



High Rise Firefighting Conference

Area Manager Gary Oakford

Wednesday 7th October 2020

Purpose of the Presentation

To share and advise delegates on the lessons identified from a Large Scale Training Exercise which took place in Merseyside in June 2019.



Merseyside - who and where we are

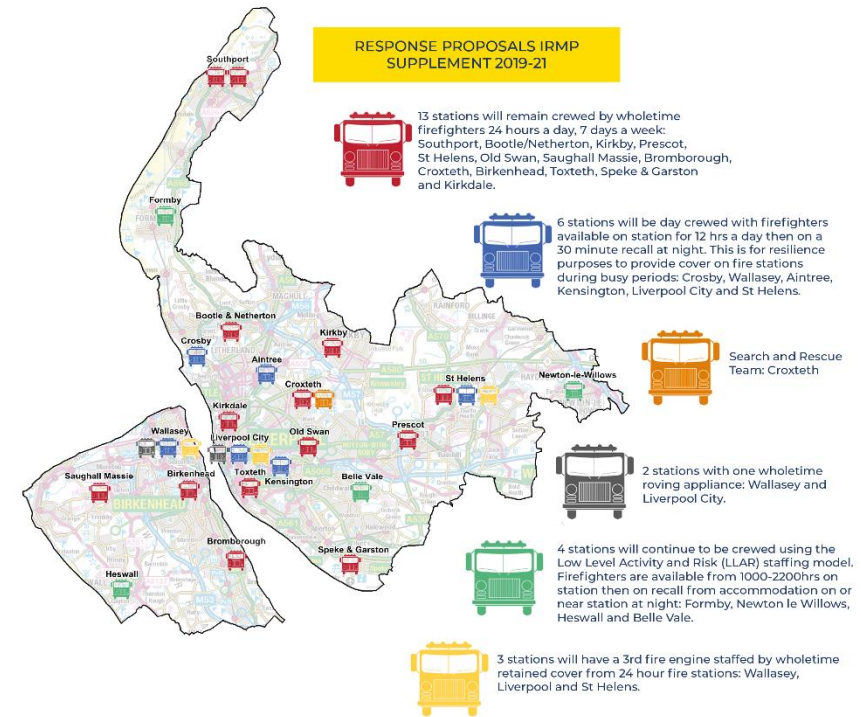
- Merseyside located Northwest England
- Covering the City of Liverpool and 4 surrounding Boroughs - population of approximately 1.4 million People.
- Diverse Risk Profile:
 - Urban/Rural
 - Large Commercial Port & growing cruise industry
 - Heritage
 - Economic Growth (Capital of Culture in 2008)
 - Social deprivation (challenges)
 - Large Service Industry supporting Tourism, Culture and Sport
 - Petrochemical including top-tier COMAH sites
 - Air, Rail, tunnels and motorway infrastructure
 - Student population





Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service

- Founded in 1974
- Operational Workforce (642)
- FF to Chief Fire Officer.
- Largest recruit intake in over 10 years.
- 2019/21 180 New Entry Firefighters (60 per year).
- Operates a number of duty systems.



14th June 2017



Immediate response from Grenfell

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

High Rise Campaign : June 2017 - March 2018

Following the Grenfell Tower Fire, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has taken the following action from June 2017 to March 2018:



- Carry out and update SSRI
- Provide reassurance advise to residents including Home Fire Safety Checks
- High Rise checklist:
 - Firefighting lifts (operation)
 - Charging and operation of rising mains
 - Review of simple FS facilities (doors, floor numbers, Premises Information Box)



Training Exercise – June 2019 (Key Aims)

Aims of the exercise:

- To test MFRS high rise procedures
- To test the capability of the newly acquired aerial appliance (CPL34)
- To test MFRS initial response from both operational crews and Fire Control operators
- To test the multi-agency response to a large scale incident, including Sefton Council, Media (social media, MFRS & Council outlets), North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) (specifically the Hazardous Area Response Team - HART) and One Vision Housing
- To test evacuation in confined spaces (multiple services plus confusion of occupants)



Realistic training...risk v benefit

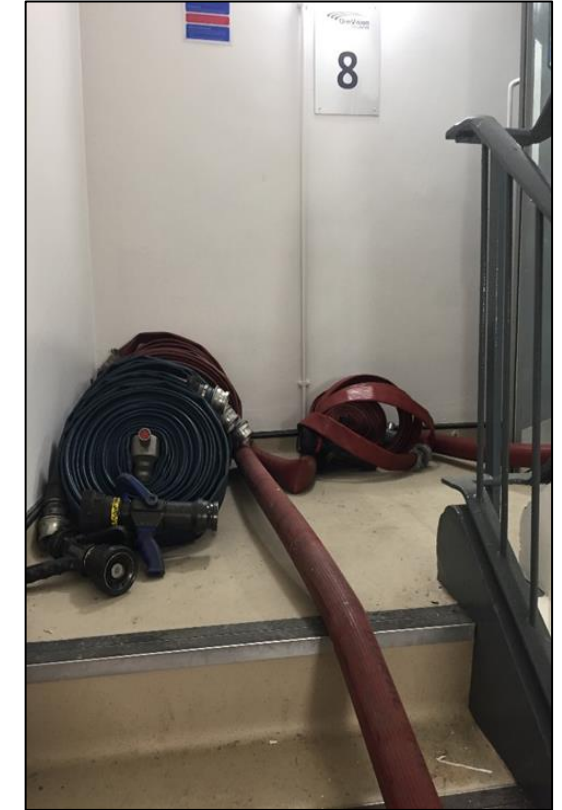
- Narrow planning window.
- Objective setting – be realistic in what can be achieved.
- Engage with Stakeholders (always).
- Small steps to success.
- There will always be learning.



Outcomes from Exercise Debrief (Key Learning)

Focusing on the main parts

- Firefighting Lifts
- Evacuation
- Equipment
- Procedures
- New Ideas



Grenfell recommendations

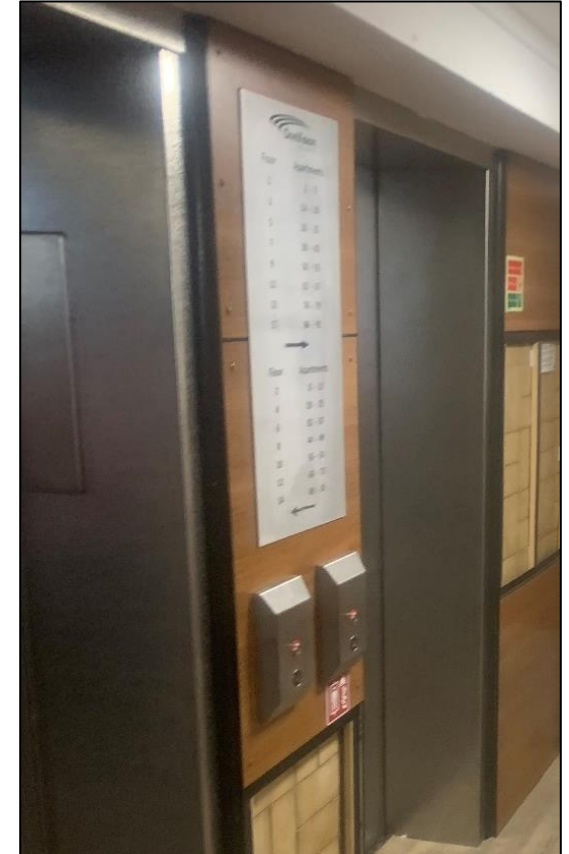
Lifts

When the firefighters attended the fire at Grenfell Tower they were unable to operate the mechanism that should have allowed them to take control of the lifts. Why that was so is not yet known, but it meant that they were unable to make use of the lifts in carrying out firefighting and search and rescue operations. It also meant that the occupants of the tower were able to make use of the lifts in trying to escape, in some cases with fatal consequences. The ability of fire and rescue services to take control of firefighting or fire lifts in a high-rise building is often key to successful operations



Exercise learning #Lifts

The exercise identified that operational crews establishing a bridgehead on the 8th floor chose to utilise the lift serving the even floor numbers. This was despite a full firefighting lift being available on the right hand side (serving odd floors)

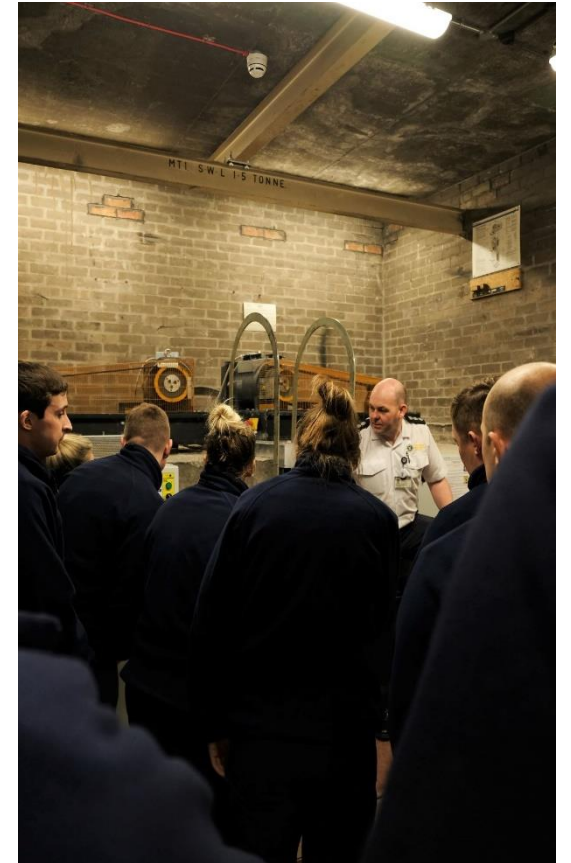


Exercise learning #Lifts

MFRA conducted face to face training with every operational member of staff. FF - CFO

The training included:

- Identification of Fire fighting lifts
- Correction Operation of Fire fighting lifts
- Effecting rescue from Fire fighting lifts



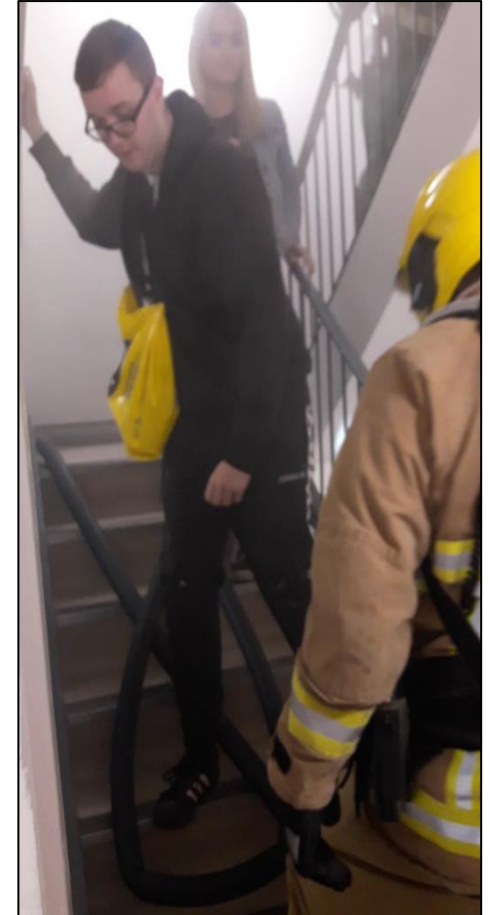
All new entry FF's receive an additional practical session in relation to Fire fighting lifts.

A suite of videos is currently being developed by the protection Department to underpin this learning.



Exercise learning #Evacuation

The exercise was designed to test the process from changing from a 'stay put' to a 'full evacuation'



Exercise learning #Evacuation

In effect you are trying to evacuate a building that was never designed to be evacuated simultaneously.

WHEN IT'S FAILING

You will understand the difficulties to standardise this procedure.

Fire location, building type, resources, active and passive fire safety systems available/working?



There is no one size fits all



Exercise learning #Evacuation

Firefighting v Evacuation can be a conflict.

Firefighting operations may breach firefighting lobbies thereby increasing the risk to occupants and impact on activities at the bridgehead and beyond.

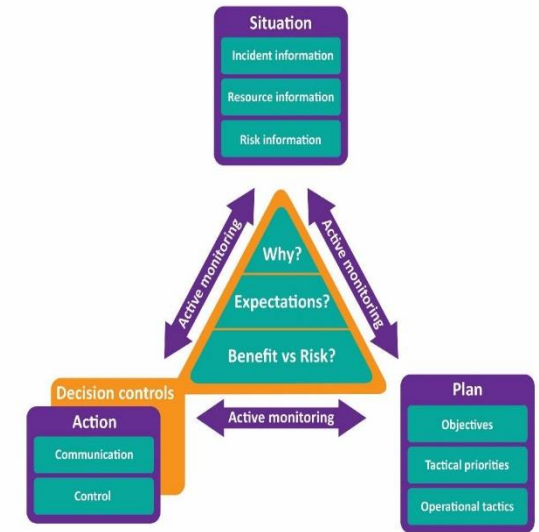
Firefighting operations can be affected by the type of evacuation being undertaken, the progress of the evacuation and type of people being evacuated.



Exercise learning #learning to do both

When to change strategy? Early recognition is key!

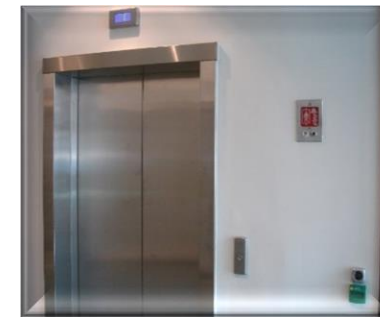
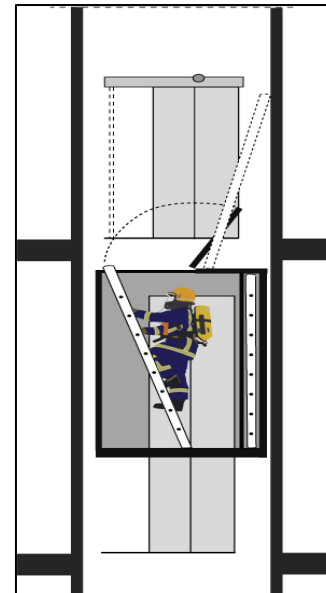
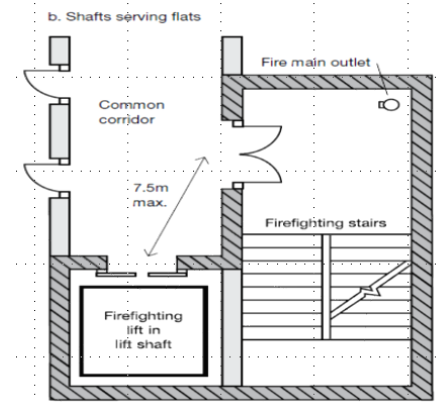
- What expectations do we have?
- How should the building behave?
- Is the situation/incident improving or deteriorating?
- Is the plan effective?
- What contingencies do I have/need?
- Is the communication effective?



Exercise learning #learning to do both

Face to face training delivered to highlight the available fire safety features and how to operate them correctly:

- Alarm systems
- Evacuation strategies
- Protected routes
- Firefighting shafts
- Fire doors
- Compartmentation
- AOV's and Smoke shafts



Exercise learning #Equipment

MFRS have introduced 2 x new Aerial Appliances with increased reach & capability (34m).

MFRS Appliances are staffed 24/7

Appliances have been increased to Pre-determined Attendance for all 'high rise' incidents

Laser distance measuring devices supplied

Staff educated on appliance positioning and information added to SSRI for Aerial Appliance locations



Exercise learning #Equipment

MFRS have procured smoke hoods

2 carried on every fire appliance across the county.

Additional stocks on Incident Command Unit

Training on how/when to use (training hoods supplied to operational crews).

Design: single use / 30 minutes



Exercise learning #Information

Vision Control Room Client [MFRSLIVE] - Logged in as Catherine Scarth, Data.

File Incidents Resources Map Window Applications Utilities Forms Help

INFORMATION
PORTSIDE COMBUSTABLE CLADDING EXTRA PUMP ON PDA

Caller

Business: 27-35

Name: PORTSIDE HOUSE

Street: DUKE STREET

Main Rd:

District: LIVERPOOL Area: CITY CENTRE

PCode: L154P

Normal No DU info Route:XY Use Gask Code 11/239

Name: PORTSIDE HOUSE DUKE Mnemonic Input Date: 25/08/2020 Review Date: 25/02/2021 Owner:

Details: : EXTERNAL WALL SYSTEM SUPPORTS EXTERNAL FIRE SPREAD. SIMULTANEOUS EVACUATION STRATEGY IN PLACE.
KEY PRESS THROUGH FIRST DOOR ON RIGHT AFTER ENTERING MAIN ENTRANCE WITH KEYS FOR LIFTS AND LOCKED ROOMS ETC. CONTACT CONTROL FOR CODE:
CONTROL INFO - EXTRA PUMP ON PDA 5P + ARL + SH + PROTECTION OFFICER



Turn out sheets for crews:

Extra pump and Protection Officer on PDA for cladded buildings.

Crews informed of cladding and evacuation strategy for premises on route.



Exercise learning #On trial

Importance of protecting escape stairs
If needing to fire-fight and evacuate

Limited options once door opened
Smoke enters stairwell

Smoke curtains currently on trial at
Training Academy.



Additional outcomes



- During 2019 all Fire Control Watch Officers undertook JESIP Training.
- MFRS have a seconded officer working with the City of Liverpool and Joint Competent Authority
- MFRS have a dedicated officer who leads on all Grenfell Tower Inquiry related matters with a dedicated Action Plan.
- From October 2019 – all operational personnel have had additional High Rise specific training (Fire in Buildings).
- We have been given access to another “High Rise” building for smaller 3 to 5 appliance exercises and familiarisation – the programme started but was disrupted by COVID 19).

Building Risk Review – work continues...

Residential Buildings over 18m and/or
6 floors

129 premises from Government

112 additional that we know of...



**Thank you for taking time to listen to this
presentation.**

I look forward to joining the panel for Questions