



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service

General Briefing Guide



Officers and crews should be briefed before beginning any training or exercise. The scope of the briefing session will depend on the size and complexity of the training and to help, notes may be made against the elements below as an aide memoir.

(a) Introduction.

This is a combined HVP/wildfire exercise intended to promote team work between two skills sets to achieve a common objective. This exercise will also allow for exposure to the need of map reading and orienteering over large heathland areas.

(b) Outline briefly the aim and objectives of the event.

- i. Assessing the overall incident dynamics and integrate all specialist skills and information to meet objectives (Incident Command Skills).
- ii. Assessing predicted spread of fire to ascertain measures required to control and confine. (Wildfire Officer Skills).
- iii. Carrying out an assessment of the suitability and benefit of using the HVP to supply water to the fire ground (Wildfire Officer & Water Management Officer Skills).
- iv. Consider the terrain and how it will affect the behavior of the fire. (Wildfire Officer Skills).
- v. Off road vehicles/crews to locate set points using grid references. (wildfire Officers, Operational crews)
- vi. Liaise with Land Managers to gather information to assist the efficient resolution of the incident.
- vii. Dissemination of information through appropriate communication channels over a large geographical area.
- viii. Promote partnership working with rural stakeholders and demonstrate current capabilities working with our partners.

(c) Outline briefly the scenario. (Call slip information only if required).

The Exercise scenario is a large Common fire on Thursley common, Thursley Surrey. The fire is spreading rapidly East Northeast. Due to a changing wind direction leading to an unpredictable direction of fire spread coupled with the terrain and associated hazards, a tactical plan that will serve to surround and restrict spread of fire will be required.

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(d) Make all crews/officers aware of safety considerations and procedures.

- Members of the public extensively use this area for recreational purposes. Crews must be aware of the potential risk to the public and exercise personnel due to unintentional contact and consider their actions accordingly
- Vehicles must not be driven above walking pace and the driver must be prepared to slow down and stop when members of the public are in the vicinity.
- Stick to the visible tracks with the vehicles and apply normal SFRS of road procedures when moving
- Natural England are the primary land manager (James Giles) , however to the north of the common is military land we are accessing so please be mindful and if stopped by uniformed personnel direct them to the command point

(e) Make all crews/officers aware of procedure to be taken in the event of a real accident occurring during the training.

- In the event of an accident Mobilising Control will be informed immediately via main scheme radio.
- Where accident occurs, to immediately undertake a dynamic risk assessment and take appropriate action to mitigate and/or resolve the situation.
- Exercise director, GM Kenny (SG016. Mobile 07968 834452), to be informed by most expedient means. He will coordinate subsequent action, which may include ending the exercise early.
- In the event of the exercise being terminated due to an incident, a message **"ENDEX CRITICAL"** will be broadcast over main scheme and hand held radios
- On receipt of message **"ENDEX CRITICAL"** All crews to rendezvous at the main RV Point.

**6 figure grid reference 896527,
12 figure grid reference 489643 152767**

Where vehicles cannot be immediately moved i.e. set into open water the driver will remain with their vehicle if safe to do so. The remainder of the crew will go to the RVP to receive further instructions

(f) Brief crews/officers on the identification/involvement of observers, safety officers and support officers. (Separate briefing proformas provided).

Safety Officer will be identified by Tabards. In particular they will monitor the interface with members of the public and mitigate any resulting risk.

Observers will be identified with tabards. They will only observe and report.

Exercise Director staff will be identified with tabards and will be available to provide clarification and direction if necessary.

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(g)	<p>Rendezvous points/route to be taken/access/egress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RVP is at this location, please mark it on the map once received. • Directed to grid references as the exercise unfolds with possible tasks and situations to be actioned accordingly as and when encountered • Note all access points and maintain knowledge of exit routes as you may need them if the situation changes
(h)	<p>Mobilising arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All assets will be mobilised from a specific RVP and will be advised of the appropriate route. • All vehicles to proceed at normal road speeds, blue lights or sirens are not to be used. • By the nature of the exercise mobilising arrangements will be fluid and final deployment will be determined by exercise staff.
(i)	<p>Communications arrangements.</p> <p>Messages to be relayed through Command Support to Mobilising Control. As messages to be prefixed with "Exercise Bracken".</p> <p>All fireground messages to be sent via hand held radio wherever possible with mobile phones utilised as fall back.</p>
(j)	<p>Conditions and limitations on use of the venue or during the training.</p> <p>The venue is MOD land used for military training. It is of varied terrain consisting of mainly heathland.</p> <p>The boundaries for the exercise are the Basingstoke canal and wire fence surrounding the area.</p>
(k)	<p>Use of water and water supplies.</p> <p>There are limited water supplies within the area of the exercise</p> <p>One of the expected exercise outcomes is for the Wildfire officers to identify suitable supplies, tasks an appropriate crew to set in to it and facilitates the delivery of the water to the fire ground.</p>
(l)	<p>Things to be done at conclusion of the exercise.</p> <p>All crews to remain at the exercise ground and to assist with making up and cleaning of all equipment including HVP and returning to operational readiness as quickly as possible.</p> <p>All debris and rubbish to be cleared and taken away and disposed of on return to station</p>
(m)	<p>Time and place of debrief.</p> <p>Participants will receive a hot debrief on the fireground at the end of the exercise. On conclusion they will be released to return to their station/service.</p>