



SERVICE LEARNING

VH040826-06032024

8th May 2024

Greenham Units, Southampton – Fire Commercial/Industrial

INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

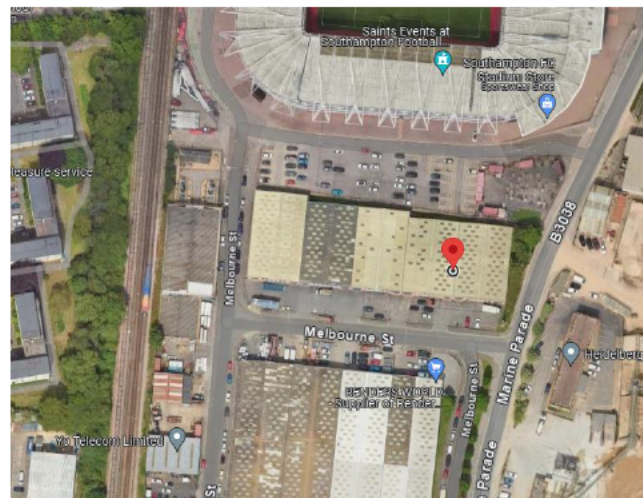
The service was mobilised to a Fire Commercial/Industrial incident at Southampton central trading estate at 13:04, on the 06/03/2024. The property initially involved was the Greenham warehouse, which was used for manufacturing work gear and safety equipment. The unit block spans at 150m x 50m of traditional brick construction.

The command team recognised early that this will be a protracted incident and considered relief strategy early in the incident. The initial crews from St Marys, Hightown and Redbridge worked hard to deal with an extremely dynamic developing incident, and the fire had spread to 4 other adjacent units, within 2 hours, the incident make-up was increased to 16 pumps, 2 ALP, along with associated special appliances culminating in an approximately 130 personnel on the incident ground. Throughout the incident crews used, the HVP, BA, Jets, ground monitors and various other equipment to resolve the incident.

Residents in the area affected by the smoke plume were advised to keep doors and windows closed. As the smoke entered the near side of Southampton football stadium, staff members were advised to evacuate to the far side of the building away from the smoke. Subsequently, a joint decision was made between the command team, the police, and the football stadium management to postpone the scheduled game for that evening. Nearby roads were closed, and people were advised to avoid the area to allow movements for emergency vehicles.

On 08/03/2024 at 19:00, our crews closed down the incident and completed relevant handover documents [REDACTED] and recorded any known risks to ensure our local community remained safe. Our crews planned and returned to conduct reinspection. The surrounding road closures were also removed.

After the incident feedback highlighted areas of concerns regarding the mobilisation of FDS officers, tactical positioning of available ALPs in the county when its availability is reduced, information regarding present contaminants, response time of relief crew, use and understanding of HVP capabilities, relief for specialise appliances, impact of firefighting activities based on contamination, and basic firefighting.



[CLICK TO VIEW MAP ONLINE](#)

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Supporting images



CENTRAL DISCUSSION TOPIC

- Mobilisation of FDS Officers
- Tactical Positioning of ALP
- Contamination Information
- Timeliness of Oncoming Relief
- Post-Decontamination Operational Effectiveness
- Basic Firefighting
- Delayed Handover



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POSITIVE LEARNING

- Early reconnaissance of surrounding community areas and confirmation on the potential risk to the local community and surrounding area.
- Good use of warn and inform to ensure communications with residents and provide preventative advice.
- Early recognition and use of defensive strategy and the requirements for specialist appliances.
- HVP team organised and implemented their requirement for specialist relief by liaising with other available HVP operators within the county.
- St Marys crew liaised with commanders to consider incident objectives and activities before decontamination and disrobing. This further ensured the activities are complete before and the available personnel resources are well optimised.

IMPROVEMENT LEARNING

Mobilisation of FDS Officers – Although the service would support the development of inexperienced SMs, FDS self-mobilising for experience without a dedicated role will add no benefit to the incident. Additionally, only limited experience can be gained, as there is no practical element involved from only observation. These mobilisations can also cause confusion during the early make-up of the incident, as other personnel cannot immediately recognise why certain FDS were mobilised and their correlation to the incident's command resource requirements. FDS should also consider if the incident is proportionate in developing their skills before self-mobilising, as it can impact their own workload and fatigue.

Recommendation: The current policy does not account for self-mobilisation of officers. The service to review the [FDS policy](#) and to provide clarity regarding the appropriateness of self-mobilisation for education and personal development purposes. Additionally, to outline Control's ability to challenge self-mobilisation to better manage resources on the incident ground. - FD:3531-LP01

Update from Response We feel this needs consideration as it can cause issues for Control when maintaining a level of officer cover or for forward planning for reliefs. Control should have the ability to challenge if there are a large number of self-mobilised officers as well as the IC should be able to turn officers away, response to confirm after consideration has taken place. Confirm current position.



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IMPROVEMENT LEARNING

Consideration of standby moves for reduced ALP capacity - Although the requirement for ALP to support the defensive tactical mode and to effectively tackle the fire was recognised early. The reduced resource availability meant there was a delay in setup and achieving the overall objective, as St Mary's ALP was away for maintenance during the time of call, Southsea's ALP was mobilised. Basingstoke's ALP was mobilised to another incident, and IOW's ALP positioning could have been considered for standby on the mainland. When the service is operating with a reduced number of ALPs, Control and SDM should consider the repositioning remaining ALPs to provide more appropriate county coverage. However, the decision is not currently supported by our service PPGs.

Update from Control: The location of ALP's & other specials was considered as part of the response plan for this incident and is considered at all times. When a shortage of ALP's occurs within the county a conversation between Control, CRA & SDM takes place to ensure ALP's are best positioned.

Recommendation: Control to consider when there is reduced capacity of ALP's across the county to discuss this issue with SDM to decide on whether subsequent standby moves are necessary. Policy should be updated to reflect consistence of ALP standby movement across the service. - FD:3531-LP02

Contamination Information – Good use and declaration of defensive tactical mode, however, personnel were still operating in smoke when there was no need. Therefore, exposed to the risk of smoke inhalation, as a half mask does not support working in smoke-filled areas.

Update: Previous service communications have highlighted the capabilities and limitations of [half masks](#).

Timeliness of oncoming relief – Although the relief strategy was well planned by Control and SIR, crews took a considerable amount of time to arrive on the incident ground, causing difficulties for the command team. On-coming relief crew should make best efforts to support relief strategy and support their colleagues at the incident. If there will be a delay in responding to the incident this should be communicated to control and the OIC of the incident.

Update: As this type of feedback is becoming more common, Learning & Assurance will continue to monitor and raise recommendations where appropriate. [Policies & Procedures - Reliefs Management Officer - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)



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IMPROVEMENT LEARNING

Post-decontamination operational effectiveness – It was highlighted during the debrief conversation that there was a misinterpretation of the contaminants procedure as firefighters were bagging up fire kits immediately after one wear and stating that they could not wear again using the same contaminated PPE. This creates difficulties around managing personnel resources on the fireground. As suggested by the [Managing Fire Contaminants Guidance Gui/10/04](#), “bagged PPE can be reused following a Risk Assessment (RA) by the OIC. Bagged PPE which is heavily contaminated and wet will be unacceptable to be reused, however PPE which has been lightly soiled and giving off an odour of smoke may be acceptable for reuse.”

Recommendation: The service reinforce existing PPG on contamination to correct the misinterpretation. [Managing Fire Contaminants Guidance](#) and [Firefighter Decontamination Ops Prompt](#). - FD:3531-LP03

Basic Firefighting – it was highlighted that basic use of PPE was not adhered to, where fire helmets were not worn, or chin straps undone. This greatly impact the crew safety and potentially encourage others to misuse this equipment.

Update: It is all personnel’s responsibility to monitor and ensure their own health and safety, furthermore, if personnel seen not wearing the correct PPE this should be brought to the attention of the Sector commander, Safety Officer, and OIC. The Learning & Assurance team will continue to monitor trends regarding the misuse of PPE. For awareness here is our current position on PPE [Personal Protective Equipment Procedure](#)..

FDS Relief / Fatigue – It is highlighted that during relief changeover, FDS officers were dedicated in ensuring a seamless changeover for oncoming officers by first completing their tasks. However, the changeover should take immediate effect to reduce mobilisation time and creates an opportunity for “fresh eyes” to overview the incident. FDS officers should reflect on their Health and Safety responsibility and that of others on the incident as per the relief timing highlighted within [Reliefs Management Officer Ops Prompt](#).

Update: The Learning & Assurance team will continue to monitor trends regarding the FDS Relief and work with Response to reinforce the procedure if deemed necessary.



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DEBRIEF ATTENDEES

█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]	█ [REDACTED]

APOLOGIES

█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]

TRAINING & BULLETINS

- [Policies & Procedures - Flexible Duty System \(FDS\).pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - Incident Command - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - Aerial Ladder Platform \(ALP\) - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - BA Single Wearer.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - BA Wearer Duties.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [The Portal - Response Bulletin - 0823 - Half Masks with P3 filters.pdf - All Bulletins \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Operational Equipment - HIWFRS Managing Fire Contaminants_14 November 2022.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - Asbestos and Fibrous Materials Decontamination - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - High Volume Pump \(HVP\) - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [Fire Marine Parade in Southampton - Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service \(hantsfire.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Policies & Procedures - Firefighter Decontamination - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

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