



FOI Response

1. **Are there any High-Rise Residential buildings in your response are, if yes how many and what is the size of the tallest structure?**
 - 180 Buildings High Rise Residential Buildings (HRRB)
Tallest structure is Zenith Student Accommodation – 26 Storeys/Floors.
2. **When it comes to confirmed and unconfirmed fires in High-Rise buildings, what is your Pre-Determined Attendance?**

(Pre Grenfell)

 - Confirmed fire– 5 Appliances, 1 Water Bowser, 1 Aerial Appliance and the Control Unit.
 - Alarms – 3 appliances
3. **Since the Grenfell fire have you made changes to your Pre-Determined Attendance?**

(Post Grenfell)

 - We have increased our resources to better deal with incident response.
4. **How many mobilizations have you had for High-Rise building fires per year in the last three years? Out of these responses what is the total amount in which firefighting actions had to be carried out?**

Fires in buildings where floors above ground reported as 6 or more in IRS

| Firefighting actions | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Total |
|------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| No firefighting action | 11 | 13 | 11 | 35 |
| Firefighting action | 5 | 3 | 8 | 16 |
| Grand Total | 16 | 16 | 19 | 51 |

5. **Is there an operational policy for dealing with High-Rise Buildings? If so, would it be possible to share the operational policy information with me?**
 - SWFRS operational policy follows National Guidance which is publicly available on the NFCC website: <https://www.ukfrs.com/>



6. As a result of a couple of high-rise building fires there is major concerns on the stay put policy. Therefore, can you best describe from a fire officers point of view, until what circumstances does the stay put policy need to be overcome during a fire by the fire service?

- As soon as the incident commander identifies that internal compartmentation is breached then they will contact Fire Service Control to change any further fire survival guidance given out to residents calling in. The incident commander will then factor this into their operational tactical plan.

7. As a result of the Grenfell fire can you summarize the main changes to your procedures?

- The main amendment to the procedure enables the Incident Commander of the first appliance in attendance to go the scene of the suspected fire to confirm whether it's contained to the compartment of origin. An early message must then be sent stating whether compartmentation is breached. If it's breached then the internal fabric of the building has failed and so the evacuation strategy may need to be changed.
- The new procedure also places emphasis of identifying building failure from outside the building by being able to identify and understand the implications of external fire spread.
- We have also changed the firefighting procedure whereby crews can use the rising main from the floor of origin as long as there is sufficient protection in place and the internal compartmentation is intact. Previously the firefighting jet had to be taken from the floor below.
- The bridgehead or scene of operations can now be located directly below the fire floor after the Incident commander has carried out a dynamic risk assessment. This used to be located 2 floors below.
- Specific roles have now been given to the lobby sector commander who must note down and document where all personnel are within the building and what their roles are.

8. Does your firefighting personal undertake familiarization visits to High-Rise buildings? If so, how frequent?

- Yes.
- They are tasked with carrying out and completing Site Specific Risk Information (SSRI) visits on all HRRB's every year.



- Once a crew has completed the visit and uploaded the information the other crews will then attend the building to familiarise themselves with that building and its fire safety provisions.
- They also attend at the request of any Business Fire Safety Inspecting Officers who have carried out a fire safety audit on the building.

9. As a result of the phase 1 Grenfell Enquiry recommendations. How have you changed the way you manage or control evacuation procedure?

- New equipment is being trialled to aid FRS personnel in facilitating a mass evacuation of a building. (Smoke hoods and smoke curtains).
- We have also changed the firefighting procedure whereby crews can use the rising main from the floor of origin as long as there is sufficient protection in place and the internal compartmentation is intact.

10. What do you think are the most positive things you have changed to improve evacuation procedures?

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, SWFRS are not required to generate information or answer questions, provide explanations or give opinions, unless this is recorded information that we already hold. We can confirm that we do not hold this information.