



Freedom of Information Request FOI 20 04

David Murray John Tower incident

Query:

Your crews on 2 Jan 2020 attended an incident at the David Murray John Tower in Swindon, please could provide me with a report in to the status of the dry and wet risers in the tower on your arrival.

Response:

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue attended David Murray John Tower in Swindon for a fire alarm actuation on 2 January 2020.

On arrival crews investigated the alarm, which had activated in a flat on the 11th floor. On inspecting the accommodation it was apparent that there was some form of fire and smoke that appeared to be quite significant, but contained to the flat in question. The team decided to withdraw from the flat and requested a full PDA (Pre Determined Attendance) for a high rise fire. Further resources were sent to the scene to assist with firefighting.

Once crews were in place to commit to the property with appropriate firefighting media, it became apparent that the wet riser did not operate as we would expect. With this in mind, the crews decided to pitch the aerial ladder platform (high reach appliance) and use as the firefighting main. Water was supplied via a hydrant into an appliance and then through the aerial to the 10th floor. This allowed firefighters to enter the flat with appropriate firefighting media. During this period the wet riser pumps, which did not previously operate, were switched to manual by Swindon Borough Council (SBC) facility management team and did then work in the correct manner.

Following the incident, SBC have checked the system and all worked correctly. SBC have now implemented an enhanced testing regime to assure correct operation.

The dry riser that feeds the trucking deck was operational. Crews, however, determined it would be quicker to take water from the appliance in Queens Street due to the amount of time needed to fill the ring main around the site.