



SHROPSHIRE

Fire and Rescue Service

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Part 5

Brigade Chaplain

Section 3 Brigade Chaplain

Introduction

Personnel will be aware that the service has a Brigade Chaplain who is able to offer appropriate pastoral guidance to staff of all faiths. In addition, at certain incidents and especially in the case of major incidents of a catastrophic nature, the Chaplain may be able to offer some comfort to both victims and their families.

The following procedures should be followed in order to provide a safe system of work for the Brigade Chaplain, and to ensure smooth co-ordination between the religious and pastoral priorities of the Chaplain, the incident's operational plan, the Fire and Rescue Service's Health and Safety responsibilities, and the operational priorities of the Incident Commander or other emergency service personnel. This Order will also provide an understanding of the Chaplain's role in relation to operational incidents.

Requesting the Chaplain's attendance

The Brigade Chaplain will be informed by Fire Control of any Incident where there have been confirmed fatalities or where the incident could cause distress to members of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service. If the Incident is going to require a critical incident debrief or has particularly large numbers of casualties or fatalities then the attendance of the Chaplain might help, and the Incident Commander may request the Chaplain to be mobilised to the Incident.

The Chaplain would then be able to gain first hand experience of the specific incident and be more able to assist in the de- briefing process should this be required.

The Chaplain is available for non-urgent enquiries via Fire Control between the hours of 0700 and 2300 each day. Should the Chaplain be required to attend an incident, Fire Control will mobilise him/her regardless of the time of day.

In the event that the Chaplain is either contacted as a matter of course by Fire Control, he will endeavour to make initial telephone contact with the officer in charge of each station involved in the incident. The Chaplain will offer to visit either the station, groups of staff or individuals, regardless of their faith or denomination.

Attendance at incidents

In appropriate circumstances, the Incident Commander may determine that the attendance of the Brigade Chaplain at the scene of operations may be beneficial, either for the welfare of staff, victims or their families. The Incident

Commander will advise any other service present at the scene that he will be requesting the attendance of the Chaplain. Where arson is suspected or fatalities are involved additional permission to assist or administer pastoral care must be sought from the senior Police officer present at the scene.

The Incident Commander will then request attendance of the Chaplain via Fire Control.

The Brigade Chaplain, whilst employed under contract by Shropshire Fire and Rescue as a retained firefighter, has no exemptions from the Road Traffic Regulations and will attend the scene at normal road speed to the given rendezvous point (RVP). When in attendance the Chaplain should park his/her vehicle in accordance with the traffic regulations or restrictions in force at the time and should be guided by the officer designated to be in charge of the RVP.

A sign 'Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Brigade Chaplain' will identify the Chaplain's car. He/she is issued with an identity card and must produce this on request. The sign must not be displayed when the Chaplain is not attending an operational incident.

At the incident

At the scene of a fire the Chaplain will identify him/herself to the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Incident Commander who will be responsible for the Chaplain's safety during the period of his/her attendance at the incident. The Incident Commander should consider nominating a firefighter to escort the Chaplain when on the fireground, thus ensuring his/her health, safety and welfare.

The Chaplain will be guided at all times by the Incident Commander and will only enter those areas considered to be entirely safe for him/her.

The Fire and Rescue Service Incident Commander will be aware of the benefits of administering pastoral care at the scene of fatal incidents and will provide appropriate support to the Chaplain in his ministry. The Incident Commander may consider the provision of temporary shelter for the Chaplain and persons requiring immediate pastoral care.