



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure

**Situational awareness: Below ground
structures**



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC



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TRAINING SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and understanding

| Control measure element | Learning outcome |
|---|--|
| Incidents in below ground structure | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of below ground structure • Sources of information about below ground structures • The hazards associated with the type of below ground structure • The potential for rapid escalation of an incident in a below ground structure • The initial considerations for dealing with an incident in a below ground structure |
| Tunnels | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to access any pre-planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrangements for attendance - Actions to be taken in the event of an incident |
| Sewers and associated below ground assets | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That sewage or wastewater undertakers should have emergency procedures in place • The potential requirement for specialist assistance |
| Operational mines | Understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The legislative requirements for mine operators regarding the escape and rescue of people • The potential requirement for specialist assistance • The potential limitations for first responders to deal with an incident at an operational mine |



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Caves and recreational below ground environments

- Understand:
- The potential limitations for first responders to deal with an incident at caves or recreational below ground environments
 - The potential requirement for specialist assistance

Abandoned mines

- Understand:
- The potential limitations for first responders to deal with an incident at an abandoned mine
 - The potential requirement for specialist assistance

Armed forces and civil protection below ground structures

- Understand:
- The role and responsibilities of the Defence Fire and Rescue Service
 - The roles and responsibilities of the fire and rescue service if their assistance is requested at the site

Evacuation and rescue

- Understand:
- The roles and responsibilities of the infrastructure manager for evacuation
 - The roles and responsibilities of the fire and rescue service for evacuation and rescue if required

Practical application

Control measure element

Learning outcome

Establish the type of below ground structure to identify additional hazards

- Demonstrate the ability to:
- Determine the type, purpose and layout of the below ground structure
 - Identify hazards and control measures that may be associated with the type of below ground structure



Control measure element

Learning outcome

Identify the presence and status of any fixed installations that are present within the below ground structure

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify the presence of fixed installations
- Identify the status of fixed installations

Liaise with on-site staff when developing the tactical plan for incidents at below ground structures

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Liaise with appropriate on-site staff, including:
 - Sewage or wastewater undertakers
 - Mine operators
 - Defence Fire and Rescue Service
 - Infrastructure managers

Confirm the current status of any managed evacuations for below ground structures and take action if required

Demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify the progress of any managed evacuations instigated by the infrastructure manager
- Assist with managed evacuations if required