



**Hampshire
& Isle of Wight**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Information Compliance Team

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Sent by email to:

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Date: 07 January 2025

Our Reference: FOI 139 24-25

Enquiries to: Information Compliance Officer

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing in respect of your application for the release of information held by the Service, which we received on 19 December 2024. We can confirm that we have now completed our search for the information requested.

You asked:

With the water outages in Greater Southampton, what are the Fire Authority contingency to maintain fire cover?

Our answer:

We can confirm that we hold the information requested. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) has established business continuity plans for dealing with disruptions to services including water. For this incident, our focus was on loss of water supplies to fire stations and loss of hydrant supply to the affected area. In response to this situation HIWFRS carried out the following action to ensure we met our statutory duties to respond to fires and other emergencies as well as support our partners in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF):

- We immediately passed a message to all operational staff with the following advice:
 - Implement measures to reduce water usage, where safe to do so. Consider use of Ultra High-Pressure Lance (UHPL) and Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) for initial attacks. Explore the use of smaller branches and early use of open water supplies

- Put in early requests for additional appliances and water carriers attendance at incidents within these areas
- Consider water carrier refill time scales as they may have to travel further to a hydrant
- Consider early use of High-Volume Pumping (HVP) unit
- Restricted water use in the affected areas. This included suspending all non-essential cleaning of vehicles and training.
- Checked bulk supplies of drinking water and provided additional supplies of drinking water to key stations for fireground rehydration.
- Checked all fire stations in the affected area to see if they had lost water. Only two on call stations were impacted. We considered water harvesting and temporary bowsers/Portaloo's, but this was not required.
- Made crews aware of alternative sites for decontamination following an incident.
- Placed an alert area within our control system covering the affected areas. This would pass information to our control room staff and operational crews on receipt of a call. This would prompt additional actions for fire fighting and resources to support water supply to an incident.
- Increased the response plans for all confirmed fires to include an extra pumping appliance and a water carrier which can hold up to 12000L of water.
- Checked availability of our HVP Unit. This can supply water from an open water source up to 3km away from the incident.
- Created a plan for early standby movements for additional water carriers and HVP in the event of an escalating incident.
- HIWFRS chaired the initial Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) to bring partners together to plan the response to the emergency as part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. We also had a Fire Service representative attend to understand nature of risk and critical infrastructure which would be impacted, including Hospitals and COMAH sites. It was confirmed that Fawley were unaffected and had additional water supplies via a fire fighting main as per their usual arrangements. Hospitals were provided with tankers from the Water board.
- Confirmed with the water board arrangements for requesting mobile tanker supplies should it be required for an incident.
- Attended the logistics cell of the LRF to see if we could support partners with supplying bottled water to affected areas.
- Supported the LRF media cell with joint communications and sharing key updates.

In summary, we used our established business continuity plans and water distribution plans as part of a joint agency response to ensure that we were able to meet our statutory duties to respond to fires and other emergencies in the affected area and the rest of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The above concludes our investigation into this matter.

Any future correspondence with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service in relation to this matter should be sent to the Information Compliance Officer at the above address.

If for whatever reason you are unhappy with our response you may request an internal review by contacting DP@hantsfire.gov.uk or by writing to the Data Protection Officer at the above address.

Should you remain dissatisfied you can appeal against the internal review decision by contacting the Information Commissioners Office. This can be done online at www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints or by post to The Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

Information Compliance Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service