



## Operations briefing – Autumn 2017 – part two

### Technical Response

#### Transportation – Marine

The Fire and Rescue Marine Response (FRMR) working group last met in London in April where members were updated on a number of areas including the Home Office position regarding transport by air to casualty vessels. A series of flight options in terms of assessment and intervention team sizes have been drafted and will be discussed at the next meeting October.

A national SOP for the role of the Fire Liaison Officer at the National Maritime Operations Centre is being progressed. Following the agreement at the March National Operations Committee to recognise the role of Marine Tactical Advisor, a training and accreditation programme is in development to create a cadre of Marine Tac Ads listed on the ESS.

The renewed emphasis on 'alongside' statutory duty response arrangements was highlighted throughout the last meeting with a number of initiatives now in place to support this area of activity and specifically the role of the Generic Risk Assessment (GRA) and NOG protocols.

The re-formatted standalone tier 3 NOG "Fires on Board Vessels" has gone through final consultation and the final project board met on 8<sup>th</sup> May to approve content for publication. FRMR have also developed a Training Manual split for alongside and offshore operational roles with 10 modules to achieve competence in all areas.

A national procurement framework for Marine related items to support offshore and alongside equipment has also been produced.

The National FRMR Coordinator and support cell dealt with a fire on board a cargo vessel, the MV Honor, off the coast of Southampton on 24<sup>th</sup> February. The feedback from HFRS was very positive in the function of this role and its importance in the dynamic, and closing down phases of an incident through to resolution. Supporting briefing documents are available on CFOA communities.

There is ongoing work with the RNLI to develop a more accessible protocol to allow all FRS better access to RNLI assets. This may be where transportation is required or supporting tactical planning and operational needs prior to and during an incident.

There are now six declared offshore capabilities and a new peer audit/assurance process in drafting to ensure safety, consistency and standardisation for interoperability.

The date of the next FRMR meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> October at Cornwall FRS

#### Hazmats

Work has focussed on the delivery of the NOG Hazmats Foundation and classification specific guidance. This guidance is shortly to commence a consultation period.

Work has also been ongoing in conjunction with the Environment Agency in support of the national Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). In particular, work is underway in respect of firefighting foam and Air Quality monitoring.

Officers also attended a meeting at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders to discuss, and better understand, the growing prevalence of Hydrogen in vehicle propulsion technology. Peter Gustafson from London Fire Brigade is undertaking a piece of work on behalf of NFCC that will conclude with enhanced NOG.

## **Operational Effectiveness**

### Incident Command

Following the approval of five key work streams based on recommendations from the Future of Incident Command Report by the National Operational Effectiveness Working Group (NOEWG), the National Command & Control User Group (NCCUG) have started to take this work forward as below;

1a) Explore a wide range of methods to replace elements of incident command lost through the decline in operational incidents, giving consideration to methods such as tactical decision making exercises and other forums to share experiences.

Liaison with other services has commenced to identify any current approaches/interventions that have been implemented to address the decline in incidents, and discover any new adopted methods that may have been introduced in the last 12-18 months. Surveys were completed by seven FRS to obtain a sample of what is currently taking place.

From the seven FRS's consulted:

- 7 Services scheduled large scale and/or Multi agency exercises each year
- 6 Services used computer simulation as confirmation of skills
- 2 Services used Tactical Decision Making Exercises
- 1 Service used no notice exercises
- 0 Services Recorded IC Logged Hours

Discussions are ongoing with NOLUG to investigate opportunities for National Operational Learning (NOL) using the TDE as a platform.

DAC Cohen-Hatton has also discussed the option of using a central repository hosted by NOL to store TDE's to encourage shared learning. A TDE has been organised for members of NOL to give them a greater understanding of the tool.

It is expected that a report outlining all Command skills lost and numerous appropriate training interventions, will be completed at the end of September 2017.

1b) Review methods of debriefing to ensure they are appropriately informative

The group agreed that further investigation to identify current national best practices, such as London Fire Brigade's Performance Reviews of Operations and Command, will help provide an opportunity for the group to make recommendations on how FRS can review incidents and identify useful learning, either individually, organisationally or where necessary nationally and how the sharing of this key information that can be used to identify trends and learn lessons. The group felt that a holistic view for debriefing is required and should be extended outside of the just the Fire Sector and investigate other examples of best practice such as College of Policing Debriefing Course and JESIP debriefing tools.

It is important to ensure that any recommendations for identified learning from debriefs is transferable at local, regional and national levels where applicable. Jim Davies in his role as the NOL Secretariat will assist with the framework to ensure this can be captured. It's hoped there will be clear recommendations ready for when the sub-group meet again in November.

#### 1c) Embedment of the Decision Control Process (DCP) in training and operations

Nationally this process has already been well adopted across many FRS but not all. The group agreed that if true embedment of the DCP is to be achieved and adopted nationally, then it should be embedded within National Occupational Standards. The DCP has already been adopted into the Skills for Justice Awards, Incident Command Qualifications and in NOG, so having a national standard for this to be benchmarked against does appear to make sense.

The work of embedding the DCP in the mind set of commanders and in the culture of the FRS is still ongoing but is firmly in sight.

A final report will be produced for the NCCUG meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November to conclude this work.

#### 1d) Consider a formalised and recognised national process to qualify or licence individuals to practice incident command across the sector.

A sample policy has been produced by DAC Cohen-Hatton and will be distributed within the group and feedback has been requested from all regions prior to the NCCUG in November.

#### 1e) - Develop an incident command peer review process for organisational assurance

Key areas of work to date include:

- Liaised with Skills for Fire Awards regarding clarity on draft incident command training specification
- Uploaded draft peer review document to NCCUG repository for feedback
- Sought feedback as to what defines competence/qualified for a command peer reviewer?
- Commenced production of standardised templates for letters, recording, feedback reports etc.

#### National Operational Learning (NOL)

The project is progressing well and is on target to deliver a NOL system in September 2018. The project delivered improvements will be incremental and ultimately part of the ongoing maintenance of the projects outputs, which will rest with the sector and NOEWG. It is hoped that the National Operational Learning User Group (NOLUG) will provide the foundations for NOL, relying on the policies, practices, leadership and commitment of the fire sector participants to ensure sustainability.

## **Health and Safety**

#### Regulation 28 Coroners Report to prevent Future Deaths

The Coroner's report following the inquest in to the death of Firefighter Stephen hunt in Greater Manchester identified ten recommendations regarding operational procedures and risk assessment competencies.

With use of the new NOL platform, an assessment Toolkit for FRS to assure themselves against the identified recommendations was issued in July 2017, for completion by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The purpose of the Toolkit is to establish the national position in relation to the recommendations contained within the 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 NOL and Health and Safety Committee to share learning and notable practices with UK FRSs.

### Firefighter exposure to Contaminants Project

With the support of CAST, a literature review was commissioned to determine the current potential risk of contamination to Firefighters PPE.

This initial review was completed and whilst the report is progressing through the CAST formal publication process, early indications suggest it is difficult to form a firm conclusion whether or not Firefighters are at a higher risk of developing cancer when compared to the rest of the population. Several meetings of the project board have taken place to discuss the way forward. The Dutch FRS has been contacted as they too are conducting a similar research project.

It is hoped that the CAST report can be published within the next month and in anticipation of the report tentative proceedings have been made to establish an 'Expert Advisory Panel' to peer review the findings. This Panel may consist of a Medical/Cancer Specialist, Toxicologist, Fire Expert and/or an International representative. Other areas which may also be considered as further workstreams are, absorption, a standard for cleaning and cumulative effects of exposure.

A communication strategy is being developed regarding the next steps and a formal update paper will be promulgated once the CAST report has been ratified.

### Electronic Stability Programme (ESP)

At the last meeting of the Health and Safety Committee, the majority of Regions experiencing issues with the electronic stability programme (ESP) on LGV / HGV vehicles, advised that the issues had now been dealt with via driver training.

The Chair has written to the transport Officers Group (TOG) Committee requesting a view from TOG and once received this will inform the future discussions with the Manufacturers.

All FRS are requested to send details of any ESP related issues to Alexandria Roberts to collate on behalf of Chris Davies who will then engage with the Manufacturers on behalf of the sector. Alex can be contacted at [a.roberts@mawwfire.gov.uk](mailto:a.roberts@mawwfire.gov.uk)

## **Operational Research and Development**

### Operational Research and Development – Way Forward

Operational Research and Development (R&D) has recently been established as a strategic reference within the Operations Coordination Committee. In response to this work has been ongoing to understand how this can be most effectively managed going forward. The aim is to create a way of working which will deliver further improvements to service delivery going forward in the context of operational R&D.

Recognising the valuable work being undertaken by the UK R&D Team the intention is to compliment this approach further by aiming to better co-ordinate operational R&D work which is being undertaken locally by FRSs and to provide visibility of this nationally through the production of an annual Operational Research and Development Programme. It is important to note that the focus here is to add value not burden and moreover to provide a greater level of support, direction and visibility of existing work taking place within the sector, ensuring that this is properly harnessed as part of a cohesive national work

programme reportable to the Committee. The aim is to have the programme in place and signed off by the Committee by April 2018.

Should anyone wish to assist in the development of this programme and be part of a future working group please contact ACFO David Russel at [davidrussel@lancsfirerescue.org.uk](mailto:davidrussel@lancsfirerescue.org.uk)

### Unmanned Aerial Vehicles ('Drones')

National Resilience Information Note 22-2017 'FRS Drone Capability – Concept of Operations' was issued to the FRS on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Central to the Con Ops was the aim to establish the provision and maintenance of a National Drone Capability which will be able to respond to major incidents following a request from a FRS. To date one FRS has completed the registration of their Drone onto the ESS with a further two FRS currently completing the registration process.

FRS are encouraged to register existing or future Drones onto the ESS as per the process set out in recent Information Note thereby uplifting the number of assets registered which provide a more resilient and sustainable capability.

For further support and guidance please contact GM Tim Murrell at [timmurrell@lancsfirerescue.org.uk](mailto:timmurrell@lancsfirerescue.org.uk)

### Modern Firefighting Tactics

A series of regional workshops are currently being planned the first of which will be in the North West on 20<sup>th</sup> November at Merseyside FRS Headquarters. One of the key drivers behind the workshops is to explore opportunities develop a more co-ordinated approach for developing and advancing fire-fighting tactics including fire behaviour. In addition the workshops will provide a forum to discuss fire behaviour and firefighting tactics, the outcome of which will be used where appropriate as a component to inform the production of an annual Operational Research and Development work programme (see below).