

South Wales Fire & Rescue Service has a statutory duty to provide an emergency Fire and Rescue provision to the communities of South Wales. This requirement includes periods where they may be a significant reduction in Wholetime and On Call personnel due to flu pandemic, Industrial Action or other similar causes. In order to address this need, the service has developed a Business Continuity Management (BCM) plan that has led to the creation of an Auxiliary Reserve who provide the resilience in time of need.

Duties and Responsibilities – Auxiliary Reserve Firefighters

The principal aim of the Auxiliary Reserve is to protect and save people and property from fire and other hazards in the most competent and effective manner to the highest possible standard of care and quality in the event of a significant reduction in normal service.

TRAINING

Following initial training that consists of core Firefighter skills and Road Traffic Collision techniques the Auxiliary Reserve undertake a continuous training programme. Auxiliary Reserve personnel are required to attend quarterly training days in order to maintain core skills competence, and further development training as required to enhance personal skills and levels of knowledge. When established within the Auxiliary Reserve personnel will undertake an initial Breathing Apparatus (B.A.) Training. The emphasis of the training programme will be based upon continual improvement and enhancement of life skills.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As a member of the Auxiliary Reserve, together with the new skills and abilities gained, it allows for the individual to undertake new opportunities within the community and primary occupation. Whilst on duty, members of the Auxiliary Reserve would be required to establish and maintain the confidence of members of the public whilst preserving sound relationships with partner agencies. Being sensitive to the needs of others with regard to fairness and dignity issues, individuals need to maintain a flexible approach to all duties.

EQUIPMENT

As part of the training programme members of the Auxiliary Reserve will remain familiar with firefighting and emergency equipment and assist in the maintenance, cleaning and testing as required to approved standards and procedures.

ADMINISTRATION

Complete basic paperwork and routine administration, including recording of information as required.

LOCAL GEOGRAPHY

The Auxiliary Reserve is based at Abercarn Fire Station, Darren Drive, Prince of Wales Industrial Estate, Abercarn, Newport. NP11 5AR.

In the event of deployment and where practically possible, members of the Auxiliary Reserve would be deployed to areas where they have knowledge and familiarity of the local streets, roads and buildings situated within the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service response area. This will allow members of the Auxiliary Reserve to be familiar with some of the local risks, possible hazards and water supplies to be found within the deployment area.

PERSONAL FITNESS AND HYGIENE

It is necessary to maintain a level of physical and medical fitness necessary to carry out the duties of a Firefighter. It is necessary to maintain a high level of personal appearance, hygiene and cleanliness of uniform in keeping with a disciplined service.

EMERGENCIES

In the event of deployment the Auxiliary Reserve would be stationed across the service area under the command of experienced Fire Officers who would provide direction and instruction prior to, upon arrival at scene and whilst dealing with the incident. There is the potential to attend to a wide variety of incidents if and when the Auxiliary Reserve is deployed including emergency response and requests for assistance. It is incumbent upon members of the Auxiliary Reserve to deal with emergencies as directed in a professional manner working effectively and efficiently as a member of a disciplined team potentially with partners agencies of the other emergency services.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Recognise health and safety issues at work and deal with them to minimise or eliminate the degree of hazard or risk. Ensure personal safety and that of others at all times.