

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: HENLEY, OLIVER

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 10 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: O.HENLEY

Date: 30/01/2018

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

This statement has been prepared from the information I gave during an audio recorded interview with DC Paul SLAYMAKER and DC Heather RIGDEN on the 11th November 2017 between 1134 hours and 1502hrs. This took place at Wandsworth Fire Station. Also present was Fire Union Representative Leoni MUSLOW.

This statement is in relation to my involvement as a Fire Fighter at Grenfell Tower Fire from 13th June – 14th June 2017. In this statement I will mention my role and duties as a Fire Fighter during 13th – 14th June, I will also mention other colleagues who I was with during this time.

I will be referring to Grenfell Tower and its layout throughout my statement. During this interview I referred to one (1) map of the area around Grenfell Tower and one (1) diagram of the floor plan within Grenfell Tower. I also referred to my notes I made on my return to Paddington Fire Station on 14th June 2017 at approximately 1500-1530pm. I was asked to make contemporaneous notes so they were fresh in my mind. I have exhibited these three (3) documents – OMH/01, seal MPSZ13113883 refers to the Floor plan, OMH/02, seal ref MPSZ13113905 refers to the notes I made after the incident, OMH/03 seal ref MPSZ13113884 refers to map of the area showing certain positions.

I am Fire Fighter posted at Tooting Fire Station, area code H35 and am attached to Red Watch. I have been in the fire service for six (6) years and have spent my whole service at Tooting. I am classed as being a competent Fire Fighter, after finishing my probation within the two years from when I started.

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The thirteenth (13th) of June 2017 was my first night shift. It started at eight (8pm). I was posted on Pump (fire engine) call sign H352. I was with the following crew members – Crew Manager (CM – Officer in Charge) was Dan MORRISON, FF Adrian TOPPIN who was the driver, FF James HISCOCK and FF Scott ELLIOT. My position for that night was number five (5) position, which is situated in the middle of the pump. There is also a Pump Ladder at Tooting, there were ten (10) Fire fighters on duty that night, five on each pump. In Tooting Fire Station there are two (2) appliances a pump and a pump ladder. Riding the Pump Ladder was another crew of five (5), Officer in Charge – (Watch Manger) Tom FURNELL, think Crew Manager (CM) Ian DAVIS, but not one hundred per cent sure if he was CM then, FF Dave LEAN, FF LOXLEY and another CM Richard MORRIS. The pump appliance carries four (4) Breathing Apparatus sets and the pump ladder carries five (5) Breathing Apparatus sets, which I will describe further on in my statement.

The pump appliance goes out to all the rubbish calls, like bin fires, car fires and people being shut out. The Pump can go to the same calls as the Pump Ladder, they do the same apart from the Pump has a nine (9) meter ladder on the roof whilst the ladder has thirteen and a half (13 ½) meter ladder on the roof, so the ladder can reach higher. The Pump Ladder Appliance is more of a rescue appliance with a Watch Manager (WM) in charge who is a high rank than a Crew Manager (CM). It attends important jobs, the pump is like the donkey, and it does the donkey work. Each category of call has a pre-deterred attendance as to what appliance attends. The pump will always go out, the ladder will go out if it requires a Watch Manager (WM). For example if Mitcham, our neighbouring area has a call that requires a WM and they don't have one, the Ladder will go out to that.

At eight (8pm) on the thirteenth (13th) June 2017 we did our roll call and we all knew what position we were riding that night duty. I then tested my Breathing Apparatus (BA) set and tested the Entry Control Board which was situated at the back of the appliance. I then carried out the vehicle inventories (making sure the appliance is in working order). I then went upstairs, and watched TV and had a cup of tea. There had been a call out before the fire at Grenfell I think I went to bed at eleven (11) pm. I went to sleep, I can't remember what time the call came out. I was woken up previously as the other appliance, which was the Ladder Pump got sent as a standby to Hammersmith, so I knew that something was going on, but it's not unusual for the Pump Ladder to be at a standard house fire, so I thought our Pump Ladder was just covering the Hammersmith area. I think the Pump Ladder got to Hammersmith at approximately eleven (11) pm.

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The Bells in the station then ran again. When the Fire Station receives a call the Bells come on and all the lights turn on. Then the Tannoy system would alert you as to what call sign is needed, it was H352, the pump that I was riding. I think it was about twenty (20) minutes after the Ladder went out but I can't be sure. I was now awake and realised that we had go out on a call. As I came down stairs I heard someone say, something along the lines of "Make pump forty (40) Are you kidding that is out of the ordinary" I then thought here we go as forty (40) appliances is a large number and this must have been a large fire. An Officer in Charge of the fire ground had requested forty (40) pumps/ appliances. I have never been one to that big before, the biggest I have been to in my career was an eighteen (18) pump fire, so I knew it would be serious.

I then went straight to the watch room, you shouldn't normally but I wanted to know what was going on. Normally the Watch Room Attendant should be in the watch room but he had been called out with the Pump Ladder, it would then be the responsibility of the Watch Manager (WM) and the driver to attend the watch room as it has a map in the room. The call comes through the system like a paper print out called a tele-print. I didn't read the call but I saw that the print out was long and it listed all the appliances that were needed, I thought that something big was happening.

I then got on the back of the appliance and then we made our way to Grenfell tower I think we left within two (2) minutes of receiving the call. I had never heard of Grenfell Tower and I didn't know its location. I didn't know the route we had taken. The driver Firefighter (FF) Adrian TOPPIN was good and knew the route. He is a good driver and knew the area as he is a taxi driver. I think he either grew up around the area or he knew people in the area. He was a confident driver and didn't use a Sat Nav.

I could hear on the main control radio that the Command Unit was on route. I also heard that there were children still trapped in the flats. I think that control were on the phone to people trapped on the building and they were relaying information to the firefighters outside. These are called Fire Survival Guidance Calls, this is where control are on phone to people stuck in the fire and then they relay that info to FF's on the ground, for example telling them what flat they are in. it was not something that you would normally hear, so we all got abit more focused, not that we were not focused anyway. Generally you don't get a lot of information on the radio, we were chatting to ourselves saying how bad it would be and that everyone to needed to pay attention. The radio traffic was fairly busy, it was constant. There was a lot of information about people being trapped, I remember the one about the kids being trapped, the control

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staff stated that they were on the phone to someone in the flat who had children which were trapped, I didn't know the flat number.

I think we arrived at Grenfell at 02:00am on the fourteenth (14) June 2017, I think it took twenty (20) – thirty (30) minutes to get to there the pump had its blue lights and two tones on. I first saw Grenfell possibly by Westfields shopping centre when we were a couple of minutes away. I think I saw it through the buildings whilst on route, I saw smoke form the top of the building. I saw the whole building alight, there was a distinct line of fire going up the building, and I'm assuming that that was the cladding. At some point I don't know when I saw that the fire line was diagonally spreading on the building, I couldn't tell you what side the fire was from but knew it was the side I was looking out from. I couldn't see it constantly but through the side roads and gaps. On route I noticed the flames from the Tower were on the diagonal side, from south to north facing. There was horizontal damage on $\frac{3}{4}$ of the building, with pockets of fire. I couldn't see fire coming out of the building from where I was positioned.

There were road works on the road where we turned down so FF TOPPIN had to spin the truck around. We parked up quite a distance from the building, I think it was by the Leisure Centre.

When we arrived I saw flames on the outside of the building and all the windows were alight, there were flames from every direction. There was a plume of smoke, I didn't know if it was the cladding at that point, I just saw the building on fire. I have never seen anything like that in real life, I have seen it in films like a disaster movie but never in real life.

At some point I don't know when I saw the ALP, (Area Ladder Platform), it is a hydraulic platform and has a cage attached to it, this was from Surreys Fire Brigade. It has a massive ladder on top of fire engine which can reach up to thirty three (33) metres I think. It can rescue people or it can use the monitor to squirt water.

Once we got there I saw the building. I just wanted to get in the building and help. I said to my crew members that I thought some of our guys weren't coming out. CM MORRISON said put your BA sets on, we got everything and made our way to the building. BA sets are known as our Breathing Apparatus – it is an Air cylinder that you wear on your back so you can breathe in the smoke. The cylinder is like a ruck sack it weighs fifteen and a half (15 $\frac{1}{2}$) kilos, it slows you down when you go up and down flights of stairs. Plus you are carrying the hoses. Air is inside these cylinders. I checked that there was enough air in

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my cylinder at the start of the shift as it was my responsibility on that shift to check, the air pressure should read above 270 bar pressure.

The Bridge Head is the floor of a high rise building that is in safe air. You would set up and start BA, on two (2) clear floors below the known fire floor. The Bridge head was initially on the ground floor, the FF's should have put their BA on and would have had to have gone a long way before they needed to be where they were. But everything was alight. You wouldn't go passed Entry Control and the Bridge Head without wearing BA. The Bridge Head consists of an Officer, Entry Control Officer and the rest of the crew, and the BA wearers waiting to go in. you would put your mask on take your tally out of your gage, the tally is then slotted into entry control board and, that will tell the Entry Control Officer how much air and time you have. They would write as to where you are. So if anything went wrong they would know where your last position would have been. They tell you how much pressure you got. Your warning whistle will go off when you are low on air, but you should be out of the building by then. So you are out of that risk before you run out of air. It is also on your own perception or you advised over the radio about the levels. SDBA is what is known as Standard duration breathing apparatus. EDBA is what is known as extended duration breathing apparatus which lasts longer than a normal set. You have to be trained to be an EDBA wearer, it has a longer lasting air supply- to enable you to go for longer and higher up in a building.

The tally is bit of plastic that slides into the board in Entry and Control, it sends a signal from your BA sets to the board, and displays on the board how much air you have left in set on bar pressure. It will calculate at time depending on your breathing rate that's how they know outside. You can look on your gage, and the alarm will go off if low and your colleagues can hear that.

Please see Map OMH/01 for the position of the truck. I raided the truck and took the axes as wanted something to help to get people out if needed to. As we got there I think counted eighteen (18) floors alight. There were a lot of Firefighters (FF) there with Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets on. I stood with them and then moved into a BA holding area. Then we got moved to the other side of play ground to another BA holding area. Which was situated at the back and I waited there. When I was in the holding area at the back by the playground I could see people in the windows waving towels and phone lights by their windows. People on the walkway were saying why aren't you doing anything about it. That was hard as I wanted to help. At one point at the window I saw a person then turned around to do something and then they had gone, I didn't know if they got out or not, that was hard seeing that.

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The access to the building was a doorway, I am not sure if it was a doorway to start but was made a doorway. There was a beam running down the middle, it was hard to get through it was like a make shift door, it was a rectangular shape and there was definitely a whole in the panel, this was the opening. I don't think it had ever been used as a door before, it could have been some sort of vent. I don't know who made it. It was tight to get through. On the map it is on the left hand side of the building close to second (2nd) BA area, marked as No three (3).

I then went into the lobby area downstairs in the building as that was where the holding area was going to be. We were being held in a storeroom area and a lot of FF's were crammed in, I think I saw about thirty (30) – forty (40) FF's, I think this included Battersea FF's. I think I was in that area for about fifteen (15) – twenty (20) minutes. There was a lot of FF's going back and forth. There was a good sense of structure, officers were telling people to go up, and officers were controlling it well. We then had to move out of that area as they were worried about the structure of the building as it could have collapsed. I am not sure who gave this command. I exited the same way and made my way to the second BA holding area which was outside the building, I am not sure how long I was there for.

At that point an officer approached us, I didn't know his name he told everybody on one side to take their BA kits off, and everybody on other side to keep them on. I was on the side to take our BA off. I took my set off I leant it up against the wall near to a walkway. We were then ordered to ferry casualties out of the building. I went into the lobby again to help bring out survivors. I noticed that the police were carrying shields that were protecting, FF's and casualties from the falling debris. I can't remember if they were there before we entered the building. It was like a queuing system. I went back into the same door that was made. I worked my way through the corridor. I could see people coming out with casualty and would then be handed a casualty and take them to the ambulances. Please see number four (4) on the map. There was some sort of queuing system. The FF's would come down the stairs and then I would take casualty from them and take them to the ambulances. I think I was with FF Adrian TOPPIN, but did lose him as if someone came out another FF would go in, it was like a relay. We were told when to go in and go out with the shields.

I could see casualties being brought out when I was queuing. A lot of people were in different states of wellness. There were some floppy people, some being carried, some unconscious, some being escorted but walking themselves. Some people had soot on them, some with darken clothes on or some people looked like they had just walked out from the street. I was concerned about the unconscious people. When

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I was at the head of the queue I bought out two survivors all under the police shield. The first causality was a male, he was about five (5) foot eight (8), and was about forty (40) years of age. He was conscious and walking. He was concerned about his wife who hadn't come down. I reassured him by stating she will come down, he didn't say what flat he had come from. I think he said that she was still in there. I didn't get his name. A FF in a white helmet, either a watch manager or above would see a break and tell us to come through once bits had stopped falling from the building, he told us when it was safe to go through. There were big sheets of metal falling down which would hurt you if you were hit by one. I wasn't confident that I wasn't going to get hit.

I had the males arm around me in the doorway but then went single file when we went outside under the shield. I had his hands on my shoulders he was in the middle with police officers either side. I then handed him over to an ambulance member. The Police Riot Shields were plastic and long in length, they protected the causality from the falling debris as they were positioned in the middle, I am not too sure about myself as I was on the end. It took about one (1) – one and a half (1 ½) minutes for the police to come and collect us, the police officers were all queued up with shields, it was a good structure.

I then went back to the queuing area again once I handed over the male to the ambulance member. I didn't look up at building and couldn't say if it had changed, a lot of debris was moving off of it, this was constant throughout. Once I was at the front of the queue I was then handed over a female casualty. She had dark brown hair, I think she was wearing a red top, she was younger than the guy, I think she was in her late twenties. I think that she was Asian. A FF asked what flat she came from. She seemed in shock. I think she said she was on the twelfth (12th) floor, and she said that no one else in the flat. I took her out as the same route before, with the police protecting her with a riot shield. I gave her to a firefighter between the second (2) BA holding area and the building as he was walking that way I asked him take her to ambulance as I wanted to go back into the building. I never went through the main entrance with these casualties, I always went through the make shift doors that are shown on the map.

I then went back in the building and the officers that co-ordinated the FF's had stopped me going in for a while. I then waited by the playground area. Then I was let in and worked my way up to the front of corridor waiting to collect a casualty. Then an officer came up to us, I think that there were five (5) of us in position waiting to help with casualties. The officer ordered us to help with the hose management. I went up with FF TOPPIN. We then went up to Mezzanine floor, we met FF HISCOCK, who was also helping us out with the hose. The hose was in a mess, it went up the stairs and a through the bannisters.

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I stood on Mezzanine floor and could see through the doorway through the lobby to the main stair case. There was loads of equipment and loads of hose on the Mezzanine floor. I could see through the door, that there was hose all over the staircase. Hose was everywhere trailing all up the stairs. It would have caused problems with people going up and down and needed to be tidied to make the access better. This all stems from the dry riser. All hoses were going up the stair as the dry risers weren't working. A dry riser is a pipe that goes up the building on each floor there is an outlet that goes up the building which our hoses plug into. On the outside you have a fire appliance (pump) attached to the hose in the inlet of the dry riser and pump the water into it. On each floor a line of hose comes off of it being supplied by the pump outside. I think the metal and cladding that was falling / dropping off from the building damaged the hose. The hose leading to the dry riser was either being cut or burnt through. I think the hose was compromised that's why they had to run the hose from up the stairs. I didn't hear this but I heard this after. At some point the dry risers were working, I assumed whilst I was in there the hose was being replaced. I would say that the hose would have got damaged. The pump on the fire engine supplies the pressure up the pipe and that would feed the hoses coming off of it.

I have never been to a fire where dry riser isn't working. This generally happens if the dry riser is damaged, or the outlets could be damaged or people could mess with them.

At some point whilst I was in the Tower on the stairs to the lobby I could see the smoke getting thicker and thicker on that lobby, so I wondered where that was coming from. I could see with my torch that it was getting very smoky. There was an issue with the floor numbers as there were no floor markings. All the floors looked the same. Someone had written the numbers on the walls but this had been rubbed off. With a building that size you would expect there to be some floor markings.

During the four (4) hours I was in the Tower I saw fires in the flats, I think on the third or fourth floor whilst I was sorting out the hose. It was the build-up of smoke in the lobby that alerted me to the smoke, it was the lobby just off the stairs. I was in and out the lobby as a dry riser was there. The smoke level was rising and I saw the smoke in the stairwell. We both felt that BA crews were busy enough and felt that we could deal with that on our own, we sorted a hose out and put the fire out. I think FF HISCOCK kicked or used a sledge hammer to get into another flat as the door was shut. I don't know what number it was, I think it was on the third floor but it had a different layout to the others. Normally as you come up stairs, the stairs are situated on the landing. I think it was flat five (5) shown on floor layout I have exhibited. The flat it was in the corner, I think this floor had a different lay out. The Lifts were always in

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front of you, but the doorway was different on this floor. As you came out the stairwell and did a right hand turn the flat was in the corner. We knocked another door through. I'm not sure where Jim went in relation to the flats. I checked flat three (3) and flat six (6) and there was no fire. FF HISCOCK or someone else put the door in in flat five (5), think the fire was in the lounge. I entered the flat and could see my other crew on top of the school, it overlooked the playground (little playground) not the schools playground. I am not sure if fire was in bedroom or lounge. I got a hose, connected the hose either to the Mezzanine floor or to the floor below, and connected to dry riser. I had then gone up and found fire again, then connected the hose. It wasn't a raging flat fire, there was just something was alight I think in the corner a pile of stuff was alight. You needed water to penetrate the pile. It needed to be put out I think that it had already been put out but then had reignited, FF's must have been in there before to put it out. We didn't alert anyone that we put the fire out. I didn't notice anybody in the flat, the windows were damaged and were no longer in the building, and again I wasn't wearing my BA set when I put this fire out. I noticed that there were now more BA wearers bringing people down on the stairs.

I think that we were in the tower for four (4) – five (5) hours. On the third (3rd) or fourth (4th) floor Firefighters stated that they needed a hose lining to a floor, and that one didn't need to be there and asked if we could go out again and try to plug the hose into the dry riser to supply the lines. We sorted out the hoses, we tidied them up, and made sure that the hoses were off the stairs, pushing them into gaps in the stairs, and moved the hose lines that weren't being used. We went up and into lobbies, discussing as to whether the hose would be charged. We were working in choking smoke and didn't have our BA sets on so when we made it to the eleventh (11) or twelfth (12) floor we couldn't carry on working in choking smoke we made a decision to comeback down. I saw a BA crew and connected a hose from them at some point. I can't remember where I disconnected hoses that weren't being used. I moved hoses out of way for obstructions. I think that we were in the Tower performing hose management for over four (4) hours, without BA on, I was quiet knackered. At times we stopped but people said they needed things. I went in the Tower in the dark and came out in daylight. I think we achieved what we were doing, it was just me and FF HISCOCK. I think it helped I connected the hose for BA crew, I hoped it helped. The dry risers are protected by a glass panel, I used my foot to smash it. Normally there is a generic key that a FF would carry. The main Dry Riser is outside and is protected by a box and glass. I am not sure if we had key for ones in Grenfell. I didn't notice any damage on the ones I used.

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The water pressure was a bit weak. I plugged it on and turned on, it filled but I was never on the end of it. I never used water at the end of the hose.

Whilst doing hose management I saw BA wearers come down, I initially saw casualties but then that stopped, I can't remember what they looked like. I saw the deceased larger lady that someone had already told us about on the stairwell when we were trying to find hose for BA crew on the eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) floor, this scared me. It was dark and I used my torch, I saw her legs sticking out. I knew from previous that we couldn't get the lady out. I don't know when or who told me about this deceased lady but it wasn't over the radio as my battery had died and stopped working. FF's had spoken about the difficulty bringing her down the stairs, I think I was told face to face. I knew this information before seeing her. I didn't see any other dead bodies. Before I saw someone's legs in the lobby, I think someone had jumped out of the window then think that somebody must have moved it. I saw it by the glass doorway, it could have been the main entrance, it was at the bottom of the building, on the outside, I have shown this as Number five (5) on the map I think somebody pointed it out to me and stated that someone that someone had jumped out of the window and landed on a BA crews, but I didn't see it.

The amount of BA wearers coming down the stairwells had stopped. At that point it all slowed down for a bit, there wasn't many people coming down. Our work came to a finish as the BA wearers must have had hoses where they needed them, nobody was asking for anything. We then made a decision to come down after about being in the Tower for four (4) – five (5) hours. We then made our way to the lobby area.

We then came out down the stairs walked to our Pump Ladder that had been sent out earlier, I have shown it as position number six (6) in the map. The original plan was to find our original crew. We went passed the trauma area, I saw body bags on route. We went by the playground area and turned left by the ramp and walkway. I saw WM FURNELL who was riding another appliance. He was liaising with the ambulance about casualties. I had a little chat with him and asked him where the rest of my crew were, he said they were on the flat roof of the school with a jet. I have shown this as number seven (7) on the map. I saw the jet was firing water, with another seventy (70) ML diameter hose with a branch on the end, putting out fire wherever it could. Jets are called hoses, they measure at seventy (70) ML diameter with the hose/jet measuring at forty five (45) MIL, more water is used for the different sizes of the hose. I wasn't sure what hose was connected to what as a ladder was set up to get to school. I then noticed a seventy (70) MIL jet had been tied off from the railings, with a bit of personal line, moving it about to put fire out. I think the hose was connected to a fire engine. The hose would have to be connected to a fire

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engine. The hose would have to be connected to a fire engine. The hose was fighting fire onto the face of Grenfell Tower I noticed the Fire was in the windows, the jet was going back and forth depending on what it could reach. The building looked like a shell, it was knackered the fire damage made the building appear to be black and grey. The smoke wasn't the whole way up. The top bit damaged by the fire the bottom looked untouched. All the smoke was coming out, I can't remember what side it was coming out from. I went over to the flat roof of the school and found the ladder they used to get up there. I then went up to flat roof. We were taking turns to put the fire out that we could see on the outside of the building. I think FF Ian DAVIS FF LOXLEY, FF Richard MORRIS, FF Dave LEAN and Jim HISCOCK were on the roof. I think I was up there for about one (1) – two (2) hours and rotated the jet every ten (10) minutes, I did this about five (5) – six (6) times.

The Fire was coming out of windows and the jet would aim put it out and then move onto other fire. You wouldn't normally fire hoses into the windows, only if you knew if somebody wasn't in there. I did a little bit of hose, there were five (5) of us, rotating taking it in turns. Because the hose was tied off one of us to operate, whilst others were observing. The hose was positioned on the railing on front of flat roof, FF Ian DAVIS was at the back directing us. As he could see better, we rotated the hose, with him saying left a bit, right a bit. It was working. The guys on ALP at front commented how effective it was.

I don't know how long I was there for. I think FF Dave LEAN on the other appliance said to us that the pump crew were going and were getting relived. So I came down the ladder. I made my way to the front near the leisure centre with FF HISCOCK where we thought the rest of our crew were. I said to FF FURNELL that we were going. I walked behind the finger flats, away from the fire, to the other side of leisure Centre, avoiding the falling debris. I did a big circuit to avoid the fire and met our crew at front of the pump. I could now see diagonal face of the building and the ALP, there was still a lot of fire and flats appeared to be alight, I can't remember which floors. I had a chat with my crew members. They said that we weren't leaving. I then had some water.

An officer came up and asked as to who hadn't worn BA, as more BA wearers were needed. Myself and CM LEAN hadn't worn any BA at that point. I think this was at eight thirty (0830) am, I went back to where I dropped my BA set originally by the playground. I went to pick my set up. Somehow the waist belt had been snapped in half. I am not sure as to how my belt snapped, they are not personal issue but you each get assigned them at the start of your shifts. The waist belt had been clipped together but came apart on that strap, I don't know how this happened and it has never happened before. I knew I couldn't

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wear that so I went to the ladder, where FF Tom FURNELL was, I took the set and went back to try and find the officer who told us to put BA sets on. We were then making our way back to the second (2nd) BA area. I then got stopped by another FF who stated that he needed fuel for the portable pump that was supplying the water for up the stairs by the second (2nd) BA area, (shown as position five (5) on the map). I then went back to the ladder again, found the fuel can and went back down. CM MORRISON said to the FF that wanted the fuel that he could have his fuel if we were allowed to go to the front of the BA queue, he went yeah alright. We entered through the make shift door again.

We went to the front of the queue, went to fourth (4th) or fifth (5th) floor where the bridgehead was. We got put into somebodies flat whilst we were waiting to be committed and waited for a while, I think it was Flat number two (2). No one got committed to do anything. Then someone said, I don't know who that they were moving the Bridgehead up to the seventh (7th) floor. We grabbed all the equipment, including the Entry Control Board and the first aid kit and went up to the seventh (7th) floor, and waited in a flat again. Then we were told that the fire had reignited on the sixth (6th) so we had to come back down to the forth (4th) or the fifth (5th) floor and waited there again as we couldn't be above the fire floor. We then waited back in the same flat.

An Officer told us to take our BA sets off again because we needed to help set up a line of jet consisting of two (2) lengths of forty five (45) and a branch from each dry riser outlet on each floor. I think it was needed up to the tenth (10th) floor. A jet is a hose and the branch is what is put on the end of the hose to turn the water on and off. They wanted it on each floor but we went up to the tenth (10th) as I think that was as high as we could go in relation to the smoke level. There was only a little bit of smoke. I connected two lengths and a branch and left it in the lobby, I connected it to the dry riser as that was what they wanted. I don't know why. I think they wanted it to be able to get into each and every flat on every floor think on the tenth (10th) and eleventh (11th). As I was sorting the hose, two (2) lengths of it was in a proper knot. It was like a water slide coming down. I was soaked through. Water was there as that was what was used to try and out the fire out and from the jets that were fighting the fire from the outside. I think the highest we got to was the twelfth (12th) floor. I don't think we did no more than two (2) floors. As you got higher than tenth (10th) – eleventh (11th) floor, the hose was everywhere in the stair well it was ridiculous, I tried to sort it all out. I think they stated that they wanted a hose on every floor. It was smoky and we still had our torches on. Myself and Dan then decided to come down, I don't know why we did. We came down stairs out through make shift door, went under cover, towards the front of leisure centre

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went and got my BA set from where I left it. We went back to the corner of the building where the crew where before. We were there for a while. An officer then stated that Red Watch could leave. I saw some Blue watch turn up that were day shift then we went back in the Truck and went to Paddington. We waited at Paddington for a while, I wrote my notes and saw a counsellor. We got back our station at 1630-1700hrs, I was back on shift for 2000hrs and was posted to Fulham that evening.

In my personal opinion I think that we had issues with the Dry Risers at Grenfell, I think that this was due to their position in the building. For instance the dry riser outlet should be protected area, so in an ideal world it should be protected on the stairway so FF can set up all their hoses before we go into the lobby to fight the fire. The outlet for the dry risers are in the lobbies where all the flats are in the back corner. The problem arises in supplying these lines of hose, we had to go through the smoke to connect them in. Ordinarily they should be in the stairwells with fire doors, which weren't very good. In an ideal world you would have to protected stair case with dry riser outlet and set up all your hoses in clear air before you go into the lobby to fight fire. In this case you had to go through the fire doors into the lobby areas and then set up, this can cause problems if fire is in the lobby area. The common practice is to connect it to the floor below and then go up and through, if you are doing that you are running the hose out of the fire door into the stairwell and then the stairwell is compromised as the fire door isn't closing. I do remember going up and down the floors with the fire door being shut with smoke coming out of it, so there was no protection around the door. But there should be, that door should seal that compartment, it shouldn't, but the doors were wooden, I don't think the doors into the lobbies were fire doors, or if they were they weren't very good. I think fire doors have a time limit as to stopping the smoke, these doors didn't appear to be doing their job.

I can't be sure if I saw hoses coming out of fire doors. I connected the hose on Mezzanine floor level and went to the next floor, I am not sure if the door was wedged open. The floor was different to the others. You go up.

I didn't notice any smoke, fire alarms, or sprinklers which is unusual for a building that size. The fire doors didn't appear to be doing their job. I can't remember much about the lighting, it was on, and on the lower floors I wasn't sure if there was any emergency lighting. There was no lighting as you got up the stairs, it was dark and I had to use my torch. It is strange for a building that size not to have any emergency lighting. I couldn't smell anything, all I remember was that it was really smoky and was loud with FF's shouting.

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Battery life can vary, when the bar goes low on the radio the life will go down quick. I wasn't aware of any problems with the radio.

I didn't see any of the lifts being used and I didn't hear anything about lifts. They are only a good tool if you know where the fire is, so you wouldn't go beyond fire floor in the lift you would go to the floor below. It is policy to only use lift if you know knew where fire floor was. You wouldn't open the doors on the fire floor. I wasn't aware of how low the fire floor was in Grenfell.

I have been to other 7 2 D Familiarisation visits in relation to High Rises but never Grenfell Tower as it isn't on my ground. I wasn't aware that the fire had moved to the exterior of the building. I think I only opened one door to the stairs within the lobby. I don't think they were self-closing and in my opinion I don't think they worked.

I have recently received training for firefighting in high rise flats, this was theory based and I think it was a few months before Grenfell. I think we have practised high rise fires about five (5) months ago.

However it is the same practice for a house fire, as there are stairs as well and you put the fire out in all the same way. High Rises are higher and it takes longer to set up the equipment, it is the same principle as a house fire. I have never been in a fire where compartmentation has failed. I have been to a fire where the fire has gone out of the compartmentation, ie it was on a roof.

I was not aware of any cladding panels on the outside of the building.

My knowledge of the Stay put Policy is if got a compartmental fire in a block of flats then in theory it should stay in that flat or floor because of the fire doors, you are safer to stay where you are so FF can get to you, if you stay it avoids everyone coming down the stairs. I don't know who made that decision that night, it's just advice. In an ideal world fire in flat sixteen (16), should stays in flat sixteen (16). The fire had got out into the cladding and spread onto the building. I am not sure how true this is but I heard that the control staff weren't in the normal place of work as it was having maintenance and didn't have TV screens so they didn't see the news, if they saw that the fire was spreading they might have changed the advice.

A Command Unit is a Central Hub where all messages are sent. It's a vehicle like a lorry it's mobile. Only goes to anything above 4 appliances on request. Don't know where it was on the night. Was a few

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CU. There will be a Watch Manager on the CU. I didn't know who was in command that night but did see the commissioner.

I think that we should have had a bigger ALP on the scene, but it is difficult to gain access with this, driving through the streets and Grenfell is a distance from any roads.

Grenfell Tower is the worst fire that I have ever seen in my career.

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