

Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 recommendations relevant to West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Recommendation 27, Paragraph 113.43

"Fire Crews carrying their own, privately sourced, lift keys - We understand that since the problem came to light the London Fire Brigade has taken steps to ensure that only drop keys of an approved pattern are carried by its firefighters. The evidence does not enable us to assess with any confidence whether similar problems have been encountered by other fire and rescue services and, if so, what steps they have taken in response. Accordingly, we are not in a position to determine whether greater standardisation of fire control switches and keys is required. We therefore recommend that the government seeks urgent advice from the Building Safety Regulator and the National Fire Chiefs Council on the nature and scale of the problem and the appropriate response to it."

Recommendation 31, Paragraph 113.55

"That His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (the Inspectorate) inspect the London Fire Brigade as soon as reasonably possible to assess and report on:

- a) the extent to which the control room is now integrated into the organisation;
- b) the effectiveness of the arrangements for identifying the training needs of control room staff, delivering effective training and recording its outcomes;
- c) the effectiveness of the control room generally;
- d) the ability of the control room to handle a large number of concurrent requests for advice and assistance from people directly affected by fires or other emergencies; and
- e) the quality and effectiveness of the arrangements for communication between the control room and the incident commander."

Recommendation 32, Paragraph 113.56

"That as soon as reasonably possible the Inspectorate inspect the London Fire Brigade to examine and report on the arrangements it has in place for assessing the training of incident commanders at all levels and their continuing competence, whether by a process of revalidation or otherwise."

Recommendation 33, Paragraph 113.57

"That as soon as reasonably practicable the Inspectorate inspect the London Fire Brigade to examine and report on its arrangements for collecting, storing and distributing information in accordance with section 7(2)(d) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, and in particular its arrangements for identifying high-risk residential buildings and collecting, storing and distributing information relating to them."

Recommendation 34, Paragraph 113.58

“That the London Fire Brigade establish effective standing arrangements for collecting, considering and effectively implementing lessons learned from previous incidents, inquests and investigations. Those arrangements should be as simple as possible, flexible and of a kind that will ensure that any appropriate changes in practice or procedure are implemented speedily.”

Recommendation 35, Paragraph 113.59

“That Fire and Rescue Services that continue to use low power intrinsically safe radios as part of breathing apparatus consider reserving them only for situations in which there is a real risk of igniting flammable gases and generally using radios of higher power, particularly in high-rise buildings.”

Recommendation 36, Paragraph 113.60

“That all Fire and Rescue Services give consideration to providing all firefighters with digital radios.”

Recommendation 37, Paragraph 113.61

“That firefighters be trained to respond appropriately to the loss of communications and to understand how to restore them.”

Recommendation 38, Paragraph 113.62

“On the night of the Grenfell Tower fire firefighters were unable to distinguish between different types of hydrant. That is a clear indication of a need for better training, and we therefore recommend that basic training on the structure and operation of the water supply system, including the different types of hydrants in use and their functions, be given to all firefighters. Training should also be given on effective measures to increase water flow and pressure when necessary.”

Recommendation 39, Paragraph 113.63

“The Grenfell Tower fire made unusual demands on the supply of water, but other major fires may make similar demands in future. If it becomes necessary to seek the assistance of the statutory water undertaker to increase the volume or pressure of the supply, the fire and rescue service should be able to communicate with it quickly and clearly. We therefore recommend that all fire and rescue services establish and periodically review an agreed protocol with the statutory water undertakers in their areas to enable effective communication between them in relation to the supply of water for firefighting purposes.”

Recommendation 41, Paragraph 113.65

“The National Fire Chiefs Council consider whether, and if so in what circumstances, firefighters should be discouraged from departing from their instructions on their own initiative and provide appropriate training in how to respond to a situation of that kind.”