

# Ops Information Note (OIN)

## Spate Conditions



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### Introduction

Spate conditions Operations. Operations Cell (Spate)

In fire service terms spatte could be caused by non-natural occurrences JESIP, Major Incidents, NRAT Incidents

### Legal Considerations

[Operations legislation NOG](#)

### Operational Considerations

Fire Service Control will allocate an appliance to each **key strategic location**. The eight appliances shall be held in reserve and only be committed to life threatening incidents.

All other spatte related incidents would be dealt with by the mobilisation of the remaining operational fleet. The distribution of appliances based at the **eight key strategic locations** would give the Service an absolute minimum standard of operational coverage to life critical incidents over the majority of Tyne and Wear.

A staged approach shall be adopted by Fire Control based around the availability of resources plus the volume and nature of 999 calls to control. These stages shall be referred to as:

<b>Alert 1:</b>	<b>Initial Spate</b>	<b>8 Strategic Locations</b>
<b>Alert 2:</b>	<b>Moderate Spate</b>	<b>7 Strategic Locations</b>
<b>Alert 3:</b>	<b>Substantial Spate</b>	<b>6 Strategic Locations</b>
<b>Alert 4:</b>	<b>Severe Spate</b>	<b>5 Strategic Locations</b>
<b>Alert 5:</b>	<b>Critical Spate</b>	<b>4 Strategic Locations</b>

**The Watch Manager in charge of Fire Control will have full autonomy when mobilising resources during Spate Conditions. This includes the mobilisation of appliances based on risk and availability, independent of any pre-determined arrangements such as PDA's and standby provisions, which apply during normal mobilising periods.**

#### Operations Cell (Spate): Considerations

Once the Operations Cell (Spate) has been convened the duties of the Group will include the following:

Operations Cell (Spate) will assess the Spate situation and decide upon a plan of action.

This plan may utilise existing relevant guidance or a Level 3, 4 or 5 plan, if applicable, depending upon type of spatte conditions encountered.

**The Operations Cell (Spate) should be convened immediately, when an unknown trigger is identified**

[All Incident Scenario NOG](#)

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Operations Cell (Spate) **Comprises**

- Duty Executive Officer.
- GMB .
- WMB Control / Control Manager & Control Support (if available)
- Relevant Duty FDS Officer .
- Consider Appointing Logistics Officer. (At an early stage dependent upon expected duration of Spate conditions).

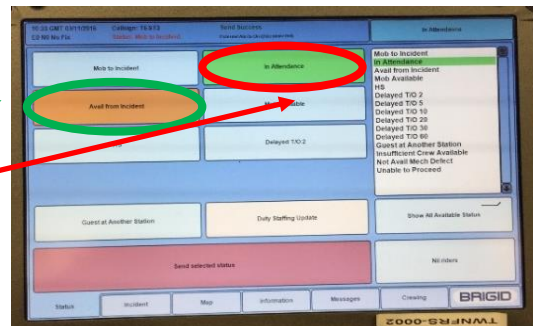
Eight key strategic locations:		
Strategic Location 1:	Stn E	Gosforth
Strategic Location 2:	Stn J	Tynemouth
Strategic Location 3:	Stn M	Marley Park
Strategic Location 4:	Stn Q	Farringdon
Strategic Location 5:	Stn T	Hebburn
Strategic Location 6:	Stn Y	Swalwell
Strategic Location 7:	Stn Z	Chopwell
Strategic Location 8:	Stn C	Newcastle Central

**Operational Tactics**

The following status should be transmitted via MDT:

Attendance & Available

Attendance & Unavailable



<b>Alert 1:</b>	<b>Initial Spate</b>	<b>8 Strategic Locations</b>
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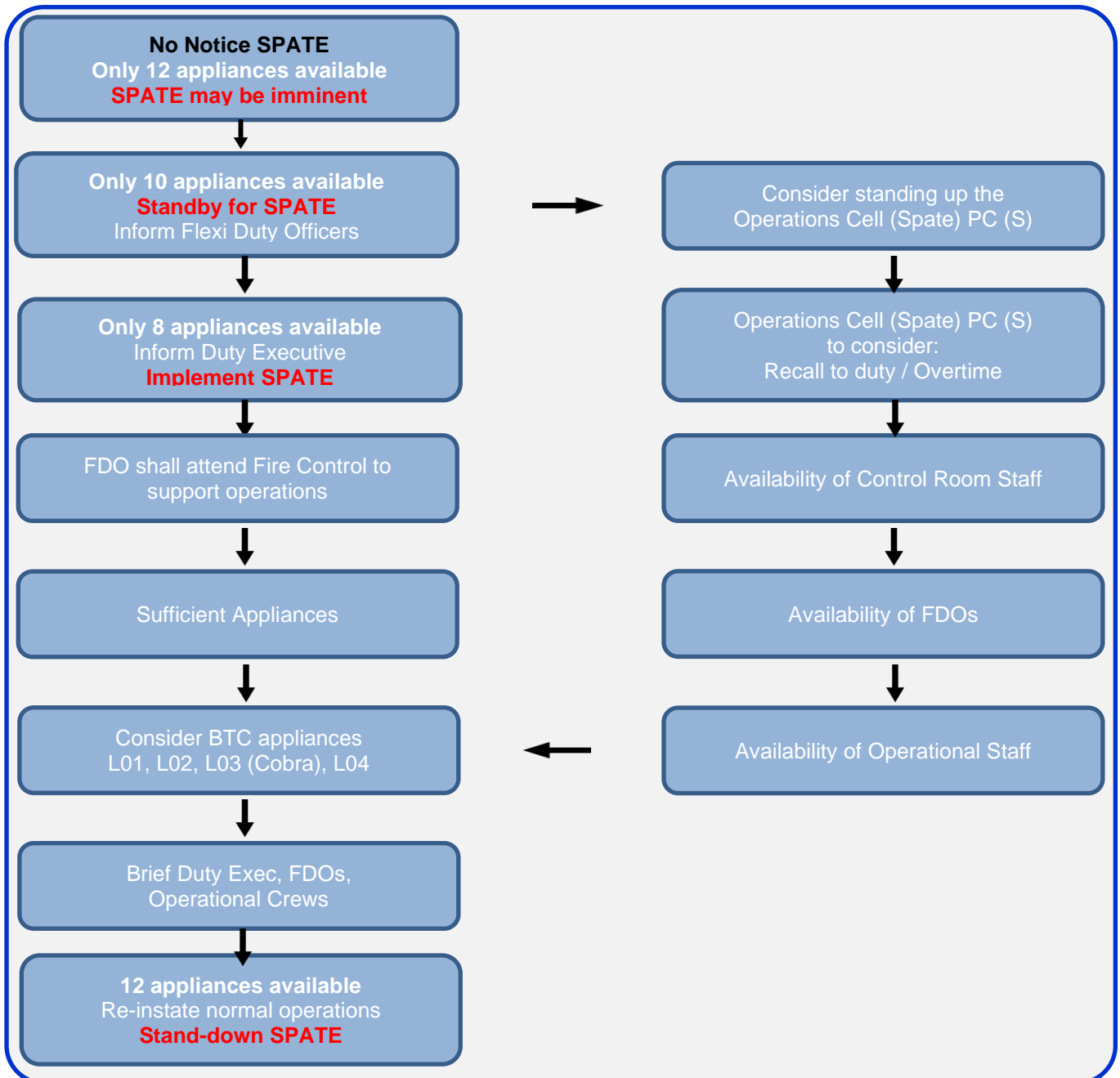
<b>Alert 1:Initial Spate</b>
<b>8 Strategic Locations</b>
Stn E- Gosforth
Stn J- Tynemouth
Stn M- Marley Park
Stn Q - Farrington
Stn T- Hebburn
Stn C– Newcastle Central
Stn Y- Swalwell
Stn Z- Chopwell



Alert 2: Moderate Spate	Alert 3: Substantial Spate	Alert 4: Severe Spate	Alert 5: Critical Spate
7 Strategic Locations	6 Strategic Locations	5 Strategic Locations	5 Strategic Locations
Stn E - Gosforth	Stn E - Gosforth	Stn E - Gosforth	Stn E - Gosforth
Stn J - Tynemouth	Stn J - Tynemouth	Stn J - Tynemouth	Stn G - Wallsend
Stn M - Marley Park	Stn M - Marley Park	Stn M - Marley Park	Stn S - Washington
Stn Q - Farrington	Stn Q - Farrington	Stn Q - Farrington	Stn Y - Swalwell
Stn T - Hebburn	Stn T - Hebburn	Stn Y - Swalwell	
Stn Y - Swalwell	Stn Y - Swalwell		
Stn Z - Chopwell			

Flow chart detail the measures to be undertaken for all operational areas when under Spate conditions including Fire Service Control, Flexi Duty Officers, Operations Cell (Spate) and Service Delivery personnel.

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During periods of expected prolonged SPATE conditions the Operations Cell (Spate), may wish to utilise appliances at the Barmston Training Centre (BTC). These appliances may be staffed by a combination of the following appropriately trained personnel:

- Service delivery personnel attending training courses
- Operational staff via recall to duty
- BTC Instructors
- SHQ operational personnel
- When utilising BTC appliances the following specific arrangements need to be considered:
- Requisitioning of BA Sets and spare BA cylinders from the BATC.
- Function test of the main scheme
- Welfare arrangements for crew.
- Appliances available at the BTC include: L01(c/w Cobra), L02, L03 & L04 Further Information

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# All incident Actions



## Incident information

- Gather information from available sources to gain accurate situational awareness and understanding
  - Question the responsible person, other responders and witnesses to understand incident factors and history
  - Confirm and communicate the number, type and severity of casualties at the earliest opportunity
  - Ensure that a scene survey is carried out at the earliest opportunity
  - Access any operational or site specific risk information and confirm accuracy
  - Debrief crews that have withdrawn from a working area to gain operational intelligence
  - Maintain situational awareness and identify changes through active monitoring and regular briefings
- ▷ **Further incident information**
- Use local knowledge, topography and map reading skills to aid navigation to an incident
  - Ensure that tracks and pathways are suitable for fire service vehicles
  - Stay on marked paths and tracks where there is a risk of environmental damage
  - Consider 'STEP 1-2-3+: Safety Triggers for Emergency Personnel'
  - Consider using Met Office weather systems, including FIREMET and/or CHEMET
  - Ascertain the availability of pre-arranged evacuation plans
  - Consider pollution prevention information contained in site specific risk plans
  - Seek advice from landowners and other bodies on susceptible areas of the environment
  - Review situational assessment following an emergency evacuation or tactical withdrawal

## Resource information

- Identify resources available to take immediate action and request those needed to support incident plan
  - Consider requesting the attendance of tactical advisers, subject matter experts and specialist resources
  - Consider resources that may be available from neighbouring fire and rescue services and partner agencies
  - Inform and/or seek advice from environmental agencies and/or sewerage undertakers where necessary
  - Consider whether appliances, personnel, equipment and other resources can be released from the incident
  - Regularly update fire control on the availability status of appliances and other resources
- ▷ **Further resource information**
- Consider the use of a rendezvous point, marshalling area or strategic holding areas
  - Consider requesting facilities for the welfare of crews deployed at protracted incidents
  - Consider availability of pollution control equipment and/or pollution containment facilities on site
  - Make use of specialist fire and rescue service or on-site environmental protection equipment
  - Consider the appointment of a HMA (or equivalent) to oversee environmental protection activities

## Risk information

- ▷ **Working environment**
- Identify bodies of water, unstable ground and risks of falling from height in working environment
  - Consider the effect of weather conditions and time of day on the working environment
  - Brief everyone on the incident ground regarding current hazards, specific risks and control measures
  - Maintain suitable access and egress routes to and from the scene of operations
  - Establish, identify and communicate safe traffic routes, establish clear zones and equipment points
  - Provide lighting to illuminate hazards to personnel in poorly lit environments
  - Ensure appropriate PPE is worn depending on risk assessment of the work environment
- ▷ **Temperature extremes**
- Monitor personnel exposed to extreme temperatures for signs/symptoms of heat stress or hypothermia
  - Rotate personnel undertaking arduous manual tasks and consider a relief strategy
  - Consider relief and welfare measures to reduce the effect of stress and fatigue on themselves and others
  - Instigate appropriate medical interventions if personnel show signs and symptoms of physiological stress

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▷ **Noise**

- Eliminate noise hazards by switching off at the source
- Keep the number of people exposed to a minimum and reduce time of exposure through crew rotation
- Wear hearing protection as identified in service risk assessment, procedures and training

▷ **Heavy and bulky objects**

- Consider using plant, machinery or other engineering controls to reduce manual handling risk
- Request additional resources to assist with manual handling tasks
- Consider the task, individual capabilities, load and environment (TILE) when undertaking manual tasks
- Adopt techniques when lifting, lowering, carrying, pushing or pulling according to service training

▷ **Moving vehicles**

- Consider the risk of vehicle collisions when deploying resources
- Be vigilant and co-operate with service procedures relating to vehicle movements

▷ **Animals**

- Consider isolating crews from animals using existing or improvised barriers
- Request support from animal owners, keepers, specialist advisers/teams or welfare organisations

▷ **Chemical/biological hazards**

- Identify whether the incident should be reclassified as a hazardous materials response
- Remove unaffected chemicals from the hazard area if safe to do so
- Comply with service protocols when handling substances that are hazardous to health
- Ensure open wounds, cuts and grazes are covered by a waterproof dressing
- Comply with hygiene arrangements and don't eat, drink or smoke

▷ **Body fluids**

- Avoid contact with body fluids where possible
- Isolate or cover body fluids following casualty removal
- Wear body fluid gloves and cover broken skin with waterproof dressing
- Instigate decontamination procedures following exposure of personnel and equipment to body fluids

▷ **Distressing or traumatic scenes**

- Minimise number of personnel exposed to traumatic scenes
- Handover responsibility for traumatic incidents to appropriate agency where FS is not responsible
- Erect screens to restrict the view of traumatic scenes

▷ **Violence and aggression**

- Consider adopting defensive tactics when faced with violence or aggression from the public
- Request police support at incidents involving violence and aggression towards crews

## Powers, policies and procedures

- Carry out an environmental analytical risk assessment and consider environmental legal exemptions
- Enter premises by force without the consent of the owner or occupier is necessary and where appropriate
  - NB. Does not apply to Crown property (including ministry of defence) and diplomatic or consular premises
- Restrict the access of persons to premises or a place

▷ **Further powers, policies and procedures**

- Close a highway or stop and regulate traffic
- Operational Discretion**
- Consider applying operational discretion when outcomes would justify unusual, unorthodox or innovative

action

- Return to operational procedures as soon as the objective has been achieved through operational

discretion

- Outcomes which would justify applying operational discretion include:

- Saving human life
- Taking decisive action to prevent an incident escalating
- Incidents where taking no action may lead others to put themselves in danger

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Why?

Expectations?

Benefit vs Risk?

## Objectives

- Firefighter & responder safety - Protect life and property
- Protect the environment - Promote community recovery
- ▷ **Further objectives**
  - Consider the JESIP principles at all incidents involving multi-agency operations
  - Prevent escalation and spread of incident
  - Protect Critical National Infrastructure and/or local critical infrastructure

## Tactical priorities

- Carry out a dynamic risk assessment, identify hazards, evaluate risk and select safe a system of work
- Declare the tactical mode and communicate to all personnel and fire control
- Instigate the completion of an analytical risk assessment and record significant findings
- Establish emergency arrangements appropriate to the size and complexity of the incident
- ▷ **Further tactical priorities**
  - Apply the firefighter safety maxim and safe person principles at operational incidents
  - Identify and communicate the hazard area and establish a safe working area as soon as is practicable
  - Anticipate the development of the incident evaluating the potential consequences of a range of actions
  - Develop an incident plan considering contingency arrangements
  - Consider the competence of individuals and teams when allocating tasks
  - Regularly review and update incident plan in response to active monitoring against expected outcomes
  - Review the tactical mode following active monitoring and briefings with sector commanders
  - Periodically review the analytical risk assessment using situational awareness from active monitoring
  - Use the Joint Decision Model to co-ordinate an effective response at multi-agency incidents
  - Identify the need to evacuate and develop a strategy in liaison with partner agencies
  - Establish and communicate the emergency evacuation signal and arrangements
  - Consider the preservation of evidence where future investigations are likely
  - Carry out an environmental risk assessment and monitor the impact of tactics on the identified risk

## Operational tactics

- Gain access to premises causing minimal damage considering the urgency of the situation
- Create and resource a suitable casualty care point, evacuate unaffected people to a place of safety
- ▷ **Further operational tactics**
  - Consider the potential effects of incident development when positioning appliances
  - Assess and prioritise the condition of casualties
  - Instigate and communicate hygiene arrangements, facilities and consider decontamination
  - Implement an appropriate protection plan when an identified nature conservation site is at risk

## Communication

- Establish and maintain an incident ground communication plan consider other agencies and remote resources
- Ensure that all personnel are fully briefed on the current hazards, risks, control measures and tactical mode
- Communicate the incident situation to other responders via fire control using the METHANE message protocol
- Provide a structured brief when handing over/taking over command
- Communicate findings of analytical risk assessment to all personnel and other agencies
- ▷ **Further communication**
  - Communicate access, rendezvous points and marshalling areas to responding appliances
  - Communicate any change in the tactical mode of a sector or the incident

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- Communicate objectives, priorities and tactics to be adopted in resolving the incident
- Deliver clear, concise and timely briefings to crews, command support functions and other agencies
- Ensure all personnel are aware of the incident command structure and communication strategy in place
- Establish a media liaison point and brief a nominated media liaison officer
- Use plain English and common terminology to communicate, where a lack understanding may exist
- Regularly pass information to fire control regarding incident progress
- Communicate emergency evacuation signal and muster point arrangements to all personnel
- Ensure that the appropriate environmental agency is informed of the incident when required
- Use appropriate means to warn, inform, instruct and update people affected by emergency incidents

## Control

- Establish an incident command structure appropriate to the likely size and complexity of the incident
- Ensure that inner and outer cordons are established, identified and communicated
- Control access to the inner cordon using methods proportionate to the size and complexity of the incident
- Appoint competent safety officers to monitor specific hazards or activities
- Instigate a tactical withdrawal of personnel where the mode changes from offensive to defensive
- ▷ **Further control information**
  - Be prepared to adopt a leadership role at multi-agency incidents
  - Establish a scene access control point to log persons operating within the inner cordon when appropriate
  - Consider the use of command support systems and equipment where required
  - Monitor the performance of personnel and where necessary modify plans to match competencies
  - Keep contemporaneous records and/or decision logs to capture key events, critical decisions and rationale
  - Instigate a safety sector at large or complex incidents under the control of a safety sector commander
  - Implement exclusion zones where intolerable risks to safety are identified
  - Request the police to establish a traffic cordon where necessary
  - Request an air exclusion zone through the appropriate authority if required
  - Maintain effective command and control in emergency situations. Review priorities, tactics and resources
  - Carry out a roll call of fire service and all other personnel at the scene following an emergency evacuation

## Incident closure and handover

- Ensure that effective supervision of operational activity is maintained until the conclusion of the incident
- Instigate and co-operate with post incident investigations where necessary
- Ensure that hazards are identified when handing over responsibility for safety to the responsible person
- Take measures to secure premises where no responsible person can be identified
- Conduct a debrief at a level appropriate to the size and/or complexity of the incident
- Consider community recovery protocols and arrange appropriate assistance before leaving the incident
- ▷ **Further incident and closure information**
  - Identify which appliances can be released considering the incident plan and control measures
  - Conduct an inventory check and ensure equipment receives appropriate after use inspection and testing
  - Recognise the potential contamination of equipment and PPE and follow service procedures
  - Check the condition and serviceability of PPE when assessing operational readiness for redeployment
  - Preserve the scene to inform future internal and external investigations following adverse safety events
  - Gather relevant information for the incident recording system
  - Ensure debriefs are led in a structured manner to allow all personnel the opportunity to contribute
  - Record and share significant findings from incident debriefs
  - When appropriate instigate a review of existing guidance following the use of operational discretion
  - Ensure differences in information are resolved and systems updated following the closure of an incident
  - Compile and secure all incident command paperwork (e.g. analytical risk assessment and decision logs)
  - Ensure that waste products created by the fire and rescue service are disposed of legally and responsibly
  - Follow service protocols for post incident health surveillance

## Additional information

- Firefighter Safety Maxim**

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*"At every incident, the greater the potential benefit of fire and rescue actions, the greater the risk that is accepted by commanders and firefighters. Activities that present a high risk to safety are limited to those that have the potential to save life or to prevent rapid and significant escalation of the incident. "*

**Decision Control Process**



**JESIP Principles**

- Co-locate
- Communicate
- Co-ordinate
- Jointly understanding risk
- Shared situational awareness

**Joint Decision Model**



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