

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: DOIDGE, JENNIFER

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

Occupation: HART PARAMEDIC

This statement (consisting of 8 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: J DOIDGE

Date: 20/04/2018

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

This statement refers to the Grenfell Tower Fire and my attendance at the scene. I have made this statement whilst referring to patient report form 30412376 which I completed with my notes late on the day of the incident. I have made this statement 10 months after the incident and am not sure of the timings at which the events occurred.

I am Jenifer DOIDGE, a Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) paramedic based at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have worked for the London Ambulance Service (LAS) since 2011 and have been in my current role since December 2015. I previously worked at Edmonton Ambulance Station I qualified as a paramedic in 2013 and have also completed full HART training including breathing apparatus and CRBN.

The HART team is a specialist team which responds to incidents of a hazardous nature including chemical incident, incidents at height, swift water rescues and urban search and rescue.

Before the 14th June 2016 I had never been to Grenfell Tower and am not familiar with the area around it.

On Tuesday 13th June 2017 I started work at 1830 hours for a night shift a Cody Road. My callsign for the night was Y131 and I was crewed with David HICKLING. I cannot remember if I had any previous deployments before Grenfell Tower and was at the base [REDACTED] when we got the call to go to Grenfell Tower, CAD 247, at approximately 0145 hours. We were told it was a flat fire with multiple

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patients but we did not have an MDT in the vehicle so did not get information. Whilst en route it changed to a major incident. I thought it must be something serious as it was major and also as we had been deployed to support the West London HART team who would have been deployed to that part of London first. David was driving and I am not sure of the route we took but first saw the tower as we came over a fly over towards West London from East London. It looked like a large section of the tower was on fire and I could see bright orange flames but no smoke as it was dark. As there was no MDT in the vehicle, I was navigating on my phone and trying to direct David in. It was difficult to get close to Grenfell Tower as there were a few roads that were dead ends and others had vehicles blocking the road and some had cordons in place. We arrived at approximately 0215 hours but I am not sure where we parked.

We got out of the vehicle and walked towards Grenfell Tower. I was already wearing my incident ground kit including a green helmet, green tunic and green trousers. We met the HART West team at the base of the tower in what was Sector One, between the tower and the leisure centre. This was not immediately at the bottom of the tower as there was debris falling from it but was as close as we could safely be to the tower. There were lots of police and firefighters also at the scene but I cannot remember exactly what they were doing. The West team had already started a triage area and kit dump in that area and we asked them what they wanted us to do. A patient was brought out of the tower by a firefighter. Myself and Mark HODSON took the patient and put them into a carry chair. We were told the Casualty Clearing Point (CCP) was back further towards the sports centre up an incline and we started to take the patient up towards it. I think the patient was a male but cannot remember any more details about them. As we went up the slope a couple of firefighters came towards us and said that they would take the patient to the CCP. They seemed to know where it was so we let them take the patient from us and we returned to the HART triage area in Sector One.

When we got back, there was a deceased male who was on a trolley bed. I cannot remember if there was a deceased tag on him or not but he had already been assessed by another paramedic as deceased. I think he may have been one of the people who jumped from the tower but am not certain. Myself, Mark and Russell LOBJOIT moved the deceased as we could not leave them there. We moved them on the trolley bed towards the sports centre and came across a tarpaulin. We spread it out on the grass area in front of the leisure centre and planned to put the deceased male there. Mark and Russell went back down to the HART triage area to inform the others where we were leaving them. I stayed with the deceased whilst they did this so that they were not just left unattended where anyone could get to them. The deceased

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male was white, in his 60s and was quite large. He was quite difficult to move due to injuries that he had sustained. He appeared to have broken several of his bones which is why I thought he may have jumped. Russell shortly returned and said that he had been told that there were already other deceased patients in the CCP and that we should take the body up there so that they were all together. When we reached the CCP I saw another 2 to 3 bodies laid out on the tarpaulin. I cannot remember any details about these bodies.

As we got to the CCP, the alarms to the leisure centre started going off and I saw a police officer had smashed their way into the leisure centre so that we could use that as a temporary morgue. I asked a couple of ambulance staff who I do not know to help us move all the bodies over including our initial male. other . The lights were off inside the leisure centre so we did not go further in than the lobby area as you could still see in there. We put down some more tarpaulins at the back wall of the lobby area and place the deceased male down on to it. We moved all the bodies into this area.

Whilst we did this the police officer had smashed the drinks vending machine to remove the water. We assisted him in taking the water out of the leisure centre and giving it to the firefighters who had been into the tower. We gave the bottles of water to a firefighter with a white helmet to give out.

Myself and Russ went back down to the HART triage area of Sector One. Ian SIBTHORPE the team leader for HART Yellow Team East, told us that there were also casualties being brought out around the other side of the tower. Mark and Kevin MANSFORD had already gone around to the other side and were asking for more people. There were no patients being brought out of the side of the tower that we were currently at so myself, Ian and I think one other person but I am not sure who went around to the other side to help them. There was a tunnelled walk around the base of the tower but this was full of firefighters working so we had to go the long way around the tower, going down Grenfell Road and around the other blocks immediately next to the tower. There were lots of people out on the streets watching the tower but I did not speak to anyone.

We got around to the other side of the tower and found Kev with some of the HART West team and they had a group of patients who were receiving oxygen. This was just off Bramley Road just before Latimer Road Station. There was some ambulance kit set up already and there were more HART paramedics closer to the tower who were triaging the patients given from the fire brigade. They would then bring the patients up the slope towards this second area that was set up to be the CCP for Sector 2. At some point

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doctors and paramedics from the Helicopter Emergency Medical Service and Delta Alpha Doctors who are doctors who are deployed to big traumatic jobs arrived at the Casualty Clearing Point.

At some point a female in her early teens was brought to me in the CCP but I cannot remember who by. She was slim, had tanned skin with dark hair which was slightly longer than shoulder length. I remember she was laying on the floor in the CCP. I gave her oxygen and asked her name but could not hear the response. She was conscious and her eyes were open and looking around but she did not seem alert and was not really talking to me. A short bald stocky man with tanned skin came over and stood next to me who said that he was her dad. The girl gave the name of something that she had lost, I cannot remember what it was but I was concerned that it may have been her sibling so asked who that was. Her dad said that it was their dog. There was a Delta Alpha Doctor, a female with grey hair, next to me and I asked to borrow her stethoscope. I checked the girls pulse and listened to her lungs. Her pulse was elevated and her lungs sounded clear. It was only a quick check and I also asked the doctor her opinion and she said that she was a Priority One (P1) patient and wrote that on her arm. I did not have any triage tags with me to use. An ambulance crew came over with a carry sheet and we put her on to that. I told them that she was a P1 and helped them carry her to ambulance on Bramley Road where I left her with the ambulance crew. I do not know which hospital she went to and did not complete any paper work for her.

I was aware of a heavily pregnant female and another girl being triaged by another paramedic. They were being put into an ambulance and the father of the patient that I was treating spoke to them. I think the pregnant woman was his wife and the other girl also his daughter. I have since seen the father on TV speaking about how his pregnant wife lost their baby.

I went back to the CCP and all the patients who were there were either being taken to the pub on the opposite side of Bramley Road which was being used to treat the low priority patients (P3) or being put in ambulances. As all the patients were being moved I went back to where the ambulances were parked. By now there was a long line of ambulances parked up on Bramley Road ready to take patients. I knew there were people in the pub that needed taking to hospital so I went and asked Dave BARNES who was either the loading or clearing officer if I could start bringing these patients over to the ambulances Dave confirmed that I could start bringing patients to the ambulances. When I looked at the first ambulance there was no one in the cab. I went down the line and the next one which was also empty but the one after had a crew. I told them to reverse down the road to start taking patients.

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I went into the pub and spoke to Kev who was in there assisting patients. I asked him who he wanted to send to hospital and he identified a patient and told me if they need a bed, a chair or could walk to the ambulance. I then went back to the ambulance and told them what was coming. If they needed a bed or a chair then the ambulance crew brought it down to the pub otherwise the patient walked. Once the first patient had gone then the next ambulance reversed up and this became a cycle of ambulances backing up and us bring out patients to load them up. If the patient was with another patient who was a family member then sometimes we would put them in the same ambulance. However there was a lot of members of the public about at this point and some of them were trying to get onto the ambulances with people they were related to. We had to be quite firm and tell them that the ambulances were for patients only or one immediate family member only and they could not go to hospital in it. Some of them tried to claim they were patients to try and go but it was easy to tell who was and wasn't a patient by then by who had a triage tag on them as all the patients had been tagged by this point.

I continued doing this loading role for a good few hours, not only taking patients from the pub but also helping with the loading of patients from CCP. The patients seemed to be coming out of the tower in waves. Other than the teenage girl, I did not provide any treatment to patients directly myself or triage anyone further myself.

I went down the ramp towards the tower as there had not been patients come out for a while. Mark, Russ, John DELL and Dom STARK were down there and asked them if they the fire brigade had said they were going to bring anyone else out or they needed any more kit. They did not have any information about more patients but told me that firefighters had said that there was a large lady blocking the stairs inside the tower. I cannot remember what they said exactly about equipment but I remember taking a scoop either back up the ramp or one down to them, I am not sure which. This happened once the pub was clear of patients and it had become daylight by this time.

Once the CCP was clear of the majority of patients, myself and Kev were asked to go back round to Sector One and make sure that it was still flowing ok for any further patients brought out of the tower. West HART Operatives remained in Sector 2. This time I walked the other way around the tower with Kev, going north up Bramley Road and onto Silchester Road. There was an LAS equipment vehicle parked on Silchester Road and we walked past to back to outside the front of the sports centre, next to where the Salvation Army had set up a feeding point.

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Ian had also come back to Sector One and told me that he needed to go and do a Recognition of Life Extinct (ROLE) procedure on a deceased person inside the garages at the base of the tower. I said that I would assist him with this. We took the paperwork required and a LifePak 15 from outside the sports centre and made our way to the garages. There were still a lot of firefighters working in this area and they pointed us into the garage where the body was.

The deceased was a slim black male in his mid to late twenties. There was a lot of water flowing around the area and the garage so we put the deceased male onto some tarpaulin or into a body bag. We used the LifePak 15 to record a heart trace and it showed anasystolic rhythm which means that life is extinct. The male had a serious head injury and was missing his left leg. Ian completed the role form and as we did not have a name got a number from the control room for the body. We covered the body over. The firefighter had told us that the males leg was to the left of the entrance to the tower in the debris that had fallen. Whilst I waited under the covered area outside the garages, Ian was escorted by a firefighter to the doorway of the tower. The firefighter was using a large piece of plastic to protect them from the debris that was still falling. Once at the doorway, Ian and the firefighter spotted where the door was and whilst the firefighter protected him from the debris with the plastic, Ian recovered the leg and brought it back to the covered area.

We put this into another piece of tarpaulin or body bag and Ian completed another ROLE form, obtaining another reference number from control. Whilst this was a left leg and the male who we had just completed the ROLE procedure on was missing a left leg, there was no way that we could be certain it was his so we kept them separate. We placed the separately wrapped leg into the same garage and left them there.

We returned to the area outside of the sports centre and were told that the day turn HART team were on their way to relieve us. We went around gathering the pieces of kit that we had left around the area. The day team turned up in a minibus so we took our personal kit off the van that we had arrived in so that it was left there for them to use.

Myself, Mark, David and Kev left together in the minibus and came back to Cody Road before going home. I am not sure what time we left the scene. I was back on duty at 1830 hours that day. Whilst we were not needed at Grenfell Tower that night the day turn were still there with all of our vehicles so we went back in the minibus to complete another vehicle swap with them so that we could perform the usual HART duties.

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Throughout the incident I did not really look at the tower as I was busy with patients. The fire did seem to spread and get larger but I could not describe how this happened. By the time we came to leave in the morning the fire seemed to be mostly out just with small pockets left.

I subsequently have returned to Grenfell Tower as part of the HART support to the Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) work that was done following the fire but did not complete any ROLE forms for this. This was a week or 10 days following the fire.

The shift following the fire we had a de-brief as a team and the HART East training manager, Lee EMMETT. A couple of weeks after I attended another debrief with both the HART East and West teams which was run by an outside agency and had mental health support workers at. I did not sustain any injuries from the incident and did not receive any first aid. I did not take any photographs or videos of the incident.

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