



ABERDEEN CITY LOCAL SENIOR OFFICER AREA

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE THEMATIC REPORT

Rescue and Specialist Support – Aberdeen City / ACAM

Report Ref SFR/23/152

1 INTRODUCTION

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service operationally within Aberdeen City consists of 3 Wholtime Fire Stations (Altens / Central / North Anderson Drive) and 1 On-Call Fire Station (Dyce), with a staffing profile of 166 frontline personnel. 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 across the city of Aberdeen, 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.

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

- Urban Search and Rescue / Heavy Rescue (USAR):

Our USAR personnel are trained in advance rescue techniques to safely resolve incidents such as; collapsed structures, trench collapse, mines rescue etc. Our heavy rescue element may also be deployed to major incidents involving HGVs, aircraft and rail infrastructure within an urban environment.

- Detection / Identification / Monitoring (DIM):

Our DIM vehicles are used as a form of mobile laboratory at serious chemical, biological radiological and nuclear (CBRN) instances, supporting a wide range of incidents including flooding, HAZMAT, USAR and Mass Decontamination. The vehicles are capable of identifying substances at incidents where the material of

concern has not yet been identified. This vehicle while maintained and transported to incidents by the crews at NAD is operated by specialist Senior Commanders on scene.

- Specialist Operations Response Unit (SORU):

Our SORU vehicle are used to provided communications and specialist equipment to resolve specialist operations such Marauding Terrorist Attacks (MTA), Police Operations and Major Incidents. This vehicle while maintained and transported to incidents by the crews at NAD is operated by specialist National Interagency Liaison Officers (NILOs).

- Safe Working at Heights Level 2 (SWAH 2):

While all SFRS personnel are trained to a safe working at height (SWAH) standard, personnel located at NAD Fire Station are also trained to level 2 operators. This additional capability allows personnel to ascend/descend structures to assist with USAR operations. It should be noted that SWAH 2 does not allow for the rescue of persons from height.

2.2 Central Community Fire Station

- Swiftwater Rescue:

Our Swiftwater Rescue Technicians (SRT) are trained to provide an emergency response to both the rescue of a person/s within water (inland) and complex flooding incidents. Our teams are supported by our dedicated SRT van, associated equipment and boat.

- Mass Decontamination (MD):

Mass Decontamination is the removal of harmful contaminants from large amounts of people in the case of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear (CBRN) incidents and/or industrial accidents. Our specialist decontamination structures and associated equipment provides the capability to decontaminate 250 persons per hour. Our crews are trained in use of specialist chemical protective clothing - Powered Respirator Protective Suit (PRPS). The use of this specialist protective clothing allows for personnel to remain within a hazardous area for an extended time period.

- Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP):

Our ALP is designed to disperse water onto buildings from above. This is normally for use at incidents where it may be inaccessible to do so from the ground. These vehicles are also used to assist in rescues from tall structures and provide observation platforms.

2.3 Altens Community Fire Station

- Technical Rope Rescue:

Rope rescue is a type of technical rescue involving the use of ropes, harness, anchoring and hauling devices to assist rescues at height or below ground level at urban and structural locations. While all crews are trained to a safe working at height

(SWAH) standard, line rescue crews are trained to a more advanced capacity to deal with more complex technical rescues at the likes of open structures, utilising horizontal and vertical stretcher lowering and raising.

- Command Support Unit (CSU):

Our CSUs provides incident commanders with enhanced logistic support in forms of communications equipment, ICT support, mapping, loggist facilities, command support team.

- Wildfire Unit including Kubota All-Terrain Vehicle:

Our wildfire units provide additional support to crew attending large scale wildfires. Units provides 4x4 capability for the transfers of equipment/resources and a high-pressure fogging suppression system.

- Environmental Protection Unit (EPU):

Our environmental protection unit provides additional specialist equipment to support HAZMAT/CBRN incidents. Equipment contained within the unit allows for crews to stem/stop leaks from various containers and the containment of escaped contaminants. Equipment can also be utilised to secure drainage systems and protect water courses.

- Foam Unit:

Our foam unit are designed to provided crews with additional foam making equipment and bulk storage of foam to deal with large flammable liquid fires and chemical spills. The unit hold 1000L of Aqua Film Forming Foam (AFFF) and 300L of High Expansion Foam (HIEX).

2.4 Dyce Community Fire Station

- Incident Support Vehicle (ISV):

Our ISVs equipped with arrange of additional equipment to support crews at large scale incidents. The unit provides an additional 50 compressed air cylinder to support Breathing Apparatus (BA) operations, Firefighter decontamination structures, Gas tight Suits, logistic support and additional drinking water to ensure adequate firefighter re-hydration.

3 Training / Maintenance of skills

- 3.1 Our training centre located at Portlethen is a National Training Centre which has recently received significant investment to provide SFRS personnel with state of art realistic training facilities. This modern training centre provides the required facilities to ensure that our core and specialist competencies' can be maintained, these include skills such as; Breathing Apparatus, Road Traffic Collision, Heavy Rescue, USAR, MTA, SWAH 1/2, Rope Rescue and Trauma Care.

- 3.2 SFRS National Training team schedules all required maintenance of skills training linked to core and 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.

4 Specialist Terms Capability / Competency

4.1

Abbreviation	Definition
ALP	Aerial Ladder Platform
DIM	Detection, Identification and Monitoring
HazMAT	Hazardous Materials
MD	Mass Decontamination
PRPS	Powered Respirator Protective Suit
MTA	Marauding Terrorist Attack
PM	Prime Mover
SRT	Swift Water Rescue Technician
TRR	Technical Rope Rescue
SWAH	Safe Working at Heights
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

4.2

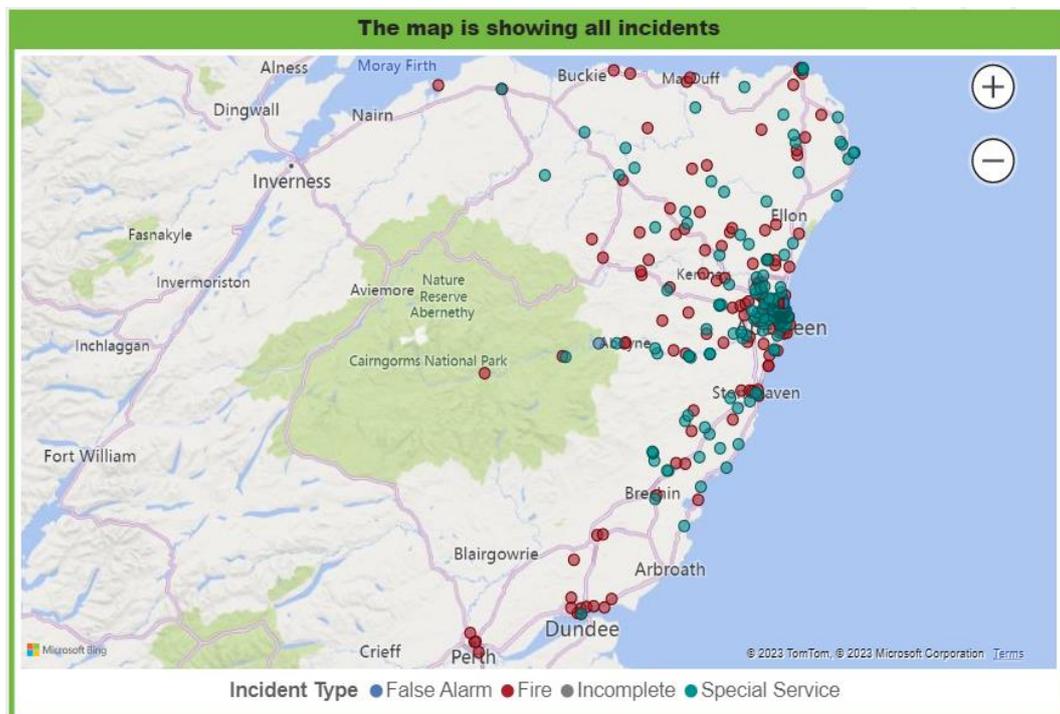
	Specialist Skill	Amber Watch	Blue Watch	Green Watch	Red Watch	White Watch
Alrens	CSU	9	10	10	9	8
	ATV Driver	3	2	4	4	3
	TRR	6	9	7	10	10
	EPU	9	10	10	10	9
	Foam	9	10	10	10	9
Central	ALP	7	7	6	4	7
	PRPS	12	9	9	10	9
	MD	12	9	9	10	9
	SRT	12	11	11	12	11
	Boat OP	4	4	3	4	4
NAD	USAR	7	7	8	5	8
	SWAH Lv2	8	9	9	6	9
	DIM Support	9	7	7	5	8
Dyce	ISV	On-call	8			

5 Specialist Resources – Operational Activity 2020/21 – Year to Date

5.1 Operational Activity

Aberdeen City Specialist Vehicle Turnouts 3 Years + YTD							
Station	Type	Callsign	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-YTD	Grand Total
NAD	DIM	Q01H1	8	6	8	0	22
	USAR	Q01U1	17	25	14	0	56
	SORU	Q01Y1	0	1	0	0	1
Central	ALP	Q02A1	257	292	340	21	210
	Water Rescue	Q02S1	21	12	22	0	55
	MD	Q02T1	0	0	0	0	0
Altens	CSU	Q03C1	9	10	8	0	27
	Wildfire / Kubota	Q03G1	6	7	11	0	24
	Rope Rescue	Q03L1	6	7	8	0	21
	Foam POD	Q03S1	0	2	1	0	3
	EPU POD	Q03S2	0	2	1	0	3
Dyce	ISV	Q20S1	15	17	11	0	43

5.2 Incident locations



6 Incident Case Study

6.1 The following incident information is provided to give board members an understanding of how SFRS specialist resources are critical to supporting incident commanders to safely resolve complex incidents.

6.2 Incident Overview: Dundee Operations Control (DOC) received call reporting a 1 vehicle Road Traffic Collision involving 1 HGV tanker on its side, fire within cab, 1 driver within.



Date: 15/02/2023

Time: 08:09

Location: King Edward, Banff



SFRS Resources assigned:

- Fire Appliances
- DIM Unit and Support Appliance
- Heavy Rescue and Support Appliance
- EPU Unit and Support Pump
- Foam Unit
- 1st Call Officer (Station Commander)

- 2nd Call Officer (Group Commander)
- HAZMAT Officer (Group Commander)

6.3: DIM / HAZMAT: Specialist knowledge of officer allowed for quick identification of substance and development of specific risk assessment. This information was vital for the incident commander to develop a suitable and sufficient tactical plan to extinguish fire, reduce risk of explosion, evacuation of surrounding properties, containment of substance and suitable level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) of crews.



6.4: EPU: Specialist clay putty utilised to stem leak of substance from ruptured tanker. Boom systems and chemical absorption mats/socks used to contain substance from entering drains and open water source.



6.5: Incident Summary / Outcome: 1 male casualty snatched rescued by first attending crew, transferred to hospital and later released with minor injuries. Mitigated the requirement for heavy rescue operations to release casualty. Substance identified as 32,000 Litres of new-make spirit at 70% ABV. No requirement for foam blanket, dilution with water recommend to reduce explosive risk. Crews worked well to stem leak of substance which was estimated as approx. 3 litres per minute. Escaped spirits

contained to protect exposure to surrounding environment. This included farm land, rain water drainage and open water source. SFRS assisted specialist recovery teams with safely decanting substance and righting vehicle for removal. This specialist advice and support ensured that the risk of further escape of substance, including explosive risk remained low.



7 FUTURE WORK

- 7.1 LSO 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 LSO Ewing.
- 7.2 LSO Ewing and the Aberdeen City command team continue to review our delivery model and competency levels ensuring that we meet the needs of our local communities. As we continue to transition post COVID 19, we are leading on multi-agency exercising on a quarterly basis. This is vital to strengthen interoperability between Category 1 responders and 3rd sector partners. To date, we have exercised responses to incidents involving a train derailment and CBRN. In May 2023, we will exercise our response to a large-scale high-rise fire followed by a Marine incident within Aberdeen Harbour in June 2023.