 in the morning.

11. What did you actually do?

Provide a detailed description please with times if possible

From about 07:30 I started shadowing Pat Goulbourne and Richard Welch with the view to take over the Bridgehead which at that time was still in the Lobby on the ground floor. There was a problem with a burst or open ended branch that was flooding the Lobby and causing problems for crews on the single staircase. GM Welch informed me that he was happy that ground to and including the 5th floors.

I moved the bridge head up to the 4th floor after photographing the information on the walls as to flats and casualties and moved up to the forth. I detailed the Supporting staff that were managing BA entry and search to draw a plan of the building with six flats on each. We new the numbers for the flats in the bridge head so based the flat numbers moving up the building on that.as I committed crews to those floors it became clear that these numbers didn't tie up. The brief to BA crews was clarified to confirm that all flats on each floor had been searched so that the numbering would be largely academic at that point. There was a dedicated crew to each floor to confirm this , with the brief to return to the bridge head to confirm this as soon as completed. Initially I committed crews to floors 6,7,8 to Fire fight and search.I was ably assisted by GM Tim Frost who managed the logistics and downward facing aspect that allowed me to concentrate on fire fighting and search upwards, he was a great support and took and took a lot of pressure off me.

As the day unfolded I had continuing issues with Comms and resorted to Runners, despite laying out repeaters and trying different channels this proved the best solution.

Additional problems with hose build up in upper floors restricting access past the 12th and of course the severity of the conditions from the fire all impeded progress. At one point I ordered all Personnel down to the bridge head and completely relayed and removed the old hose .I then had a single length and branch on floors 6 to 12 to control fires on each of those floors and instructed that under no circumstance were those hose lines to

enter the staircases. We ran a new line up the stairs and bought in an additional light weight pump and had it placed on an upper floor to allow increased water pressure and ran that length to reach passed the 15th floor.

Whilst we did this GM Paul Trew used the ALP to keep the fire at bay externally, this was very useful.

Another factor that impeded progress was the Gas main alight in most flats, the inability to turn this off meant that I had to tie crews up covering existing floors that we had partially extinguished. At one point received confirmation that the gas had been dug up in the street and it was off, i moved the bridgehead up to seven only to have to return it to 4, 20 minutes later as the gas was not off it then re ignited fires below the bridge head.

The single staircase added additional restrictions on how many people you could safely commit to fight the fire. The dry riser inlet placement at the far side of each lobby meant you had to fight your way passed the fire flats to reach it,

The addition of casualties blocking the stairs from the 9th floor up was an added obstacle that we could only rectify once we had extinguished those floors sufficiently to assure that we could respectfully place the deceased into the fire lobbies on those floors without the fear that they would then be compromised due to fire spread.

Generally I had at most points once we had sorted out the initial water problem 6 floors of SDBA and 3 Floors of EDBA above that running consistently whilst I was in charge of the internal fire fighting.

I had a range of officers assisting me in this task who worked particularly hard, GM Frost, SM Kazmanly and SM Jason Frisby. this is as well as all the CM, WMs that we replaced through out the Day. They all gave 100% as did all the crews that entered time and time again.

This is obviously a brief synopsis of events as I was in there for approximately 9 hours until relieved by GM Neil Chisolm at around 16:30?

I had a number of discussions with DAC Rick Ogden and ORT officer John Simpson about the stability of the building and when we should call a tactical withdrawal of the building. I felt that whilst the outer floors were becoming unstable the central core was good and whilst it was becoming more apparent that it was unlikely that we would find anyone else alive, we needed to try and bring the fire under control to preserve remains and prevent collapse. I constantly revisited this decision but felt confident that whilst we could maintain fire fighting we should.

If you went inside the building (e.g. BA) can you describe how the building behaved and anything unusual and what you did

See above

12. What were you tasked to do subsequently during this incident?
Provide a detailed description please with times if possible

As above

13. What did you actually do?
Provide a detailed description please with times if possible

As above

14. Were there any things that you witnessed or heard during this incident (beyond what you have already said) that went beyond your previous experience as a firefighter and/or that are worthy of particular note?

As above

15. Did you have any contact with members of the public at this incident? If yes, record details
no

16. What time did you leave the incident?
Around 1700hrs

17. Is there anything else you wish to say about the incident?

Every body did all they could and worked extremely hard but were faced with an almost impossible task , we must learn lessons from this, the in ability to turn the gas off was a serious impediment to us, in the end the street had to be dug up in three places.

Clearly there are not many if any building that allows comprehensive firefighting when all floors are alight.

Regards