



## Freedom of Information Request FOI 18 131

### Post-major incident training

#### Query:

Please release the following information relating to post-major incident training:

1. After the fire at Lakanal House on 3 July 2009, what training were your crews and / or Incident Commanders given on the following:
  - a) the spread of fire over the external surface of a building;
  - b) fire that might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle;
  - c) when and how to change the "stay put" advice and institute a simultaneous evacuation of a block of flats.

In each example, please provide a summary of the training provided, the date it began to be delivered to crews / incident commanders and whether it is still on-going (if not, what date did it cease).

2. After the fire at Grenfell Tower in 14 June 2017, what training have your crews and / or Incident Commanders been given on the following:
  - a) the spread of fire over the external surface of a building;
  - b) fire that might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle;
  - c) when and how to change the "stay put" advice and institute a simultaneous evacuation of a block of flats.

In each example, please provide a summary of the training provided, the date it began to be delivered to crews / incident commanders and whether it is still on-going (if not, what date did it cease).

#### Response:

**Please note, Dorset Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) combined to form Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service (DWFRS) on 1 April 2016 so this response covers both Dorset and Wiltshire.**

1. **Following the fire at Lakanal House, the post-major incident training provided to crews and Incident Commanders at DFRS was tailored by experience and included the following:**
  - a) **the spread of fire over the external surface of a building, especially spread to lower floors, and the problems caused by uncontrolled or poor maintenance/improvement works, was covered in basic training.**



- b) fire that might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle has been covered in high-rise modules since 2010.**
- c) when and how to change the "stay put" advice and institute a simultaneous evacuation of a block of flats was identified as an item for the consideration of the Officer in Charge to make a decision considering all the factors.**

**Following the fire at Lakanal House, training was delivered to all Wiltshire stations every year, starting 2011/2012. This training taught the mechanisms of fire spread beyond the room of origin, including the "coanda" effect, chimney effect and trench effect. Further supplementary training focussing on high-rise was given in 2014. The post-major incident training provided to crews and Incident Commanders at WFRS also included the following:**

- a) the spread of fire over the external surface of a building has been covered in high-rise modules since 2010 for Swindon and surrounding stations only (there are no high-rise buildings elsewhere in Wiltshire).**
- b) fire that might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle has been covered in high-rise modules since 2010 for Swindon and surrounding stations only.**
- c) when and how to change the "stay put" advice and institute a simultaneous evacuation of a block of flats was not covered in any detail. Early consideration and discussions only.**

- 2. Following the fire at Grenfell Tower, the post-major incident training provided to crews and Incident Commanders at DWFRS included the following:**

- a) the spread of fire over the external surface of a building was covered on two officer training days in 2017 and 2018 by the Incident Command Training Team.**
- b) fire that might behave in a manner inconsistent with the compartmentation principle was covered on two officer training days in 2017 and 2018 by the Incident Command Training Team.**
- c) when and how to change the "stay put" advice and institute a simultaneous evacuation of a block of flats was covered on two officer training days in 2017 and 2018 by the Incident Command Training Team.**

**An agreed high-rise training package from the Network Fire Service Partnership and guidance on "stay put or total evacuation" is made available for all members of staff. The supporting information makes reference to stack effect and wind driven fires but not surface spread.**

**As further learning becomes identified from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry so we will address any needs that become apparent.**