



National  
Operational  
Guidance

## Control measure

**Specialist advice: Below ground  
structures**



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC

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### Control measure knowledge

Many aspects of below ground structure construction are likely to fall outside the scope of fire and rescue service personnel knowledge and skills. It is the responsibility of experts to ensure that proposals meet statutory duties, legal requirements and standards set out for construction, and that the services required to support fire and rescue service intervention are put in place.

In the event of an incident in a below ground structure, the fire and rescue service should seek specialist advice from sources such as:

- Tunnel safety officers
- The contractor
- The appropriate regulator
- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- Regulatory bodies, such as the [Office of Rail and Road](#)

### Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Develop arrangements for dealing with below ground structure incidents with identified sources of specialist advice or assistance
- Maintain the details of any specialist adviser for below ground structure incidents and know how to request their advice or attendance

### Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Request specialist advice or assistance based on the extent and urgency of the below ground structure incident



- Consider the specialist advice received when developing the tactical plan for below ground structure incidents