



ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT

Rescue and Specialist Support – Aberdeen City / ACAM

Report Ref SFR/22/046

1 INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service operationally within Aberdeen City consists of 3 Wholetime Fire Stations (North Anderson Drive / Central / Altens) and a Retained Duty Fire Station (Dyce). These stations and their teams while providing the core operational cover are also trained in a number of specialist skills varying from Urban Search and Rescue(USAR) to Technical Rope Rescue (TRR).

This report will detail the location of these skills within the city, the training in place to maintain competence in these skills, the current competency levels within our specialist teams and a summary of Operational Incidents / Turnouts these specialist resources have attended in the last 3 years.

This report will also give some specific detail on the creation of the Technical Rope Rescue resource at Altens Community Fire Station which is the only TRR resource in the North Service Delivery Area (SDA).

The resources that will be detailed below while located within Aberdeen City are National resources.

2 SFRS Specialist Skills within Aberdeen City

2.1 North Anderson Drive Community Fire Station

- Major Incident Unit – USAR (Urban Search and Rescue / Heavy Rescue)
- DIM Vehicle – HazMat – Detection / Identification / Monitoring – this vehicle while maintained and transported to incidents by the crews at NAD is operated by specialist Senior Commanders on scene.
- MTA / SORU – Marauding Terrorist Attack Teams / Specialist Operations Response Vehicle
- SWAH 2 – Safe Working at Heights Level 2

2.2 Central Community Fire Station

- Water Rescue – Swift Water Rescue Technicians (SRT) and a boat response
- Mass Decontamination(MD) – 2 MD Units transported with a hook lift prime mover
- Aerial Appliance

2.3 Altens Community Fire Station

- Technical Rope Rescue
- Command Support Unit (CSU) – Enhanced Logistic Support (ELS)
- Wildfire Unit including Kubota All-Terrain Vehicle
- Environmental Unit / Damage Control Unit / Foam Unit / Timber Unit (POD systems)

2.4 Dyce Community Fire Station

- Incident Support Vehicle (ISV)
- Fire Investigation

3 Training / Maintenance of skills

- 3.1 SFRS Training Centre - Portlethen is a National Training Centre which has recently received significant investment and is located on the outskirts of the city. This modern training centre has core skills (BA – Breathing Apparatus, RTC – Road Traffic Collision etc) training areas but also has specific areas/buildings dedicated to specialist skills training this includes a specially designed Technical Rope Rescue Training Facility. Extensive MTA training took place on this site (September / October 2021) to ensure a MTA capability was available at North Anderson Drive (supporting MTA teams – COP 26).
- 3.2 SFRS National Training Team fully supported by the LSO / ACAM Training Team schedules all required maintenance of skills training linked to specialist skills. This may involve members of our teams attending courses at National Training Centres out with the area in Perth / Glasgow / Edinburgh.
- 3.3 The ongoing assessment of SFRS specialist training needs within Aberdeen City / ACAM is in the form of an annual Training Needs Analysis (TNA) / Training Skills Analysis (TSA) carried out by the Training Senior Commander within the ACAM LSO Command Team. This TNA / TSA ensures that the requirements of the specialist teams within Aberdeen City / ACAM is known and projected deficiencies can be planned for and negated by a maintenance training program for existing specialist trained team members or by upskilling new team members.
- 3.4 The National Training team locally as well as the LSO training team have some of the most highly skilled instructors in Water Rescue, Technical Rope Rescue and Urban Search and Rescue in the country and this training program is given further support by Senior Commanders within Aberdeen City / ACAM holding the positions of National Capability / Specialism leads / deputy leads in Technical Rope Rescue, MTA, Enhanced Logistical Support (Command Support Units) and Wildfire.

4 Specialist Teme Capability / Competency

Abbreviation	Definition
ALP	Aerial Appliance
DIM	Detection, Identification and Monitoring
HazMAT	Hazardous Materials
MD	Mass Decontamination
MTA	Marauding Terrorist Attack
PM	Prime Mover
SRT	Swift Water Rescue Technician
SWAH	Safe Working at Heights
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

4.1 North Anderson Drive

Q01	USAR Tech	MTA	SWAH Level 2
Amber (9)	6	8	7
Blue (9)	7	8	9
Green (9)	8	9	9
Red (10)	7	6	8
White (10)	7	7	10

4.2 Central

Q02	ALP OP	ALP Driver	MD OP	PM Driver	SRT	Boat OP	Trailer Driver
Amber	8	2	8	2	11	3	2
Blue	8	3	11	3	11	3	2
Green	8	4	11	5	10	3	4
Red	6	4	10	1	12	4	1
White	5	4	8	3	10	3	4

4.3 Altens

Q03	LGV Driver	PM Driver	ICU Driver	Rope Van Driver	Kubota Driver	RRS	RRT	RRO
Amber	4	2	3	3	3	2	5	1
Blue	4	3	3	3	2	2	6	1
Green	5	3	3	3	4	3	3	2
Red	3	3	3	3	4	2	5	3
White	4	1	1	3	3	3	6	0

5 Specialist Resources – Operational Activity / Turnouts 2018 – present day

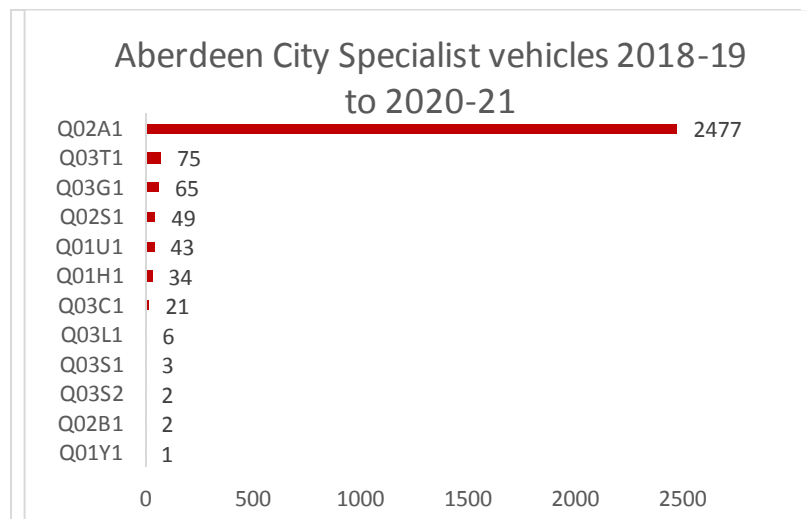
5.1

Aberdeen City Specialist Vehicle Turnouts 3 Years + YTD							
Station	Type	Callsign	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 YTD	Grand Total
NAD	DIM	Q01H1	7	19	8	7	41
	USAR	Q01U1	14	11	18	21	64
	SORU/MTA	Q01Y1		1		1	2
Central	Aerial App	Q02A1	734	1096	647	241	2718
	Boat	Q02B1	2				2
	Water rescue	Q02S1	15	13	21	11	60
Altens	CSU	Q03C1	5	6	10	1	22
	Wildfire / Kubota	Q03G1	48	11	6	7	72
	Rope rescue	Q03L1			6	6	12
	Foam POD	Q03S1	1		2		3
	EPU POD	Q03S2			2		2
	Prime mover	Q03T1	46	13	16	8	83

5.2

Callsign Turnout

Q01Y1	1
Q02B1	2
Q03S2	2
Q03S1	3
Q03L1	6
Q03C1	21
Q01H1	34
Q01U1	43
Q02S1	49
Q03G1	65
Q03T1	75
Q02A1	2477



6 Altens – Technical Rope Rescue (TRR)

6.1 Rope Rescue is a highly specialised and technically challenging additional skill for our teams to achieve and maintain. The creation of these highly skilled and motivated teams was the product of extremely hard work and dedication by the operational personnel and the Watch Command teams based at Altens over the last 4 years.

- 6.2 In late 2018 the structure was put in place at Altens to target a 24-month program that would create the only TRR station in the North (SDA). While previously TRR courses had been attended by personnel at Altens a great deal of logistical planning, resourcing and training activity was required to achieve our goal. With invaluable support from multiple functions / departments within SFRS including Training, Safety and Assurance (TSA) locally and nationally, Asset Management (TRR equipment provider and LOLER testing protocols), Fleet and Equipment (TRR Technical Rescue Vehicle) and the Senior Command team within Aberdeen City a provisional “Go Live” date of August 2020 was put in place by LSO – AC Bruce Farquharson.
- 6.3 Due to the geographical location of Altens station within the N.E. and the required resilience and support required for such a Technical Resource a Local Operating Plan was produced to give our teams additional support and confidence in the build up to the “Go Live” date. With the required team and individual assessments having taken place, carried out by SFRS National TRR instructors, and multiple multi-agency training events carried out Technical Rope Rescue became a SFRS live rescue resource in Aberdeen on Monday 17th August 2020.
- 6.4 In advance of this “Go Live” date and while attending the Stonehaven Rail Crash on the 12th of August and at the request of AC Farquharson and GC Ewing the on-duty WC team from Altens made themselves available to carry out TRR activity to assist with rescue operations at this incident. An example of the team’s dedication, professionalism and community spirit. This confidence and willingness displayed by the teams on the day clearly reflects the training and support given by the wider SFRS team over the previous 24 months to achieve this valuable rescue resource within Aberdeen / ACAM / NSDA.

7 FUTURE WORK

- 7.1 LSO - AC Ewing continues to support the Training, Safety and Assurance (TSA) teams nationally and locally by providing suitably skilled Service Delivery / Operational personnel to strengthen their teams (including specialist training teams). The Resource Based Crewing model within Service Delivery will determine the level of support available through AC Ewing to TSA but this support and the importance of training within the Operational program is a primary driver of AC Ewing.
- 7.2 An on-going program of work is underway to scope the viability of transferring some of the specialist Units / PODs from Altens to stations within the Aberdeenshire and Moray areas to ensure a more even distribution of specialist units within the area. This will assist with maintenance and training schedules.