



## Operations Committee briefing

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## Ops Communications

### 999/112 Infrastructure Replacement Project

Strategic 999/112 Oversight Group has now been formally established. That means that there is now Government strategic leadership in place for the 999/112 system that is used to pass emergency calls from the telephony networks to emergency services. This is a significant step that will be all the more important during the next 2 to 3 years as the current infrastructure is replaced by BT. Part of this change

will also see the Chairs role for the 999/112 Liaison Committee passing to an emergency service lead, most likely this will be led by the NFCC (Strategic Lead for Operational Communications, Darryl Keen).

British Telecom are continuing to progress procurement for the new infrastructure but no further requests have so far been made of the senior stakeholders or NFCC specifically. Darryl Keen remains the main point of contact for all the emergency services on this work.

## **eCall**

BT have now finalised the information transfer process for eCall. This will utilise the existing EISEC system which all FRS have access. Details of the interface have been shared with all FRS 999 leads which provides useful information explaining how the system will work and what information will be shared. This additional information from vehicles involved in incidents may provide useful data for control staff but FRS may also wish to consider how it might provide a richer picture for responders.

## **Fireground Radio Project**

The Channel Plan for Fireground Radios has now been approved via the Operations Coordination Committee. Research has also taken place to establish the technical options relating to a change from analogue to digital radios.

New guidance for the programming of fireground radios was approved for publication at the last Operational Guidance Strategy Board and is now on the NOG website for services to access:

<https://www.ukfrs.com/foundation-knowledge/fireground-radios-guidance?bundle=section&id=19524>

## **Airwave**

Monitoring of the network and the performance of Airwave against the contract continues via the Firelink Service Management Board (FSMB). Since the last Ops Coordination Committee there have been a small number of significant incidents across the country but none have seen communications issues caused by any failures of the network. Whilst this is anecdotal, when combined with the performance monitoring via FSMB it would be reasonable to suggest that the communications infrastructure remains robust at this time, FRS are encouraged to make contact with Darryl Keen should they experience any issues.

## **ESMCP/ESN**

The first devices procurement has been finalised with Samsung chosen to provide a ruggedised, smart phone based handheld device which incorporates a press-to-talk button similar to a press-to-talk button through which instant communications can be achieved via the ESN network. This is the first of the devices that will support initial testing and may well form the basis of services provision to staff in the future. Vehicle devices are progressing through the procurement phase now.

At the last Fire Customer Group (FCG) it was agreed that it would now be appropriate for the FRS to undertake a review to ensure that all the necessary mechanisms are in place to support transition and that FRS are being appropriately supported by the NFCC ESMCP Team. This will report back to FCG in the early part of 2018 and there will be opportunities for a number of FRS staff to provide feedback.

A key review also now well underway is the review of the ESMCP Full Business Case. This will support both analysis of the full costs to each organisation and assist in the re-planning of the delivery schedule. This will take some considerable time and FRS should not expect to see this until well in to 2018, nor should any confirmation of new go-live dates be expected until the review is completed.

Finally the CEO of Motorola met with a number of key individuals during a recent visit to the UK. This included emergency service representatives, including the NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher.

## Operational Research and Development

Work continues to take place aimed at establishing an annual 'Operational Research and Development Programme'. The aim is to have a programme in place and signed off by the Operations Co-ordination Committee by April 2018. The focus is to develop a way of working which will add value, avoid duplication and deliver tangible improvements to operational service delivery going forward.

The programme will be constructed through two routes:

### Operational R&D work undertaken by the UK R&D Team

A National R&D Workshop was recently held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at Williams Formula 1 Research and Development Centre. The event was well attended and provided a valuable opportunity, to engage with FRSs and importantly, to understand what the sector requires of its UK R&D Team going forward. A number of key outcomes were agreed, which have been used to inform the business case for the continuation and further development of UK R&D, which will be considered at this month's NFCC meeting.

### Operational R&D work undertaken by FRSs / existing working groups

There is a need to strengthen and improve at a national level, the strategic co-ordination R&D work being undertaken by FRSs. In order to achieve this a mapping exercise is being undertaken to understand at a regional / sub-regional level the scale and scope of operational R&D taking place within the sector. This work is well underway alongside the formation of regional R&D Groups each with a nominated Regional Lead. A Regional Leads R&D workshop is being planned for March 2018 – further details of which will be shortly promulgated by the UK R&D Team.

## Technical Response

### Transportation – Road

A Service Level Working Group is being established with the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (FPHC) to enable standardisation of pre-hospital medical care guidance within the UKRO. The Vice-Chair of FPHC attended the 2017 National Challenge for greater awareness of synergies between organisations and improved involvement.

UKRO and the Institution of Fire Engineers (IFE) development has expanded to include Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for all involved/participating and a Membership route, based upon the Assessors Policy (Selection and development processes).

New vehicle information is now being provided to the UKRO as a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the UK FRS, via the Manufacturers Resources section of the UKRO Website – <https://www.ukro.org/Education/Manufacturers-Resources>

The UKRO E-Learning Portal has been soft launched - <http://www.ukro.org/News-Stories/Education/Beyond-the-Challenge---Firefighter-Continuous-Professional-Development-CPD-where-it-matters> The formal launch is planned for April 2018. The first FRS purchasing the suite of rescue-related modules is Humberside FRS.

The Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care (FPHC) Clinical Standards Committee now includes representation from the UKRO Trauma Lead – Phil Keating. FPHC support is being confirmed for the UKRO and adoption of the FPHC Pre-Hospital Medical Standards by the UKRO.

The 2018 National Challenge is confirmed at South Wales FRS and 2019 National Challenge is anticipated at Tyne and Wear FRS.

UKRO Education and Development Directorate was shortlisted in the Excellence in Fire & Emergency Awards 2017, Training Provider of the Year category.

## **Hazmats**

A meeting of the NFCC/Environment Agency MoU Pollution Annex Working Group was held in the West Midlands on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017. Discussions took place over Air Quality monitoring, firefighting foam and waste fire amongst other ongoing issues.

Work is ongoing to further understand the issues arising as a consequence of the proliferation of Alternative Fuelled Vehicles (Hydrogen etc).

## **Nuclear and Radiation**

The Government consultation on the transposition of the obligations in the Euratom Basic Safety Standards Directive (BSSD) 2013 that relate to planning for nuclear or radiological emergencies or incidents ended on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

The consultation also sets out the options identified by the Government for implementing the obligations in the BSSD 2013 that relate to planning for nuclear or radiological emergencies or incidents that occur during the transport of radioactive materials.

A parallel consultation relating to the Government's proposals for transposition of the 2013 BSSD in relation to public radiation exposures has concluded at the same time. A response to both consultations has been submitted on behalf of the NFCC by the author.

The FRS have been asked to nominate representatives to attend a NFCC Nuclear and Radiation group. A date for the first meeting will be set for 2018.

A presentation was given on behalf of the NFCC on the response challenges for Local Authority FRS when dealing with fires on nuclear installations, to the IFE Industrial Fire and Risk Special Interest Group Nuclear Power Colloquium, held at the University of Bangor on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Support is being provided to the planning team for Exercises Senator and Running Bear, both taking place in 2018.

## **Animal Rescue**

A regional approach to large animal rescue continues to progress with a number of FRS working to develop their own AR2 and AR3 courses with local agriculture and animal welfare colleges.

Work began in March 2017 on the National Operational Guidance for Incidents Involving Animals. A project lead and project board has been appointed to get the work underway. It is expected to be completed fully by March 2018.

## **RPE**

DCFO Mick Osborne has been appointed as new lead for RPE following retirement of previous lead. The wider RPE group has been contacted with a meeting currently being set up. The NOG project board has been established for the BA foundation document to be approved following the recent consultation.

## **Transportation Rail - HS2**

In August 2017 London Fire Brigade took on the liaison point of contact between the FRS and HS2. FRS have been contacted for their agreement to establish a network group and revise their Service points of contact.

In the meantime, London Fire Brigade have met with the Rail Systems Director for HS2, with support obtained for the re-establishment of the HS2 Fire and Rescue Service Liaison Group, this work will now come under the umbrella of the NFCC.

## **National Operational Guidance**

### **Guidance Development Projects**

*Major Incidents* - The final draft will be submitted for publication to the programme's governance boards in January 2018.

*Hazardous Materials: tier two* - The final draft of the guidance and associated foundation material will be submitted to the programme's governance boards in January 2018.

*Incidents involving animals* - The consultation on the guidance has closed and the final draft will be submitted for publication to the programmes governance boards in March 2018.

### **Foundation Material**

*Breathing Apparatus* - This has been produced to replace the old OGBA document. It isn't a re-write but rather a reformat that removes inconsistencies, makes it easier to read and brings it into the NOG style and approach.

### **National Operational Training Framework – Training specifications**

The second tranche of training specifications to be developed have been approved by the programme's governance boards and are in the process of being published to the programmes website. They are;

- Environmental protection
- Wildfires
- Operations
- Transport
- Fires in waste sites
- Fires in buildings under construction or demolition
- Breathing Apparatus

The third tranche of specifications to be developed will be submitted to the programme's governance boards in January 2018. They are;

- Fires in the built environment
- Industry
- Incidents involving animals
- Health hazards
- Physical hazards
- Major incidents

### **National Operational Learning (NOL)**

The National Operational Learning Secretariat has received 54 submissions of identified learning since the start of the trial, this has resulted in the publication of 3 Action Notes, which have been communicated to all fire and rescue services through the NOL Single Point of Contact network.

Of these 54 entries, 21 were identified as high impact events, 12 were firefighter knowledge or training, 9 as notable practice, 8 identified a gap in National Operational Guidance, 1 equipment related and 3 were identified as other.

## Scenarios

There are twelve scenarios currently being developed which will be published before the end of the programme. They are;

- Industrial and Commercial
- Agricultural
- Residential
- High Rise
- Electrical Installations
- Rescue of trapped persons
- Environmental Protection
- Flammables
- Explosives and cylinders
- Health Hazards
- Rescue of Large Animals
- MTFA

## National Resilience (NR)

Consultation on the specialist control measures for Mass Decontamination (MD); Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM); and Decontamination of Body Bags (DBB) has now closed and comments received are being analysed. The final draft versions will be submitted for approval to the NR project board and once approved, the NOG programme team will embed them within Hazardous material guidance.

## Health and Safety

### Regulation 28 Coroners Report to prevent Future Deaths & NOL Action Note Ref no. 000001-2017

The Coroner's report into the tragic death of firefighter Stephen Hunt in Greater Manchester identified ten recommendations regarding operational procedures and risk assessment competencies.

With use of the National Operational Learning (NOL) platform, an assessment Toolkit for FRSs to assure themselves against the identified recommendations was issued in July 2017, for completion by all FRSs by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The purpose of this Toolkit is to establish the national position in relation to this Regulation 28 report and to facilitate learning at a national level. It is intended that the information gathered from this Toolkit will be utilised by the National Operational Learning and Health and Safety Committee to share learning and notable practices with UK FRSs.

### Blue Light Research Group – Wearable Technology Requirements

The NFCC Strategic Lead for Health and Safety recently presented at a manufacturers invitation to tender day regarding Wearable Technology for fire fighters. Joint work with CAST and the above group is developing a specification for the blue light services to be able to track and possibly monitor the physiological signs and symptoms of all operational staff from real time incident monitoring of crews through to post incident medical impact.

There is real interest from industry to work with the FRS and CAST will shortly be publishing a specification of requirements for industry to work towards. As this highly technological area develops further updates will be provided. As part of the joint group there is representation from the NFCC R&D hub.

### **Dräger Breathing Apparatus Sets – NFCC Safety Critical Instruction**

On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, the NFCC were made aware of a Health and Safety event that was discovered by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), involving the Dräger PSS 7000 Breathing Apparatus (BA) Set. As part of SFRS initial investigations, it was identified that retaining staples and screws were missing from the pneumatics of a BA set that resulted in air loss.

In response to this, an NFCC Safety Critical Instruction was circulated on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017. Requesting that UK FRS's that use the Dräger PSS 7000 BA set conduct similar immediate physical checks for all BA sets, inspecting the staples and torx head crews.

Following completion of these checks, it is requested that should FRS's identify similar defects, that these are to be reported to Miss Alex Roberts [a.roberts@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:a.roberts@mawwfire.gov.uk) where a record of the event will be held centrally.