



Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Please ask for: Service Information Team Leader
Tel: 01604 797000
Our ref:
Your ref: N/A
Date: 06 November 2019
If you have any difficulty in obtaining the above telephone number please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk.

Re: Request for information (our ref: NFRS2019-98-108)

I am writing in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 09 October 2019. Our response is provided below:

We are collecting information about what measures Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) are taking to address the risk of serious compartmentation failure in High Rise Residential Buildings (HRRBs) since the Grenfell Tower Fire of 14 June 2017. Below is the information we would like to obtain from you under the Freedom of Information Act.

Evacuation (please provide electronic copies of relevant documentation (previous/new policies and/or evidence of proposed changes)

Q1 Any evacuation plans, policies or procedures for HRRBs?

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) are unable to release any evacuation plans, policies/procedures that belong to the HRRBs due to not being the primary owner of the documentation. We can advise that all HRRB sites in Northamptonshire have Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI).

NFRS has a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Fires in High Rise Buildings. This was reviewed post 14 June 2017. As part of a regional approach to the implementation of National Operational Guidance a regional based Operational Information Note (OIN) for Buildings over 18m underpinned by a Highrise/Tall Building training package shall be published shortly and replace the SOP, which under Section 21 of the Act are both reasonably accessible through local FBU representatives.

Q2 Any actual or proposed amendments to existing evacuation plans, policies or procedures for HRRBs since 14 June 2017?

NFRS updated our local SOP for Fires in High Rise Buildings post 14 June 2017. In addition, Fire Survival Guidance (FSG) information and processes were reviewed and updated. Further work continues to enhance how detailed multiple fire survivor guidance can be cascaded between Fire Control and Forward Command Post/Command Support capability on the scene of operations. Post 14 June 2017, Fire Protection Officers engaged with all HRRB owners and operational crews visited all HRRBs in Northamptonshire as part of 7(2)(d) obligations and proactive community prevention. All this activity was directed by an established NFRS Grenfell/Highrise Gold Group.



Q3 Any national guidance (since 14 June 2017) on the obligations, under the Fire Safety Order (FSO) of the responsible person of a HRRB to devise an evacuation plan for residents in the event of fire?

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has produced national guidance regarding simultaneous evacuation guidance so we are exempting release of this under Section 21 of the Act as this is publicly available via the following link: [NFCC simultaneous evacuation guidance](#).

Q4 Any national guidance (since 14 June 2017), to assist your FRS to devise an evacuation plan for a HRRB involved in fire?

Please refer to the answer provided for Q3. In addition the East Midlands Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) operational guidance (OIN) and training package, which shall be published shortly, has considered and references appropriate elements of the NFCC guidance.

Pre-Determined Attendance (PDA) (please provide copies of relevant documentation (previous/new policies and/or evidence of proposed changes)

Q5 What is your current PDA for fighting fires in HRRBs?

As per our mobilising policy (B1 - Operational Response and Mobilising) for fires in high rise buildings, the PDA is as follows:

- 5 x Pumping Appliances
- 1 x Aerial Rescue Pump
- 1 x Tactical (Cobra/UHP) Intervention Vehicle
- 1 x Joint Command Unit plus Command Support Pumping Appliance
- 1 x Group Commander (ICS level 3) as Incident Commander (IC)
- 1 x Officer ICS level 2 or 3 as Safety Sector Commander (SC)
- 1 x Officer ICS level 2 or 3 as Command Support SC
- 1 x UAV Drone Team

Q6 Are there any actual or proposed amendments to your PDA for HRRBs since 14 June 2017?

Our HRRB operational response was reviewed post 14 June 2017 which is outlined in our response to Q5.

Multiple FSG calls (please provide copies of relevant documentation (previous/new policies and/or evidence of proposed changes)

Q7 Do you have any operational policies/training for dealing with multiple FSG calls?

Our FSG was reviewed and updated post 14 June 2017. The FSG information and process has been embedded into Fire Control operators Maintenance of Competence (MOC) framework.

Q8 Are there any actual/proposed amendments to FSG policies/training since 14 June 2017?

As per Q2, processes are being developed and tested with the intent of enhancing the cascade and management of Multiple Fire Survivor Guidance information. This is being considered jointly with our fall back Fire Control room in Warwickshire.

A specific local HRRB has been re-created in our XVR simulation suite and will be used to facilitate fire control and commander training/assessments.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me quoting reference NFRS2019-98-108.

Yours sincerely

Service Information Team Leader

If you are unhappy with the response, you can ask the Service to review it. To do this, please email enquiries@northantsfire.gov.uk or alternatively write to the address below:

Service Information Manager
Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service
Moulton Logistics Centre
Moulton Way
Northampton
NN3 6XJ

If our internal review does not resolve the issue to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision at the following address:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF