

## Looking forward to 2008

### **First I wish you all a very Happy and prosperous New Year.**

I thank all of you who took the time to feedback to me your views and comments on the first newsletter, it would appear that you have regarded this as a positive step forward in maintaining CFFT communications.

I apologise for the delay in issuing the second edition, it was my intention to communicate using this means bi-monthly, however, I like most of you also have a day job and operational responsibilities, and without making too many excuses I have simply not had the time.

In my role as communications lead for the group I have begun to cajole and harangue the regional chairs with regard holding regular meetings. Please let me know as early as possible in 2008 when and where you intend to meet, so that where possible I can attend to offer up to date information and any necessary support.

I thank South East Region for their report for this edition; there is also an update on the Guidance & Compliance Framework Document and an interesting article on Partnership building between West Midlands FRS and Birmingham International Airport. That article was supplied by Bob Slade who is associated with Simulation. Simulation have manufactured a number high quality Fire Behaviour Units (both gas and carbonaceous) for the UK and world market, and are just one of many service providers who have shown a keen interest in contributing to this forum. I hope that we will be able to invite all those interested to join us, but practically have to think about sheer numbers. I intend discussing this with members of the communications group in early 2008 and hope to have a realistic view of sustainability following that meeting.

The Group held the second of the 2007 annual meetings in October, this was held at the Sea Rescue Centre in Jersey, and I thank Jim Dave and Jersey Fire Rescue Service for being generous hosts.

Below is a précised report from that meeting, if you would like a full copy of the minutes please contact our Secretary [tam.alford@dsfire.gov.uk](mailto:tam.alford@dsfire.gov.uk)

Finally, and on behalf of all members of the group I would like to congratulate our Chair Andy Fry, who in December joined

Suffolk Fire Rescue Service in his new role as Deputy Chief Officer. His new position can only serve to strengthen our representation at principal officer level.

### **2nd Annual Group Meeting October 2007 – Jersey**

Andy Fry reported that CLG (Communities & Local Government) will manage consultation process of Guidance & Compliance Framework Document rewrite (See report from Lee Drawbridge below).

Andy Fry reiterated importance of Local and Non Local Authority Regional Meetings and reports. Tam Alford was asked to remind Regional Chairs.

All Group members are requested to contact Tam Alford with regard policy and regularity of refresher training for Service personnel and instructors. It was agreed a workshop would be convened at the next CFFT group meeting.

Attendees agreed the draft user specification for firefighting branches, this will now be used as basis for procurement of firefighting branches used at high rise incidents.

A discussion was had with regard use of hosereel and main branches when compartment fire fighting training. It was agreed that a flexible approach should be used, based on dynamic risk assessment. This approach should match appropriate firefighting media to relevant fire training scenarios. Graham Norrie to draft guidance for next group meeting.

Andy Fry agreed to contact CLG reps and clarify role of CFFT Group as technical advisory group.

Andy Fry reminded all Group members of importance of their respective engagement in the first stage consultation part of the revised Guidance & Compliance Framework Document for Compartment Firefighting Training. He asked that all regional reps and specialist chairs drive necessary engagement.

Craig Kelsall of The Fire Service College requested guidance with regard technical definitions (Flashover, Backdraught, etc). Craig agreed to head a task group to present a solution at the next main Group meeting.

## Current Workstreams

### Compartment Fire Behaviour Trainer BTEC Level 3 Award

Since the launch of this important qualification by Edexcel in September 2007, a number of training providers have initiated the work they are required to carry out in order to qualify as approved centre status. These include Devon & Somerset FRS, Essex County FRS, The Fire Service College and Hampshire FRS. I would ask that anyone attending a FBTI course at an approved centre in 2008 contacts me so that I can report from a student perspective.

Contact: [stephen.richards@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.richards@london-fire.gov.uk)

### Guidance & Compliance Framework for Compartment Firefighting Training – Review Update

Since the article regarding the document in the first issue of CFFT news I have discussed proposals for the revision at the National meeting in Jersey and at various Regional meetings. It has been decided and agreed that the new document should mirror the structure recommended in the Successful Health & Safety Management Model (HSG 65) i.e.:

- a) Policy – statement identifying clear direction of organisation.
- b) Organisational roles & responsibilities – identified management structure to deliver the policy.
- c) Planning – establishment of effective safety management systems.
- d) Implementation – training delivery.
- e) Monitor – measure of performance.
- f) Audit – levels of training, equipment and supervision.
- g) Review – periodic check of policy to ensure strategy remains effective.

The document will detail how organisations can satisfy each stage of the model. This structure will provide CFFT providers with a logical path to follow through to training delivery and evaluation. It will also ensure that safe facilities, systems of work and quality assurance are in place, whilst allowing individual training providers sufficient flexibility to satisfy their own identified organisational needs from their Integrated Risk Management Plans and Training Needs Analysis etc.

It has also been identified that the revised document needs as far as possible to be 'future proof', in order to achieve this it is likely that some guidance may be signposted to the CFOA website – work is currently underway to make a link available via this site where the group will be better able to provide up to date best practice advice taking account of current developments in the field. The types of information that could be provided by this link are examples of CFFT facilities, health and facility monitoring, training aims & objectives etc.

The first draft of the revised document should be available for initial consultation in early '08. It is hoped that it will then be ratified at the next group meeting after which discussions with

Department for Communities & Local Government can commence regarding publication.

Contact: [lee.drawbridge@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:lee.drawbridge@london-fire.gov.uk)

## Health Monitoring Policy

As reported in the first issue work on the above subject is nearing conclusion. John is communicating with Graham Norrie (Grampian FRS) see Jersey report below.

Contact: [john.sherrington@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:john.sherrington@essex-fire.gov.uk)

## Regional report

Eastern Region – 28/09/07 at 1015hrs at Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Training centre.

Present:	Bob Kilpatrick – Royal Berkshire	BK
	Barry Alderslade – Gatwick airport	BA
	Terry Bond – Kent	TB
	Pete Briggs – Royal Berkshire	PB
	Nigel Cusack – East Sussex	NC
	Lee Drawbridge – London	LD
	Simon Molyneux – Hampshire	SM
	Rob Munday – West Sussex	RM
	Mick South – Kent	MS

Apologies: Nicky Keen – East Sussex NK

### 1. Welcome and introduction

RK welcomed all present to the RBFRS training centre and outlined the need to resurrect the SE Region practitioners meetings.

A list of the CFOA SE region LA brigades and representative authorities were agreed as follows:

- Berkshire
  - Buckinghamshire
  - East Sussex
  - Hampshire
  - Isle of Wight
  - Kent
  - London
  - Oxfordshire
  - Surrey
  - West Sussex
- } LA Brigades

Other representative bodies in the SE region group are Gatwick airport Fire Brigade and Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston & Burghfield Fire Brigade.

All of these brigades will be invited to attend the next Regional group meeting.

NK

<p><b>2. Election of Chair</b></p> <p>It was agreed that nominees for Chair will forwarded to NK for election at the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>	<p>This issue will be raised at the national working group.</p> <p><b>5.2- Gloves</b> Some in attendance agreed that different gloves/gauntlets were also of benefit to instructors due to the number of times that gloves would be removed then replaced during real fire training events.</p> <p><b>5.3 – Cool vests</b> All present were of the opinion that cool vests offered little or no long term benefit during hot fire conditions and that they were relatively cumbersome when worn with fire kit and BA.</p> <p><b>5.4 – Fire hoods</b> Wearing of fire hoods was discussed and there were a number of variations between individuals and organisations, however, the general consensus is that the best protection is achieved by the wearing of two fire hoods.</p>	
<p><b>3. Election of National representative</b></p> <p>It was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting. In the meantime, LD, SM and RM will be attending the next National meeting in Jersey on 19th October and will represent the SE region.</p>			
<p><b>4. Health Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>4.1 – National guidance</b> RK referred to the guidance being completed by John Sherrington and asked for comments to be sent to John prior to the completed version being approved at the National meeting. It was agreed that national guidance on this subject was needed even though most services were already working close to standards in the draft version.</p> <p><b>4.2 – Air monitoring</b> It was agreed that this should be discussed as a formal agenda item at a future meeting.</p> <p><b>4.3 – Laundering</b> SM asked the group what the general systems were used for laundering and the duration laundering of PPE to reduce exposure to particles from burnt materials. The majority of authorities employ a total care package for laundering and repair of PPE.</p> <p><b>4.4 – Heart monitoring</b> PB gave an overview of tests being carried out by RBFRRS to gather information/evidence to take to firefit as part of the National recruitment tests.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>RK</b></p>		
<p><b>5. PPE</b></p> <p><b>5.1 – Undergarments</b> In general it was agreed that external fire kit should be the same as students wear. However, a majority of those present were of the opinion that instructors should be afforded the additional protection of multi layering of undergarments; this was due to the number of events rather than the duration exposure received by individuals.</p>	<p><b>LD</b> <b>SM</b> <b>RM</b></p>	<p><b>6. BTEC</b></p> <p>LD informed all present that the completed documentation is now available on the Edexcel website. Discussion followed regarding how much individuals can APL existing qualifications and how to prove maintenance of competence.</p> <p>LD also pointed out that the BTEC award is available for competence in units 1&amp;2 and the BTEC certificate is available if individuals also achieve unit 3. More information will be available at the national meeting and will be fed back at the next regional group meeting.</p>	<p><b>LD</b> <b>SM</b> <b>RM</b></p>
		<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <p><b>7.1 - Aquarium breakages</b> LD reported that London had a few aquarium breakages over the months and enquired whether this was a national trend. Although the report is not yet complete, the most likely reason is that the London aquariums are unique in that they are used in mobile units and possible prone to additional stresses on the glass.</p> <p><b>7.2 – Bang box</b> BA enquired whether there were any problems getting the bang box cork to lift during flammable range experiments. Many suggestions were forthcoming which BA will feed back.</p>	<p><b>BA</b></p>

<p><b>7.3 – Telemetry</b> NC enquired whether anyone present had had much involvement with the Draeger telemetry equipment. The general consensus was that few members of the regional group had actually used this equipment, so couldn't give an informed critique.</p> <p><b>7.4 – Bodyguard</b> NC also enquired how individuals got on with the Bodyguard. Again, those brigades that were actually using this equipment (part of the Draeger sets) found that once crews had got use to the equipment that there were no real problems.</p> <p><b>7.5 – BA Communications</b> BA enquired what other Brigades did for effective communications between instructors and crews. There was a varied mix of answers and BA will look in to what would best suit his training exercises.</p> <p><b>7.6 – Red skin events</b> RK enquired whether red skin events were reported in a structured format like other injuries. The majority of these events were recorded in a separate log dependant upon the severity.</p>	
<p><b>8. Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>TBA but would be circulated with plenty of notice in due course.</p>	<p><b>NK</b></p>

Meeting closed: 1215hrs

Followed by a tour of RBFRS Fire training facility.

### Article of interest

West Midlands Fire & Rescue Service (WMFRS) & Birmingham International Airport Ltd (BIA)  
Fire Behaviour Partnership

In 2004, after the need for real CFFT had been recognised a partnership was formed on the basis of affordability, location, environmental restrictions and expertise.

BIA had the location on their fire ground and necessary EA approvals to burn carbonaceous materials on site. However, no money was available for new infrastructure after the recent investment on a new aircraft simulator, but there was an allowance in the training budget for CFFT.

WMFRS wanted to build a CFFT unit to supplement their LPG unit but were having difficulty finding a central location with EA approval. They were also confident that finance would be made available if the above criteria could be met.

After a chance and timely meeting and 12 months of negotiation and justification, both parties agreed on the following partnership terms:

WMFRS would offer support and expertise, majority finance and CFFT instructor training in conjunction with the Fire Service College.

BIA offered the site, site management, part finance, interoperability training and to purchase expert training in other areas from WMFRS, such as BA Instructor etc in the future. The part finance from BIA covered the concrete base, storage and a share in the instructor training costs. WMFRS provided the funds for the H block.

These were the partnership considerations:

- Commitment and length of agreement.
- Legal agreement for both sides.
- Finance.
- Project leaders, managers and negotiators for both sides.
- The provision for regular meetings pre and post build.
- Specification of unit.
- Replacement of unit
- Delivery, payment and storage of materials.
- Future partnership business.

Terms of use:

- Initial training of instructors (outsourced by the Fire Service College).
- Annual diary of use – to avoid conflict.
- Standardisation – one procedure and set of safety standards for both parties.
- Quality control – for training and procedures.
- Succession planning – for instructors and partnership leaders.

In this case an ideal partnership was formed with an airport that already had a close working relationship with their local authority, but it doesn't have to be an airport. If you are considering a partnership route, there are many industrial sites that may be available to you. Some industrial sites have their own fire fighting service and may also offer part finance if approached in the right way!

For further information about creating partnerships and further advice on the above elements email Bob Slade [rtfslade@freenet.co.uk](mailto:rtfslade@freenet.co.uk).