

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: SHARP, THOMAS

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

Occupation: FIRE OFFICER

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

Signature: THOMAS SHARPE

Date: 11/01/2018

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

This statement is about my actions when I attended Grenfell Tower to assist with the emergency response there to a fire.

I am a fully competent Crew Manager based at Peckham Fire Station on the Red Watch. I initially started working for Kent Fire Brigade when I was [REDACTED] years old. I transferred to the London Fire Brigade fairly shortly after, perhaps even in the same year which was 2006. When I moved to London my first station was Deptford and I was initially on the Blue Watch; I remained there for about 6 years. After this I moved to Sidcup Fire Station on their Blue Watch and I was there for about a year. This is when I decided to go on the promotion trail and did a long term temporary promotion at Erith Station; this was on the Green Watch. When I was fully promoted to a Crew Manager from a fire fighter I was then posted to Peckham on the Red Watch. I have been on the Red Watch at Peckham for almost 2 years now as a Crew Manager. I have always wanted to go for promotion and before I was a fully qualified Crew Manager I would often act up in others places when they were on leave. Completing the long term temporary position at Erith gave me the experience I needed to become a Crew Manager as before that I didn't feel quite ready. When you are promoted it is fairly standard practice to be moved fire stations. Exceptions to this may happen if you have specialist training and that station cannot afford to lose you as they will short of fire fighters trained in that way. As I did not have any specific qualifications it made sense and was decided that I would be moved. I have been at Peckham Fire Station since March 2016 but unsure exactly what

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date. As a Crew Manager I am second in command most of the time when attending incidents with my Red Watch. When the Watch Manager is not in then I will be in charge. In addition to this we have 6 fire fighters under me on Red Watch at Peckham Fire Station. This is similar on each watch at the station. My supervisor is called Watch Manager Paul MEYRICK and above him is Station Manager SPARKS. The role of a Crew Manager is similar to that as a fire fighter, however a crew manager will take the lead when attending incidents. I will be speaking about Watch Manager MEYRICK in my statement as he attended the incident along with me and was my supervisor on the night for our appliance. The other fire fighters that attended the incident in my appliance with me are fire fighters Duane HARRIS, Adam WILSON and Jim GEAPIN. At Peckham Station we only have one appliance which is a "Pump Ladder" with the call sign E371. This is a standard fire engine that carries "SDBA" as opposed to EDBA". SDBA stands for standard duration breathing apparatus whilst EDBA is the extended duration. The difference between these is that the EDBA allows fire fighters to last longer whilst tackling a fire. That Pump Ladder contains 5 of the SDBA sets and 5 spare cylinders. All of the fire fighters and I are fully trained to ride on this Pump Ladder.

In my statement I will be mentioning one place which is the venue of the fire that I attended. The fire occurred at a tower block in Kensington called Grenfell Tower. This is a tall residential tower block and I had never visited it previously nor did I have any previous knowledge of it.

On the night of the 13th June 2017 onto the morning of the 14th June 2017 I was working a night shift at Peckham Fire Station as part of my Red Watch in my rank as Crew Manager. I cannot remember exactly what I was doing the night before attending the fire at Grenfell Tower as this was very busy period before and after the incident in question. There was a house fire where children were reported inside and there was also another fire in a flat where I went inside and managed to rescue a man. However I cannot remember exactly when these two events happened. It may have been on that night or the following night. We work two night shifts in a row and both of those shifts were extremely busy. I started my shift at 8pm that night and the standard routine at the start of the shift is that we would meet together in the watch room for a roll call. This is where the crew will have their postings for the shift and everyone will be detailed with what their job/role will be. In this a driver will be selected and those that will be wearing breathing apparatus will be informed. Also if there is a chemical incident the person who will be wearing the suit for that will be chosen. This is so that if we have to attend any of these incidents we do not delay

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in dealing with it because we are deciding who will be doing what. Then if there are no calls to attend we will usually have a cup of tea together and have a chat. The fire fighters will then go to our fire appliance and complete an inventory. This is where they check the equipment on the appliance to make sure firstly everything is there and secondly that it is in full working order. Whilst this is being completed I usually go to the office and log on the computer to check my emails and deal with the admin work. A lot of this is about smoke alarm tests and I will often catch up with the work that the day shift was unable to complete. I will then see what training to give the team. Most of the time I will print out the policy regarding certain things and will leave this in the TV room where the fire fighters will be sitting in.

I cannot remember exactly what training there was that night but most shifts there will be something to read. The practical training is held on day shifts and we do lectures on the night shifts. If I am busy with admin work I will leave the policy paperwork with the fire fighters in the TV room and ask them to read through it. I will then speak with them in the morning before we finish our shift about it. Here I will ask what they learnt from it etc. I cannot remember exactly what time we received the call requesting our assistance at Grenfell Tower. When reviewing my notes from the next day I see that the initial call was at "00:55 hours" but I am not sure when Peckham was mobilised. I think I was in bed at the time. I heard the call come through so I made my way to the Watch Room to read the "Call Slip" that contains information relating to the call we have been requested to attend. I remember it saying "40 pump fire, persons reported, fire survival guidance call" Normally it comes through quite quick but I remember the printer was still printing when I got there and there was so much paper there I had to pull it down a bit to read the call details. The rest of the call slip was the call signs of other pumps that had been assigned. The duty fire fighter usually gets the call slip and they will lease with the driver and Watch Manager to make sure that they know where they are going. There is a map in the watch room that they will refer to before departing. This is so they are sure where they are going. If it is a long journey the Watch Manager will get the maps up on the MDT which is built into the pump ladder to assist us in arriving. I was the first one to get down to the watch room for this call. I wanted to look at the call slip to see what it was for and where we were going. I did this so I could prepare myself mentally for what we were going to be doing. On this shift I was with Watch Manager Paul Meyrick and fire fighters, Duane Harris, Adam Wilson and Jim Geapin. It was decided at the roll call that the driver would be fire fighter Adam WILSON. Duane HARRIS was the Duty fire fighter on this shift so therefore he took the call slip from the printer. Where the call slip said "40 pumps" this means that 40 fire appliances had been called to this particular fire. It also said that the fire was at Grenfell Tower. I didn't know where this was nor had I ever heard of it

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before. I remember the slip had an address on it but I didn't pay too much attention to it as I was not driving. The call slip also said that there was fire survival calls ongoing and that there were persons reported to be inside. Putting all this information together I knew something serious was happening. At first I thought that this must be a "relief". That being when we are called to replace fire fighters already on scene at big fires. It just didn't seem real that there would be 40 fire engines dealing with an ongoing fire. I was putting my fire gear on and whilst doing this I did have concerns as the slip didn't say relief and that this was a real ongoing fire call.

We made our way to the scene in our Pump Engine appliance on blue lights and two tones. On route I was speaking with my colleagues about how we didn't know what to expect and I was saying that we hadn't seen any other appliances on the route. It felt like this could be a joke call as it just didn't seem real. By this point it was the early hours of the morning and the road was quite empty, however I cannot remember exactly what time it was. Also on route we were discussing why this would be made into a 40 pump fire and the idea that a high rise could be on fire was discussed. We continued on route to the call and when we arrived on the A40 either Paul or Duane said "Oh Christ, look over there" Paul was sat in the front passenger seat and Duane was sitting on the rear behind Paul. Adam was driving and Jim was sat behind him. I was sat in the rear in the middle between Duane and Jim. I looked over Duane to my left out of the fire appliances window and saw the building I now know to be Grenfell Tower on fire. At that point the reality sunk in on how serious this fire was. When I first saw the tower I think we was still quite some distance from it as it looked quite small, however I am not too sure exactly how far away we were. From where I was when I first saw the tower it looked like 50% of the building was alight. It looked like one side and the top was on fire. When we saw that my colleagues and I started speaking about due to the time of night there will be a lot of people inside of the block. We also prepared ourselves that when we arrive that we would be putting breathing apparatus (BA) on and that we would be entering the tower to try and rescue people. We were still some distance away and I remember feeling frustrated because we still had a substantial journey ahead of us. I just wanted to get there to help as quick as possible and those feelings were shared by my crew. Watch Manager MEYRICK was on the MDT trying to find the quickest route there. Getting to the tower wasn't easy; there was not one direct road that went there. We had to go over an overpass and had to double back on ourselves. It was also in the middle of a housing estate which made it difficult to reach. The roads were small and narrow which made navigating them in a large fire appliance challenging. MEYRICK was informing the driver WILSON of which direction to take. We knew we were as close as we were going to get as the road was blocked with other fire engines

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so we knew that we would have to stop and park as we wasn't going to get any closer. I wrote down the road that we stopped in and I put this in my notes when we finished, the road we parked in was called Sirder Road. This was at least a couple of hundred metres away from Grenfell Tower. This was as close as we could get due to the other appliances blocking us from getting closer. Whilst completing this statement I used a map of the area to assist me with remembering certain locations. I have made markings on this map and I have exhibited the map as TJS/1. Having looked at this map I cannot see Sirder Road marked on it so I think it is just off it. I believe it was somewhere south of the tower.

I looked at the tower and could see silhouettes of people inside the windows on some of the floors. I remember MEYRICK saying that we should go and find out what was needed from us. As this was being said a female member of the public approached us. She was on the phone to someone and she said that one of her relatives was in the tower and asked us to speak to them. We were all in a bit of shock after seeing what situation we had arrived at. I said to this woman to tell her relative to call 999 and someone will speak to them to give them guidance until they are rescued. I explained that we needed to go to the tower to assist with the rescuing. This is because if they speak to an operator at our control centre they can give them the current guidance and can remain on the phone to them throughout. I had my own personal radio in my possession at the time and it was tuned to Channel 1. I remember someone asking for hoses, breaking in gear and oxygen however I do not know who it was. It sounded like it was someone in command requesting this. That's when I thought we should get our kit on first and make our way there. So we all put our BA sets on minus MEYRICK. We also picked up some breaking in gear, 4 lengths of 45mil hose and an Oxygen cylinder from our appliance and made our way to the tower. I was thinking that I am carrying a lot here and whilst looking at the tower thinking "Wow, I've got to go in there" On the walk there I had already exerted quite a bit of energy and felt quite tired. The breaking gear consists of an enforcer and a Halligan bar which is similar to a crowbar with a hook on. These are used to gain entry to locked doors. I believe the lengths of hose are about 25 metres long. I personally carried one of the lengths of hose and the Halligan bar. The journey from our appliance to the entrance to the grounds of the Grenfell Tower was about 200-300 metres and we approached from the south possibly walking along Grenfell Road. The first thing we were looking for when we arrived was a Command Unit. This is where you inform them of who is on our machine so they know exactly who is on the scene. As we got closer MEYRICK said "I'm going to go to the Command Unit" At this moment I could see lots of BA wearers on a paved area, so I said to Meyrick "Okay, I'm going to take the guys there" I have marked on the map I exhibited as TJS/1 where the BA wearers were being held.

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As I got to the tower I also remember seeing an aerial appliance from Paddington really close to the tower on the east side. I thought how did they get as close as they did because it was really tight around there. This appliance was being smashed with falling pieces of debris from the tower. Along one side of the tower there was an underpass too but I am unsure exactly where on the map this was but I later discovered that was the route to the other side of the tower. I got to the BA holding area with my crew and I looked up at the tower to observe the fire. I saw that a lot of the east side of the tower from about half way up to the top was ablaze. I heard people screaming and shouting and various pieces of debris falling. I cannot remember what time this was but it was dark at the time. I remember someone coming to our crew and informing us that they have fire fighters in the tower at the moment and to wait where we were. He said that when we were needed to go inside he would call for us. I felt frustrated along with my colleagues because we all wanted to get in and do something to try and help. From where I was waiting I could see the windows of the block of flats and inside those windows I saw silhouettes of people inside in the rooms near to the top of the tower. I could also see flashing lights coming from inside some of the rooms. Over time I witnessed the fire spreading down the tower and I noticed that the rooms that once had silhouettes of people in were now covered in fire. At the top of the building I witnessed jets of blue flames evenly spaced across which someone suggested could be gas. There were rumours going around between the fire fighters that the gas supply could not be shut off, but I wasn't told why. This was in some of the rooms on the top 3-5 floors around the southwest corner.

Whilst waiting in the BA holding area I paired myself up with my colleague Duane HARRIS and I was aware that WILSON and GEAPIN were also together. In firefighting situations we always pair up. There were quite a large number of BA wearers in this area and I saw some take their BA kits off because they had been waiting wearing it for some considerable time. When you wear the BA for a long time your shoulders start to hurt. I wanted to be ready for when we went in to the tower so Duane and I decided to keep our sets on. We then went and did our best to put ourselves at the forefront to get in first and start saving lives. Then someone who I can't quite remember asked us to go to the west side of the tower via the south side of the tower under the underpass. We were told that there is another BA holding area there and that we would be committed into the tower from there. There was a group of 10 fire fighters including Duane and I that was sent over at this time. On the route to the other side of the tower I could hear lots of people screaming and shouting. I could see the aerial appliance close to the tower tackling the fire and there was also a lot of water on the ground. When we got to the 2nd BA holding area on the west side of the tower I saw about 25 other fire fighters waiting to go inside of the block. Along with them I

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also saw a number of Police and Ambulance staff in and around the area. Some of the Police Officers present were holding riot shields. Whilst waiting in the BA holding area close to the walkway I was aware the Watch Manager Paul MEYRICK had taken up a role of co-ordinating which BA wearers went into the building. I said to Duane that I want to get in there so to keep an eye on Paul. This was to look for signs of when he looked like he will be sending people in.

A request was made shortly after for a crew of 4 fire fighters and because everyone was looking up at the tower Duane and I volunteered along with two others who I believe were from Brixton. We were informed that we were going to be entering the tower via an entrance on the west side of the tower on the ground floor just past the playground. I was told to get there we would have to go under the cover of a riot shield due to the falling debris. I saw a large amount of debris falling from the tower and some bits were huge. Not only was it falling but some bits of debris were actually still on fire when they came down. The debris consisted of parts of the side of the building, glass and other bits of rubble. Some bit of the debris would fall straight down to the ground whilst other bits would float down. Some of the bits of debris were the size of a desk and they made a large bang sound when they hit the ground. They was flat but the size of the wood top on a desk. We had to wait for Police Officers with shields to escort us across to the tower and also at this location there was a Safety Officer and a Watch Manager. Their role was to make sure every fire fighter that went across into the tower had a safe entry. We were given a briefing and was told to look up before we tried to cross to make sure there was no falling debris. We were also told that when we crossed to make sure we were under the cover of a shield. From the point we was waiting at up to the door to Grenfell Tower it was about 20 metres. I waited under the shield looking up through the shield checking for debris and when it looked clear we made our way. During this walk I kept my head down and was checking my footing. There was lots of metal and hoses on the floor so I was doing my best not to trip over. On the route over to the tower I was not hit by any pieces of debris but I did hear lots of crashing around me. It was a scary experience but I did think "this is why I am here" I was just hoping that if I did get hit by anything that it wouldn't be something heavy. I have been on fires before where I have been hit by bits of falling plasterboard but these were nothing serious unlike what I was witnessing on this day. I could tell looking at other fire fighter's faces that a lot of them were massively out of their comfort zones. I remember thinking that it is the only way in and there is no way to stop the debris falling so we would have to go in this way.

Once I got across I entered the tower via the doors into a room. Here I saw some fire fighters and some Police with shields. I witnessed fire fighters wearing BA coming through from a stairway and they looked

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exhausted. I was wondering where they had been and I was aware that they were about to have do the same journey that I had just done back to the safety of the holding area. I then joined the back of a line of fire fighters waiting to go up the tower in the lobby. I felt frustrated because I just wanted to get up the tower and help people get out. Whilst waiting in the queue I remember someone asking for EDBA wearers. I found this irritating because I thought that even though I am not EDBA trained I could still do a job. As I have not done the training on it I don't know how much different to SDBA other than it lasts longer. If there was no other difference than that I thought if they just gave me an EDBA set then I would have put that on. A short while later I had reached the front of the queue. Whilst here I saw crews of 4 fire fighters coming down the stairs. I cannot remember who gave us a briefing but our task was to go to the 5th floor of the tower to extinguish the fire there and to search and rescue. There wasn't much more of a briefing other than that. We were told that there are two water jets up on that floor we could use and therefore we wouldn't be given any to carry up. I then started my ascent up the stairs along with Duane and the two fire fighters from Brixton towards the 5th floor. There was a lift but as far as I am aware this was not in operation due to fire being at the top of the tower. Along this route I saw a lot of water; it was falling like a waterfall down the stairs. There were also hoses all over the stairs which made it difficult to climb. It was quite light, I was expecting it to be dark but it wasn't too bad. There was a little bit of smoke at this point but not too much, I was able to see quite clearly. When we got close to the 5th floor, that's when it got quite smoky. I cannot remember who opened the door but when it was opened I saw lots of smoke. The 4 of us stuck together as we entered the hallway and found a branch on the floor. The branch is the end of the hose that is operated to shoot water at a fire. All 4 of us then entered a flat on this floor; I cannot remember the door number but I believe it was on the right side as you enter. As the senior fire fighter out of this group of 4 I decided to take the role as leader. I was regularly asking the other fire fighters to check their air gauges on their BA sets. I did this because I wanted to make sure everyone had enough air to carry on. Our radio sets were not working for some reason, we were trying to communicate with our control team on the ground floor with no success. We were trying to update them regarding our progress, what flats that had been searched etc. The policy says that when communication does not work you shouldn't go in, however I wanted to help save lives. I was also aware that the water supply to our hoses was very poor; it behaved like when you put your finger over the end of a hose. There was hardly any water coming out of it. I did not connect any of the hoses to the dry risers, nor do I know exactly where they are. They were already connected when I arrived. When I entered the first flat I remember thinking that this flat is completely burnt out but it is still on fire.

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All 4 of us started to search the flat looking for any survivors. It was extremely hot. What I found odd was the lack of furniture in the room. There were a few pieces and they were on fire, as a team we used the hose and extinguished those fires. There was an orange glow throughout the room when we were inside which I think was because there was a fire on the outside of the building. The room closest to the window still had a bit of furniture in it and this was burning. I was thinking if anyone was in here then they won't be alive now due to the extent and ferocity of the fire. My colleagues were extinguishing the fire in that room when I found another branch on the floor. I picked this up and was going to use this to help battle the fire. When I went to use it no water at all came out of the end of it. That fire was extinguished and I was happy the fire was out of the room at least, despite worries that there was a fire on the outside of the building as there was still an orange glow in the room. I was confident that there was no one alive in this flat but it was hard to tell if there was any deceased in there at that time. We couldn't reach our control via the radio to update them with this information. We then went to search the other flats on the 5th floor for survivors. We started from that 1st flat on the right and made our way around systematically. I went to the 2nd flat which was on fire but nowhere near as bad as the 1st flat. In searching this flat I did not see any survivors or any bodies. After this I checked the hallway outside the flats to make sure there was no one there. At this point I lost my colleagues for about a minute as they were inside one of the other flats searching. The hallway was so smoky that you couldn't even see your own feet. This smoke made me feel really disorientated and it may have been the smoke or the actual size of the place but I felt closed in. When I found my colleagues again I mentioned about the other flats but they confirmed they had searched them. I checked our air supply and realised there was not a lot of air left so I made the decision that it was time to make our way down leaving our branches on the floor. This was tiring and frustrating. We wanted to go up and do some more work however we were getting low on air and we had no communication with control. So we had no choice but to go down. In total we were on the 5th floor for about 15-20 minutes. The whole time I was there I didn't hear any voices other than my colleagues until I reached the stairway coming down.

We didn't have to force open any of the flat doors and we left them all open when we left the floor. We descended the stairs heading back towards the ground floor not passing anyone on route. When we reached the bottom we went to BA entry control and informed them that we had extinguished the fire on the 5th floor. There was a lot of activity in this area and seemed chaotic. I thought to myself I could help here and did think that maybe there could be a role for me here. It felt like when we passed our information over it was pure luck whether or not this information would be passed over correctly because

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there was too much going on. The 4 of us there exited the tower returning to the BA holding area via the same route as we came in. This journey was conducted by the Police escorting us under the cover of the riot shields once more. I got back to the holding area and was thinking that I want to go back inside and help some more. I spoke with Duane and said lets change our BA set's cylinders so we could go in again. I said there must be cylinders around there on the fire appliances that were parked up. I looked on several appliances that were parked up nearby, however the cylinders were all gone. I continued to look and eventually we found 2 cylinders on an appliance. We took these back to the BA holding area and conducted a fire ground test on them readying ourselves to go back in. We didn't have an opportunity to clean the sets but this test consists of changing the cylinders and testing the BA set making sure it's in working order. Inside the holding area there were probably about 30 other fire fighters. My radio was working now that I was outside of the building and I heard a transmission asking for a crew of 4 fire fighters not wearing BA. I left my BA set on the floor and went and met with a senior officer offering my services. I was told that there were two lines of hose that were being used and that one of them was quite badly damaged. That hose was supplying water to fire fighters in the tower and there was a team needed to fix this hose. They would need to undo the couplings and switch the damaged piece of hose with a new bit. I went with others to fix this piece of hose and then discovered there had been 6 others that had been given the same brief. I thought this was excessive and wouldn't need that many people. I spoke with another crew manager there and said that I was going to speak with BA entry control to see if they needed my assistance there. I made my way over to BA entry control the same way as I did before without incident.

When I arrived I was not tasked by anyone to do anything but I saw 2 Watch Managers who were dealing with Fire Survival Guidance information but I am not entirely sure. Fire Survival Guidance is a process where someone that is stuck in a building on fire can stay on the phone to someone who will give them advice on how to stay safe and reassurance until they are rescued. Standard procedure is that if they are trapped by smoke or heat advice will be given to stay low and to block the doors with bedding. I do know it says in the policy that the officer in charge can change the guidance if they so wish as long as they document their reasons. I spoke with them and offered my help to them and they were grateful and accepted it. I was glad because I wanted to do something and thought that if I didn't get involved and actively search for work then I would have been sat outside doing nothing. Doing this allowed one of the Watch Managers to go to the toilet as he had been there for some time without relief. I don't know who these men were and I have never seen them before. They were both white middle aged men, but I cannot

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say more than that. Along with them was a Group Manager who I know, he is called Pat GOULBOURNE. In this area there was three BA boards flashing and a Crew Manager trying to sort out communications between control and the fire fighters on the upper floors. The BA boards monitor the fire fighters air supply so that control can actively monitor fire fighters and make sure that they are safe. I could see that the communications officer was struggling to relay messages to Pat GOULBOURNE who was in command due to how busy everyone was. I then took it upon myself to relay messages from the communications officer to Pat GOULBOURNE. I would hear messages come through on the radio that BA wearers were on the way down and that made me think that there is an opportunity have further BA wearers overlap and go up. I passed this information on to Pat GOULBOURNE a number of times throughout the incident.

One incident of note that I remember was that of a crew getting close to saving a casualty and they had almost dealt with a fire on that floor. But because of air supply they had to leave before finishing. I spoke with Goulbourne and informed him of this and asked for a crew to go up there to help which he managed to arrange. My radio was tuned to Channel 1 and the communications officer's radio was tuned to Channel 6. I was monitoring both so that I was aware of the progress being made. Channel 1 is the main channel used by fire fighters and Channel 6 was being used by the BA wearers. Also whilst I was in the location I took it upon myself to give a briefing to fire fighters who came through keeping them updated on the situation. It felt quite good as I was doing this because it felt like some order had started to happen and we were noticing some real progress. I felt proud and I felt like I was making a real difference. The reason I decided to do what I did was because I felt like they needed help and there is nothing written in Policy that says I shouldn't of done that. I am pretty sure that Pat GOULBOURNE appreciated my help. I then heard some commotion from the floor above. I heard someone shout "Casualty" So I climbed the stairs up to the 1st floor to see what was happening. Here I was met by another fire fighter wearing BA and he informed me that a casualty was being brought down. I think they wanted someone not wearing BA to bring them down so that they could continue back up the tower. I then saw two fire fighters helping a Chinese man out. This man was shown on TV quite a lot in the aftermath of the incident. He looked exhausted and his skin was black due to the smoke covering him for so long. I shouted "Can someone not in BA help me" to my colleagues. Then my colleague Sean COLTRESS who at the time was a Watch Manager came to assist. We both then lifted the Chinese man in the air using a chair lift. We put our arms under his legs and locked our fingers creating a support to lift him up. We then carried him down from the 1st floor as fast as we could so that he could get some medical attention. The hoses on the floor slowed

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our progress as we did not want to trip over them. We got to the bottom and passed by BA entry control towards the doors to the block. As we got there the riot shields were raised above our heads and we carried him all the way across until we got to the underpass. On route I was remembering there was a lot of medical staff by our BA holding area, so my plan was to get this casualty there. The casualty then started talking to me, he said "I want to walk" Sean and I then stopped and let him down. Two other fire fighters then came over and picked him up again. I think they thought we were tired and were trying to assist. They carried him a short distance around the corner so he could be treated. I returned to BA entry control and carried on working there. We were making strong progress against the fires and I was being told about more floors that had been cleared of fire, and then we had a bit of a setback. We were informed by crews coming back that there was an issue with water and that it wasn't coming out of the hoses. There was a lot of water coming down the stairs; each step had a couple of inches of water on.

At entry control on the floor the water was about half a foot deep and bits of equipment were floating about. GOULBOURNE said that he wanted everyone out who was upstairs tackling the fire. He said that we are going to fix the water supply and then we will go back and attack it again. I have no idea when this decision was made but I do remember thinking that was a big decision. But I did agree with the decision and still think now it was the right decision. GOULBOURNE asked me if we could get everyone out at once by using the evacuation button linked to BA wearers sets. When triggered it beeps on their sets which is an indication to get out. The BA wearers have to then acknowledge this which then goes back to control. I explained to him that this is done via telemetry and that was not working. Telemetry is similar to Bluetooth. This was attempted and it did not work. I explained that the crews would be down shortly anyway because they don't have much air left. GOULBOURNE accepted this and said that he would not be committing anymore crews until the water issue had been resolved. As these further crews came down they also expressed their issues with the water supply. They explained that on the way down they noticed that the two hoses on the stairs had burst and that water was coming out of the holes therefore preventing it from travelling to the branch at the end. When the fire fighters where all out it gave us the opportunity to clear the walls of writing. In this incident and other incidents like this we write on the wall using china graph pencils detailing the location and the progress made. I then heard GOULBOURNE talking with some other high ranking fire fighters about how the fire on the 4th floor had been extinguished. They mentioned that since this floor was now clear they were now going to move the Bridgehead from the ground floor up to the 4th floor. That involves moving everything from the ground floor up to the 4th, this includes the BA boards and first aid equipment. When I was told about the movement of the Bridgehead I

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was told to remain on entry control because I knew what I was doing. I then helped with the rest of my colleagues on entry control in the movement of the equipment on to the 4th floor. The senior officers then were requesting for SDBA wearers to come in and complete tasks such as changing the water supply whilst the EDBA wearers would go up to the higher floors completing firefighting and search and rescue tasks. They also wanted SDBA wearers to conduct further searches on the lower floors to see if they could find anymore survivors.

At some point when we moved the Bridgehead I saw that GOULBOURNE had been replaced by another person in command. It was me and him along with 4 other Watch Managers at this point. One of the Watch Managers I was with is called Watch Manager SADLER. I think his first name is Paul and I believe he works on the Red Watch at Lambeth Fire Station. We started drawing on the walls with a china graph pencil detailing the layouts of the floors. I drew a big rectangle divided it up into floors with each floor having six flats. I have been shown some photographs that were taken by a scenes of crime officer of these drawings. I can confirm I drew these and I have exhibited the following three photographs as TJS/3, TJS/4 and TJS/5. I did not draw anything on the walls when I was on the ground floor; I only started when the Bridgehead was moved to the 4th floor. I have made a sketch on a piece of paper showing what my drawing was like and I have exhibited this as TJS/2. On that same exhibit it also contains diagrams on how I saw the tower burning. As I divided the graph up I drew six flats on each floor hoping that it was the same on every floor because I wasn't 100% sure. The china graph wouldn't write directly on to the surface at first in places so I had to scribble it on and rub it off using a towel I found. This helped in making it a surface that I could write on. I found the towel in one of the flats on this floor that had been cleared. These drawings were on a door that I believe it was opposite to where the lift was. I drew the flats and door numbers from the 7th floor upwards whilst Watch Manager SADLER did the floors below. However I do not know who wrote "Ignore SM" at the top of the door nor do I know who put the yellow cross through it. I crossed off the flats listed on the 5th floor as I knew they were clear since I was one of the fire fighters who cleared them. In regards the writing to the right of it listing firefighting crews, I have no idea who drew that there. Nor do I know who did any of the other writing on that floor, I only drew the chart with the flats on. After completing these diagrams I never saw whether it was actually used because I was relieved by a new team that attended from the day shift. At this point I was thinking that it was good there was a whole new team here and that everyone was fresh and ready to go. I don't know the name of the Watch Manager that we handed over to but I believe he was from Red

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Watch at East Greenwich. Watch Manager Sadler gave the hand over more than me, he was explaining the situation and the progress made. I then exited the building via the same route I had been doing. Once I left and managed to get to the other side I decided to go and look for my crew. I hadn't seen them since I started working at BA entry control. Whilst looking for them a Station Manager asked me to obtain three "forward information boards" These are laminated boards which can be written and drawn on. These are used instead of writing on walls and are used to put sketches and information relating to fire that you will be dealing with. These are rectangular in shape and about a metre in length. I did a lap of the entire grounds of Grenfell Tower looking for these boards. There were new fire appliances in the area that I looked in, however I have no knowledge of the contents and where items are kept in the new engines. I knew we had some in our appliance however this was far away and I wanted to complete this task as soon as possible. I was looking in appliances for about 20 minutes before I finally found some. I then took them back to the BA holding area. Here I found there was several boards already there, so I assume the Station Manager probably asked several people to collect these boards. I then found my crew inside of the BA holding area. I sat with them and had some refreshments. Whilst I was with them we discussed what we had been doing overnight and that morning. In the holding area there was hearsay that the fire had started in Flat 16, but I never attended this flat at any point. There were various rumours going around the fire fighters ranging from that it was Arson to that the fire was started by a white goods appliance. I was of the opinion that we do not know at this point and understood that what was being said was just speculation. We were then told that we could leave and was told to head to Paddington Fire Station in order to complete our notes. After completing our notes we left Paddington and arrived back at Peckham Fire Station at around 4pm. My knowledge of the "Stay Put Policy" is that the safest way is for residents to stay in their homes. They will usually be able to extinguish a fire quickly if it's contained inside of one flat. If their doors are shut they are not usually affected by the smoke or heat. I do read policies quite a bit and I understand that they are dynamic, it is clear that the stay put policy wouldn't of worked in the later stages of this incident due to the whole block being on fire. I am not aware whether are not residents were told to remain or not but I am aware that it is the national guidance. I also never heard anything about the stay put policy being withdrawn. In regards to the "High Rise Procedure" I know that it's very important to know what floor you are on and the floors are sectioned.

What usually happens is that the Incident Commander will be outside the building observing and they will put in a Bridgehead two floors below the fire. For example if the fire is on the 6th floor, the Incident Commander will put a Bridgehead on the 4th floor. Then BA wearers would be committed the floor

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below the fire where they will connect a hose to the dry riser if there is one there. They will then move up to the floor where the fire is and start tackling that there. At that point another crew will move up to the same floor and plug their hose into the dry riser on that floor and assist. This was adapted somewhat at Grenfell Tower but due to almost the whole block being on fire it was challenging. There was a dynamic risk assessment being made in regards to deploying fire fighters above a fire. However when whole floors were on fire I do not believe fire crews were going past them. In summary I think that the communication systems we have are poor as they do not fit properly. The ear piece in the BA sets does not sit right and this impairs communication. However due to the amount of radio traffic happening on that night, even if it did fit then I do not think it would of helped. It is similar to trying to send a text to someone on New Year's Eve and it not sending for a long time due to everyone else doing it at the same time. I have never been to an incident like this before in my career. The closest I have been to something like this was when I attended the Lakanal House fire on relief. Whilst working on that incident I was aware that the Bridgehead moved there too. We do have lectures about high rise fires and I keep up to date with the policies. I quite often assist with the lectures my fire fighters receive and keep them up to date with these policies. We also have a drill tower at our station which we use to practice. We do familiarisation visits to tower blocks near our station called 7 (2) D visits. These are for us to familiarise ourselves with the blocks in case we ever have to go there to tackle a fire. Whilst conducting these we quite often do talk through exercises inside. I have never done this at Grenfell Tower. I felt sufficiently trained to deal with the fire at Grenfell and at no point did I feel that my training had let me down. I felt that the training I had received kept me safe inside. We do all this regularly but I cannot remember exactly when I last did it. I have fought fires in high rise blocks in the past a number of times but nothing to the extent that Grenfell Tower was. They were always contained to one flat, the Lakanal House incident was the only time I saw it spread prior to Grenfell. I never entered the fire at Lakanal, I came to the incident late on and only stayed outside of the building. I believe the Incident Commander for this incident was a man called Andy ROE because I saw him at one point in the BA area and there was an "Incident Commander TABARD" by him. Looking back it would have been nice to have someone in our BA holding area keeping us updated with what wasn't working, rather than finding out when we were already inside the building. Since the fire I have heard of stories of other fire fighters going above and beyond the call of duty. I have even heard stories of fire fighters taking off their masks in order to save people's lives. I also have a lot of respect for the EDBA wearers, they went up to extreme heights and did some amazing work

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