



SHROPSHIRE

Fire and Rescue Service

<u>CONTENTS</u>	Page No
PURPOSE	1
STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	1
ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW	1
INTRODUCTION	2
MOBILISATION	2
PROCEEDING TO AN INCIDENT	2
LIAISON WITH THE POLICE	2
SAFETY OF BRIGADE PERSONNEL	3
POINTS OF REFERENCE	3

**BRIGADE ORDER
OPERATIONS
NO. 10**

PART 5

**SUICIDE
INCIDENTS**

BRIGADE ORDER OPERATIONS NO 10

PART 5 – SUICIDE INCIDENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Order is to outline the mobilisation and operational procedure for dealing with potential suicide incidents.

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This Brigade Order supports the following Strategic Aims :

Strategic Aim 1 “Reduce the risk to life and material loss from fire, road traffic collisions and other emergencies in the community”

Strategic Aim 2 “Protect life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies

Strategic Aim 3 “ Secure the highest level of safety and welfare for all staff and Authority members by providing effective leadership, training, equipment and systems of work

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW

The **Head of Operational Response** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

Incident Commanders will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Head of Operational Response** will review this Order biennially in October and as and when organisational changes take place.

INTRODUCTION

Suicide incidents may come in various forms; including people threatening to jump from bridges, buildings and scaffolding, drowning in rivers and pools, vehicle related incidents and self harming by hanging or use of flammable liquids. It is therefore, important that we have a good understanding of procedures relating to all incident types. The safety of crew members is of paramount importance. Dynamic Risk Assessments must be carried out throughout the incident.

MOBILISATION

Normally the first call to a suicide incident will come from the Police.

On this initial call Fire Control will mobilise one pumping appliance and Incident Command to liaise with the Police at a pre-determined location. Once contact has been made with the Police at the scene, the Officer in Charge will have to determine if there is a need for additional appliances. On make up the Officer in Charge must establish a Staging Area for all oncoming appliances.

If the incident is an attempted drowning then the Water Rescue Boat and supporting appliances will be sent as part of the initial mobilisation.

PROCEEDING TO AN INCIDENT

Appliances are to proceed with caution and at normal road speed using only blue lights. The use of sirens should be kept to the minimum as this will limit the chance of our attendance inflaming the emotions of the person threatening to, or trying to, commit suicide.

If crews are attending a suicide attempt where a person is known to be already in the water then crews are to proceed at emergency response speed using blue lights and sirens as required.

LIAISON WITH POLICE

As soon as the first appliance is in attendance the Officer in Charge is to liaise with the Police officer in charge and ascertain the service required from us. The Police officer in charge will be required to sign a Special Service report form FB64.

SAFETY OF BRIGADE PERSONNEL

The safety of Brigade personnel is of paramount importance at this type of incident.

Dynamic Risk Assessment should be carried out throughout the entire period of the incident.

The relevant level of PPE should always be worn.

If operating above or below ground then the Officer in Charge must consider using line safety equipment as a form of work restraint or work positioning.

When operating at the water's edge, crew members must wear full fire kit and life jackets / buoyancy aids. The use of line safety equipment should also be considered as a form of work positioning or work restraint.

A risk assessment should be used to determine the need to wear a fire helmet when working near water. The fire helmet should be removed unless there is a risk of falling debris.

Only crew members wearing dry suits and who are adequately trained to Swift Water Rescue Technician (SRT) Level 1 or Advanced Level are allowed to enter the water, they must be wearing dry suits and helmets and be attached to a floating safety line.

Crews MUST NOT attempt sub surface rescues, which involve them placing their head under the surface of the water.

POINTS OF REFERENCE

Specific Incident Procedure (SIP) WORKING AT HEIGHT
WATER RESCUES

Fire Service Manual
Volume 2 Fire Service Operations SAFE WORKING NEAR ON OR IN WATER
ROPE WORKING

Guide to Operational Risk Assessment