



TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# DEGRADATION PLAN

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## Introduction

It is recognised, that in exceptional circumstances TWFRS will be unable to provide sufficient staff to crew all 24 operational fire appliances (22 between 0000 and 0900). This could be caused by a number of factors, but will more than likely be linked to widespread illness.

Historically the Service have referred to Admin Procedure 3.08 'Appliance Availability, Staffing and Detached Duties', which details the options for the loss of up to 26 staff. This document is an extension of this procedure and relates to the removal of appliances once staffing reduces below this figure.

## Guidance

Admin Procedure 3.08 details the need to ensure that all fire stations maintain a response. As staffing figures reduce to minus 26, initial considerations look to gradually remove the Category 2 appliances from each of the two pump stations. Other factors to be taken into account during this period, is the need to maintain an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) capability and/or a Tactical Response Vehicle (TRV), both of which will be dependent on skills of those staff available. In the first instance an ALP provision should always be maintained where possible. For this reason, this plan focuses on a figure of minus 26 staff and not minus 28, meaning that all Category 1 appliances can remain available, along with an ALP or TRV.

When a figure of minus 26 staff is reached, priority should be given to ensuring that a response is maintained at all fire stations (full time, consider Chopwell?) along with an ALP where possible. Once we drop below minus 26 staff the service needs to consider a gradual removal of fire appliances from stations, whilst still attempting to maintain an ALP available in the first instance, along with boat and height rescue. Consideration should also be given to safely carrying additional kit on appliances from other Specials where appropriate.'

## Methodology

With this in mind, and taking into account the published Operational Information Note (OIN) for Spate Conditions, the following list has been produced as a guide to inform decision making around the removal of fire appliances, if staffing levels continue to decrease beyond minus 26. This list has been produced by creating a table and 'ranking' stations based on the incidents recorded within their areas for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. This task was completed for 'all incidents', 'risk level 1' and 'risk level 2' incidents, the average position in this table was then established for each station area which provided a guide for where appliances should be removed from in the first instance, whilst maintaining a response at the eight strategic stations needing cover during spate as covered in OIN 'Spate Conditions' (as these enable the most coverage of the Tyne and Wear area within a 10 minute response time).

The table of results can be found below, stations highlighted in red are strategic stations as identified in the Spate OIN:

LA Area	Station	Ranking for Incident Types			Average Position	Position
		All	Risk Level 1	Risk Level 2		
Newcastle	Byker (F)	1	1	1	1	1
Newcastle	Newcastle (C)	2	2	3	2.3	2
Sunderland	Sunderland (N)	3	3	2	2.7	3
Gateshead	Gateshead (V)	4	4	4	4	4
South Tyneside	South Shields (K)	5	5	8	6	5
North Tyneside	Gosforth (E)	7	6	6	6.3	=6
North Tyneside	Tynemouth (J)	9	7	9	8.3	8
Newcastle	West Denton (A)	6	8	5	6.3	=6
Sunderland	Farrington (Q)	10	9	10	9.7	10
South Tyneside	Hebburn (T)	13	10	11	11.3	11
Gateshead	Swalwell (Y)	15	11	15	13.7	=14
Sunderland	Marley Park (M)	8	12	7	9	9
Sunderland	Washington (S)	11	13	13	12.3	12
North Tyneside	Wallsend (G)	12	14	14	13.3	13
Sunderland	Rainton Bridge (H)	14	15	12	13.7	=14
Gateshead	Birtley (W)	16	16	16	16	16
Gateshead	Chopwell (Z)	17	17	17	17	17

Due to the requirement to maintain cover at the eight strategic stations, the following list provides the order in which station cover should be removed, based on the table above. Once we have only eight appliances available, reference should be made to the OIN:

- 1 – Birtley (W)
- 2 – Rainton Bridge (H)
- 3 – Wallsend (G)
- 4 – Washington (S)
- 5 – West Denton (A)
- 6 – South Shields (K)
- 7 – Gateshead (V)
- 8 – Sunderland (N)
- 9 – Byker (F)

Note: Station order may change, or stations may be removed sooner in an attempt to maintain Special appliance / skills capabilities.

## OIN Spate Conditions Summary

The information below has been copied from the Spate Conditions OIN and details the stations that need to maintain cover from eight available appliances down to five. Further detail can be gained through accessing the full OIN:

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

## Conclusion

This information is provided as a guide when faced with exceptional circumstances which results in a significant reduction in operational staff, and a subsequent reduction in our operational capability.

Once the Service has less than eight appliances available, consideration should be given to informing National Resilience to source additional support.

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