



**NFCC**  
National  
Resilience

# Fire and Rescue Service Supporting Guidance to the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework

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# Fire and Rescue Service Supporting Guidance to the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework

## 1 Introduction

This National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) 'service guide' has been produced for fire and rescue service (FRS) staff to provide additional information to aid understanding of the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF). It provides additional detail for those who are likely to either require the assistance of others, or who may undertake certain roles or hold certain responsibilities, during a significant emergency event.

Major emergencies can place exceptional demands on FRSs and invariably necessitate a coordinated response of a range of agencies and resources from across the country. Incidents may take place over a significant timeframe and require extensive provision and deployment of people and equipment to help bring them to a successful conclusion.

The NCAF policy document, published by the Home Office (HO), provides strategic guidance to a range of stakeholders across Government and the resilience planning community. It provides a framework for HO, the Chair of the NFCC, Resilience Advisers, FRS and other stakeholders to utilise and operate within, should a major incident occur.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) reaffirms the role of Government and its strategic responsibility for national resilience. It also highlights that the leadership role of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) is a fundamental building block of national resilience and this is predicated on local professional expertise and understanding of risk.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework states:

*The National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) has been designed to provide robust and flexible response arrangements to major emergencies that can be adapted to the nature, scale and requirements of the incident. Fire and rescue authorities must proactively engage with, and support, the NCAF arrangements including the NFCC's lead operational role. (3.9 p10)*

It is recognised that the assets/resources being co-ordinated through NCAF arrangements may include recognised voluntary organisations and private sector bodies, as well as those provided by FRSs.

NCAF is continually operating and is able to escalate/flex very speedily to meet the needs of the requesting and responding services/agencies. In normal operating circumstances (not national spate conditions or certain intelligence led responses) an FRS will be able to utilise their normal local and cross border arrangements<sup>1</sup> without the need to request NCAF national support through the National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT) and National Resilience Fire Control. However, the benefit of having NCAF arrangements in place has been clearly demonstrated on a number of occasions during significant national incidents and other events that require national co-ordination.

This document will be reviewed and updated as necessary by the NFCC. It is important to note that neither NCAF, nor any of its components, remove any of the statutory responsibilities or expectations placed upon FRAs. As such the locally nominated commander retains the responsibility to resolve incidents that occur within their service area.

It is therefore essential that senior officers together with practitioners and technical advisers remain fully aware and conversant with the requirements of this service guide and the policy document itself. NCAF does not attempt to revise any existing response arrangements that have been developed in line with locally focused integrated risk management plans. The framework and its arrangements are designed to be flexible and adaptable to ensure that it supports and enhances the FRS response to incidents.

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**Roy Wilsher**

**Chair of the National Fire Chiefs  
Council**



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<sup>1</sup> Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 section 13 and section 16

## 2 What is NCAF and how does it operate?

NCAF is a supporting framework through which the FRS can access support and advice where local capabilities do not exist or the volume of demand overwhelms available capacity. Generally, requests for support or assistance will be facilitated through the NRAT supported by the National Resilience Fire Control (Merseyside FRA) utilising the NCAF Electronic Support System (ESS) and will almost certainly then involve relevant officers/teams with knowledge or skills relating to the capability or capabilities required.

National Resilience (NR) resources are continuously monitored through the NCAF ESS, which is updated daily by FRS control rooms and the NRAT. The nature and context of the incident/event will dictate which of the NCAF mechanisms are utilised.

The vast majority of FRS emergency mobilisations will only require locally available resources. Others will be dealt with through established cross border arrangements without any need for assistance from NRAT. However, in the event that an incident escalates beyond the capability and/or capacity of these arrangements, support can be efficiently and quickly provided through the NCAF structure and network.

### 2.1 Local Level Mobilisations

Where an incident occurs that requires only locally based conventional resources there is no requirement to update the ESS unless the incident meets one of the notifiable incident criteria types (Appendix A). However, if an incident involves the use of locally hosted NR assets, the ESS should be immediately updated to ensure that there is an accurate picture of remaining National Resilience assets that are available to support any subsequent deployments.

NCAF support, in the form of additional technical advice, is also available to support local level incidents. A request can be made by an FRS for capability specific guidance. In the first instance this advice will be provided from within the NRAT capabilities. Tactical Advisers (Tac Ad's) can provide support remotely, for example by telephone, or to attend an incident, as necessary. This additional support can be arranged at local level through cross border arrangements where the appropriate capabilities exist, or by contacting NRAT. Recent developments have seen the NCAF arrangements used to co-ordinate requests for assistance outside of operational incidents, for example the provision of spare Breathing Apparatus sets.

Should there be potential for the local incident to become protracted, with the possible requirement for either; a large number of Tac Ads or, where deployment will be required over an extended period, it would be advisable to ensure that the lead officer for that specific capability is advised through the NRAT network. This should normally be done by informing the NRAT via the National Resilience Fire Control.

Local level mobilisations only involve the resources from the host FRS, perhaps with the support from other attending local agencies. The multi-agency approach to the incident should accord with the Joint Emergency Service Inter-Operability Principles (JESIP) guidance. Depending on the nature, impact and duration of the incident, a multi-agency Tactical Co-ordinating Group<sup>1</sup> (TCG) may be established.

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<sup>1</sup> The roles and responsibilities of the tactical commander is contained within the JESIP Joint Doctrine document

Following an incident where NR assets have been used the ESS should be updated as soon as those resource(s) become available for redeployment so that an overview of national availability can be maintained.

Where an incident does not require a significant attendance by the FRS but does impact on one of the other emergency services, or where an incident has particular impact or involvement of a Government department, it is possible that the Home Office Response to Emergencies Policy Arrangements via Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) & National Resilience and Fire Programmes (NR&FP) may be operating with the involvement of the NFCC and HO Duty Officer.

Where this occurs the HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer may make contact with the NRAT Duty Officer in order to obtain key information from the affected FRS. This ensures that HO is kept fully informed on the national perspective.

## **2.2 Cross Border Mobilisations**

This is where an incident or event occurs, which requires cross border support arrangements established under s.13/16 to be applied. Requests for support utilising cross border arrangements will be passed between local FRS control rooms, ordinarily without involvement of the NRAT or the NCAF arrangements.

Should a cross border incident involve the mobilisation of NR assets, the ESS should be updated as soon as possible to ensure that the availability of NR resources is amended to maintain an accurate picture of what remains available for other national deployments.

It should be anticipated that this level of event might require a multi-agency TCG to be established. The nature, impact and duration of the incident will determine whether there is a need for a multi-agency Strategic Co-ordinating Group<sup>2</sup> (SCG) to also be established.

It should be noted that if an incident falls into one of the nationally reportable incident categories, as determined by HO NR&FP (Appendix A), then it should be recorded using the FRS Reporting Tool.

Following an incident where NR assets have been used, the ESS is to be updated as soon as those resource(s) are available for redeployment. An incident involving cross border mobilisation of NR assets will have resulted in a notification to the NRAT Duty Officer from the National Resilience Fire Control. FRS control rooms are encouraged to provide as much incident detail as is possible when notifying the National Resilience Fire Control to ensure the appropriate level of support can be made available.

As for local level mobilisations, if an incident does not significantly involve the local FRS but does impact upon one or more of the other emergency services or has particular impact or involvement of a Government department, it is possible that the Home Office Operations Centre may be functioning, with the involvement of the NRAT Duty Officer. Should this occur, contact will be made directly by the NRAT Duty Officer to the affected FRS to ensure that the FRS is kept fully briefed of the national perspective. Again, the NRAT Duty Officer will seek confirmation of the local FRS resources deployed along with any other information that may assist in understanding the current and likely future situation.

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<sup>2</sup> Strategic Co-ordinating Group roles and responsibilities are contained within the JESIP Joint Doctrine document

## 2.3 National Level Mobilisations

Where an incident occurs that requires resources in excess of those available, or already mobilised through local and cross border arrangements a request to the NRAT via the National Resilience Fire Control can be made for national assistance.

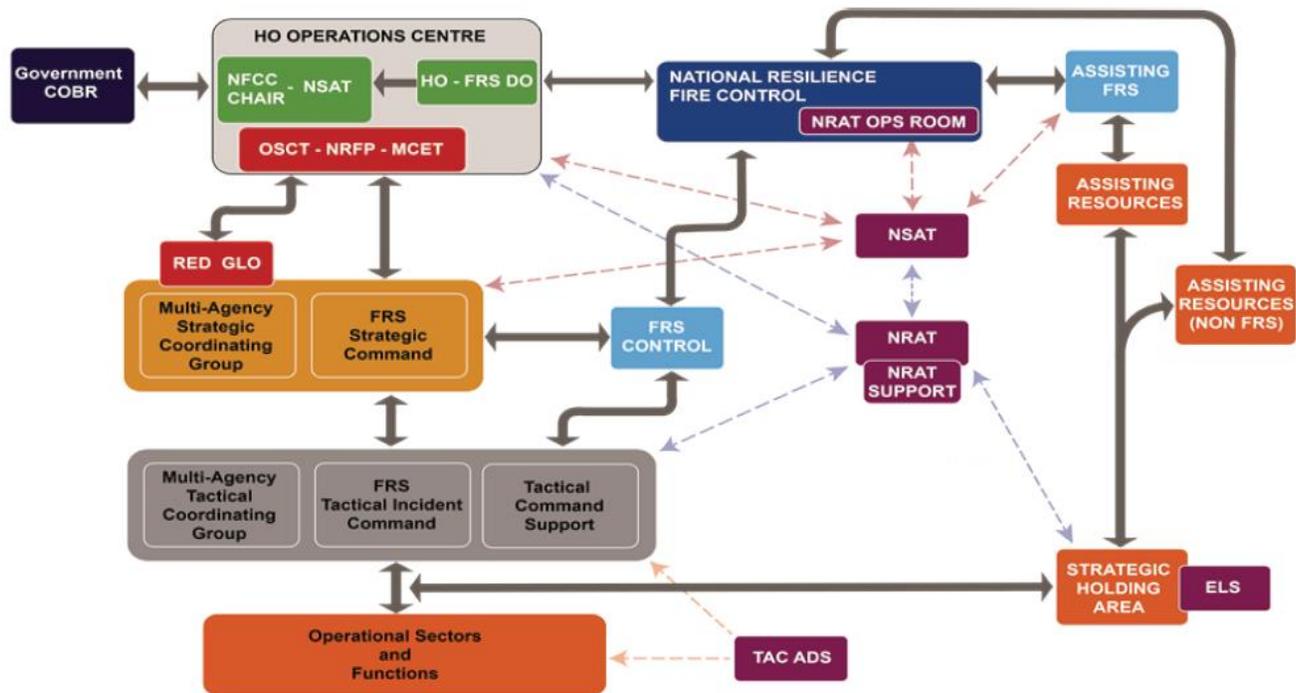
The request should be made by the local FRS control room for the capability required, as determined by the incident commander. The relevant Tac Ad (mobilised through the NRFC) will be able to assist in determining what specific resources are required to meet the need identified by the incident commander. This should be in accordance with the mobilising guidance issued by the relevant capability<sup>3</sup>.

It is likely that requests for significant numbers of NR assets will need to be underpinned by the incident commander's detailed plan. Support and advice in relation to the NR elements of incident plans can be provided by the NRAT and Tac Ads. This may also involve the Chair of the NFCC and/or National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT) officers as appropriate.

The ESS maintains a record of available NR resources and advisors together with a range of declared FRS locally owned resources such as flood response assets, which can be provided by FRS or through other agencies holding approved assets (such as RNLI). National level mobilisations will normally require the establishment of a multi-agency TCG and SCG.

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<sup>3</sup> Mobilising guidance on HVP, USAR and Mass Decontamination has been issued through NFCC National Resilience



<b>COBR</b>	Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms	<b>HOOC</b>	Home Office Operations Centre	<b>OSCT</b>	Officer of Security and Counter Terrorism
<b>ELS</b>	Enhanced Logistics Support	<b>NFCC</b>	National Fire Chiefs Council	<b>RED</b>	Resilience and Emergencies
<b>ESS</b>	Electronic Support System	<b>NRAT</b>	National Resilience Assurance	<b>TAC ADS</b>	Tactical Advisors
<b>FRS</b>	Fire and Rescue Service	<b>NRFP</b>	National Resilience Fire Programmes		
<b>GLO</b>	Government Liaison officer	<b>NSAT</b>	National Strategic Advisory Team		
<b>HO FRS DO</b>	Home Office Fire and Rescue Service Duty Officer	<b>MCET</b>	Major and Critical Events Team		

It should be noted that such an incident will probably fall into one of the nationally reportable incident categories and should be recorded using the FRS Reporting Tool.

Following an incident where NR assets have been used the ESS should be updated as soon as those resource(s) become available for redeployment so that the national availability records can be maintained.

National level incidents will result in the NRAT Duty Officer being notified by the National Resilience Fire Control. To ensure the appropriate level of assistance and support is available through the NCAF support structure and network, comprehensive incident details will be required when notifications are passed to the National Resilience Fire Control and when updating the ESS and FRS Reporting Tool. The NRAT Duty Officer will provide a situation report to the HO Fire & Rescue Service duty officer, NFCC Chair and NSAT for all National level incidents.

The HO Operations Centre will be resourced and structured according to the nature of the incident to ensure that the appropriate levels of technical support are provided. Contact will be maintained directly between the NRAT, Chair of the NFCC and the affected FRS to ensure that the host FRS is kept fully briefed on the national perspective. The chair of the NFCC and HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer will also require appropriate details to support production of briefings and timely reports to Government departments and COBR. Details will need to include the involvement of other services in the incident.

## 2.4 International Response

### 2.4.1 Incoming: International Reciprocal Mutual Assistance

National Resilience Planning within the UK is based on a general presumption of self-sufficiency. The National Risk Assessment sets out the government's assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that may directly affect the UK, which equates to a relatively small number of occasions where the UK would seek international assistance. In exceptional circumstances where an emergency is of sufficient scale to overwhelm UK capacity, or where highly specialised niche assistance is required a request maybe considered.

International assistance is requested on a case by case basis following Her Majesty's Government cross departmental consultation and can only be initiated following a formal request. Co-ordination of such requests should be facilitated through formalised structures such as the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism or following a direct request. Requests to EUCPM or any similar arrangements must be made via NRFC and Home Office.

Incoming assistance must be well co-ordinated to ensure rapid and effective integration into the national response. Precise co-ordination arrangements will depend on the given situation. However, plans should be prepared and communicated across a range of Government departments, Local Resilience Forums and agencies well in advance of arrival to ensure that arrangements are understood and work effectively. This will involve the NCAF arrangements and should be made in conjunction with Chair of the NFCC and/or the NSAT, the HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer and lead Government Department. **Annex B** of NCAF provides an overview of the procedure for the approval of incoming international reciprocal mutual assistance.

## 2.4.2 Outgoing: International Reciprocal Mutual Assistance

On occasions UK FRS capabilities are required to respond to humanitarian disasters and emergencies overseas. Overseas deployments will be coordinated through the NCAF arrangements and assisted by the Chair of the NFCC and/or the NSAT and Lead Government Departments. Any deployment must also be agreed by the NRAT Capability Lead and not mitigate the UK's ability to respond to a national incident.

Following major international disasters, the Department for International Development (DFID) are able to request fire & rescue resources through a Memorandum of Understanding. This MOU sets out the principles for effective liaison, collaboration, communication and mutual co-operation.

Fifteen FRS currently form the International Search and Rescue Team (ISAR) under the governance of the NFCC. The team is available to deploy to sudden onset disasters overseas, on behalf of DFID, Foreign and Commonwealth Office or the Cabinet Office.

## 2.5 Recovery and Repatriation

Following a co-ordinated response to a major emergency it will be necessary to ensure timely and secure asset repatriation arrangements are in place. These arrangements will enable FRAs to satisfy their obligations as set out in their *New Dimensions Assets and Functions Transfer Agreement* with central government. Furthermore, there is an expectation that these arrangements should extend to cover other asset capabilities deployed under the auspices of NCAF.

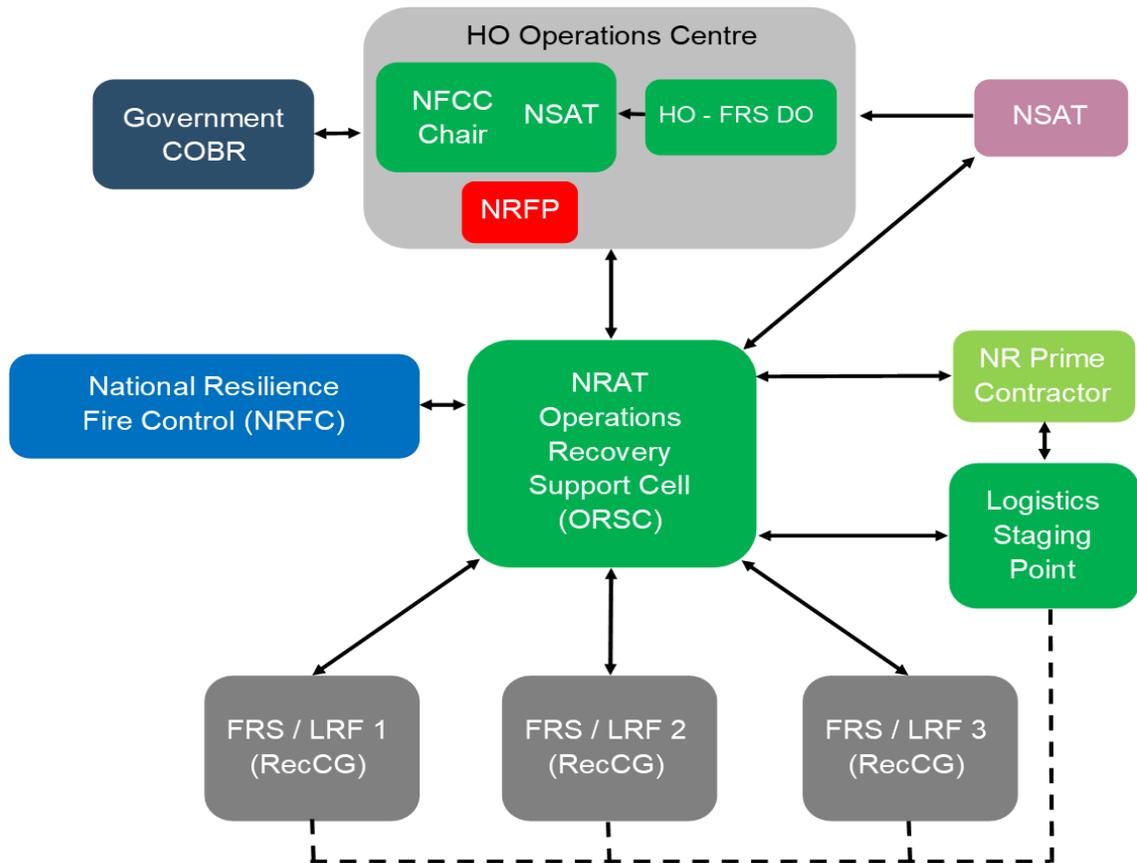
The recovery and repatriation process is ordinarily the responsibility of the affected FRS and can be supported by NRAT officers and the Prime Contractor responsible for the servicing and maintenance of NR assets, as detailed within the National Resilience Recovery and Repatriation Guidance document. The guidance has been produced to support the recovery and repatriation of NR resources to ensure that a consistent approach is undertaken by the FRS. It offers overarching considerations for the FRS following a major emergency involving the use of NR resources but can also assist with other non-NR resources that may have been deployed.

An affected FRS/Local Resilience Forum (LRF) may have established a Recovery Co-ordination Group<sup>4</sup> (RecCG) at local level, whilst the incident is still in the response phase. With specific reference to FRS recovery operations, such group(s) may derive support at a more strategic level from the NRAT Operations Recovery Support Cell (ORSC).

The NRAT ORSC may be established when a major emergency involving the deployment of significant numbers of resources begins to transition from the response to the recovery phase of operation. The ORSC will take direction from, and provide support to, the relevant capability NSAT regarding the co-ordination of the overall resource recovery and repatriation process.

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<sup>4</sup> Emergency Response and Recovery (Non-Statutory guidance accompanying the Civil Contingencies Act 2004) revised version October 2013.



Successful recovery and repatriation will have taken place when all assets are returned to their host FRS or host organisation promptly after they have completed operations and are once again available for deployment.

## 2.6 NCAF Electronic Support System (ESS)

NCAF arrangements and functions operate efficiently due to the systems that have been developed and introduced through the support and collaboration of CFOA, HO and NFCC. An NCAF electronic support system (NCAF ESS) has been implemented to help provide an accurate overview of resource placement across the country. The ESS is hosted by the NFCC Lead Authority for National Resilience (Merseyside FRA).

The system covers all NR resources and includes physical resources such as HVP's and MDU's as well as advisory resources such as NSAT, NRAT and Tactical Advisers. During an incident the facility also records the location and activity of the on duty HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer/NSAT/NRAT officers as necessary.

There are six elements of the NCAF ESS which provide a range of comprehensive real time information to authorised users. The six elements are:

- the FRS Reporting Tool
- Asset Management Tool
- Strategic Holding Area Asset Management Tool
- Monitoring & Mobilising Cell Management Tool
- HO Information Tool
- Assurance Toolkit.

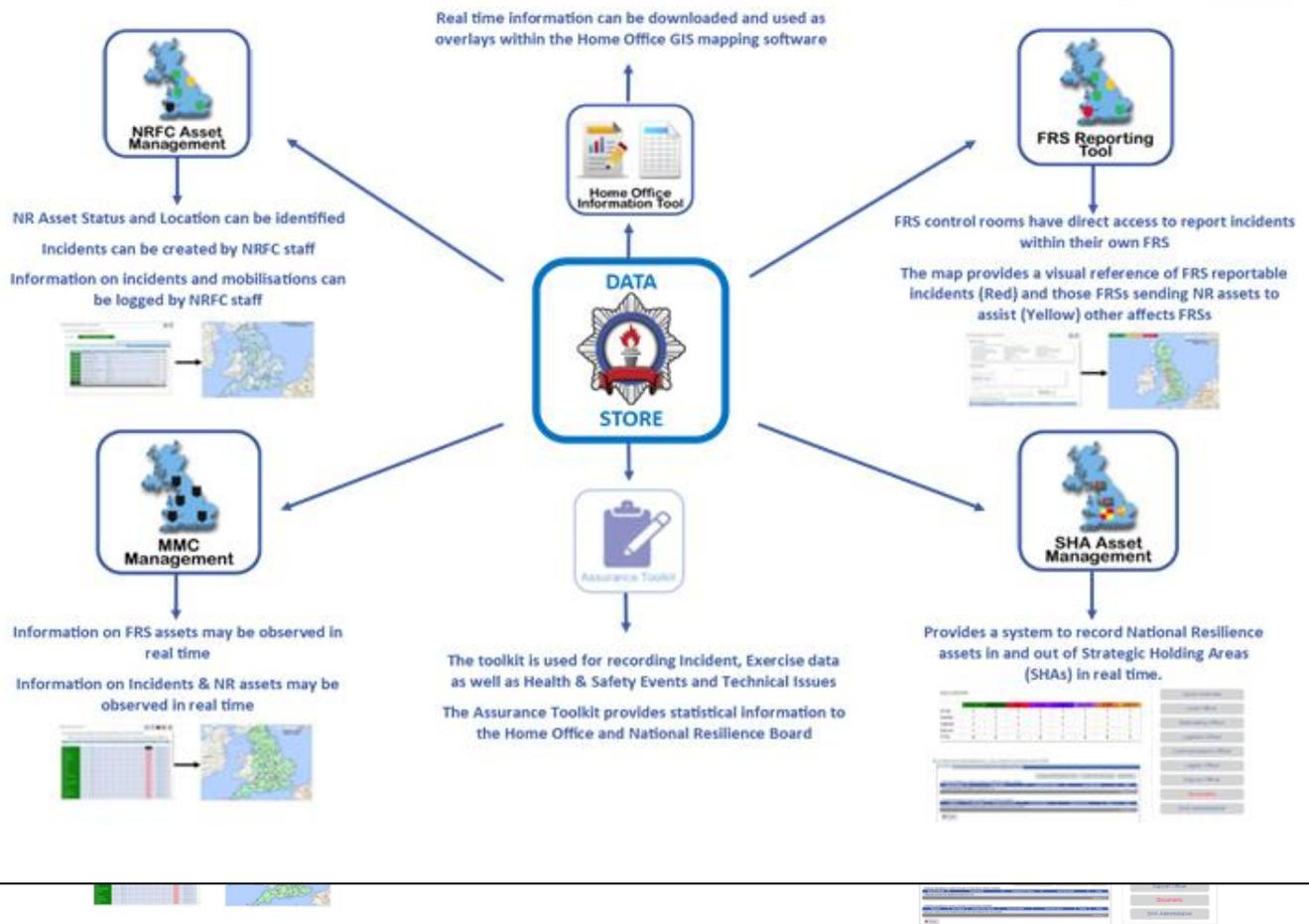


Home Office

## NCAF Electronic Support System (NCAF-ESS)



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### **2.6.1 FRS Reporting Tool**

The FRS reporting tool allows each FRS to manage and report the availability of their National Resilience assets. Each FRS monitors the status of their assets when they have mobilised as part of a national deployment.

An FRS is also able to record reportable incidents and make returns for any specific operations as indicated by the NFCC Chair.

### **2.6.2 Asset Management Tool**

The asset management tool allows personnel in the National Resilience Fire Control to maintain an overview of the availability of all NR assets across the country.

Following a request for mutual aid, the asset management tool records the National resilience assets mobilised and tracks where they have been sent.

### **2.6.3 Strategic Holding Area Asset Management Tool**

The strategic holding area asset management tool is operated by the Enhanced Logistics Support (ELS) team at the Strategic Holding Area (SHA). This informs them of the resources that are en route to them and allows the recording of deployments from the SHA. The SHA asset management tool will also assist with the recording of personnel, accommodation, relief plans, site plans and routing information.

### **2.6.4 Monitoring and Mobilising Cell Management Tool**

The monitoring and mobilising cell management tool allows OSCT/NRFD, and NSAT officers to maintain a national overview of on-going incidents along with the available National Resilience assets. Officers will also have an overview of any SHA allocation and the NCAF officers who are supporting those incidents.

### **2.6.5 Home Office Information Tool**

The Home Office information tool enables relevant government officers to utilise information from the NCAF electronic support system including real time national resilience mapping, to augment their own databases in support of HO/NFCC Chair/NSAT.

### **2.6.6 Assurance Toolkit**

The assurance toolkit provides data and statistics from all of the system inputs. This includes availability data, incident and exercising data along with any national resilience health and safety reports.

## 3 Functions of the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework

### 3.1 Mobilisation, Co-ordination and Monitoring of National Resilience Assets – NRAT Operations Room

The mobilisation, coordination and monitoring of National Resilience assets is undertaken by the NRAT supported by the National Resilience Fire Control.

The NRAT are responsible for the co-ordination of NR resources responding to a major incident, in conjunction with the local FRS control room. Requests should be for specific resources or in response to an assessed incident plan as outlined by the relevant capability guidance<sup>5</sup>.

In accordance with incident command national operational guidance, requests should, wherever possible, be underpinned by an incident plan with clearly identifiable assessment of resource requirements. To assist in the formulation of incident plans the support of NRAT and Tactical Advisers should be utilised. NSAT officers are available to assist with specific capability strategic plans as required.

The ESS maintains the national overview of all available NR assets. Mobilisation of these resources is carried out by the National Resilience Fire Control on the direction of the NRAT duty officer.

The principal functions of the NRAT and National Resilience Fire Control are to:

- Provide a monitoring capability for FRS National Resilience assets at all times. In the event of a protracted incident this function will be discharged through the NRAT Operations Room located within and supported by the National Resilience Fire Control.
- Co-ordinate mobilisation of FRS resources in association with the host FRS,
- Track mobilised resources whilst en-route between their host FRS and the destination (which could include a SHA) and also the return of resources to their host FRS,
- Provide mobilising options in liaison with NRAT and NSAT in the event of “allocation confliction” or where national coverage may be compromised,
- Notify the NRAT Duty Officers of mobilisations,
- Notify the NRAT Duty Officer of instances of when mobilisation requests have not been met,
- In liaison with the NRAT, manage the pre-deployment of resources for intelligence led events.

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<sup>5</sup> Mass Decontamination Mobilising Model, The USAR resourcing and mobilising document, The HVP mobilising document

## 3.2 Strategic Holding Area

The Strategic Holding Area (SHA) is a pre-identified location having suitable space and facilities to accommodate large numbers of crews, appliances and equipment.

A SHA provides a base where resources can standby or rest while awaiting deployment to marshalling areas or to the scene of operations. The activities at a SHA, in terms of asset management (logistics, communications and operational planning), will be undertaken by NRAT officers with an Enhanced Logistics Support (ELS) vehicle and crew.

In conjunction with Local Resilience Forums, suitable sites have been identified throughout the country for use as Multi Agency Strategic Holding Areas (MASHA)<sup>6</sup>

The pre-identified SHAs do not preclude the use of other sites that may be more appropriate, depending on the prevailing circumstances. Once the location of a SHA has been decided this information should be shared with NRAT and HO. The security of SHA information is paramount, and these records should be maintained and appropriately protected by the local FRS and/or LRF accordingly.

Where a SHA is established, there is a requirement for the affected FRS to provide a dedicated liaison officer to facilitate any resourcing requests (e.g. fuel, accommodation etc), identified by the Enhanced Logistics Support Officer (ELSO).

There should only be one agreed link between the affected FRS and the SHA to mobilise resources held at the SHA to the incident or marshalling area. This is normally from the affected FRS control or direct from tactical command.

## 3.3 Home Office Operations Centre

In some circumstances, the scale or complexity of an emergency is such that some degree of central government support or coordination becomes necessary. Government will not duplicate the role of local responders. A designated lead Government Department (LGD) or where appropriate a devolved administration will be responsible for the overall management of the central government response.

The Home Office provides the cross Whitehall coordinating function for the response policy arrangements to emergencies involving Fire. Cabinet Office will provide the cross Whitehall coordinating function for the recovery policy arrangements to emergencies involving Fire.

The Home Office Response to Emergencies policy arrangements will be delivered by the OSCT Operations Support Team for **no notice** major incidents during the initial 48hrs. The HO NRPD Operational Support Team will deliver the Response to Emergencies policy arrangements for **rising tide** incidents and for notice incidents after the first 48hrs.

CPFG & OSCT Operations Centres enable strategic decision makers at a national and local level to carry out their role in an informed manner. The centres, which can be established in multiple locations, comprise of government department policy officials and government liaison teams, who in consultation with the Chair of the NFCC and/or the NSAT, will provide situational awareness to COBR and across central government departments. In addition, they co-ordinate advice for Ministers and engage with Government Liaison Officers (GLOs) via MHCLGs Resilience and

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<sup>6</sup> For full detail see the Multi Agency Strategic Holding Area guidance document issued by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in April 2012

Emergencies Division (RED) who provide Strategic Coordinating Groups (SCGs) with a single point of contact for central government assistance. Dependent upon the scale of the incident NSAT & NRAT assistance may be required to support the Home Office Operations Centres. If necessary, this will be agreed at the time between the Chair of the NFCC and/or the NSAT and the HO

During activation the principal functions of the Operations Centre are to:

- Provide liaison between; the affected FRS, the Chair of the NFCC, NSAT (), NRAT, Cross Whitehall, Government Liaison Officers (GLO) and the Director of Fire and Resilience,
- Provide a central hub for the collection, distribution and provision of operational, logistical and policy information relating to FRS activity,
- Provide advice and information to the Director of Fire and Resilience and the Chair of the NFCC and/or NSAT,
- Providing effective, efficient and timely information to other Government departments and ministers as directed by the Director of Fire and Resilience,
- Provide Cross-Governmental and Fire and Resilience Directorate<sup>8</sup> strategic advice to the affected FRS,
- Achieve the most effective distribution of available resources (FRS and supporting agencies),
- Assist with the facilitation and coordination of incoming international assistance to the UK<sup>9</sup> (in conjunction with other Government departments),
- Provide Cross-Governmental advice and decision making to support requests for FRS assets to be deployed outside of the UK<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Home Office (HO) are the Government lead for fire and rescue, and NFRD HO who oversee this responsibility.

<sup>9</sup> The UK aims to be self-sufficient in dealing with events, and any decision to request overseas aid would require policy approval, and likely to be brokered through the Cabinet office; any incoming assistance would be managed in line with EU Host Nation Support Guidelines.

<sup>10</sup> In line with the MoU 'UK Fire and Rescue Sector Support to Her Majesty's Government for Emergency Response Operations Overseas'

### **3.4 Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR)**

COBR is the facility used by Government to ensure all relevant Government departments, teams and personnel are informed and kept aware of significant live and or potential incidents that may have an adverse impact on the country or parts of the country. When necessary, COBR will be established and chaired as detailed in the NCAF policy document.

COBR may be set up in response to a national or regional major emergency or during events abroad that may have major implications for the UK. This arrangement allows for the Government to maintain an accurate overview of an event through the receipt of timely information from a wide range of sources including the FRS.

The Chair of NFCC or a nominated NSAT will attend COBR to provide information on FRS capabilities, resource availability or activities as required. This may include specific detail regarding incident response and will require direct liaison between the Chair of NFCC and FRS principal managers.

## 4 The Roles within NCAF

### 4.1 Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)

The Chair of the NFCC, or in his absence a nominated NSAT member, will be responsible for the resource co-ordination and provision of advisers during incidents. This includes the passing of timely and accurate professional advice to the Secretary of State, the Fire Minister, the Director of Fire and Resilience, other Government departments, NFCC and affected FRS. The Chair of the NFCC discharges this requirement through engagement with the HO Operations Centre and supported by NRAT officers who facilitate the delivery of NCAF.

The role of the Chair of the NFCC (or nominated NSAT) includes:

- Advice and resolution for any national mobilisation issues,
- Liaison with FRS/Strategic Commanders,
- Providing advice and briefing to the Director of Fire and Resilience and other senior officials as required,
- Liaising with the Secretary of State or other Ministers on FRS issues,
- Co-ordination of Cross-Government and international logistics support to affected FRS,
- Attending COBR meetings as required and providing advice to ministers.

The Chair of the NFCC or nominated NSAT has overall responsibility for FRS support and advisory functions.

### 4.2 National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT)

The NSAT provides support and resilience to the Chair of the NFCC.

An NSAT officer can deputise for, and provide strategic support and professional advice to, the Chair of the NFCC as requested. Nominated NSAT officers may be involved in providing strategic support and professional advice to members of Government, the FRS Strategic Commander/SCG colleagues and the HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer. NSAT members may be requested to attend locations/functions that fall within the scope of the incident or NCAF structure where he/she can add value.

Primarily officers that form the membership of NSAT are involved in either NFCC strategic operational matters and/or as a National Resilience capability lead. NSAT members may also have a major role to play in assisting the co-ordination and prioritisation of actions as part of the communications and planning during the run-up to significant incidents.

An NSAT officer may be asked to provide capability specific advice or deputise for/support the Chair of the NFCC where required. Advice can be provided remotely, however on occasions the Chair of NFCC or a NSAT may be requested to attend or be mobilised to a specific location, for example:

- NRAT Operations Room,
- HO Operation Centres,
- COBR

The affected FRS (to liaise/support the CFO/Strategic Commander),

The role of the NSAT includes:

- Provision of strategic advice on the national deployment and support of assets and personnel,
- Assisting in the resolution of mobilising conflicts or advising on situations where demand exceeds resource availability, normally in liaison with the Chair of the NFCC,
- Ensure national oversight is maintained, including a rolling 48 hour look forward for demand and likely developments,
- Ensuring any emerging risks are identified and actions taken accordingly to adequately reduce the impact of those risks to FRS operations,
- Provision of strategic support and information to the affected FRS Strategic Commander which may be relevant to the incident(s) and the national situation. This could include the provision of information relating to other on-going national events and the deployment of resources.

An NSAT member will not be mobilised to form part of the incident command structure, to monitor performance or to carry out any form of operational assurance. The key role is to provide critical advice and support within the co-ordination and advisory framework.

### **4.3 Home Office Fire & Rescue Service NFRD Duty Officer**

HO has assigned nominated staff to fulfil the role of Duty Officer. These officers work on a rota system ensuring that cover is maintained at all times. The Home Office Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer is the first point of contact in Government for a range of responsibilities that are within the scope of NCAF, and support of the Chair of the NFCC, the NSAT, CPFPG & OSCT Ops Centres and NR&FP. Duty Officers maintain a close contact with the NRAT and other Whitehall Government Departments. The Duty Officer monitors developing or emerging issues and incidents and provides the necessary advice and support.

### **4.4 Resilience & Emergencies Division (RED)**

MHCLG's Resilience and Emergencies Division (RED) is responsible for providing the Government liaison function on resilience issues at all levels from national through to local level. RED staff will operate, as necessary, to support the response to an emergency including the exchange of essential information between Strategic Co-ordinating Groups (SCGs) and UK central government departments.

The role of RED includes (but is not limited to):

- Establishing whether Strategic Co-ordinating Groups have been set up, or are on standby, then maintaining lines of communication with them,
- Deploying a Government Liaison Officer (GLO) once an SCG has been established, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed. Ensuring a Strategic Local Recognised Information Picture is developed and maintained for each SCG,
- Developing and maintaining a multi-SCG Strategic Recognised Information Picture where an incident affects a number of LRF / SCG areas,

- Establishing and maintaining lines of communication with the Lead Government Department and the Cabinet Office,
- Managing the DCLG Operations Centre as required in order to provide a focal point for the collection and collation of information on the situation,
- Producing reports/briefings for onward transmission to COBR/Impact Management Group (IMG)<sup>11</sup>, Ministers etc, ensuring that strict deadlines are met,
- Working with partners to identify priorities and providing advice to COBR and Lead Government Departments to support national discussions on the deployment of resources across the affected area,
- Facilitating mutual aid arrangements between LRFs,
- Assisting local responders deliver a co-ordinated and coherent public message through sharing of Government's 'lines to take'.

#### 4.5 National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT)

NRAT is comprised of seconded officers from across the FRS who operate on a continuous availability rota. Their role, at times of emergency, is to support all elements of NCAF by providing National Resilience capability specific advice at an incident and practical/technical support at various locations; for example, as the Enhanced Logistics Support Officer (ELSO) at the SHA(s). For smaller scale incidents capability specific advice can be provided remotely, however they may be requested to attend or be mobilised to a specific location as required, e.g.:

- The affected FRS (to liaise/support the incident command structure as required),
- SHA(s),
- NRAT Operations Room at the National Resilience Fire Control,
- HO Operations Centres.

The role of the NRAT includes:

- Provision of capability advice to the affected FRS, HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer and NSAT officers as required,
- Liaison with the HO Fire & Rescue Service Duty Officer and the National Resilience Fire Control to ensure mobilised resources are effectively supported,
- Implementing and maintaining a communication network between NRAT staff at the specified NCAF locations,
- Undertake the ELSO function to support operations and management of an SHA<sup>12</sup>,
- Provision of tactical support and information to the affected FRS commanders relevant to the incident(s).
- Provide regular updates the NFCC Chair/NSAT and HO Fire & Rescue Duty Officer.

An NRAT member will not be mobilised to undertake any aspect of command of an incident, monitor performance or to carry out any form of operational assurance. Their key role is to provide liaison and support within the co-ordination and advisory framework.

#### **4.6 National Resilience Support Team**

The National Resilience Support Team provides resilience for the NRAT and support to the NFCC Chair and /or NSAT as required. The National Resilience support team members are drawn from officers previously seconded to NRAT and selected Tactical Advisors due to their sector specific expertise

#### **4.7 Tactical Advisers (Tac Ad)**

For the purpose of NCAF a nationally recognised Tac Ad is an officer who has been trained to a national standard in relation to the relevant capability. Duly trained individuals will be placed on the national register of availability for mobilisation purposes.

Tac Ads have been introduced across the FRS and work with the National Resilience capabilities on a regular basis. They include:

- Chemical, Biological, Radiation, Nuclear (explosives) CBRN(e),
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR),
- High Volume Pumping (HVP),
- Flood Rescue,
- Airwave Operational Advisors.

Tac Ads have an in-depth subject matter knowledge. They have responsibility to provide detailed, capability relevant advice to the Incident Commander at both tactical and/or operational levels. The national register of Tac Ads is maintained by the NR capability leads and can only be mobilised following request via the NRAT in liaison with their host FRS.

A Tac Ad will be requested to attend an incident in the affected FRS, if deemed appropriate. Tac Ads will not be mobilised to assume command at tactical or operational levels, monitor performance or carry out any form of operational assurance.

National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer's (NILO's) are members of individual FRSs who are trained and qualified to a national standard and hold suitable security clearance commensurate with the role. They can advise and support the Fire Incident Commander, Police, medical, military and Government agencies about FRS operational capacity and capability to help those agencies reduce risk and safely resolve incidents. Their role primarily encompasses the CBRN(e) aspect of a multi-agency operational response.

The NILO can act as a tactical adviser to other agencies at incidents that may not, in the initial stages, require a full FRS attendance. The role of NILO has become inextricably linked to effective working relationships and arrangements with other emergency responders, especially the Police. NILOs have become a trusted and established first point of contact between agencies with regards to the exchange of sensitive or restricted information / intelligence.

## 5 Capabilities

Based on the definition outlined within the Fire & Rescue National Framework for England (2018), NCAF capabilities can be divided into three categories: National Resilience capabilities; Local FRS capabilities; and non-FRS capabilities.

### 5.1 National Resilience Capabilities

National Resilience Capabilities are the resources provided under the New Dimension programme which are considered to be an integral element of a national response: These being CBRN(e), USAR, HVP and ELS.

#### 5.1.1 CBRN(e) (including Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM) and Mass Decontamination)

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (Explosives) (CBRN(e)) capability consists of:

- Mass Decontamination (MD)
- Detection, Identification and Monitoring (DIM)
- Decontamination of Body Bags (DBB) and
- Initial Operational Response (IOR).



#### MDU MODULE

Each mass decontamination unit (MDU) carries:  
1 mass decontamination structures (MD1)  
1 fire-fighter decontamination unit (MD4)  
12 Powered Respirator Protective Suits (PRPS)  
Ancillary Equipment  
Disrobe (DR) and Re-robe (RR) packs



### **MDSU MODULE**

Each mass decontamination support unit (MDSU) carries:  
450 Disrobe (DR) and Re-robe (RR) packs  
51 Powered Respirator Protective Suits (PRPS)  
Ancillary equipment



### **Detection, Identification & Monitoring (DIM) unit**

This vehicle contains Detection, Identification and Monitoring equipment, and Personal Protective Equipment for operators.

Further detail on CBRN(e) can be found within the Fire and Rescue Service operational guidance to Incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRN(e)) document.

## 5.1.2 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

The Urban Search and Rescue capability was established to support host FRS respond to large-scale incidents that cannot be managed within existing Mutual Aid arrangements. Services can request support through the NRAT to support a local response to numerous types of incidents including collapsed or unstable structures and major transportation related incidents.

A complete USAR unit consists of five different USAR modules a team of personnel and a canine.

	<p><b>USAR Module 1</b></p> <p>Scene assessment and building triage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power generation and lighting.</li><li>• Technical search.</li><li>• Paratech metal shoring.</li><li>• Breaching and breaking.</li><li>• Timber cutting.</li><li>• Gas monitors.</li><li>• Bolts and anchors.</li><li>• Safe work at height.</li><li>• Hand tools.</li></ul>
	<p><b>USAR Module 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Power generation and lighting.</li><li>• Bolts and anchors.</li><li>• Hand tools.</li><li>• Line access.</li><li>• Stretchers and casualty care.</li><li>• Confined space working.</li><li>• Hot cutting.</li><li>• Lifting and moving Inc: Airbags.</li><li>• Chainsaws.</li><li>• Gas monitors.</li><li>• Access tower.</li></ul>

### USAR Module 3



- Power generation and lighting.
- Bolts and anchors.
- Hand tools.
- Shoring.
- Breeching and breaking.
- Timber cutting and work stations.
- Fast cut saws.
- Nailing equipment.
- Airbags.

### USAR Module 4



- Power generation and lighting.
- MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) with various lifting attachments, e.g. forks, bucket, lifting jib.
- Portable shelter.

### USAR Module 5



- Timber of various sizes and lengths, C16 graded – approx 5.5 tons – utilised for shoring operations.
- Stillages containing nails, wedges, shims etc.



### USAR Canine

Live scent canine with handler transported via bespoke dog van (can also be delivered via air asset). Usually work in pairs.

Further detail on USAR can be found within the Fire and Rescue Service guidance to incidents involving collapsed structures also the USAR Concept of Operations document

### 5.1.3 High Volume Pumping (HVP)

In order to counter the threat from a number of water-related scenarios, High Volume Pumps are hosted within strategically positioned FRS around the country and can be used in response to natural flooding, deliberate flooding and firefighting operations. A complete

'HVP Set' consists of the HVP Module and Double Hose Box Module (1 pump and 3 kilometres of hose).



#### **HVP Module**

The HVP module consists of a Hydrosub and hose box, containing 1km of 150mm hose on a module base containing ancillary equipment.



#### **Double Hose Box Module**

The double hose box module consists of 2km of hose. Each module also contains a Hose Recovery Unit.



#### **HVP Ancillary Equipment Module**

The 11 HVP Ancillary Equipment Modules are strategically located in England and Wales, each containing a variety of standard functional items of HVP Ancillary Equipment.



### HVP Hose Ramping Module

The HVP Hose Ramping Module is a demountable module that consists of 21 sets of HVP Hose Ramps (equivalent to 7 HVPs), which are palletised in sets of three. This is based at Sheldon in the West Midlands.

The HVP Capability has defined risk based, tiered responses designed to assist in the event of major catastrophic water related events and major fires where local water supplies are insufficient. These involve the use of High Volume Pumping (HVPs) at a local and national level.

Further detail on HVP can be found within the HVP Concept of Operations document which includes the HVP mobilising document.

#### 5.1.4 Command & Control - Enhanced Logistics Support (ELS)

The Enhanced Logistics Support vehicles and teams have been provided to organise and manage the Strategic Holding Areas (SHAs) in support of a major emergency. The ELS team will manage the capabilities, vehicles and teams on behalf of the affected FRS.



### ELS Vehicle

- The ELS vehicle will have;
- Satellite for internet and telephone communications
- GSM telephone handsets
- Digital television receiver
- PC work stations
- Display and projection facilities
- Print, scan, copy and fax facilities.

Further detail on ELS can be found within the ELS Standard Operating Procedure document.

## 5.2 Additional Specialist Assets and Skills hosted which can act as a National Capability.

A number of local level FRS resources are declared on the ESS and can respond on a national basis if requested where incident timescales allow, for example;

## 5.2.1 Flood Response

This assistance and support is provided from a register of national assets that FRS and voluntary agencies have declared are available to support a National Response to a flooding situation.

In order to assure a guaranteed standard of response, these assets conform to specified standards laid out in the 'Flood Rescue Concept of Operations' produced by DEFRA as the lead Government department for Flooding.

There are two types of Flood Rescue team

### **Type B team:**

A team comprised of 6 persons that uses a powered boat to operate in flood areas. The boats used vary in type, but all meet the minimum specification in the concept of operations.

### **Type C team:**

This is a team of 6 persons who are classed as a

'Swift Water Rescue' team. They do not use a powered boat but may use inflatable rafts or pathways. They are trained to enter the water to undertake technical rescues either by swimming or the use of rescue lines and ropes.

## 5.2.2 Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) Specialist Response

MTA is the term used to describe a terrorist attack involving the use of weapons that are designed to inflict a high number of casualties that would represent a major incident for the emergency services. A typical MTA event might involve, in addition to the direct impact of firearms or knives, a combination of explosions and deliberately caused fires resulting in a potentially high number of casualties and fatalities at several locations.

An attack may also include the ad hoc taking of hostages to prolong the incident and impede the rescue operation. The rapidly changing nature and unique features of this type of incident require a more dynamic and collaborative approach to that adopted in standard major incident response planning.

FRS MTA specialist response teams can only operate by way of an integrated and jointly planned/agreed incident plan. Fire, Police and Ambulance operatives in conjunction with an established tactical co-ordination group will carry out operations following a joint risk assessment and formulation of agreed objectives.

The capability is being further developed to reflect revised national resilience planning assumptions.

### **5.2.3 Conventional Fire fighting**

NCAF is primarily predicated on the mobilisation and response of dedicated specialist equipment, vehicles and trained personnel. However, it is likely that a major emergency will require a significant number of conventional firefighting resources to augment and support the implementation and continued operation of specialist National Resilience resources. Through the NCAF arrangements and NRAT the necessary information will be shared with appropriate stakeholders detailing the requirements for conventional/local resources to support any NR deployment.

### **5.2.4 Other FRS Capabilities**

A number of FRAs have developed expertise in the management and or provision of other specialist capabilities which do not directly form part of the NR arrangements. Authorities experiencing a significant event may be able to call upon these capabilities should they feel that they would benefit from their assistance. Examples include Kent FRS as the lead service for maritime response, Northumberland FRS is the lead service for wildfire incidents, Staffordshire FRS is the lead service for Waste Fire, and Essex FRS is leading on the provision of bulk foam. NSAT's and NRAT officers, have knowledge of these additional capabilities and will, upon request, provide support to services to identify what capability might be of value and how/where it might be obtained.

### **5.2.5 Non-FRS Capabilities**

There are a wide range of resources that are available through non-FRS organisations that have the potential to support NCAF arrangements. In some cases, these may form part of a capability that has been validated and is held on an approved national register (such as Flood Rescue). Known/previously declared resources would normally be requested through the NRAT.

Non-FRS capabilities may also be mobilised through local arrangements or through Government initiated agreements and as such the NCAF arrangements may be of use in managing effective deployment.

## 6 Devolved Administrations

### 6.1 Wales

Arrangements for addressing major emergencies within Wales will be similar in operational terms to that in England but Fire and Rescue matters are fully devolved to the Welsh Government. Therefore, operational monitoring and reporting arrangements to Welsh Ministers are different and will be managed by the Welsh Government and/or the Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser for Wales.

Should a major emergency occur in Wales that requires additional resources that are not available through the normal Welsh National Resilience plans, it will be the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) of the affected Fire and Rescue Authority or their nominated representative who would contact the Chair of the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) and /or the National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT) Duty Officer in England to request assistance of resources from England through the established National (UK) Mutual Aid.

Should resources be required from Wales to assist with a major emergency in England, under existing mutual aid agreements, the NFCC/NSAT in England should make the request to the Welsh Chief Fire Officers or their nominated representative.

#### **Mobilising Arrangements**

Identified resources are registered through NCAF and, with the relevant Welsh CFO support, can be mobilised through the National Resilience Fire Control (NRFC) and monitored through existing NCAF arrangements.

Despite the differences in governance arrangements, the Welsh Government and FRAs recognise that operational requirements are paramount, and they will work collectively with other FRAs to support public safety in both Wales and the rest of the Great Britain.

It will be for the CFOs in Wales to make an operational decision to deploy their resources to England to provide support to an incident. This decision will take into account the circumstances which exist at the time in their own area and the potential for resources to be required locally to respond to an incident. It will also depend upon whether the CFO has the required resources to provide support at that time. Where any such resources are deployed the CFO will inform the Welsh Government and keep the relevant Welsh Minister fully briefed on the operation.

For major incidents in Wales, the affected LRF areas will implement their multi-agency response plans and the FRS will form part of this multi-agency response under the strategic leadership of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group. The national FRS resources deployed to support the local FRA will be incorporated into this response structure under the direct command of the local FRA.

For major emergencies, and for those which involve more than one LRF area, a decision may be taken by the SCG, in consultation with Welsh Government, to implement the Pan-Wales Response Plan. This plan will see a co-ordination structure established linking in the affected SCG(s) with the Emergency Co-ordination Centre (Wales) at Welsh Government and the support provided by a Wales Civil Contingencies Committee reporting directly to Welsh Ministers. The Welsh Government may wish to use the Emergency Coordination Centre (Wales) (ECC(W) to centralise its own response to any emergency in Wales or within the UK. This will depend upon the nature of the emergency concerned and may, or may not, involve external partners. On such occasions, the ECC(W) may act as a crisis management centre for the Welsh Government.

## 6.2 Scotland

Arrangements for addressing major emergencies in Scotland are similar in operational terms to those in England but, as Fire and Rescue matters are fully devolved to the Scottish Government, operational monitoring and reporting arrangements to Ministers are different and will be managed by the Scottish Government and Her Majesty's Fire and Rescue Inspectorate.

Should a major emergency, that requires additional resources which are not available through Scottish national arrangements, occur in Scotland, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) or their nominated representative would contact the Chair of the NFCC in England to request assistance of resources from England through the established National (UK) Mutual Aid Arrangements. The identified resources will be mobilised through the NRAT and monitored through NCAF processes.

Should resources to assist with a major emergency in England be required from Scotland, then the Chair of the NFCC or representative NSAT in England would contact the CFO – SFRS or their nominated representative to agree the resources to be mobilised.

Requests for SFRS national resilience resources to be deployed in other administrations could have the effect of reducing national (Scotland) capacity below an effective minimum level, which is likely to have political implications. Where this is likely to be the case, CFO - SFRS or their nominated representative will liaise with the Chair of the NFCC in England with a view to identifying an alternative solution.

Despite the differences in governance arrangements, both Administrations recognise that operational requirements are of the utmost importance and agreement to work collectively to support public safety in both England and Scotland has therefore been reached.

## 6.3 Northern Ireland

Arrangements for addressing major emergencies in Northern Ireland are similar in operational terms to those in England but, as Fire and Rescue matters are fully devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly, operational monitoring and reporting arrangements to Ministers are different and will be managed by the Northern Ireland Assembly through the NIFRS sponsoring Department of Health.

Should a major emergency, that requires additional resources which are not available through local arrangements, occur in Northern Ireland, the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (CFRO) – Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) or their nominated representative would contact the Chair of the NFCC in England to request assistance of resources from England through the established National (UK) Mutual Aid Arrangements. The identified resources will be mobilised through the NRAT and monitored through NCAF processes. Should resources to assist with a major emergency in England be required from Northern Ireland, then the Chair of the NFCC or representative NSAT in England would contact the CFRO – NIFRS or their nominated representative to agree the resources to be mobilised.

Requests for NIFRS national resilience resources to be deployed in other administrations could have the effect of reducing national (Northern Ireland) capacity below an effective minimum level, which is likely to have political implications. Where this is likely to be the case, CFRO – NIFRS or their nominated representative will liaise with the Chair of the NFCC in England with a view to identifying an alternative solution.

Despite the differences in governance arrangements, both Administrations recognise that operational requirements are of the utmost importance and agreement to work collectively to support public safety in both England and Northern Ireland has therefore been reached.

## 7 Appendix A

Nationally reportable incident categories and associated guidance:

10+ pump incident	Civil Disturbance	Incidents in medium/high rise
CBRNe incident	Firefighter serious injury	Fire involving historic buildings
Firefighter fatality	COMAH/pipeline incident	Incident involving consulate/embassy
Incident generating high media interest	Major incident	Incidents involving CNI
Incident involving mass evacuation	MTA incident	Major road network
Major flooding	Suspect package	Waste fires
Marine	Adverse weather conditions	National assets in use
Wildfires	Significant security incidents	

### 10+ pump incident

Any incident 10 pumps and above.

### Confirmed CBRN(e) incident

One or more MD Units have been mobilised.

Two or more DIM vehicles have been mobilised (or have been requested).

Mobilisation of DIM could be for either, deliberate reconnaissance or in support of the MDMM

### Firefighter Fatality

Immediate notification is required for all firefighter fatalities.

NB: Due to the sensitivity in nature, there is no requirement to report names and circumstances involved. Either a SPOC (Single Point of Contact) or NILO (National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer) contact number must be provided so the NRAT Duty Officer can retrieve any information via mobile phone.

### Incidents generating high media interest

Significant incidents reported by BBC/Sky News agencies, social media sites (but not local news agencies). Examples include fires in sheltered accommodation, fires in historic buildings, incidents involving CNI sites, hospitals or RTC/fires with multiple fatalities.

### Incidents involving mass evacuation

Considerations for reporting incidents that involve mass evacuation, which is expected to be large scale and long term.

NB: Consider impact to Fire Service resources, property, NR asset availability and/ or locations; and impact on CNI sites.

### Major Flooding

Large scale incidents causing widespread flooding and spate conditions (caused by flooding). Any incidents where there could be a potential for the deployment of Flood Rescue or HVP Assets.

### Marine incidents

Any incidents involving marine vessels or marine type incidents (ships in port or at sea).

## **Wildfires**

Any uncontrolled vegetation fire where a decision or action is needed about its suppression. A wildfire will meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Involves a geographical area of at least one hectare (10,000 square metres)
2. Has a sustained flame length of more than 1.5 metres
3. Requires a committed resource of at least four fire and rescue service appliances/resources
4. Requires resources to be committed for at least six hours
5. Presents a serious threat to life, environment, property and infrastructure

## **Civil Disturbance**

Large scale civil disturbances which would have an impact on Fire & Rescue Service operations, resources, property and/or personnel. NB: Notification required where there is NR asset damage or any crime related incidents that affects Fire & Rescue Service resources or personnel. Also linked to incidents of high media interest, major incident or Incidents of Special Interest. Update NR asset status when assets become unavailable or moved to a different location due to the period of disturbance.

## **Firefighter Serious Injury**

Immediate notification is required for all firefighter injuries reportable under RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Occurrences Regulations 2013). NB: Due to the sensitivity in nature, there is no requirement to report names and circumstances involved. Either a SPOC or NILO contact number must be provided so the NRAT Duty Officer can retrieve any information via telephone contact.

## **Incidents involving COMAH/Pipeline**

Any significant incident involving and impacting COMAH sites or pipelines, with the potential to be linked to multiple criteria (major incident, 10 pumps + incident, incident of high media interest, incidents involving CNI sites etc). PDA COMAH sites).

## **Major Incident**

Any incident that an Incident Commander has deemed a major incident as identified from a METHANE Message. A major incident may be formally declared by police, but it is not deemed major for an FRS. This may be reported at the discretion of the Officer in Charge of Control, because it hits multiple criteria and there is significant fire service involvement or national assets are in use. NB: Consider any incident that impacts Fire and Rescue Service operations or resilience. This is particularly relevant for NRFC as NR assets could be travelling through an area following a national mutual aid request, where they are unable to communicate with NRFC.

## **MTA Incident**

Any incident suspected or confirmed as terrorist in nature (likely to have been confirmed as such via an Operation Plato declaration from the Police). These incidents may include Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA), vehicle borne attacks, bladed weapon attacks or incidents involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

## **Suspect Packages**

Confirmed suspect packages that may impact infrastructure and people. This may generate high media interest and hit multiple criteria.

NB: Specific risks and impact may be confirmed by a NILO, due to the sensitive nature of the incident. In these instances, the details of the NILO could be added at the time of notification.

## **Adverse weather conditions impacting on operational activity**

Any incident that has a major impact on an FRS operational activity due to heavy rainfall causing wide area flooding and/or high winds with the potential to cause major building damage or structural collapse.

## **Significant Security Incidents**

To be instigated by a NILO (may be intelligence led) and where there is Fire and Rescue Service involvement.

NB: Only addresses of Rendezvous Points (RVP) are required. Additional information to include a NILO name and telephone contact number,

## **Incidents in medium and high-rise buildings**

Any incident involving a medium or high rise building. Any fire deaths in high rise buildings or other premise triggering multiple criteria (e.g. home of multiple occupancy HMO, sheltered accommodation, multiple fire deaths that hit incidents generating high national media interest, major incidents or incidents of special interest).

NB: There is no requirement to report fire death in domestic premise unless it hits multiple criteria or is deemed an incident of special interest (multiple fatalities or unusual circumstances).

## **Fires involving historic buildings**

All fires in any historic buildings, especially buildings of special risk due to the building construction or in areas with poor water supplies.

NB: Any historic building with an HVP added to the pre-determined attendance (that attends) must be added as national assets in use. Small rubbish fires in grounds or areas surrounding historic buildings need not be reported, unless there is direct impact to the property or significant fire spread deems it reportable. May be linked to major incident, incident of high media interest, national assets in use and/or 10 pumps+ incident.

## **Incident involving Consulate/Embassy**

All incidents involving consulates or embassy's, with the potential to meet the criteria for high media interest. This would predominantly affect the London/metropolitan areas.

## **Incidents involving Critical National Infrastructure**

Incidents involving and impacting hospitals, railways stations, power stations, major road networks, railways lines, national grid etc, and may hit multiple criteria.

## **Incident involving Major Road Network**

Only needs to be reported if carriageways are closed for a protracted period and may have a wider impact on infrastructure or may hit multiple criteria of incidents of special interest, major incident (e.g. multiple fatalities, major disruption etc.).

NB: NRFC would need to know if there are disruptions to routes where they have sent NR Assets. Once reported they may consider rerouting assets if they think the road network would affect their attendance time or ability to proceed to an incident.

**Waste Fires**

Any fires on waste sites, renewable energy facilities and other sites where waste is handled, stored or transported as part of a wider operation. A waste fire will meet on or more of the following criteria:

1. 4 pumps or above
2. Likely to be protracted more than 24 hours
3. Waste Fire that requires a multi-agency Tactical Coordination Group or Strategic Coordination Group meeting

**National Assets in Use**

Any incident where nationally declared assets are in use locally, with the exception of ELS (ELS will only be deployed via NRFC)

## 8 Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

C&C	Command and Control
COBR	Cabinet Office Briefing Room
CPFG	Crime Police & Fire Group
DEFRA	Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DIM	Detection, Identification and Monitoring
ELS	Enhanced Logistics Support
ESS	Electronic Support System
FRS	Fire and Rescue Service
FRS resources	All resources available to the FRS (both National Resilience resources and non-National Resilience resources)
HO	Home Office
HVP	High Volume Pump
ISAR	International Search and Rescue
JESIP	Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
Major Emergency	As defined within CCA 2004
MASHA	Multi Agency Strategic Holding Area
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government
MMC	Mobilising and Monitoring Cell
MTA	Marauding Terrorist Attack
NCAF	National Coordination and Advisory Framework
NFCC	National Fire Chiefs Council
NILO	National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer
NR	National Resilience
NRAT	National Resilience Assurance Team
NRFC	National Resilience Fire Control
NRFP	National Resilience & Fire Programmes
NSAT	National Strategic Advisory Team
OSCT	Office of Security & Counter Terrorism
RCG	Recovery Coordination Group
RED	Resilience and Emergencies Division
SCG	Strategic Coordinating Group
SHA	Strategic Holding Area
TacAd	Tactical Adviser
TCG	Tactical Coordinating Group
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue