incident information

- Identify the number of casualties requiring medical attention and notify the fire control room

- Use the information gathered to develop and communicate a co-ordinated search plan

- Question the casualty, other emergency responders and witnesses to understand incident factors and history

- Identify the safest access route, rendezvous points (RVPs) and marshalling areas, and communicate to all responders and the fire control room

- Identify appropriate specialist search resources and the benefits of their attendance

- Identify the age, design and condition of the structure

- Identify the type of structural materials and construction methods

- Carry out testing and monitoring of the atmosphere and use the results to inform the incident plan

- All incident information:
  - Approach the vicinity of the incident cautiously and at slow speed, to minimise the risk of collisions
  - Gather information from available sources to gain accurate situational awareness and understanding
  - Use situational awareness to anticipate the likely development of the incident and evaluate the potential consequences of a range of actions

- Identify the number of casualties requiring medical attention and notify the fire control room

- Validate and record information appropriately in support of situational awareness

- Debrief personnel that have withdrawn from a working area during an incident to gain operational intelligence and safety-related information
Maintain situational awareness and identify changes during the incident through active monitoring

**Further incident information**

- Consider the potential impact of an unstable or collapsed structure on surrounding structures and infrastructure

- Access past, present and future weather information from sources such as the Met Office

- All incident information:
  - Use local knowledge to aid navigation to an incident

- Ensure that tracks and pathways are suitable for fire service vehicles

- Consider the least damaging routes to incidents and where possible, stay on marked paths and tracks

- Consider Step 1-2-3 Plus: Safety Triggers for Emergency Personnel

- Access past, present and future weather information from sources such as the Met Office

- Establish the availability of pre-arranged evacuation strategies and policies

- Consider pollution prevention information contained within site specific risk plans

- Seek advice from landowners and other bodies on susceptible areas of the environment

- Provide all relevant information on a timely basis to the incident commander to support accurate situational awareness

**Resource information**

- Consider requesting National Resilience assistance for an unstable or collapsed structure
- Request appropriate medical resources at the earliest opportunity for the number of casualties, and the type and severity of their injuries

- Consider requesting appropriate equipment from other agencies to extricate or transport the casualty

- Consider requesting appropriate specialist search resources

- Consider requesting structural advice, assessment and monitoring from appropriate agencies

**Further resource information**

- Consider requesting appropriate thermal imaging resources when searching for people, especially in reduced visibility

- All incident information:
  - Identify the safest access route, rendezvous points (RVPs) and marshalling areas, and communicate to all responders and the fire control room

- Consider requesting appropriate facilities for the welfare of personnel

- Consider the availability of pollution control equipment and/or pollution containment facilities on site

- Make use of specialist fire and rescue service or on-site environmental protection equipment

- Consider the appointment of a HMA (or equivalent) to oversee environmental protection activities

- Request further resources to establish the appropriate level of BA entry control

- Consider requesting structural monitoring equipment in consultation with USAR tactical advisers or other specialists

**Risk information**
• **Hazardous materials**

  - Approach the vicinity of the incident cautiously and at slow speed, to minimise the risk of collisions
  - When approaching the incident use visual and other incident indicators to inform situational awareness
  - Identify whether the incident should be reclassified as a hazardous materials response
  - Ensure that exclusion zones are considered, appropriate hazard areas, inner and outer cordons are established and communicated at hazardous materials incidents
  - Consider Step 1-2-3 Plus: Safety Triggers for Emergency Personnel

• **Heavy and bulky objects**

  - Consider the task, individual capabilities, load and environment (TILE) when carrying out risk assessments for manual handling
  - Consider task rotation when personnel are carrying out manual handling tasks

• **Live utilities**

  - Isolate any utilities that may affect the incident or crew safety, and secure against reconnection
  - Communicate the details of any utility or fuel supplies that are not isolated to personnel and other emergency responders
  - Request the attendance of utility providers to isolate incoming supplies if local isolation is not possible

• **Rescue tools**

  - Reveal hidden areas to aid identification of components that could damage tools or cause an uncontrolled release
  - Keep the number of people exposed to the hazard at a minimum and reduce time of exposure through task rotation
- Provide adequate protection between rescue tools and the casualties, operators and other emergency responders

- Consider the use of a water spray if dust and fibres are present, or when cutting laminated glass

- Consider the use of appropriate PPE or RPE to protect the casualty while they are being rescued

- Consider appointing a safety officer to monitor rescue tool operation

**Restricted access and egress**

- Determine the safe access and egress routes, based on the environment, conditions and requirements of the rescue

- Consider the impact of the transport infrastructure on safe access and egress routes for fire and rescue service vehicles

- Consider using physical barriers to define routes and indicate the presence of hazards in reduced visibility

- Account for extended times in the incident plan due to difficulties operating in a confined space

**Unstable structure**

- Consider requesting structural advice, assessment and monitoring from appropriate agencies

- Ensure the competent person for shoring continually assesses and monitors its effectiveness

- Consider requesting specialist advice and resources for shoring

- Assess and continuously monitor the structure for signs of collapse

**Working environment**
○ Carry out testing and monitoring of the atmosphere and use the results to inform the incident plan

○ Consider using battery powered lighting for search and rescue operations

○ Establish and monitor safe approaches to and cordons for the hazard area, avoiding underground voids at unstable or collapsed structure incidents

○ Consult with the on-site responsible person, before commencing operations involving machinery if appropriate

○ Consider Isolating power supplies to on-site machinery

○ Ensure that cable cutting equipment is available at incidents where cables may cause entanglement

○ Ensure personnel working around an unstable surface are secured using an appropriate safe system of work

• All incident information:

  • **Working environment**

    ○ Identify and communicate the presence of water or other liquids to all responders

    ○ Ensure that all personnel are briefed on the current hazards, risks, control measures and tactical mode

    ○ Implement measures to maintain access and egress during the incident

    ○ Request sufficient lighting of an appropriate type for working in reduced visibility

    ○ Ensure that personnel have access to the appropriate PPE

  • **Weather conditions**

    ○ Consider the impact of weather when determining the safest access routes

    ○ Access past, present and future weather information from sources such as the Met
Office

- Request and review up-to-date weather forecasts
- Manage their working environment and workload to mitigate the effects of stress and fatigue, and to optimise their personal resilience
- Avoid working in open areas, at height, near tall structures or on, in or near water where there is a risk of lightning strike
- Provide personnel with the means to prevent and manage heat illness
- Request medical advice if heat illness is suspected
- Provide personnel with the means to prevent and manage hypothermia
- Request medical assistance if hypothermia is suspected

**Noise**

- Consider isolating sources of noise
- Keep the number of people exposed to the hazard at a minimum and reduce time of exposure through task rotation
- Ensure personnel wear appropriate hearing protectors
- Consider using alternative methods of communication in noisy environments
- Consider implementing appropriate methods to activate the emergency evacuation or tactical withdrawal of responders in noisy environments

**Heavy and bulky objects**

- Consider using machinery or other equipment to assist with manual handling
- Request additional or specialist resources to assist with manual handling tasks
Consider the task, individual capabilities, load and environment (TILE) when carrying out risk assessments for manual handling.

Ensure personnel adopt the provided safe system of manual handling.

- **Moving vehicles**
  - Consider the potential effects of incident development when positioning appliances.
  - Position appliances to fend-off vehicles and use warning signs, lights and cones.
  - Apply safety measures to minimise the risk of collisions.

- **Animals**
  - Identify and communicate the presence of animals, and any associated hazards, to emergency responders and the public.
  - Ensure personnel do not touch or handle animals unless unavoidable.
  - Avoid, contain or control animals if necessary.
  - Seek specialist advice or assistance for dealing with animals.

- **Hazardous materials**
  - Identify whether the incident should be reclassified as a hazardous materials response.
  - Attempt to contain the release or spill of a hazardous material using a Source – Pathway – Receptor model.
  - Consider options to contain or disperse the spread of toxic materials in consultation with a hazardous materials adviser (HMA).
  - Ensure personnel cover open wounds, cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing prior to operational activity.
  - Implement appropriate hygiene or decontamination procedures.
  - Ensure that personnel refrain from eating, drinking, smoking or vaping prior to
completing hygiene or decontamination procedures

- **Infectious diseases**
  - Identify potential sources of infectious diseases
  - Ensure personnel cover open wounds, cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing prior to operational activity
  - Determine if any personnel have existing health conditions that could be impacted by exposure to infectious diseases
  - Request sufficient resources to enable hygiene or decontamination procedures to be implemented
  - Implement appropriate hygiene or decontamination procedures
  - Ensure that personnel refrain from eating, drinking, smoking or vaping prior to completing hygiene or decontamination procedures

- **Distressing or traumatic scenes**
  - Minimise number of personnel exposed to traumatic scenes where possible
  - Consider seeking the assistance of other agencies when dealing with traumatic incidents
  - Erect screens to restrict the view of traumatic scenes

- **Violence and aggression**
  - Consider adopting defensive tactics if people are displaying unpredictable, aggressive, violent or illegal behaviour
  - Request police assistance to control members of the public, including crowds
  - Ensure personnel avoid confrontation if there is a risk of violence or aggression
  - Maintain situational awareness with regard to the behaviour and movement of members of the public gathered at the scene
Request police assistance for dealing with unpredictable, aggressive, violent or illegal behaviour

### Powers, policies and procedures

- Restrict the access of persons to premises or a place if they reasonably believe an emergency to have occurred

#### Further powers, policies and procedures

- Adhere to their service’s policy when responding to confined space incidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Expectations?</th>
<th>Benefit vs Risk?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Objectives

- Deploy adequate personnel and resources to safely rescue casualties
- Maintain the safety of all personnel, other responders and the public
- Save life and reduce harm

#### Further objectives

- Secure the scene to ensure evidence is preserved for internal and external investigations
- Minimise the impact of the incident and fire service actions on any identified environmental risk
- Promote community recovery and restore normal operations

### Tactical priorities

- Gather information to develop a casualty-centred rescue plan
• Ensure that non-specialist personnel understand the capabilities and limitations of their response

• Deploy personnel to establish and maintain contact with the casualty

• Use the most appropriate stabilisation techniques and equipment taking into account the condition and location of casualties

• Co-ordinate the search plan based on who is being searched for, the search area, conditions and resources available

• Develop and communicate a casualty access, rescue and treatment plan, including priorities and risks

• Identify the number of casualties requiring medical attention and notify the fire control room

• Establish a safe working environment for personnel and other emergency responders

• All incident information:
  • Carry out a dynamic risk assessment, identify hazards, evaluate risk and implement safe systems of work

• Declare the tactical mode and communicate to personnel at the incident ground and in the fire control room

• Carry out and formally record analytical risk assessments at suitable intervals

• Continually review the risk assessment using situational awareness gathered as the incident progresses

• Establish emergency arrangements appropriate to the type, size and complexity of the incident

**Further tactical priorities**

- Consider screening casualties from other people

- Consider establishing, or having a presence at, a central search command point

- All incident information:
○ Apply the firefighter safety maxim and safe person principles at incidents

○ Identify and communicate the hazard area and establish a safe working area as soon as is practicable

○ Develop and communicate an incident plan to relevant personnel, including the fire control room

○ Carry out an appropriate risk assessment to determine the need and legality for gaining access or entry by force

○ Consider the competence of individuals and teams when allocating tasks

○ Regularly review, update and communicate changes to the incident plan

○ Review the tactical mode following active monitoring and briefings with sector commanders

○ Apply the joint decision model process to ensure effective joint decision-making at multi-agency incident

○ Establish and communicate the emergency evacuation and tactical withdrawal of responders plans to all personnel, and other responders if present

○ Establish an appropriate muster point and communicate its location to all personnel, and other responders if present

○ Secure the scene to ensure evidence is preserved for internal and external investigations

○ Carry out an environmental risk assessment and monitor the impact of tactics on the identified risk

○ Consider preservation of evidence when planning, communicating and implementing tactics
• Consider using or creating hard protection to isolate emergency responders and casualties from the hazard of structural collapse

• Establish and monitor safe approaches to and cordons for the hazard area, avoiding underground voids at unstable or collapsed structure incidents

• Assign suitably trained personnel to carry out a structured casualty assessment and provide treatment in the absence of a medical responder

• Adopt a methodical system when using thermal imaging equipment to search for people

• Be aware that the size, shape and integrity of the structure may change during space creation

• Deploy adequate personnel and resources to rescue a casualty from a confined space or complex environment

• All incident information:
  • Select the safest and simplest method for gaining access or entry by force
  • Establish and resource a casualty care point if required

• Determine whether people should be advised to evacuate, shelter in place or ‘stay put’

• When evacuation is necessary, identify the number of people affected and develop a plan

• **Further operational tactics**

  • Consider using appropriate fire and rescue service equipment to extricate or transport the casualty

  • Stabilise casualties until resources or specialist teams are available to assist with extrication

  • All incident information:
    • Consider the potential effects of incident development when positioning appliances
    • Identify the number of casualties requiring medical attention and notify the fire control room

  • Carry out or assist with triage of casualties
Record the outcome of the triage and discreetly communicate this information to medical responders and the fire control room

Implement appropriate hygiene or decontamination procedures

Implement an appropriate protection plan when an identified nature conservation site is at risk

Consider isolating or controlling vehicle movements in areas where this could impact on structural stability

**Communication**

- Provide a structured handover when transferring casualty to medical responders
- Liaise with police search advisers (PolSA) and other emergency responders
- Use only ATEX approved equipment in confined spaces if there is a risk of an explosive atmosphere
- Establish and maintain communications with the responsible person and others involved in the below ground structure incident
- Establish and regularly monitor the effectiveness of communications with personnel operating in below ground structures
- All incident information:
  - Establish and maintain an incident ground communication plan considering other agencies and remote resources
  - Ensure that all personnel are briefed on the current hazards, risks, control measures and tactical mode
  - Use the M/ETHANE message protocol to exchange information about the incident with other responders via the fire control room
- Provide an effective handover when handing over command
• Receive an effective handover when taking over command

• Communicate findings of analytical risk assessment to all personnel and other agencies

• **Further communication**
  - Establish a media liaison point and brief a nominated media liaison officer
  - Use the M/ETHANE message protocol to exchange information about the incident with other responders via the fire control room
  - All incident information:
    - Identify the safest access route, rendezvous points (RVPs) and marshalling areas, and communicate to all responders and the fire control room
    - Communicate any change in the tactical mode of a sector of the incident to personnel at the incident ground and in the fire control room
    - Communicate objectives, priorities and tactics to be adopted in resolving the incident
    - Deliver clear, concise and timely briefings to crews, command support functions and other agencies
    - Establish communication between BA wearers, the person monitoring BA wearers and the incident commander during rapid deployment of breathing apparatus
    - Ensure appropriate and resilient methods of communication with BA-related personnel are maintained
    - Inform the fire control room about deployment of BA wearers, teams and guidelines
    - Ensure all BA wearers are briefed and debriefed
    - Ensure personnel, at the incident and in the fire control room, are kept informed about the structure of the incident
    - Establish a media liaison point and brief a nominated media liaison officer
    - Exchange information about the incident with fire control rooms in a timely way
○ Establish an appropriate muster point and communicate its location to all personnel, and other responders if present

○ Ensure that all appropriate environmental agencies are informed of the incident when required

○ Use the most effective methods for communicating with people who are either directly or indirectly involved in the incident

○ Establish resilient telecommunications with other responding agencies and consider talk groups

Control

• Manage their working environment and workload to mitigate the effects of stress and fatigue, and to optimise their personal resilience

• Ensure that appropriate inner and outer cordons are established and communicated following an assessment of risk to all people present

• All incident information:
  • Form their command structure in accordance with the priorities and demands of an incident
  • Ensure that appropriate inner and outer cordons are established and communicated following an assessment of risk to all people present
  • Control access to the inner cordon using methods proportionate to the type, size and complexity of the incident
  • Appoint suitably competent personnel at safety officers
  • Instigate a tactical withdrawal of personnel when the mode changes from offensive to defensive

• Further control
  • Establish and communicate the emergency evacuation and tactical withdrawal of
responders plans to all personnel, and other responders if present

- Consider implementing control measures that reduce the exposure of responders to a hazard
- All incident information:

  - Establish a scene access control point to log all people operating within the inner cordon when appropriate

  - Consider the use of command support systems and equipment where required

  - Monitor the performance of personnel and where necessary modify plans to available competences

  - Record the details of the transfer of command; this should be done at the incident ground and in the fire control room

  - Instigate a safety sector at large or complex incidents under the control of a safety sector commander

  - Implement exclusion zones if intolerable risks to safety are identified

  - Request police assistance to establish a traffic cordon or air exclusion zone if necessary

  - Maintain effective command and control in an emergency situation

  - Carry out a roll call of personnel at the scene following an emergency evacuation of responders

  - Ensure briefs and debriefs to BA wearers are adequately recorded

  - Log and record all relevant BA-related command and control information and decisions

  - Carry out a full brief and debrief of BA wearers and record as soon as possible

  - Ensure the minimum number of personnel work in the hazard area for an unstable or collapsed structure
Incident closure and handover

- Support and co-operate with investigations
- Conduct a structured debrief at a level appropriate to the size of the incident
- Ensure that hazards, potential hazards and control measures are identified when handing over responsibility for health and safety to the responsible person
- All incident information:
  - Ensure that effective supervision of operational activity is maintained until the conclusion of the incident
- Report the potential requirement for an investigation
- Support and co-operate with investigations
  - Ensure that hazards, potential hazards and control measures are identified when handing over responsibility for health and safety to the responsible person
  - Consider taking appropriate steps to secure premises or vehicles after access or entry has been gained by force
- Conduct a structured debrief at a level appropriate to the size of the incident
- Provide updates to the fire control room about closure of the incident and the status of resources
- Consider community recovery protocols and arrange appropriate assistance prior to leaving the incident

Further incident closure and handover

- Follow service protocols for reporting concerns about the mental or physical well-being of themselves or other individuals
- All incident information:
  - Consider whether operational resources can be released from the incident
  - Conduct an inventory check and record any defects or deficiencies
Consider decontamination of personnel, PPE and equipment prior to redeployment

Consider the condition and serviceability of PPE when assessing operational readiness for redeployment

Secure the scene to ensure evidence is preserved for internal and external investigations

Record all relevant incident information in an appropriate format

Conduct a structured debrief at a level appropriate to the size of the incident

Record and share significant findings from incident debriefs

Participate in reviews of operational policies and procedures following the application of operational discretion

Consider whether existing information held about premises or locations should be reviewed, or whether there is a need to add a new premises or locations into future pre-planning

Collate and secure records from the incident and witness statements

Ensure that waste products created by the fire and rescue service are disposed of legally and responsibly

Follow service protocols for reporting concerns about the mental or physical well-being of themselves or other individuals

Consider decontamination of personnel, PPE and equipment prior to redeployment

Additional information

- USAR phases of rescue:
  - ASR 1 – Wide Area Assessment
  - ASR 2 – Sector Assessment
  - ASR 3 – Rapid Search and Rescue
  - ASR 4 – Full Search and Rescue
  - ASR 5 – Total Coverage Search and Recovery
• Consider the 6 phases of rescue (REPEAT)
  ○ Reconnaissance and Survey
  ○ Elimination of Utilities
  ○ Primary Survey-Search and Rescue
  ○ Exploration of Voids and Spaces
  ○ Access by selected debris removal
  ○ Terminate by general debris removal