

## Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Action Plan

**Regulation 28: Lakanal House  
(Coroner's report now made under Regulation 28 of the Coroner's Inquest Rules 2013 – formerly Rule 43)**



## Regulation 28; Lakanal House

**Note: Rule 43 Recommendations relating to Fire and Rescue Service (London)**

The Coroner noted that London Fire Brigade has taken some steps to address matters prior to issue of the Rule 43 correspondence and recommendations.

These steps are also listed below in order that NFRS can cross reference within this Action Plan

It should be noted that Rule 43 Correspondence was also forwarded to the Mayor and Burgesses of the London Borough of Southwark regarding fire safety in relation to high rise residential buildings. – GM Fire Safety leads in liaising with Northumberland County Council on these recommendations.

Review Issue/Reference No ST	Recommendation/Action Required	Responsible Officer / Function	Progress/Notes Current Assurance Source	NFRS Action Requirement (NFRS Action Plan) Action Plan to include Outcome with Assurance Source
1.	<p><b>PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FIRE SAFETY</b></p> <p>A number of former residents of Lakanal House gave evidence. There was little awareness of fire safety advice published by London Fire Brigade, whether through leaflets, the website or home fire safety visits. Residents of high rise residential buildings need to be aware of the dangers associated with fires in such buildings and to have a clear understanding of what they should do in case of fire. Whilst this is a matter which concerns housing providers, it is recommended that your brigade also consider how to improve dissemination of fire safety information to achieve effective communication with residents of such buildings</p>	GM FS	<p>Although Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service's area does not have high rise accommodation, the Fire Safety Department through its inspection and auditing regime ensures that housing providers are aware of their responsibilities to inform residents of their actions in the event of a fire. Any premises The Community Safety Academy has worked with partner agencies to ensure that a clear referral process for vulnerable residents is in place to clarify their actions in the event of a fire.</p>	<p>Fire Safety Officers will continue to assess evacuation strategies when visiting premises where social housing or accommodation is provided. All new or proposed premises providing a form of accommodation will be expected to provide an evacuation strategy for scrutiny.</p> <p>NFRS website provides information to the public regarding fire safety advice and recommendations, facilities are provided to allow members of the public to contact the service for specific advice</p> <p>Action Closed</p>
2.	<p><b>VISITS MADE IN PURSUANCE TO SECTION 7 2 D FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES ACT 2004, GENERAL FAMILIRISATION VISITS AND HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Brigade review procedures for sharing information gained as a result of section 7 2 d, familiarisation and home fire safety visits with crews both within the station and at other local stations</p>	GM FSS	<p>NFRS have established a cross service Operational Risk Information Working Group (ORIWG). Strategic Lead is ACO Emergency Response.</p> <p>The Group is working towards implementation of all aspects of the CLG/CFOA Fire and Rescue Service Operational Guidance Document: Operational Risk Information</p>	<p>Operational Risk Information Working Group (ORIWG) Action Plan and Decision Log</p> <p><b>All aspects of this recommendation will be captured within the ORIWG</b></p>

3.	<p><b>INCIDENT COMMANDERS</b>          (During the Lakanal House fire there were six changes of Incident Commander (IC) with some serving as IC for brief periods)</p> <p>It is recommended that the Brigade review its policy and procedures concerning incident command, having regard to whether it is effective for the choice of IC to be tied closely to the number or type of appliances attending an incident and the effectiveness of a policy which may result in rapid and frequent changes of IC. It is also recommended that consideration be given to training of ICs and potential ICs to enhance their performance in relation to the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the Dynamic Risk Management Model and other management tools to enable ICs to analyse a situation, and to recognise and react quickly to changing circumstances</li> <li>• To recognise when to escalate attendance by more experienced ICs</li> <li>• To anticipate that a fire might behave in a manner inconstant with the compartment principle</li> <li>• To be aware of the risks to those above and adjacent to the fire flat</li> <li>• Handover from one IC to the next and effective deployment of outgoing ICs</li> <li>• The collection of information from all possible sources</li> <li>• Use of methodical search patterns</li> </ul>	AM HR/L&D	<p>Ongoing a program of incident command courses for Supervisory managers incorporating initial and revalidation training is in place and all within this role band are currently undergoing in-house training and assessment.</p> <p>A similar program for Middle managers is currently in development which will target both Station and Group Managers.</p> <p>The programs utilize the latest guidance and instruction incorporated in Fire service national manuals as well as best practice as developed via Fire Service College Moreton in Marsh.</p>	<p>Programmes are in place and ongoing for Level 2 and 3 commanders.          Level 2 and 4 commanders are sent on acquisition courses to Moreton in Marsh. Training also provided by Peter Stanley so providing cross sector approach</p>
4.	<p><b>BRIGADE CONTROL</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Brigade consider whether training be given to operational crews about Brigade Control practices and procedures</p>	GM L&D	Some dual training has been undertaken following the move to the new control suite and introduction of MDT's, however this has not as yet been formalized.	<p>MDT training complete</p> <p>Nothing in pipeline for this training as yet</p>
5.	<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Brigade consider whether it would be beneficial to use additional breathing apparatus radio communications channels and personal radio channels at major incidents to reduce the amount of traffic on each channel</p>	GM FSS	<p>NFRS are undergoing a Fire Ground Radio Replacement Programme in 2013/14 and 2014/15.</p> <p>Breathing Apparatus Radio Channels</p>	<p><b>Fireground Radio replacement confirmed</b></p> <p><b>Roll-out to include guidance on channel options as per allocated channels</b></p>
6.	<i>Guidance to crews making risk assessments in their area</i>	GM FSS Operational Risk Information Working Group		<b>ORIWG Action Plan</b>
7.	<i>Guidance as to matters which should be noted by crews making familiarisation visits pursuant to section 7 2 d Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, including the gathering of information regarding flats or maisonettes with unusual layouts and access for aerial ladder platforms and other specialist vehicles</i>	GM FSS Operational Risk Information Working Group		<b>ORIWG Action Plan</b>
8.	<i>Co-operation with three London Boroughs to develop a pilot scheme for the provision of 'premises information plates at buildings'</i>	GM FS	NFRS will respond to the results of the pilot scheme when published.	NFA

9.	<i>Awareness that fire can spread downwards and laterally in a building and that burning debris may fall through open windows or on to balconies</i>	AM HR/L&D	Included in breathing apparatus refresher training 2014-2015 via both theoretical and practical demonstration	Action complete and closed
10.	<i>Awareness of the risk of spread of fire above and adjacent to a fire flat</i>	AM HR/L&D	Included in breathing apparatus refresher training 2014-2015 via both theoretical and practical demonstration	Action complete and closed
11.	<i>Procedures for moving a bridgehead</i>	AM HR/L&D	Included in breathing apparatus refresher training 2014-2015 via both theoretical and practical demonstration	Mentioned in current BA revalidation course – will be part of new BA Ops guidance training
12.	<i>Communication between Brigade Control and those at incident</i>	AM FSS SM Fire Control	Ongoing training is delivered to NFRS Fire Control Personnel.  Fire Control Manager reviewing training in line with the Fire Control Project	Currently being reviewed in line with 2015/16 Modernisation of Fire Control
13.	<i>Guidance as to the handling of fire survival guidance calls and training for officers dealing with such calls</i>	GM FSS SM Fire Control	Ongoing training is delivered to NFRS Fire Control Personnel.	Completed
14.	<i>Introduction of mobile data terminals</i>	GM FSS		NFRS have implemented Mobile Data Terminals.  Fire Control project 2013 has included the roll out of the latest technology – demountable Mobile Data Terminals
15.	<i>Introduction of a forward information board</i>	GM FSS	GM FSS to review requirement  Potential to link into Mobile Command Project	Included in Mobile Command Project  VECTOR COMMAND included in Service Command Strategy