

Grenfell Tower Inquiry – High Priority Action updates as of October 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 has been completed.

An e-learning package has been created by Training and Development Centre (TDC) and Operational Support Team (OST), this is now available on Learnpro. Instructions were sent out at the start of November for all operational personnel to complete this training. Completion rates for the e-learning module are currently at 516 completed assessments, and 51 not completed assessments for operational staff (up to but not including Senior Leadership Team). This equates to a 91% completion rate. The majority of the remaining 9% of staff can be accounted for by long term sickness and new on-call recruits.

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 has been completed.

Business Fire Safety (BFS) continue to work with emergency response in regards to providing adequate training to all staff around fire safety concepts. BFS currently working on an overall training strategy to identify and confirm where fire safety training should sit within the overall operational training requirements. At the Service Delivery meeting held on 15 September the decision was made to merge Point Block Inspections with Operational Risk Inspections.

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 has been completed.

All current Control staff have received FSG training. This forms part of ongoing Maintenance of Competence schedule.

FSG National Operational Guidance has now been produced and circulated. FSG training will be reviewed to align with NOG once completion of recruit training is done, and then undertaken as part of ongoing Control MOC training schedule.

The Fires in Tall Buildings Guidance was consulted on in January and went live on 12th April 2022.

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 has been completed.

Action card and training material are in place. A Control Training PowerPoint that references this action been created and is in the process of being delivered to all staff. FSG policy has been developed with the Control Fire in Tall Buildings working group. A training exercise was run in November 2021 to test existing procedures and identify gaps. The Fires in Tall Buildings Guidance was consulted on in January and went live on 12th April 2022.

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 has been completed.

The 'evacuation from buildings involved in fire' policy is complete and has been out for 28 days consultation. A Fires in Tall Buildings 1-day evacuation course has been developed, trialled and amended accordingly. All operational and control staff will attend it.

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 has been completed.

Smoke hoods have been purchased and all training and documentation secured. Training smoke hoods also purchased and will be issued to Training and Development Centre (TDC) and stations. All training documents, videos and smoke hoods have been issued to Central and Edlington Station crews for their feedback on the training instructions. Following feedback, the training packages and smoke hoods will be sent out to the rest of the Service. Smoke hoods have been issued to station for use.

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. It is 80% complete.

Although this is an Action for the responsible person (RP) or owner of a High Rise Residential Building (HRRB), SYFR have a responsibility to be able to collate, store and share the information with the operational staff at an incident. BFS have written to all RPs / owners to inform them of their responsibilities, and to offer advice.

We have recruited an Information Systems Technician to develop the electronic program 'Hazard Alert'. The system will collate, store and share information from the RP/ owner, and allow operational crews and control personnel access to this information during an incident.

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. A Fire Safety Order already required responsible persons to maintain a system of maintenance on all fire doors in communal, or opening onto communal areas. Business Fire Safety have written to all Responsible people/owners of high-rise buildings to inform them of their responsibilities and offer advice.

Shared information has been built into the Hazard Alert System. This system is now live, and is undergoing a soft launch.