

## **Grenfell Tower Inquiry – High Priority Action updates as of January 2022**

**Fire and Rescue services knowledge and understanding of materials used in high-rise buildings. Ensure that their personnel at all levels understand the risk of fire taking hold in the external walls of high-rise buildings and know how to recognise it when it occurs.**

*Action update:* This action is completed.

A suite of E-learning packages has been produced to educate the operational workforce in both external fire spread and fires in External Wall Systems (EWS). Compliance is monitored within the Grenfell Team and managed within Emergency Response.

The internal Operational, Training and Information system (OPTI) is utilised as a library for all high rise residential building information and learning. A number of videos produced by Edinburgh University and the Building Research Establishment have been published relating to how EWS react under fire conditions.

Although the action is completed, the Grenfell team will publish any additional resources onto the OPTI that will assist keeping our Emergency Responders and the public safe.

**The inspection of high-rise buildings and obtaining information needed for the purposes of extinguishing fires and protecting life and property. Ensure that all officers of the rank of Crew Manager and above are trained in carrying out inspections of high-rise buildings.**

*Action update:* This action is completed.

Full suite of training documents are available to crews on how to complete an Operational Risk Information visit, this includes High Rise Residential Buildings. Additionally, all watches have had a zoom awareness session with the ORI lead from the Firefighter Safety Team.

Business Fire Safety (BFS) continue to work with emergency response in regards to providing adequate training to all staff on fire safety concepts. BFS are currently working on an overall training strategy to identify and confirm where fire safety training should sit within the overall operational training requirements.

SYFR have amended the way High Rise Residential Building (HRRB) information is collected and made available for incidents. The Service Delivery Board approved the merging of Point Block Inspections (PBI) and Operational Risk Information (ORI) visits. The Grenfell team are working with BFS to ensure the ORIs carried out by crews are in line with section 7(2)(d) of the Fire Services Act 2004.

A master list of all HRRBs is held and maintained with BFS. There is also a full suite of guidance documents for carrying out an ORI's to support operational crews and develop standardisation and consistency. The Grenfell team are conducting a number of audits to ensure the ORIs are up to date and accessible to Emergency Response crews at the incident ground.

**Handling Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls in an appropriate or effective way.  
Develop policies for handling a large number of FSG calls simultaneously.**

*Action update:* This action is on schedule.

The Grenfell team are working to develop an Operational Information Note (OIN) that incorporates both Control and Emergency Response elements for multiple FSG calls. There is a regional Fires in Tall Buildings (FITB) group that shares information and resources and SYFR officers working in our dedicated Grenfell project team are engaged in this group. Multiple exercises have been developed to test the current guidance document. The outcome from these exercises will support the newly developed OIN.

Control's dedicated Training Officer has ensured all Control personnel are FSG trained, along with an ongoing Maintenance of Competence schedule. All training is recorded.

FSG National Operational Guidance now produced and circulated. FSG training will be reviewed against the NOG standard. Governance to accept, amend or reject the NOG standard will be overseen at the Service Delivery Board.

**Handling Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) calls in an appropriate or effective way.  
Develop policies for managing a transition from "stay put" to "get out".**

*Action update:* This action is on schedule

The Grenfell team have been working with Control Training Officer and the Firefighter Safety Team to ensure a collaborative approach to developing the OIN.

Work is on schedule to produce a Fires in Tall Buildings product pack (a suite of information on a specific incident type), to be published on the OPTI platform. Governance for the product pack and associated guidance will be held by the Service Delivery Board.

A training exercise has been developed and tested by control FITB working group. Policy will be out for consultation late January, early February.

**Lack of plans in place for evacuating a high-rise building should the need arise.  
Develop policies for partial and total evacuation of high-rise residential buildings and training to support them.**

*Action update:* This action is behind schedule.

Practical tests have been carried out to test the capacity of the Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets to fully evacuate St Paul's HRRB in Sheffield. The reason St Paul's was chosen is because it is the tallest HRRB in South Yorkshire. Further exercises will be developed to inform the policy.

Evacuation Operational Information Note (OIN) is developed and out for consultation. Practical training on the OIN is planned and booked in for all operational personnel, starting March 2022. All 4 districts have given permission for training to be carried out in council High rise residential buildings.

**Lack of plans in place for evacuating a high-rise building should the need arise. SYFR crews to be equipped with smoke hoods to assist in the evacuation of occupants through smoke-filled exit routes.**

*Action update:* This action is completed.

All frontline appliances carry Smoke hoods for use at fire incidents. Additional stocks are carried on the BA Command Unit, if required at larger incidents.

All the training resources (E-learning and videos) are published on OPTI, with compliance being monitored and managed within Emergency Response.

Additional smoke managing equipment (smoke curtains) have also been purchased and issued to Emergency Response crews and are in use. A smoke curtain was recently successfully utilised at the fire in Velocity Towers in Sheffield.

**Liaise with the owner and manager of every residential building containing separate dwellings (whether or not they are high-rise buildings) carry out an urgent inspection of all fire doors to ensure that they comply with applicable legislative standards.**

*Action update:* This action is behind schedule.

Through consultation with Local Authorities (LA's) they are undertaking inspections of fire door sets in all their building and have a rolling program of inspections, with the view that doors will be replaced as necessary. Fire Safety Order already required responsible persons (RP's) to maintain a system of maintenance on all fire doors in communal, or opening onto communal areas.

The Grenfell team are working with BFS and the ICT department to develop an ICT system that will collate, store and share the inspection outcomes submitted by the Responsible Person or premises owner, so it is available to operational crews at an incident. An ICT software developer has now been recruited so work can start to develop the 'Hazard Alert' software in February 2022.

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