

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: MORRISON, AMANDA

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

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This statement (consisting of 7 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: A MORRISON

Date: 22/01/2018

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

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I have been requested by police to make the following statement regarding my involvement at Grenfell Tower on Wednesday 14th June 2017. I am a Fire Fighter based at [REDACTED] in the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and I have been in the Fire Brigade for 14 years. I began my career at Forest Hill Fire Station, but for the last 6 years I have been attached to the CBRN (Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear) Team which is a specialist role which requires specialist training to deal with hazardous materials. This began as a non-permanent detachment as and when it was required whilst I was still based at Forest Hill. However, when it became known that we were to lose a pump around 2 years ago, the opportunity to become a permanent member of the team presented itself. I was successful at applying for the position and since then I have been a permanent member of the CBRN Team [REDACTED]. Whilst I am performing this role I take on the rank of Watch Manager (WM) because of the extra training I have undertaken. The CBRN Teams role is to attend any hazardous material/CBRN incidents. We carry equipment that enables us to do air sampling, test unknown solids, liquids and pastes. Once tested we are able to give you an idea of what the substance is, what safety cordons need to be put in place, whether we need to evacuate and what treatment the casualties might need. [REDACTED] We keep up to date with our normal training schedule the same as normal Fire Fighters, but use our own equipment. These are called BPA's (Best Practice Assessments). It is rare that we are required to attend fires. The fire will normally have been dealt with before we get there.

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On Tuesday 13th June 2017 I began my shift at 2000hrs on the 2nd floor of Lambeth Fire Station. The roll call took place and I carried out all my usual equipment checks, which includes my BA (Breathing Apparatus). I was detailed to be the driver of our DIM (Detection/Identification/Monitoring) Appliance, call sign [REDACTED] which is an [REDACTED] equipped with blue lights. My crew consisted of WM Richard VANSTONE (Richie), WM Mark NIBLETT, WM Anthony PARKIN and me. WM Anthony PARKIN (Tony) was our officer in charge.

The CBRN Team are mobilised via pagers rather than the bell that most Fire Stations use. We all carry a pager and the message is sent out as a group page. This is so that we can still be on call whilst out on visits doing training and teaching with other stations. We are on call for CBRN incidents across London and nationally if required.

I'm not sure exactly what time, but in the early hours of the morning we were mobilised to a 40 pump major incident. I was in the mess at the time. We all clustered in the office and printed out the incident on the BOSS system which gives us the address. This also gives us any information about current and past incidents at the location. Tony would normally phone control for further information, however I don't know whether he was able to get in contact with them on this occasion. We left immediately and made our way to Grenfell Tower. I was driving. Tony and Richie were in the front with me and Mark was in the back. The MDT gave us no further information about the incident and at no point was I told where the fire had started. I was thinking that we would be doing the cordon with our gas detection and seeing how far we needed to move the public out of the cordon. Tony spoke to control and it was evident that we were required to give whatever help we were able to give. On the way we talked about what we might be able to offer, imagining that this was massively going to need BA wearers, who we'd be teamed with, just talking through all the different possibilities that could be expected of you.

I followed the vehicles satnav along the Embankment and saw the scale of the fire as we approached. I don't know what roads we used to get there because I was concentrating on driving. I was unable to get closer than approximately a quarter of a mile away because of roadworks straight ahead and vehicles (fire engines and cars) blocking our path to the right. I parked up as close as I could in Bramley Road and the appliance remained here until we left in the morning. Having looked at a map I am unable to say exactly where along Bramley Road I parked, but I parked on the left hand side of the road in a kind of parking bay next to some bollards. We weren't in the way. I don't know exactly what time we arrived. On arrival we could see that the tower block was fully alight. It was almost like it was on fire in bits and on both

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sides. I could see flats in between the fire and not just one big ball. It looked odd because that's not a natural way that fire spreads. If you go to a flat fire that we've lost it will stay in one section. To see it on both sides is not normal. It wasn't natural fire behaviour.

Not knowing what we were going to be required to do all four of us grabbed our IEC (Immediate Emergency Care) packs and made our way over to see if we could help with casualty handling. On arrival we saw that they already had this in hand. They had salvage sheets out, the LAS were there and there was a cordon in place already. So, we dropped off our IEC packs in case they needed any more equipment and the four of us made our way over to the Command Unit which was a bit of a walk. I don't know exactly where this was. Tony spoke for all of us and asked what they needed us to do. Tony told Command that we only had three BA sets on our truck. We normally only have three riders on our truck, so to have four is a bonus. He was told that they needed wearers, meaning that they needed Fire Fighters wearing their BA sets. Because of the nature of our speciality in the CBRN Team we carry EDBA (Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus) which enable us to be in a job for longer due to there being two tanks rather than the one on a SDBA (Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus). The length of time that you can spend using the EDBA is affected by your air consumption and the guidelines on the Entry Control Board. So, someone like me who's quite small will be able to wear for longer than a bigger person. It depends on your labour and how hard you're working as well. We worked out that Tony was the best person not to wear.

We went back to our truck, picked up our BA sets and went to the holding area with Tony. The holding area was to the left of the tower, adjacent to Kensington Leisure Centre. We were there for maybe 40 minutes before being taken to another holding area, the BA holding area, for a short while. The ground on route to the BA holding area was water logged and we were basically wading through water. Here there must have been about 20 SDBA wearers all

waiting to be put into the job. They were mostly kitted up and ready to go, however some of them had their kit on the floor. Paul MERRICK, a Crew Manager from Lambeth Fire Station was in charge of the BA wearers here, until Tony took over from him. After this we were marched into the ground floor lift lobby of Grenfell Tower under the protection of police riot shields because there was debris falling from the building. I don't remember much about the debris, but there was a large metal sheet. I think we entered through a single glass door which I think was a side entrance and it was still dark. At this point Tony had left us, having been detailed to do something else. So, there was just the three of us from my

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crew and, I think, four other EDBA wearers, waiting to be detailed in the lift lobby. They would have been from a FRU (Fire Rescue Unit). Their expertise is in shoring up buildings, road traffic collisions and line training. It's only us and them that wear EDBA. The lift lobby was lightly smoke logged, but we didn't wear our BA. Ideally we'd have been mustering in fresh air. We were put straight in front of the others because we were EDBA wearers. Me, Richie, Mark and Paul from Wembley (surname unknown) were put into a crew of four and were detailed to carry out FSG (Fire Survival Guidance), which is when people make a call to the Fire Brigade, the control staff keep them on the phone and fill out FSG that can assist in getting Fire Fighters straight to the incident. This will include where they are in their flat, what the flat number is and what they can see, to give us an easier orientation of how we can get them out quicker.

We were detailed at the Entry Control Point (ECP), I think, by Pat GOLDBOURNE, to rescue a casualty from flat 72 which is on the 10th floor and to extend the 45mm hose to the 11th floor for firefighting. The Entry Control Officer (ECO) was my brother, Crew Manager Daniel MORRISON. Daniel told me that the visibility was bad, that there was a bariatric casualty on the 10th floor and we were to leave them in situ on the stairwell. People had already been trying to move them, they were clearly already dead and that we were not to waste any of our air trying to move them anymore. We made our way up to the 10th floor as a crew of four. The smoke and visibility wasn't bad at the beginning, until the 5th or 6th floor. There were no floor numbers and there was no lighting, however, up until the 5th or 6th floors I could see what I was doing and what bits of equipment I was picking up. We used our torches and counted the staircases. I think I was third in line and I think Richie stuck his head in to get a flat number. We moved calmly so as not to waste air and avoid injuring ourselves. The stairwell felt really thin, but it had about 20 Fire Fighters on it. It was probably a standard stairwell, but to me it felt small. We were going up in single file. The body on the stairwell was kind of a landmark. In order to open the door to the 10th floor we had to shuffle the body over a bit into the middle of the staircase. I think it was a black person, but I can't remember any details. Their legs were hanging over the stairs and I think they were face down because I don't remember their face. I think they had messy, afro, corn row hair and I couldn't tell if it was a man or a woman. The visibility by this time was not great. The door opened into the stairwell and we found flat 72, which was on the left hand side, using our safe systems of work that we are trained to do. There were no flames visible on the 10th floor and we'd been told that the area was clear. We closed the door to the stairwell behind us to limit the amount of smoke that was being let through, but some would have got through as the four of us entered. Me and Paul were the third and fourth persons there.

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Richie and Mark had gone into flat 72 first. Me and Paul waited outside and pulled the door closed to make sure we didn't smoke log the flat any further, whilst Richie and Mark dealt with the gentleman inside. I don't know how they gained access to the flat, but they pretty much got in straight away. I was holding the flat door closed and as they pulled it from the inside I pushed it to allow them out. I didn't get a good look at the man that came out, but I know he had a towel over his head and a pair of swimming goggles on. As he came out we cleared the way for him to go, so he was following behind me. We went into the stairwell and had to step the man over the dead casualty on the way. The man kept saying that he couldn't see. I was kneeling down and basically lifting his feet up over the legs of the body on the floor because it was very smoke logged and I didn't want him to lose his footing. Richie and Mark took the man all the way down and I don't know what they did with him at the bottom. Me and Paul remained to fulfil our brief and extend the hose.

On the way up to the 10th floor there were all different bits of equipment where Fire Fighters had dropped it off. We'd picked up a 45mm hose on the way up order to fulfil our brief. There was lots of equipment on the stairs that had already been carried up. None of this equipment was blocking our path and the hose that I picked up was leaning against the wall. I'm not sure which floor this was. We extended our line up to the 11th floor, but we had no water and we had no comms, so we couldn't get water onto our floor. To make it easier for the next extension to be put on we flaked the hose up to the middle landing going up to the 12th floor, so although the branch was on the 11<sup>th</sup> the hose went up another staircase. Up on the 12th floor I think I saw a couple more bodies with crews, but I can't be sure. I didn't go any further than the middle landing. The visibility was awful by then. We had been warned about the body on the 10th and not to try to move them and had been warned that there were other bodies, so it was something that we were expecting.

Normally in high rise buildings you will have a dry riser which is like a column of big metal hoses that will go up the inside of a building. Then we can plug in at any level, a fire engine will plug in at the bottom and pump water directly to the floor it's needed. We knew that there was a problem with water, but I don't know what the problem was. This was why we were required to extend the line from the ground level up the centre of the stairwell.

For me the comms is a massive issue as a game changer for that job. Not having comms is a bit like being disabled in the job. You can't talk to each other, you can't tell each other what you need, you're trying to grab peoples helmets and talk to each other through our sets, you can't talk to downstairs to see if they've

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got anyone coming up, whether they've got any news on us getting water. Normally we would be on channel 6, but Daniel had told us that there were no comms on 6 and to try 3, however there were none on 3 either.

Extending the hose is an easy process. You just take the branch off the end which is the bit we use to control where we're spraying the water, put the hose in and attach the branch back to what is now the end. All Fire Fighters can do this with their eyes closed.

We went onto the 11th floor without water and very cautiously started clearing the flats to see if there were any other casualties that we could get out. By opening the door onto the 11th floor we did let some smoke out into the lobby, but there was no way of avoiding this. We didn't have comms to be able to tell them downstairs what we were doing, but we both still had air. We checked the left hand wall. It was clear that along the left hand wall the fire had taken hold massively of two of the flats, although it was no longer alight. The windows were blown and daylight was beginning to shine through. We cleared what we could of those flats, but the flats were well and truly gone by now and if there'd been any casualties in there they would have been deceased. Paul was concerned about the flooring, so we called out to see if there was anybody there. Then we looked to the right and one of the flats was fully alight and flames were kicking out the door. There was no way we could do that without water, so I said to Paul that we couldn't go any further. I didn't think that the heat was that bad on the 10th floor, but there was a big difference on the 11th and I struggled. We were not carrying a TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera) so I couldn't tell you how hot it was. Paul was already on his second wear and was knackered. We were doing buddy checks constantly and in the end I sat him down and flaked out the hose. Flaking out means that you flake out the hose making it easier for when the water comes to stop it kicking out. We still had no comms and this hindered the whole incident. I couldn't ask Richie if he was alright, if he'd got downstairs or if he was coming back up.

I think three other crews came up and we were talking to all of them asking if there was water and whether we were going to get any. We were asking them what their briefs were. When the third crew came up I gave them the branch of the hose that we'd extended, told them that I was going to take Paul down and get water on this branch. Me and Paul made our way down and I handed the hose to another Fire Fighter and told them that they need water on it for the 11th floor because it's still alight. I told them that this hose needs water and that it's ready to go up there. I could not see exactly where the hose ended because there was a cluster, but I made sure that I handed over the correct one because I'd traced it in my

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arm all the way down the stairs from the 11th floor. As I got further down it felt like there had been water in the hose because it was heavier. It wasn't a dry hose, so it must have been plugged in at some point or caught up on something. I don't know which Fire Fighter it was that I handed the hose over to. This was at the mezzanine before we got to the ground level down the open stairs. We then returned to our ECP, told the ECO (Entry Control Officer) and Sector Commander what we'd done, grabbed our tallies, popped them back into our sets and made our way out of the building to recover. We told the ECO and Sector Commander that we'd done our briefing of FSG in flat 72, that two of our crew had brought him down and that we'd extended the hose, but had no water, so that they could make a plan for the next crews going in.

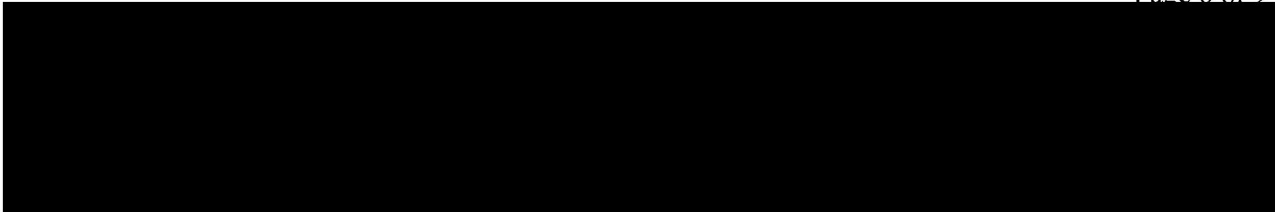
During my time in Grenfell Tower I don't remember seeing any sprinklers or fire extinguishers or hearing any alarms.

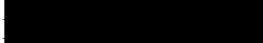
We were walked out the same door that we'd come in by, under the protection of riot shields again. We had to walk right the way around the building to grab some water and redo our sets. This involves doing a Fire Ground A Test and putting on another cylinder, but I didn't go in again. I left Paul with someone he knew to rest and drink water and I walked back on my own to the original holding area to change my cylinders for someone else to wear. I changed it ready for someone else to use, but in the end it stayed with me on my truck in case we were needed at a different CBRN incident.

On the way back round after we'd worn this woman was grabbing me and telling me I needed to get the trucks moved because she couldn't get her car out. I told her I had other things to worry about and that I was sorry. She told me that she'd got kids and that it was bang out of order. This must have been around 0700hrs or something like that. After her I avoided having any conversations with any members of the public. I knew that Tony had been approached when we first arrived in Bramley Road and that he'd been given a phone. He was really good and told them no, we've got a job to do and you can't get involved in that situation. So, I was quite aware not to get dragged into this situation because we don't know what's going on and you could end up fibbing to them and you don't want to do that because that's even worse. This woman was the only one who was really angry and there was another one who asked me about a certain flat number. I can't remember what number and I just said sorry I don't know and sent her to the Command Unit. I don't remember anything more about that person.

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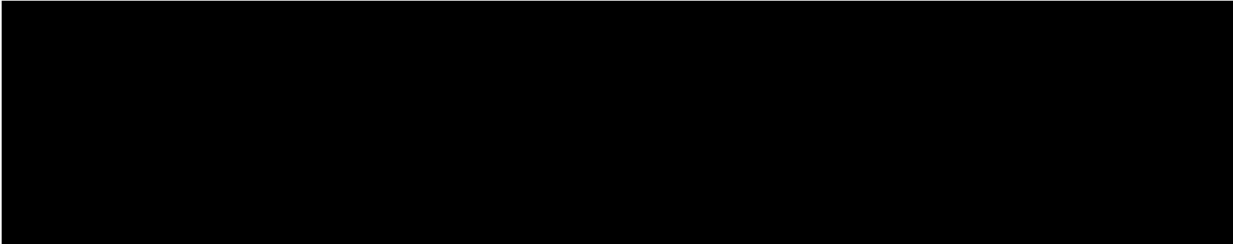
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We returned to Paddington, wrote our statements and got back to  at around lunch time, something like 1300hrs. I had been due to finish my shift at 0930hrs in the morning which would have been a thirteen and a half hour night shift. I would have been due to be back on duty at 2000hrs that following night, but I had it off because of a CBRN meeting that I had the next day. I attended this meeting.

As Fire Fighters we all have hand held radios and some of the BA sets also have radios attached to them so that we can have comms in our mask. I think that more money needs to be invested in a better quality one that works, because it quite often comes up in incidents that comms are a massive issue. It hinders a lot if you can't speak to each other and you don't know what's going on outside, if the plan changes or anything like that. At the time of this incident I had both my hand held and BA radios, but neither of them worked. I couldn't hear anything and no-one could hear me. I didn't turn my hand held radio on until we got there. I checked the battery on my hand held radio which was fine and I would have checked the battery on my BA set at 2000hrs during my routine equipment checks. I turned my BA set radio on just before I entered the building. I didn't check the BA set comms at this point because Daniel said that it wasn't working. We changed to channel 3 in the hope that we might get something. There was no radio traffic at all. The only other noises I could hear were in the lift lobby holding area. I'm sure there must have been a utility shoot or something because you could hear the popping of the pipework, whether it was the gas going, but you could just hear bang, bang, bang. I don't remember hearing that in the stairwell. Everything else was what you'd expect to hear — Fire Fighters trying to talk to each other, casualties and what you'd hear on a job.

I had no previous knowledge of Grenfell Tower. We do familiarisation to big events, so we'll go to



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On Monday 26th June 2017 we were required to re-attend Grenfell Tower with our DIM equipment because the council were concerned about poisonous gases in the property. We liaised with our Scientific Advisors (Bureau Veritas) and LFB Fire Investigation Team (FIT) and we were given three flats each to clear with our DIM equipment. This consists of a GfG and Draeger Tubes which are for gas monitoring. Two teams of us went in there with our BA sets and had to do monitoring for carbon monoxide, oxygen levels, hydrogen cyanide, volatile organic compounds and formaldehyde. We were given specific flats to check and there were certain flats that the FIT didn't want us to enter so that we wouldn't ruin the scene. I did flats on the 23rd floor, 17th floor and the 11th floor. I'm not sure which ones exactly because we numbered them differently. We found no elevated readings, which determined that it was safe for everybody else to wear their masks. I filled the readings out on a form and gave the details to Group Manager CUNNEW. The extent of the damage was unbelievable and I'd never seen anything like it.

I exhibit the labelled maps that I have used during this statement as AJM/1 and AJM/3 and my contemporaneous notes as AJM/2.

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