

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5b

Statement of: JOHNSON, ADAM

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 11 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: ADAM JOHNSON

Date: 22/01/2018

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

This statement refers to the GRENFELL TOWER FIRE and my attendance there. I make this statement referring to notes that I made at Paddington Fire Station immediately following my attendance at the incident. I produce a copy of these notes as exhibit APJ/01.

I am Adam JOHNSON, a firefighter on Red Watch at SOHO FIRE STATION (A24). I have been a firefighter for just under ten (10) years originally being based at FOREST HILL before moving to LAMBETH and on to SOHO. When I joined the brigade, I undertook my initial training, which lasts a few months, at SOUTHWARK TRAINING CENTRE.

We are constantly having training at our fire station consisting of lectures and drills on a variety of topics and do them most shifts. This is done to training diary specific to my station and is set by the Watch Manager (WM). Training is done completed for any new policies and following any changes to policy. We also complete refresher training going over existing policies. We also do sessions of topography where we learn our area and around the borders from a map, challenging each other on route to different places. This is done around a table and sometimes we use blank maps.

There is a drill yard at our station which we use for various drills such as road traffic accidents. There is also a basement which we use to practice basement procedures, simulating incidents with the use of

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dummies. Additionally, we have a four (4) floor tower in the yard which we use for ladder and hose drills to make sure that we are confident with the equipment we are using. When we do the drills we wear full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). On some occasions we do drills simulating different incidents at other stations with other station appliances.

We have lectures and drills using the tower for high rise flats in which we cover policy and procedures associated with them. I cannot remember when I was last trained in high rise blocks but I think I have definitely had some training about it before and since Grenfell Tower.

We are also required to attend a training centre at either PARK ROYAL or BECKTON for breathing apparatus (BA) training and first aid regularly. I am trained to wear Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus (SDBA). We get an emails telling us when we are required to attend the centres for the training and depending on what we are doing the sessions last either one (1) or two (2) days. I am also trained to drive the pump or pump ladder and, when I was at FOREST HILL, I was trained in Mass Decontamination but this is not a function of my current station so I have not undergone any further training in this whilst at SOHO.

The day to day training does depend on what incidents we get sent to but we do also get allocated time as Strategic Relief which is when we get specific things booked. As well as training this can also include other visits such as familiarisation visits to buildings with complex layouts and salvage visit where we go to a location with a large quantity of expensive items to see what we would be able to rescue if there was a fire. An example of this would be at BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

We also conduct 7.2 d visits. These are visits to buildings for find out the layouts of them, look at the access to the building and where you would site the appliance if you were driving, where the hydrants and other things i.e dry risers and fire lifts, that would be useful to know if we have to attend a fire there. There is no specific training for if compartmentation fails but is covered under the normal training. Every incident is different and you have to take them as they come and apply the procedures and policies that are required. You risk assess the incident you are at, conducting door procedures or policies and procedures where they are needed.

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I have experience of firefighting at high rise blocks and have attend several in my career. Varying from a small flat fire like in DUFOURS PLACE, SOHO to larger fires like the one at the PERSPECTIVE BUILDING in ELEPHANT AND CASTLE. Everyone has different roles at high rise fires and the role is determined by where you are sitting on the truck. The driver will set the machine into the dry riser or wet riser, the firefighters on the back will wear BA, or you can be tasked with something else like setting up the bridgehead or operating the fire lift. Everyone knows their roles before they get to the incident so they do not have to be told what to do when they arrive at an incident. There is a role call at the beginning of each shift where you are given your role/riding position for the day.

I have never been to GRENFELL TOWER before but am familiar with the area around it.

On TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017 I was working on the night shift which started at 20:00 hours. At the role call I was posted to ride in the pump ladder, call sign A241, and be a BA wearer. Also on A241 were Watch Manager (WM) BEALE, Firefighter (FF) SAUNDERS who was driving and FF DESFORGES who was in the back with me. The shift started like normal and we conducted the inventories on the machine. We were sent to a couple of calls including one for a person under a train at TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD STATION. By the time we had returned to the station it was quite late. I used the station's gym before going back upstairs to eat. I had laid my bedding out but was not yet in bed.

At 12:55 hours we got the shout to mobilise to GRENFELL TOWER. The bells sounded and the announcement came out for us to mobilise along with our pump, call sign A242. The duty man went to get the tip sheet which had come out of the teleprinter. I put on my boots and leggings and got straight into the appliance. The tip sheet told us that we were being sent to a twenty (20) pump fire. It would have also said where it was and what area it was in along with what other appliances were assigned. This would have been relayed to the crew by WM BEALE. I think he said that it was a fire in a high rise building but cannot remember exactly. The radio in the pump ladder was also on and I could hear a lot of chatter on it. I could not hear exactly what was happening as I was sitting in the back but it sounded like there were a lot of Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls coming from control.

FF SAUNDERS had checked the route on the map on the wall of the appliance bay before setting off but we were also helping him to navigate his way there. The route we took was left onto SHAFTSBURY

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AVENUE, through PICADILY CIRCUS to HYDE PARK CORNER, down PARK LANE, BAYSWATER ROAD, NOTTING HILL GATE, right onto LADBROKE GROVE before turning left into CORNWALL CRESCENT and onto DULFORD STREET. A message had come out on the radio whilst we were on route that there was an RVP at BOMORE ROAD. On route I had checked the map to see exactly where BOMORE ROAD was and told FF SAUNDERS to turn right from WALMER ROAD in to BOMORE ROAD. The RVP point was behind KENSINGTON SPORT CENTRE. I am not sure how long the journey took but we did not encounter any difficulties on it. I have marked on a map with an X exactly where we parked on BOMORE ROAD. I produce this map as exhibit APJ/02.

When we were on BOMORE ROAD, I got my first view of the tower. I could see a big orange glow over the top of the sports centre. I could see two (2) sides of the tower and it looked like it was all alight. There was a lot of flame and I remember thinking what a big job this was going to be and saying to FF DES FORGES "Jesus that's massive." It's not every day that you see a fire that size. I could also see a lot of smoke coming from the tower.

Once we pulled up we grabbed our BA sets. It was a no brainer that we would need the BA sets as there was multiple floors alight. Our fire engine was fairly near the front of BOMORE ROAD but there were fire engines everywhere. A242 was parked directly behind us. Once we had got the equipment we headed towards the bottom of the tower. It took us a couple of minutes to get from the appliance to the tower. We were shifting but not sprinting as we did not want to fall over with all the equipment that we were carrying. I have marked the route that we took from the appliance to the tower on APJ/02. Around the tower there were a lot of people, some were on the pathway alongside the sports centre but we ploughed through them as we had a job to do and needed to get to the tower as quickly as possible. There was also a lot of hose laid out and a branch was set up with a firefighter manning it, spraying water on the outside of the tower. There was a lot of debris on the floor surrounding the tower but I did not pay much attention to it.

At the base of the tower, we were met by Crew Manager (CM) STERN told us to Grab equipment and head to the tower." We each took as much hose, branches and breaking in gear as we could carry, taking equipment off our pump and the pumps around ours.

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My crew and the crew of A242 entered the tower at the same time. We went into the lobby on the ground floor through the entrance by the underground canopy and up the stairs to the right before going along the balcony in the foyer at the top of these stairs. Either a WM or SM who was already there asked us to queue up and wait to be sent in in what was a BA holding area on the balcony. There were lots of firefighters in the queue and everyone was keen to get going. There were crews in front of us waiting to be committed, about four (4) to six (6) firefighters in total and I recognized one of the crews as being from Chelsea. The equipment that we had brought in was being put at the front of this queue and as more firefighters arrived with more gear it was passed along the queue to be put in the pile. Firefighters were being called forward in pairs or groups and sent to the bridgehead.

FF DESFORGES was stood in front of me with FF Richard MITCHELL who was riding A242 and I was stood next to FF Terry ROOTS, also from A242. At one point an officer asked for the queue of firefighters to be shuffled back down the stairs but at the same time another officer was still calling firefighters forward. We did not have to wait long, FF DESFORGES and FF MITCHELL were called in first then me and FF ROOTS were sent up to the bridgehead to work as a pair. Whilst we were in the lobby area, we were not wearing our BA masks. The smoke was clear enough to breathe without any issues at this point.

We went to the bridgehead, the entry control point for the fire, which was up one (1) or two (2) floors on the stairs from where we had been waiting and was in the lift lobby area of that floor. There were two (2) entry control boards set up and there were two (2) officers there. We went straight to the officer in charge who was a female governor from CHELSEA who I think was WM DE SILVA. She told us that our task was to go to the Fourth (4th) floor, Flat fourteen (14) as there was a fire survival guidance (FSG) call had been received there and someone needed rescuing. The bridgehead area was clear of smoke at this point.

Once we had been given this task, we started up our BA sets, donned the masks and went under air. The time for which the air supply in SDBA lasts varies depending on how hard you are working. It is roughly about thirty (30) minutes under working conditions. The harder you work, the more air you use and quicker the supply runs out. We went to the entry control boards, handed in our tallies and told the officer the amount of air in our sets which they wrote down. We grabbed an enforcer, Halligan bar and a Thermal

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Imaging Camera (TIC) from the pile of equipment and headed up the stairs to the fourth (4th) floor.

The stairs were clear for the first one (1) or (2) floors above the bridgehead but started getting smoky three (3) or four (4) floors up. I kept track of the floors, counting as we went up. It was light smoke at the start but got thicker the further up you went until it got to the point when you could just about see your colleagues. On the stairwell, it was a push to fit two (2) firefighters with gear side by side. I did go past other firefighters on the night but cannot remember at exactly what points this happened.

We went up the stairs as quickly as we could coming out of the stairs on the fourth (4th) floor into the lift lobby area. FF ROOTS was in front of me and went through the door to this floor first. I do not know if it was open or closed. The fourth (4th) floor was smoky, we were the only firefighters on this floor. We went around looking at the floor numbers until we found flat fourteen (14). The door to the flat was wide open and we went in and conducted a good search, going in every room, opening cupboards and moving furniture out of the way to ensure that everywhere a person could be was checked. Me and FF ROOTS branched off as we went around the flat but confirmed with each other what section we had searched to make sure that the whole thing was done and double checking where necessary. As we went around the flat we were shouting "London Fire Brigade" repeatedly but did not receive any response and did not find anyone inside the flat. It was smoky inside the flat but there was no fire in there other than maybe the odd hot-spot. When we were sure that the flat was clear I asked FF ROOTS to report this back using the radio on his BA set as mine did not have one. Everyone has a personal radio that is on the channel for the incident ground but not all of the BA sets have radios. The BA set radios are on a different channel specifically for those past the bridgehead. I was not listening to my personal radio as I was too busy focusing on the task in hand. There was too much chatter on the radio for FF ROOTS to be able to give our update. I said to him that we were only the fourth (4th) floor and that we should go back down and ask for our next task.

We went back onto the stairwell and down to the bridgehead, taking the equipment that we had brought up back down. There were members of the public being taken out by firefighters. It was still smoky in the stairwell but there was at least one floor clear of smoky above the bridgehead.

When we got down to the bridgehead we reported back to the same officer who had given us the task. We

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did not remove our BA sets but told her that the flat was clear. She said that she had another flat if we had enough air so we asked "Where do you want us now?" We were told to go to FLAT One hundred and sixty-one (161) on the nineteenth (19th) floor for another FSG call. We both checked our air supplies and both had enough to do this task so we went back into the stairwell again taking the equipment with us. The further we got up the stairs, the worse the smoke got. As we were going up, there were firefighters coming down so we had to keep ducking into the doorways of different floors to let them past. Firefighters coming down the stairs always have the right of way.

On the way up, FF ROOTS and I had a conversation about which floor we were on. Neither of us were sure so I went into a lift lobby and looked at the number by the lift. We were on the seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) floor, I cannot remember exactly which. Both the stairs and the lift lobby was heavily smoke logged. In order to be able to read the number by the lift, I had to get very close to it. The walls were sooted up and it was very dark. From this floor up we then counted the floors up to the nineteenth (19th) and to make sure that it was the right floor I again check the number on the plaque next to the lift when we went into the floor.

When we entered the nineteenth (19th) floor FF ROOTS said that he could hear someone banging and screaming over to the right. We went towards the noise of the banging and ended up at the door for a flat. I could hear a man's voice on the other side of the door and shouted "Hello London Fire Brigade" through the door. He responded so I asked him how many people were inside and he said "Two (2) and a dog." I asked if there was fire in his flat and he replied "No." I told him 'Run towers under the tap, block the door seals and stick towels over your head. We will be back for you. We have to go and search one of your neighbours flats' I put my face right next to the letter box and the smoke was very heavy and saw that it was flat one hundred and sixty-five (165).

We moved away from the door and started looking for Flat one hundred and sixty-one (161). I found it and called FF ROOTS over. FF ROOTS gave the door a couple of hits with the enforcer but it did not budge. He passed the enforcer to me and I also had a go with it but it was not moving. I kept hitting it and eventually managed to smash through one of the panels on the door, making a hole in it. I stuck my hand through the hole, unlocking and opening the door from the inside. FF ROOTS had a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) with him so I said to him that he should go in first to see what was inside as the flat was heavily smoke logged. I could not see anything and was holding on to his tunic as he went in so that we

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did not get separated.

We went into the flat, feeling around the on ground with our hands for anyone who was in there, shouting "London Fire Brigade" as we went around to try and attract attention but there was no response. We went around the corridor to the left and there was a bathroom which we went in, feeling around to find anyone who was inside. We went back in the corridor and continued to search, both down very low. You could feel heat coming from the right and there were flames in one corner. I was behind FF ROOTS and he had the TIC so he would have been able to see better than me. We searched around the flat except immediately next to the fire. I had a brief chat with FF ROOTS. We did not have any extinguishing media to fight the fire and search around it and we had found other people who were waiting for us to go back and get them out. There was no-one in the flat that we found so we went back out of the flat and I pulled the door to behind us.

We went straight across the smoke logged lobby to flat one hundred and sixty-five (165) and I booted the door and shouted "Hello" to attract the man's attention again. I told him that we were going to get him out but that there was really back smoke. I told him again to put wet towels over his head and tuck them in as much as possible. I said that he was going to have to leave the dog and when he was ready they should come out.

We had used a lot of our air supplies by this point what with the two (2) flat searches and climbing up the stairs as we were high up in the building. We thought about getting on the radio to result our task and let the control officer aware we were bringing down some people but the radio on FF ROOTS BA set did not seem to be working this high in the building. We left the breaking in gear on this floor.

The door to flat one hundred and sixty-five (165) opened and a lady came out and collapsed instantly. I do not know if he passed her out or she stepped out on her own. I said to FF ROOTS to get the man and that we needed to get going. As I said this I scooped up the woman off the floor. She was conscious but very limp and had a black towel over her head and was very frail. I think the man might have said something again about the dog but I told him that we had to go.

The door to the stairs was on the left, we went through it and out on to the stairwell. I went down first with the woman and FF ROOTS came behind, bringing the man down with him. I was holding the

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woman by her arms and shoulders and she was shuffling along. I said to her ‘We have to go down the stairs’ but she did not respond. I was going down the stairs backwards bringing her down behind me. When we got to the first half landing down I changed my hold on her so that my hands were under her arms and turned around so that I was going down forwards. I started to go down but she fell down again. I picked her up and made my way down about another floor before she fell once more and got her arm stuck in the railing on the stairs. I pulled her free and started going down backwards again, taking her down the stairs with me. The smoke was still really thick and I could not see FF ROOTS or the man coming down the stairs behind us but I was mostly concentrating on the woman. I was a real struggle to get her down.

I went down about another two (2) floors and put my boot down on something squishy that felt like it might be a person on the floor. I shouted to Terry and told him that he would have to lead the man and woman down the stairs whilst I checked the floor and helped this person. I could not really see but passed the woman over to Terry as he went past and down the stairs ahead of me. I then started to search the floor and found someone. I picked them up under the arms. I did not search anymore after finding this person. The person was very frail and I went down the stairs backwards, bringing them down behind me.

At first I could hear Terry ahead of me, coaxing the people down but I soon lost hearing of this. It was slow progress getting this person down the stairs, I had to keep going down each flight to the landing or half-landing and readjusting my grip of them. This was repeated the whole way down the stairs. I could see on my gauge that I was very low on air and needed to get down quickly so I changed my grip so that I was holding the person by their wrists, dragging them down but making sure that their head did not hit the stairs. I had completely lost contact with Terry at this point and it felt like it took forever to get down the stairs. Normally BA partners stay together at all times but I could not leave the casualty behind and I knew that he was ahead of me.

Eventually I got down the stairs to about the tenth (10th) or eleventh (11th) floor and the door to the lift lobby on that floor burst open. Two (2) firefighters from FULHAM whose BA whistles were sounding burst out. The whistle on the BA set sounds when you are very low on air. I said to them ‘‘Casualty, I need help.’’ They replied that they had no air left but I said that they could not leave me here and that I needed help. Each firefighter grabbed a leg of the casualty and I continued holding both arms. I went

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down the stairs first to try and take the weight so that they would not use too much air. I was mindful that she might have been hurt as I had been dragging her until I met these firefighters but she was making moaning noises so I knew that she was still alive.

The stairs were pitch black all the way to the bottom. We kept going down the stairs and when we approached the bottom of the stairs there were other firefighters in the stairwell. I shouted asked them to move so we could get past. Some of them were helping people down the stairs. We went past entry control to the mezzanine in the ground floor lobby and the firefighters from FULHAM had to pull their masks off as they were so low on air. We carried the person who I now could see was a lady wearing only a nightie. She had white hair and was covered in soot. I don't remember seeing her face but she was not young. We took her down to the ground floor and passed her over to firefighters that were doing casualty handling to take her out of the tower. The amount of air in BA set was now in single figures and the whistle on my set was going off. I took the mask off and made my way back up to entry control as I had lost Terry.

In the stairwell by the bridgehead, which I think had moved, I found Terry helping people down using the TIC. He must have been one of the firefighters who I went past earlier and had probably helped me. Together we went to the bridgehead and reported to WM O'KEEFE. We told him that there was fire in flat one hundred and sixty-one (161) but there was no firefighting media for us to tackle it and we had found no casualties. We also told him that we had brought down two casualties from flat one hundred and sixty-five (165) and someone else who we had found on the stairs. We collected our tallies from the entry control where there were two (2) boards set-up and writing was also being done on the wall. We took ours back from the officer we booked them in with.

Before we exited the building we told a person taking note of the FSG calls and recording who firefighters had rescued what we had done and they wrote it on the wall in chinagraph. We had to wait to get out of the building and during this time one (1) or two (2) more casualties were brought out of the building, firefighters were being asked to give their helmets for them. We waited until we had an opportunity to dash out of the building to under the walkway where the firefighters in BA were queuing up to go in to the tower. We were told to go back to the pump and perform a Fire Ground A Test on our BA sets.

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We made our way back to our fire engine, across the green and past the sport centre on to BOMORE ROAD. There was a casualty area setup by BOMORE ROAD and as we went past it on the way to the engine I saw who I think was the woman that I had brought down to the lobby. I mentioned it to Terry that she was the person I had brought down. The lady was with a man who Terry said was the man that he had brought all the way down from flat one hundred and sixty-five (165). I asked him what had happened to the woman from that flat that I thought I had passed to him but he did not know and had not come out of the stairs with her. I do not know if the woman that I picked up off the floor was the same woman who I had taken from flat one hundred and sixty-five (165). It could be possible that when I let go of her for Terry to take she fell over and was then the person on the floor that I picked up again but at the time I had thought that I had picked up a different person.

We got back to the pump and took our sets off, removed two (2) cylinders from the truck and did a Fire Ground A Test whilst sitting in the middle of the road. FF DESFORGES and FF MITCHELL were also at the fire engine and left just as we got there to go back to the tower. We met up with the rest of our crew and that from the other SOHO appliances and we all made sure that we were all alright before walking back down the side of the sports centre to the BA holding area. Whilst we were there a police officer came out of the sports centre with a load of drinks so I took some water and had a drink.

I am not sure how long we were waiting at the holding area for but we were then moved through the tunnel by the garages to the other side of the tower so that we avoided the falling debris. There were large pieces of debris falling down from the tower, it looked like it was the cladding from the building. There were police officers with shields ferrying firefighters to and from the tower, trying to protect them the debris as much as they could. There was also a branch set up on this side of the tower, attached to a slide in the playground. Whilst we were here I saw WM MERRICK who I know from LAMBETH and was talking to him and several other firefighters. It was light by now and we were waiting in a holding area by a wall as they kept asking for fresh wearers to go in rather than those of us that had already been in to the tower.

Eventually, me and Terry were asked along with two (2) other firefighters from LAMBETH, one of whom was FF PAGE but the other I do not know, to go back in to the tower. I was ferried into the tower by a police officer with a shield entered by a different entrance to the previous time. We were not hit by

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any falling debris on the way over. I did not really pay any attention to the door that we were taken to but we came in to the lobby area. I saw my Station Manager was there and entry control was now set up in the lobby. Water was pouring into the lobby down the stairs. All of us were tasked with going to a burst branch on the eleventh (11th) floor and tracing it back to see where it was coming from so that it could be shut off and replaced. It needed to be shut off as in a fire it can be turned into steam and it can be dangerous if a firefighter gets wet then enters the fire.

I am not sure what time we entered the tower for the second time. We went up the stairs and around the eighth (8th) ninth (9th) or tenth (10th) floor came across a large body of what I think was a man in the stairwell. The stairwell was still smokey and pitch black like it was before. We had been told by another crew that it was there and that they were deceased and could not be moved. We had to step over the body and it had clearly been there for some time. I went over it first and passed the message back to Terry and the other firefighters to warn them that it was there.

There was lots of hose on the stairs but we found the burst branch and traced it all the way back down the stairs to a pump in the lobby. This pump was being fed from a pump outside and the hose went out of the tower. Now it had been traced the pump could be shut off and the hose replaced. We had traced we returned to the bridgehead and told SM Sam KAZMANLI I and the Officer in Charge at the bridgehead of what we had found. Our team of four (4) was given a new task to go and find four (4) different crews currently inside the tower who could not be reached by the radio and tell them to evacuate immediately and return to the bridgehead. The details of the crews were provided and I remember one was from CHELSEA and there was another from PADDINGTON but I cannot remember the other ones. We were not given information as to why but immediately set about the task, still having our masks on from the previous time we went up. We went straight up the stairs and on the eleventh (11th) floor found one of the crews which was of four (4) firefighters. We told them the instruction and that they needed to get out and they immediately left. We went up another floor to the twelfth (12th) floor where we found another crew of four (4). We told the officer incharge of that crew the instructions that we had been given and they also went down the stairs. We continued going up the stairs to the thirteenth (13th) but when we opened the door the lift lobby it was fully alight so we did not enter the floor. We went back down the stairs and found another crew at the eleventh (11th) floor and passed the message to them. By this point we were starting to run low on air so we went back down the stairs to entry control. We reported to the OIC at the

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bridgehead that we had found three (3) of the four (4) crews and he informed us that the fourth (4th) crew had made their way out already. We collected our tallies and left the tower, using the shields.

We dropped our sets and regrouped with the rest of our crew. Relief crews were starting to come in by this point and we were told that we were released from the incident. We went back to our pump which had been moved to round by the sports centre to pump water into the Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) from SOHO call sign A245. It had moved sometime after we did the Fire Ground A Test. All the machines were released together so we made sure that the equipment on all three (3) SOHO machines, A241, A242 and A245. Our equipment was all inside the tower or around the incident so we took equipment that we could find from around the incident and also off the machines coming in as relief as they would be able to take the equipment at the incident away when it was finished.

We made sure that everyone from each crews was Ok before leaving the incident and going to Paddington Fire Station for a de-brief. By the time we left the incident it was early afternoon. At Paddington Fire Station we wrote our notes of the incident and left there about 14:00 or 15:00 hours. We went back to SOHO FIRE STATION. As a watch we went out for a meal before heading back to the station and getting our heads down for a few hours. We were due back on for night duty that day at 20:00 hours so there seemed little point in going home.

Throughout the night, I did not hear any smoke alarms going off. I did not see any sprinklers and do not think there was a fire lift or at least there was not one in use whilst I was in the building. I think the doors in the stairwell were self-closing as I had to open them every time I went through them. Externally there was a branch spraying water on the tower but I do not think that it had much impact.

The stay put policy is if you call the fire brigade and you are staying put in your flat then the call handler will stay on the phone with you until firefighters rescue you. I do not know any decisions around the stay put policy that were made on the night of the fire and it did not impact my tasks in any way. I saw the commissioner at the incident so think that the command structure for the incident went all the way to the very top with senior ranks involved.

I did not suffer any injuries and did not speak to any members of the public. I do not know if you could prepare for a fire like that, no matter what equipment you have. The extent of it was like nothing ever

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