

Incident No 076028 – 14062017

Date 14/06/2017 T.O.C 00:55 Hours.

Flat 16 Grenfell Tower

Lancaster West Estate, W11 1TG.

Watch Manager Pat Delaney. Islington Command Unit. Red Watch. 27 years service. [REDACTED] 4X

Sir,

I have to report that on the evening of Tuesday 14th of June I was driving Islington Command Unit along with my colleague Watch Manager Peter Johnson. At 01:38 we were mobilised to a 25 pump fire at Grenfell Tower, Lancaster West Estate W11 1TG. We were mobile to incident at 01:40 and arrived at the incident at 01:50. I had no previous knowledge of this premises. We approached the incident from the east along Marylebone Road and Harrow Road.

- On arrival I parked at Walmer Road junction of Hesketh Place and the Command Unit (CSU2) remained there throughout the incident.
- On arrival I would describe the scene as a fully developed fire on numerous floors from the 8th to the top of the building.
- We made our way to CU8, Fulham Command Unit, to book in and see where we would be needed.
- I was asked to make my way to the lobby of Grenfell Tower as instructed by CU8 and then on to the Bridgehead on the 4th floor assisting GM Welch.
- As I entered the stairwell from the upper lobby I was met by crews leading casualties to safety and I briefly assisted them from the stairs to the upper lobby.
- I utilised the Fire ground radio channel 10 to communicate with my fellow CU officers, communications was an issue and remained so throughout the incident. There were intermittent cut outs and times where myself and others could not be contacted. This was due to this distance and the channel being overrun.
- Conditions at the bridgehead, which was located on the 4th floor stairwell, started to deteriorate. It became smoke logged making it difficult without B.A to remain on the floor, The decision was made to relocate to the lobby, on the ground floor.
- Myself, WM Stewart from Edmonton Command Unit, and WM Carroll – Lewisham Command Unit, were in a 3 way communication link. This was due to issues with the Fire ground radios that would not transmit well enough from inside the building to back to the Command Units, I was used as a bridge between the 3, and vice versa.
- WM Stewart, stayed at the bridgehead and I relocated to the rear of the lobby. This allowed us to have a three way communications link between WM Stewart at the bridgehead, Myself and WM Carroll who was outside.
- We remained like this for some time which allowed us to transmit essential information back and fro. We communicated such tasks as, making sure BA resources were adequately maintained.
- Drinking water was bought in for crews in the lobby, along with 2nd set bags to the bridge head in the lobby.

- Later in the incident the Bridge Head lost contact with a BA crew of 4 from Bethnal Green. The crew were approaching their time of whistle. An emergency crew were committed. This information was passed back to CU8. The crew were subsequently found and this information was also relayed back to CU8.
- GM Goulborne was experiencing water pressure issues on the 11th floor and requested hose be prepared outside to haul the hose aloft externally. We used the communications relay to arrange this, which WM Carroll arranged, but the hose was not used.
- Due to the water issues it was decided to run a line of 70mm up to the 9th floor internally and then divide 2 lines of 45mm hose off it using a dividing breech up to the 11th floor. I was asked by SM G Cook to find a crew of 10 to take the lengths of hose up, myself and SM Cook assisted in carrying hose up to the 9th floor stairwell.
- Whilst on the 9th floor we received information that someone was waving for assistance on the 6th floor. SM Cook asked me to oversee this while he continued on to the 11th floor.
- I made my way down to the 6th floor and made a request for BA Crews to search the 6th. I asked FF Lowe (F24) to also request for BA on his radio on channel 1.
- 2 BA crews of 2 turned up in BA and carried out a search of the 6th floor. They reported back that they could not locate anyone and made their way to the 5th floor. Again they reported that they could not locate anyone.
- Once the lines of hose were laid out they were charged with water. I returned to the lobby and assisted where I could.
- One of my last tasks was finding a relief for SM Kipling who had been in charge of BA Main control from the beginning and was exhausted. I could not find a SM to relieve him. I made AC Rowe aware of this and he instructed me to find a WM to relieve him which I did.
- Every time I left or entered the building I did so under a Police riot shield due to the debris falling down from the tower above.
- Myself and WM Johnson left the incident at around 15:00 hrs and drove straight to Paddington Fire Station as requested.

I have never seen a fire of that magnitude in 27 years of service, and never seen so many Brigade personnel of all ranks and roles push themselves as hard as they did during this incident.

This statement was completed on Monday 19th June. I made notes as requested after the incident and have referred to them whilst writing this statement. I haven't included any timescale as I was not aware of the times throughout. I have stated the sequence of events in the order they happened as I remember it.

WM Delaney

CSU2 Islinton

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