

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>MERSEYSIDE FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007</b>
<b>REPORT NO.</b>	<b>CFO/167/07</b>
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	<b>CHIEF FIRE OFFICER</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>B. L. LOCKE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE, EXTN. 4501</b>
<b>OFFICERS CONSULTED:</b>	<b>STATION COMMANDER MURPHY</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERSONNEL AT CROXTETH COMMUNITY FIRE AND RESCUE STATION AND THE STRATEGIC RESERVE</b>

### Purpose of Report

1. To inform Elected Members of the Training Course requirements for personnel at Croxteth Community Fire & Rescue Station and members of the Strategic Reserve, that will ensure competence across basic core skills and National Search and Rescue levels, required by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MF&RS).

### Executive Summary

- There is the need for all personnel at Croxteth Community Fire & Rescue Station and members of the Strategic Reserve to be adequately trained in the full range of Search & Rescue activities to be undertaken. This is necessary to ensure safe systems of work are employed on all occasions, across a wide range of different types of rescue activity.

It is the policy of MF&RS to ensure the competence of operational personnel by means of competency based training, this training will prevent work related injuries to personnel and will reduce the risk to and add to the protection of the organisation.

MF&RS allocate training courses based upon the provision of requiring sufficiently trained personnel in order to maintain safe systems of work for each of the USAR, water rescue and general operational disciplines

To assist in reducing the costs of training courses to the Authority, MF&RS have adopted the strategy wherever possible of training the trainers, this allows us to able to deliver "in house" training courses to other Operational personnel.

## Recommendations

2. That,

Members agree to the content of the report and to release the necessary funding to provide the training for personnel, from the modernisation fund.

## Introduction and Background

3. IRMP action point no 2.4 (IRMP 2006/7) required the integration of the existing Search & Rescue Team (SART) into the station establishment at N3 Croxteth to provide a one station resource that would provide an immediate Fire and Rescue response to the Croxteth community, together with a County wide rescue provision, whilst maintaining availability to the national USAR capability.
4. The implementation of this IRMP point allowed for revised crewing at Croxteth, with a resulting reduction of 18 whole time posts, creating a cashable efficiency saving of £632,068 for the Authority.
5. This report detailing the training requirements for Croxteth Community Fire and Rescue Station and the Strategic Reserve is the final phase in the implementation of the overall strategy of the revised crewing for this Station.
6. One of the main challenges for the Service therefore is to ensure that the additional staff at Croxteth (those over and above the initial 26 SART members post IRMP 2006/7), receive training as soon as is practicably possible to elevate rescue competence to national basic SART levels in the areas of:-
  - Collapse structures (Urban Search and Rescue USAR)
  - Rescues from Heights
  - Confined Space
  - Trench Collapse
  - Swift Water and Urban Floor Response
  - Heavy vehicle and rolling stock extrication.
7. In addition to the above requirements the integrated and expanded team will, in accordance with existing SART service provision, provide on a “pan Service” basis, non fire specific rescue support, and rescue training to all fire station personnel. The expanded team would also be expected to provide a national response in accordance with the nationally agreed “USAR Concept of Operations” document.
8. The Chief Officer wishes to take this opportunity to update members on the Hazmat Station concept to be introduced at Bromborough Community Fire Station, with specific regard to training. A training needs analysis is presently being prepared to identify the necessary training to achieve the required skills and competencies to operate an enhanced Hazmat response. Once completed, a report will be brought to members identifying the training providers and the associated funding required in order to provide the necessary training.

## Equality & Diversity Implications

9. None.

## Financial Implications

10. There is a requirement for all personnel at N3 Croxteth to have the correct skills and competencies, and a matrix of course requirements are attached in (Appendix A).

11. To ensure that each training course shift loss is covered, a detached duty into N3 Croxteth Community Fire & Rescue Station will be required, this calculation is also attached in (Appendix A)

**The total cost of bringing all personnel up to the skill level required is £ 247,519 inclusive of detached duty costs .**

12. It is requested members agree to release the money required to provide this training from the modernisation fund.

13. To reduce the costs of training courses to the Authority, MF&RS have adopted the strategy of training the trainers, to deliver “in house” training courses to other operational personnel.

14. This policy is highlighted in (Appendix A) whereby costs of courses that would be incurred by an outside training provider, have been offset by training our own personnel, the saving in each of the Search & Rescue disciplines is as follows:-

<b>USAR</b>	<b>£11,200</b>
<b>ROPE RESCUE</b>	<b>£32,670</b>
<b>WATER RESCUE</b>	<b>£18,225</b>
<b>TOTAL SAVING</b>	<b>£ 62,095.</b>

## BACKGROUND PAPERS