



SCOTTISH

FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE

1 Recommendation

The Aberdeen Public Protection Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider and note the information provided in this report in relation to response and reliance

2 Introduction

- 2.1 A key requirement within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for Aberdeen is to ensure that we maintain suitable resources locally and that our firefighters possess the skills, knowledge and expertise to respond safely to incidents which vary in type and complexity.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the Aberdeen Public Protection Committee with information in relation to response and resilience.

3 Specialist Skills and Resources

- 3.1 Personnel at each of the 4 fire stations in Aberdeen have acquired and continually maintain specialist skills, in addition to those which are required for the vast number of fire and rescue incidents. These specialist skills enable Aberdeen based firefighters to respond to incidents which occur locally and require a greater level of expertise to resolve.

Fire Station	Pumps	Specialist Skills and Resources
Q01: North Anderson Drive	2	Major Incident Unit: - High capability rescue equipment for rescue at large transport type incidents such as trains, HGVs and aircraft. Also carries equipment such as props and shoring to facilitate rescue from collapsed structures and trenches. Detection Identification and Monitoring vehicle: - Equipment for sampling and aiding the identification of substances and their associated hazards present at chemical incidents.
Q02: Central	2	Water rescue vehicle trailer and boat: - Water rescue

		<p>equipment to undertake rescue due to flooding or from inland waterways.</p> <p>Mass decontamination unit:- Equipment to enable a large numbers of persons to be decontaminated following the exposure to harmful chemicals and substances</p> <p>High Reach Appliance: - Hydraulic platform extending up to 32 meters (8-9 floors). The appliance has a number of uses such as rescue from height, firefighting, water tower and lighting tower. Personnel are in the final stages of concluding training on new Ariel ladder platform (ALP). It will be a replacement for the current appliance. The ALP has the same working height but has a greater reach capability and is fitted with the latest technology.</p>
Q03: Altens	2	<p>Incident Command Unit: - Provides the facilities required to support to the incident commander at the incident site.</p> <p>Wildfire unit: - 4X4 vehicle fitted with a high pressure fogging unit for undertaking firefighting on moorland, grassland and forests.</p> <p>Foam unit: - contains bulk foam and foam making equipment required for incidents such as fuel fires when foam is the required firefighting medium.</p> <p>Damage control unit: - carries equipment to mitigate the impact of firefighting at properties and neighbouring property.</p>
Q20: Dyce	1	<p>Incident support van: - Equipped with breathing apparatus cylinders and ancillary equipment to support a large scale or protracted incident requiring the use of breathing apparatus. The van also carries a decontamination shower to support Firefighter decontamination.</p>

Appliances and Specialist Resources

- 3.2 Considerable investment was made during 2017/18 to train and equip Central Fire Station personnel to enable them to attain specialist water rescue skills. Central fire station have been responding to water rescue incidents since April 2018 when water rescue capability became a declared resource.
- 3.3 Personnel at Altens fire station are currently undertaking an extensive training programme which will provide them with the specialist skills required to undertake rescues from height using ropes, lines and associated equipment. All rope rescue equipment and PPE has been procured and issued to personnel. It is anticipated that this resource will become available from Altens fire station in late 2019.
- 3.4 In addition to the specialist skills and equipment available locally, similar resources can be deployed from throughout Scotland to support Aberdeen based personnel.

This is particularly beneficial during spate conditions or at incidents which become protracted and crews require to be refreshed.

4 RESPONSE TO THE TREAT OF TERRORISM

- 4.1 An interim response is currently in place whereby a cadre of specialist officers can make a response into the warm zone of a mass casualty incident to work alongside colleagues from the Scottish Ambulance Service and Police Scotland. The full specialist response planned is currently subject to national negotiation on terms and conditions. When these negotiations are concluded the aspiration is that personnel from 4 locations across Scotland, including North Anderson Drive fire station, will respond to mass casualty incidents. In the event of an attack personnel will transport specialist resources to the incident site and support the Scottish Ambulance Service with casualty care and evacuation. The bulk of the training required and the provision of specialist equipment has been concluded already.

5 OPERATIONS CONTROL DUNDEE

- 5.1 All emergency calls are answered, handled and operational resources dispatched from the North Area Operations Control (OC) situated in Dundee. This state of the art facility is complemented by an Incident Support Room (ISR) co-located at Operations Control. The ISR provides support to OC during spate conditions and large scale incidents. It was in operation during the spate of wildfires which occurred in summer 2018. The ISR proved invaluable in assisting to bringing these incidents to a successful conclusion.

6 ESTABLISHMENT

- 6.1 A total of 163 personnel are located within the 4 fire stations in Aberdeen. 8 of these are Retained Duty System (RDS) on call firefighters at Dyce fire station. Staff follow a nationally defined 3-year development programme which aims to ensure that all firefighters are equipped with the necessary skills required to perform their duties. The process provides the platform for individual and supported development and assessment for the core and specialist skill areas.
- 6.2 The development and assessment process ensures that the core competencies of fire behaviour, breathing apparatus and tactical ventilation are maintained and remain current.

7 ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- 7.1 Personnel are facilitating sessions to support others to develop vital lifesaving skills. Increasing the number of people who can administer CPR will increase survivability for anyone suffering a heart attack.

Month	Events	People Trained
April	1	unknown
May	2	67
June	2	109
July	2	5
September	1	57

November	1	5
Total	9	243

Recorded number of British Heart Foundation Engagement Events and people trained

8 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- 8.1 Keeping our staff and members of the public safe should an incident occur
- 8.2 Maintaining a modern and effective local service
- 8.3 Reducing the financial burden and disruption caused to our communities when emergencies occur
- 8.4 Increased community resilience