



Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 127

Bariatric provisions

Query and response:

1) Have you made specific provision for the rescue of bariatric patients?

All Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue (DWFRS) crews have had specific training in relation to rescues involving bariatric patients. The technical rescue stations of Poole and Trowbridge have had additional enhanced training to deal with bariatric patients when the rescue is beyond the capability of a local crew.

17 Flexible Duty Officers have received specific training in bariatric rescue. The role of these Officers is to provide tactical advice to the Incident Commander and as service liaison with other emergency services.

2) Do you carry equipment for the rescue of bariatric patients?

Yes, DWFRS have the following types of equipment to aid in bariatric rescue:

Type of Equipment	Number
ProMove Bari Kit - Patient Handling Sling	2
Slix 100XL - Bariatric Stretcher	2
1 Tonne Manual Chain Hoist	1
Ratchet Lever Hoist	2
ISC Concrete Anchor **	4
Rescue Auto Locking Pulley **	1
Scaffold Karabiner **	6
Acrow Props	4

** Please note that these items are multi-purpose and therefore, they are not used exclusively during bariatric rescue.

3) Do you have a policy in relation to the rescue of bariatric patients?

The policy for incidents involving bariatric rescue is attached, this is the Networked Fire Services Partnership adopted approach.

4) Do you share information with other services in regarding location and status of bariatric patients?

We work closely with other authorities to ensure that everyone receives the services they need, this includes sharing personal and sensitive information, where necessary, with other authorities and partners such as:



- Community Organisations
- Councils
- Police and other emergency services
- Voluntary Services
- Health Service

In almost all such cases service users will be made aware if their information is intended to be used in this way and will be provided with the opportunity to say no, except when we are required by law to pass on the information.

Where it is not possible or practical to obtain consent to share sensitive personal information, we will only share the information if we consider it necessary to protect vital interests. Such interests are for the protection of life, reduction of crime and accidents and for improving health.

Where possible information will be anonymised to remove as much detail as possible leaving only key elements to enable us and our partners to target resources.

Sharing information with our partners will only take place under strict data sharing protocols with tight security in terms of the transfer of information.

Access to personal information will also be restricted to authorised individuals on a need to know basis.

5) How many injuries to operational fire fighters that have been caused by rescuing bariatric patients?

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue have one recorded injury to one firefighter caused by rescuing bariatric patients since 1 April 2016