

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: CRACKNELL, PETER

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 16 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: P CRACKNELL

Date: 30/01/2018

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

I am the above named person and my details are known to the Police. This statement is in relation to the Grenfell Tower Fire that occurred on WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017. My name is Peter CRACKNELL. I have been a Firefighter for over ten (10) years and my Pay No is [REDACTED] I am currently based at TOTTENHAM FIRE STATION and I am attached to Red Watch.

I will make reference to the following exhibits in this statement:

- LFB statement. I made after the incident. I made these notes on 15 June 2017 I exhibit this as PCR/01 - LFB Statement dated 15/06/2017
- A map I marked when providing this statement to Police. I exhibit this as PCR/02 - Map around Grenfell Tower.

I joined the London Fire Brigade in 2007 and went to training school before being based at KINGSLAND ROAD until 2014. Kingsland Road shut down in 2014 and I moved to Tottenham Fire Station and have been at Tottenham since. In terms of my status I am a competent Firefighter, I have no development needs. The next step up from Firefighter would be Crew Manager. I do on occasions act up as a Crew Manager, when it is required.

I have at the same training as all other Firefighters. There is basic ongoing training which we all have to do. We are in the yard regularly training, with the Pump and the Ladder. When I was at Kingsland we

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would be in the yard any day possible practising high rise in the tower that was situated in the yard.

Training can come in various forms, including practical and theory. When we get a shout out to a call at a high rise or any call, when we come back to the station we may have a debrief as a crew. This is a type training and learning too.

When I was based at Kingsland I had a lot of experience of high rise buildings due to the area. Due to this experience I believe I am fine with dealing with high rise fires and incidents. In Tottenham we deal more with house fires due to the building type in the area. We have had new high rise bags which has meant we have all had refresher training on high rise incidents. I would say we do training around high rise several times a year. I cannot specify dates and times.

Training is as realistic as people make it. Operationally you can do what you need to do in realistic training. You will use and or have the equipment you need, and people for different roles that you would need. Then you need imagination. The more you can imagine the training drill the more realistic it is. Obviously whatever tower you are training in will not be necessarily as high, that is where you have to put yourself in that situation. You can be on any floor, ground floor, fourth floor of the tower in the yard, and you can put yourself in any block depending on your imagination. I have in the past completed 'Borough drills' where we use a disused hotel or block of flat for drills. Again the training drill is only as realistic as you make it in your head. You will not have the heat or smoke and other factors that make it real.

Best Practice Assessment (BPA) used for training and we have a training centre in BECKTON for real fire training. Yearly we have a two (2) day and one (1) day fire training course. Training will be theory and practical.

When compartmentation fails as a Firefighter you deal with the situation you are faced it. There is no set routine for when compartmentation fails but we do what we are trained as Firefighters and we fight fires. It is the practical part of being a Firefighter.

At Tottenham Fire Station there is an aerial ladder platform (ALP) which I can assist with. To use the ALP you need to have carried out training and this is training that an officer or a driver will have had. I

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am not an officer or a trained driver for LFB. Anyone can assist and go up the ALP and as we have one based at Tottenham I am experienced in using an ALP

I am aware of familiarisation visits, these are called 7, 2(d)'s. Familiarisation visits can be to view high rises, for dry riser inspections, home safety visits for example. As a Firefighter when you go to visits you will automatically be looking for things, such as exits, dry risers, alarms, risks. This is with any building, not just high rise. With prepared plans you can use these as operational notes. If resources permit you can cover all bases. The framework for high rise is all the same.

I have never been to Grenfell Tower before, nor had I heard of it before the fire on 14th JUNE 2017. I therefore cannot comment on familiarisation visits, pre-prepared plans or the tower itself apart from my attendance during the 14th JUNE 2017. I have never worked in the Fire Safety Department before.

The night of the fire at GRENFELL TOWER I was assigned to Tottenham's Pump appliance, call sign A332. We were a crew of four (4), the others on the crew were Firefighter Lee WEBB (driver), Firefighter Gary CASSETTARI and Crew Manager Mike CHARALAMBOUS. I began my shift at 2000hrs, on TUESDAY 13th JUNE 2017, with Red Watch. This was on the first of two (2) shifts of night duty. I cannot remember but I may have arrived early to get someone from the day shift away early. When I arrived on duty I checked the appliance, equipment and sets. This is something we do at the start of every duty. After that was completed we went upstairs for some tea and dinner. That night I remember there being a call out to a little kitchen fire, both motors from Tottenham went to that, the other being A331, Pump Ladder. After that call we went back to Tottenham Fire Station and cleaned our gear. Then we stood down and I went to bed.

At around 0200-0230hrs, now it would have been WEDNESDAY 14th JUNE 2017, I remember being woken up by someone sending me a picture message to my mobile phone. It was a photo of a fire and the message with the picture was asking if I was there. The fire in the photo was a massive fire of a tower well alight. I thought nothing of it and went back to sleep. I had not heard anything about the fire at Grenfell Tower at this stage.

Then roughly around 0330-0400hrs the bells dropped and I woke up. The bells usually give a call sign for

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appliances to the call, this time it asked for 'multiple' appliances. Within a minute we were downstairs and had the tip sheet from the Watch Room, the tip sheet said forty (40) pump fire. I showed the others in my crew the photo I had been sent and said we must be going to this; you can imagine the reaction of the crew. In my head I was not thinking much but that we would go and deal with the incident. I did not have nerves, or get excited, I go through the process in my head of going to the incident. Then within another minute the crew are in the pump.

I cannot remember the whole route we took to get to Grenfell Tower. From Tottenham Fire Station we would have gone down the High Road, then Seven Sisters, Finsbury, Holloway, and then I do not know. I was in the back of the appliance, Mike would have been in the front, Lee driving and Gary in the back with me. Gary is a taxi driver as well as a Firefighter, he knew the way to the RVP we had been given.

I did not know much about the fire at Grenfell Tower on the way there, we found out the scale of it when we turned up. Whilst on the way to the incident we were talking amongst ourselves in the appliance, and looking at the news on our mobiles. We were wondering if anyone would have died in the fire. There was nothing on the news at this stage or any messages about anyone dying in the fire, but looking at the size of the fire we thought there would be. I do not know what was being said on the main-set radio in the appliance. I cannot remember anything being particularly descriptive or standing out on the radio. There is a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) in the appliance at the front, this is like an information terminal. It has a map and has a digital copy of the tip sheet. The map is useful for your own ground but for this incident it was just used as a reference for getting to the incident. The tip sheet and MDT also has details of the RVP. We knew we were going as a twenty (20) pump relief.

On route to the incident I saw smoke and I saw a Police helicopter. The smoke was north- east of where we were in relation to the appliance. This smoke was seen from the right hand side of the truck. We could see smoke above buildings in the distance. The smoke was dark brown, black and grey in colour, it was not acrid black. The sun was coming up as it was early morning. It was not completely dark out anymore, but not yet completely daylight.

It took around fifteen (15) minutes to get to the RVP from Tottenham Fire Station. It was now roughly around 0415-0430hrs. The RVP was about a mile away from the incident, I cannot mark the location on

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the map as it was off the area of the map. There were so many appliances already at the incident. When we were called to the incident it was because we were needed as personnel, our appliance was not needed. As there was already a lot of appliances there that meant there would be equipment at the incident. I recall brigade officers being at the RVP as well as a Police car at the top of the road. There were lots of Police cars around, I do not know if there was any specific cordon around this area. We did not have any issues driving to the location or parking up, although we did park a long way from the tower.

There were two (2) officers from the Command Unit standing on the road at the RVP. I do not know the officer's names. They told us four (4) to take our BA sets and any spare cylinders, just to take BA and they did not tell us to take any other equipment. A lot of resources would have already been at the scene of the incident. Often during large scale incidents a non-operational vehicle will arrive on scene with additional equipment that may be required. These may be BA cylinder vans for example, operations would request these equipment vans. Also there were so many motors already there that there would be a lot of equipment available. The officers from the Command Unit pointed us in the direction for us to walk with our BA and we began walking in the direction of the tower. We were carrying our BA kits on our backs complete with sets and between the four (4) of us we took an extra five (5) cylinders.

When we walked to the end of the road we saw a Policeman who said 'go that way', and so we followed his direction. There was a camera crew, I do not know who or what channel they were filming for. They filmed us walking towards the tower, they followed us filming, I did not like being followed and filmed by them. I have marked the location of the film crew on PCR/02 and the direction of our travel. We saw another Policeman, I have marked this location on the map, and he said 'go that way' and pointed us in the direction of the tower. I have marked the direction we walked on the map. We were walking along as a crew, it was quite a distance and we were moaning about the heavy equipment we were carrying. We could then see ourselves where to go, there were a lot of people, hundreds (100s), and blue lights flashing.

I remember whilst we were walking this was the first time I got sight of Grenfell Tower. I could see it through buildings. The tower looked like something out of a film, it was horrible. It was all burnt out. Things were falling off the tower. it looked like a big hollow shell on fire. The cladding looked like it was gone, a lot of the tower was still alight and it was actual flats inside the tower I could see alight.

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We arrived near the tower, next to the Sports Centre and put our cylinders down there, I have marked this as 'Equipment' on PCR/02. It took around ten (10) minutes to walk here from the RVP. Gary pointed with his head and I saw three (3) or four (4) police tents stacked with body bags which evidently had bodies in. I have marked this area on the map. I thought this was going to be a bit more sticky than we thought. We saw Firefighters lying on the grass, taking their sets down, putting new cylinders in and walking back again. That does not usually happen.

Then an LFB officer came up to the four (4) of us, I do not know this officer's name, I think he was an Assistant Divisional Officer (ADO), a Station Manager (SM) or similar rank. The officer asked us where we were from, we said Tottenham. He said to us to stick together and that the rule books gone out the window, do what you can. He basically told us we could go out of policy if we needed too. There was a rumour around that this message about going out of policy had been sent back to control. I would assume the decision on whether we go outside of policy is made by the officer in charge. But I do not know who made this decision for this incident. I am sure there are situations that as a Firefighter you would go outside of policy and procedures to save a life. It would be unusual but it is done if it has to be done. I cannot recall of specific examples in the past when I have gone outside of policy. This officer told us to wait where we were.

We sat on the grassy area waiting to be called forward, our BA kits were on our backs and we put the spare cylinders down where the other equipment was. There was so much stuff around in that area. In this area were other people too, London Ambulance Service (LAS), HART, HEMS, Police, the mortuary which I explained already was made up of 3 or 4 Police tents. There was a lot going on at this location with lots of people around. We watched the tower here, we were around one hundred and fifty (150) to two hundred (200) yards from the tower. The same officer came back and told us to standby. There were now more motors, more people turning up. Although we went as a relief crew it seemed like no one was leaving the incident. As there were so many people and motors there it seemed more like a sixty (60) pump fire. There was the inevitable chat of people dying in the fire, and if any were alive in there. I felt useless waiting as there maybe people inside needing to be rescued. I know there would have been Firefighters inside trying to get to people inside. We waited a long time, around two (2) hours, by now the sun was up and it was daylight.

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I could hear that Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA) wearers were being requested. This is Breathing Apparatus (BA) that lasts longer than what I have, I am trained in Standard Duration Breathing Apparatus (SDBA). Only Fire Rescue Unit's (FRU) have EDBA on them. Officers were asking for those Firefighters who had EDBA qualifications which meant that SDBA wearers were held back. Some SDBA wearers were being drip fed to assist where they could but generally as EDBA was required SDBA were being held back.

Whilst we were waiting here every now and again bodies were being brought out of the tower and into the mortuary tent. Then this stopped, perhaps the decision was made to leave casualties in situ. In the two (2) hours we were waiting outside the fire did not really change, the flats were still burning. We walked around a bit and I could see the tower was alight all over, although we were not able to walk all the way around the tower. The cladding was still burning on the north-west side of the tower. After a while there was not as much fire, still some flats were alight and as the fire went there was more smoke. I could see flames inside the flats. Debris was falling from the tower. Lots of small rubble constantly falling from the tower and every now and then I would hear a creaky metal sound and then a crash. This would be large bits of debris falling from the tower, I saw double window frames falling from the tower.

I do not know how long we were waiting outside before an officer asked us to take over the pump operating. I do not know the officer's name, no one wanted to do the pumps, they wanted to be inside helping. So I think he asked us under duress. It was North Kensington and Kensington's pumps there and had been there for some time. We walked by an underground car park and there were two (2) pumps nearby. I have marked the location on PCR/02. There was another pump too, maybe from Paddington. I took control of one (1) of these two (2) pumps with Mike and this appliance was pumping into the tower. Pumping is something that every Firefighter is competent in, and needs to be competent in. This is something you learn and are assessed in within the first four (4) weeks of training school. To operate the pump you have to stand with the pump and make sure there is enough water giving out. You must monitor the water supply, monitor the revs, and also the fuel. If the appliance has been pumping all night, then it will be using more fuel. You stand there and then watch and monitor what is going on. The radio is on and listen to whether they want more water or whether they want it turned off. Pumping is an important but menial task.

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We had a verbal handover from the pump operator that was working on it before we took over. He said they were pumping into the building, into the riser. That they had not had to do anything recently, and were watching/monitoring, and to ensure that water was given as needed. The pump I was at with Mike was the pump next to the underground car park. This was not far from a man who lost his leg whilst falling from the tower. When we got to the pump I saw this man, I knew he was deceased when I saw him, as the water around him and the water we were standing in was red from all the blood. As we walked to the pumps we saw him lying there next to the bin sheds. He was already there and deceased when we arrived at the pump.

We monitored the pumps for around fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes. I was keen to get into the tower so asked if I could be moved from there and inside the tower, and so we did not control the pump for very long. Mike and I were on one (1) pump and Lee and Gary were at the other pump. It was ADO Nick HARDING that I spoke to about going inside the tower and getting someone else to control the pump. I know him as a guvnor from Kingsland. A crew from Enfield Red Watch took over from us. I gave the same handover, that water was going into the tower and I told him about the deceased man near the bin sheds. I do not remember having any messages sent through to us whilst I was controlling the pump.

We then went back to the same waiting area and put our BA sets back on. Then we went to other side of Grenfell Tower, I have marked this on PCR/02 as second holding area. This was to the west of the tower, there was a children's play area nearby. To get here you have to walk through an underground car park and a walkway area. We stood here waiting to go in, we stood here a while. Then we were told by an ADO we were not needed yet, and said that eight (8) crews or people, I cannot remember which, to go back to the first holding area. The four (4) of us walked back, went back through the underground car park and to the original holding area. You can see in photographs on the news or google this area, there are photographs of Firefighters leaning up against a wall. This is near a sign I saw saying 'Latimer Office'

We waited a while again, up to half an hour, before going back to the second holding area. A crew would go in as crews came out, every ten (10) minutes or so crews would be going in. I think there was not enough room in the lobby and around there for all the crews to be waiting to go into the tower. There was also talk of the tower moving or that maybe it could collapse. I cannot remember who said this but it was

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something that was told to us whilst we were waiting. We were being made aware that the tower had moved. It is not normal for buildings to move, concrete blocks usually just get hot and things fall off. Maybe as so much was falling off the building that was why it moved. The fact that the building could be moving did not worry me, nor panic me.

By now all the cladding looked like it had gone from the building. I was not aware of any fire risks of cladding before the fire at Grenfell Tower. We are taught about cladding and sandwich panels but would not expect the extent for the cladding being on fire as it was at Grenfell. The building was no longer roaring with fire. I could see two (2) flats alight inside around mid-height of the tower. Side winds would have gutted out the fire. The windows and frames were burnt through allowing the wind to blow through. On the side where the two (2) flats were alight I do not think the bottom of the tower was on fire. Around here by the railings there was less of us around, it was starting to get a bit more relaxed. There is a photograph in a newspaper of me, Mike, Gary and Lee by the railings, on the floor, sat, chatting, waiting to go inside.

We were jostling to get inside the tower. Some people were desperate to get in and help. There were some people who wanted to go in more than others. So you could push yourself forward and jostle to try and move yourself up in the queue, or you could hang back.

An officer, I do not know his name, he said they needed another group. I cannot remember how many of us he said to move forward. We then lined up against a wall waiting for a Police Officer to take us in to the tower. There were Police Officers with riot shields that took us into the tower via a door. The reason for getting assistance from Police with riot shields was due to the debris falling and the possibility of people falling from the tower. The distance to the tower was around twenty (20) metres. There was a lot of debris on the floor already, a lot to walk over. There was one (1) Police Officer to one (1) Firefighter. When it was my turn, I went with a Police Officer who held the shield over my head to protect me. I was behind Police Officer whilst we quickly walked through the open door of the tower. It would have taken us seconds. We had our sets on our backs, and I could hear little bits hitting the shield but nothing large. The Police Officers continued to shuttle Firefighters back and forth from the tower to the holding area.

We then waited in the lobby area on the ground floor of Grenfell Tower. This lobby area was not smoky,

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I remember it being carpeted and there was water everywhere. It was flooded in there with two (2) to three (3) inches of water at our feet. The water was dripping everywhere, falling down the ceilings. There were a few Firefighters waiting here in this lobby area, around twenty (20). People were talking amongst themselves, I remember there being a queue for a toilet that was there. The toilet was down a small corridor. There was another door, and a big glass stairwell lobby area. Another door to the right and stairwell. There was also a surgery of some sort in the lobby area. Outside the glass lobby area was a copious amount of water falling down, it was like a waterfall. We waited in the lobby area for around fifteen (15) to twenty (20) minutes. You could dictate here again how long you waited by pushing yourself forward to the front or if you wanted you could hold back.

Then an officer, again I do not know his name, told us to go to the Bridgehead which was on the 4th floor. The bridgehead did not have any fire or smoke. We waited by a glass area, and then the four (4) of us went up the stairs to the 4th floor. The stairs were really dark, we had to put our lamps on to see. There was so much water that we were walking through sheets of water. There was no smoke, it was dark as there was no light.

On the 4th floor when we got to the Bridgehead we were told to go in a flat. I do not know the flat number. There was no visible fire damage here. There was a BA Entry Control Board here and we waited in this flat to be tasked. We were told that when we were needed someone would come and get us. We waited in the flat for around five (5) to ten (10) minutes. Then Mike and I were pulled out to go as a crew of two (2). Lee and Gary remained in the flat.

Our brief was to go to the 9th and the 10th floor for search and rescue; and to extinguish fire if we could. I remember an officer tasked us and was running the board and it looked like a CM was writing on a board. We handed our tallies in to entry control and then we went under air. As we left I think two (2) Firefighters came back down from a task. I do not remember seeing any other crews whilst going up the tower when we went under air.

We went up the stairwell. I could not tell you how many times I stood on something, or what I stood on whilst walking on the stairwell. From the 6th floor down I could see lots of stuff on the stairwell, clothes, shoes, blankets. There was talk afterwards of there being a dog in the stairwell. We were not briefed about

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casualties being on the stairwell or floors. But there was some talk about the dog and bodies from others that had come down from the tower. Nothing specific was said to me.

The higher we were walking the less water that was falling but it was getting darker and darker. It was not the smoke in the stairwell that made visibility difficult, it was more that it was just dark. We needed our torches on to see. Mike or I would rub the stairwell doors or wall to check if it was marked with what floor number we were on. The floors were not marked up clearly, the numbering was not large and I do not know if it was the Council or us but the numbering looked like it was marked up in crayons. There was hose running up the stairwell, plugged into the riser in the lobby. Eventually we made it up to the 9th floor, I knew it was the 9th floor as I remember finding a '9' on the wall.

As I opened the door from the stairwell to the 9th floor lobby there was a large lady on the floor, and before I realised it I was on top of her as I opened the door and started going through. She was on the other side of the door, when I opened the door I would have opened it against her. I told Mike to be careful of the lady, it was pitch black on the floor lobby. We picked up a hose as well, I cannot remember exactly where we picked up the hose from, it may have been outside the 9th floor lobby. The hose was already charged. We took the hose in to the 9th floor to assist in fire-fighting. The hose we took was wrapped up over the lady and was dragged her about as we moved the hose. We did not want the lady being dragged out, and thought about her dignity. Also we did not want the door to be left open as smoke would escape into the stairwell so Mike and I moved the lady to one side in the lobby area, and we covered her. The lady was clearly deceased; I cannot describe how I know she was deceased but it was clear there was no life in her. I would describe the lady as a large black lady. I tried not to look at her too much. I since know she is the artist lady that lived on the upper floors of the tower. I was told afterwards that this lady had been moved in order to get the door shut.

On the 9th floor we went around and did what we could do, the water pressure was terrible. I do not know where the water for the hose we had was coming from. I do not know if there was an issue with the hose or reason for the water pressure being so terrible. We still did what we could but not as well as what I would expect. I would have expected the water pressure to be better. A message came out on the BA Sets bodyguard, stating they wanted us to withdraw out of the tower. Myself and Mike looked at each other and between us decided we would stay and carry on, we fist pumped in agreement and then carried on to

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search the flats.

The lobby was warm, it was hot but no hotter than anything I had been in before, it was not so hot that you had to crawl around on your belly, you could stay on your feet. The lobby was dark, it was smoky and you had to get low as the visibility was not clear. We went into the flats where we could search for people, including cubby holes where people may be hiding.

The flats were concrete shells, nothing was left of them, not even internal walls were in place. We put out what fire we could with the hose. We searched around where people could be hiding, picking up tiles and looking under bed frames. There was one flat, as you go into the lobby it was on your right, I cannot tell you the flat number, this flat was so hot, red hot. This flat would have looked out onto the Sport Centre. I do not know if Mike had a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC), I cannot remember. I did not have one with me, I cannot remember looking at one or if we took the one from our appliance, or who of the four (4) of us had it. Nor were we wearing body worn cameras. Everything was burnt out in this flat. I remember only the bottom half of the front door was remaining in this flat.

We searched the other flats on the floor, they were damaged too. Some not as bad as the others, where the wind got through this caused some flats to completely burn out whereas others not so much. The flats that were burnt out no one would have survived. In training we learn that if you find a deceased body then you leave them, landmark it and report it in the debrief. If there are signs of life then you take the casualty down with you. There were three (3) flats on each side, so six (6) flats in total. We did not spend too long in each flat, this is due to air levels. We spent time getting up, moving the lady, and then around ten (10) to fifteen (15) minutes searching the flats. I think the other flat doors were open or had been forced open by other Firefighters shouting for people. The windows in the flats were all gone. So this means smoke could travel out. It was still smoky but not too bad. The main issue around visibility still was due to the darkness. There was one flat at the back where I had to break the front door, I used my shoulder or foot to force the door. The door was weak, everything has become weak, because of the heat. There was smoke damage in this flat, not so much fire damage. I saw lady shoes and female items in this flat, and I remember at the time thinking to myself if it belonged to the lady who we moved.

The radio communication was difficult. There was so much radio traffic and the comms in the tower was not very good, and not clear as it would usually be. I did not have the comms radio, Mike did. We had

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handheld each too and we made the decision to go through the handheld radio if we needed to. One of us would have stayed on channel one (1) and the other on the BA channel, six (6). When we searched what we could of the 9th floor Mike and had a twenty (20) second conversation about whether we had enough air to go to the 10th floor and search and fire-fight there. We both agreed we did not have enough air to spend time fire-fighting and searching so we both went back down the stairwell and to the 4th floor. We took our tallies back, then debriefed at the Bridgehead on what we did.

I do not remember any fire alarms going off in the building, there could have been but it is not something I remember. There was generally a lot of noise. Whilst inside the tower I could not really smell much as I had my set on but outside the tower I could smell smoke, the smell of burning. I do not think the lifts would have been used, I remember the lift doors on the 9th floor being destroyed, burnt and buckled. There appeared to be natural ventilation in the tower for smoke management, nothing specific stood out to me. I had no involvement with the dry riser nor the gas in the tower. I am not sure if all flat doors were self-closing. The lobby door from the stairwell in the 9th floor was self-closing and the lobby doors on the stairwell were shut. I did not notice any fire stopping features in the tower. I was only aware of one staircase for a means to escape the tower. This is the only staircase I used. I was not aware of any sprinklers in the tower.

Then we went back down, went outside, and sat in the sun and watched what was happening around us. We waited for the other two (2) of our crew to join us, they came shortly after us. I saw three (3) chaplains walking around, it was odd, surreal. I saw a safety officer near the underground car park, I have marked this location on PCR/02. I was asked to do this role, which included making sure a Police Officer was there with a riot shield. If there was no Police Officer than someone with a shield at least. I did this for a short time, and whilst I was there the Police's Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) team had turned and up they were seeing to the deceased man that had lost his leg. Whilst people were walking through I would make sure that the DVI team were told to cover him up. People from the gas board also turned up, I do not know what company or what they were doing. 99.9% of the time when the gas board turn up for a fire it is to isolate the gas which is which I would assume they were there to do. I carried out this safety officer role for around thirty (30) minutes.

Then radio messages were coming through for Red Watch to leave. I passed my blue and yellow safety

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officer tabard to someone to take over. I then walked back to meet up with the rest of my crew. I then went and got a can of drink from the salvation army. I remember the pumps still being on location, one had overheated and another had been brought it. There were officers on the outside watching the sides of the tower. There were Firefighters on two (2) sides with jets and spraying the tower whilst I was on scene. The water reached the first third of the building, it was nowhere near the top of the tower. There was an aerial from Surrey and one (1) from London. The Surrey one could reach higher than the London aerial.

We were relieved around 1530hrs and we were relieved we were told to go to PADDINGTON FIRE STATION for a debrief and there was welfare and counselling sessions there. We walked back a mile to our appliance which was still parked in the same location. There were still pockets of fire in the tower when we left the incident. Whilst walking back to our appliance there were a number of members of the public around, they were clapping us and hugging us, thanking us. I did not speak to any members of the public myself, I did not interact with them, I looked at the floor and carried on walking. I could hear people asking about residents but I did not engage with anyone. I did not know anything to tell them in any case.

We drove to Paddington Fire Station and waited there for some time. It was rammed there, there were so many appliances there. We were told unless we had a major concern we could go back to Tottenham so that is what we did. We got back to Tottenham Fire Station around 1630-1700hrs. We were told, via a DAC, that we could have the next night duty off, this was due to start in three (3) hours. We had a chat amongst ourselves and we decided that as a crew we would come back for our night duty. We went across the road for some dinner and then we started our next shift.

I am aware of the Stay Put policy and my understanding is that if a resident 'is told to stay in the flat, control will get the flat number and pass this information on to get them out or safe. Control will stay on the phone to them and they are trained to deal with Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls. I believe that the night of the fire at Grenfell Tower people would have been told to stay put if they cannot get out. This situation is unprecedented. I was not aware of any deviation from the stay put policy during the incident.

I was not injured no did I see anyone else get injured. I was not aware of the command structure during my time at the incident, there was so many officers around. I do not have any information about decision

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Statement of: CRACKNELL, PETER

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logs. I cannot tell you anything further about the windows. I do not know what could be put in place to deal with a fire like this, it was unprecedented, I do not think, and I hope, I will ever see a fire like this again.

Signature: P CRACKNELL
2018

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