



# **Interim Operating Procedure**

Enhanced Command Support

Capability for the

Fire & Rescue Service

Executive Summary .....	3
Introduction.....	4
Strategic Holding Area .....	4
ECS Functions .....	5
Interim ECS Mobilisation .....	6
ECS Crewing.....	7
Siting of the interim ECS Vehicle.....	7
ECS Roles and Responsibilities .....	8
Availability of ECS Equipment.....	10
Glossary of Terms .....	11

## Executive Summary

Large scale national incidents may necessitate the mobilisation of large numbers of New Dimension (ND) as well as conventional Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) assets along with the supporting personnel and resources required to allow for long term deployment.

In order to assist the command and control structures of the affected area, a capability is being provided by the Fire and Resilience Directorate (FRD) of Communities and Local Government (CLG). This will be in the form of 9 Enhanced Command Support (ECS) vehicles strategically located at selected host FRSs to support this role.

The vehicles, crewed by personnel with the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding to operate the on board ECS equipment, will support the incident commander by providing organisational and control functions at the nominated strategic holding area (SHA) for the incident. This will allow assets and operators to integrate effectively into the existing incident command structure and contribute towards a positive resolution to the incident, without creating additional burden on the Incident Commander (IC).

This will also help reduce the time taken to resolve such an incident, thus mitigating social and economic impacts and assisting in re-establishing or maintaining key social and economic infrastructures.

The ECS capabilities will be strategically positioned throughout England to ensure an optimum response to any national incident, wherever its location.

This document provides an interim framework for the ECS capability. This interim framework will remain in place until the ECS capability is completed. The full capability is expected to be operational by the end of this year.

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide national guidance on the interim operating procedures for the use of the ECS capability. It details the framework within which the provision of a national response capability to major catastrophic incidents operates.

This procedure focuses on the capabilities ECS units are able to offer in support of the IC and includes the deployment of trained personnel, vehicles and equipment.

### **The primary function of the ECS capability is:**

To enhance the FRS command and control capability, allowing effective deployment and use of assets at any national level incident.

As a secondary function the ECS capability may be used to provide back up support to any of the following locations:

- The CLG Emergency Room (Fire)
- Gold Command or
- As required by the National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT).

## Strategic Holding Area

A SHA is a location large enough to accommodate and manage the resources and to provide the facilities necessary to meet the needs of personnel responding to an incident that has a national impact.

In the case of the model response, (a multi-agency agreed timeline to attend national incidents in high risk target areas based upon a number of concurrent incidents), suitable SHA locations have been pre-identified.

A national level incident is referred to within the ND environment as a level 4 incident and is defined as;

*'an incident that is dealt with by resources deployed by the affected FRS, supported by mutual aid assistance from assisting FRSs from anywhere in the UK, obtained with the assistance of national co-ordination.'*

The Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre, (FRSNCC) in West Yorkshire would provide the co-ordination of resources from across the nine English regions.

A SHA should have sufficient area set aside to accommodate the level of resources required to deal with a level four incident and be suitable for facilitating Enhanced Command Support in four main functional areas, these being:

- **Operations**
- **Logistical**
- **Planning**
- **Communications**

Provision for command and control, communications, logistical support and support services for personnel are core requirements within the SHA and are structured specifically for the management of a specialist ND operational response i.e. Mass Decontamination (MD), High Volume Pumping (HVP) and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) but will also be capable of providing any other command and control, communications, logistical support or welfare arrangements required by the affected FRS.

Direct management of the incident is not within the remit of the ECS resources at the SHA.

Marshalling / forward command area(s) should be established by the affected FRS to manage resources sent to the incident either directly or from the SHA.

## ECS Functions

- **Operations Support** - Situation awareness and safety briefing of crews at the SHA, inter-service liaison, SHA on-site and, where applicable, off-site resource co-ordination. Liaison with the Incident Commander or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure, advice to the Incident Commander on resources, co-ordination of personnel and equipment, deployment of personnel and equipment to the incident and marshalling within the SHA
- **Logistics Support** - Co-ordination and provision of sufficient resources to the SHA in a timely response to requests from the Incident Commander and management of crew welfare and capability consumables
- **Planning Support and Information Management** - Proposing and reviewing information, planning resource / relief plans / meetings / briefing and debriefing within the SHA. (An Enhanced Briefing Facility (EBF) structure based on the MD1 Mass Decontamination structure offers briefing and rest facilities for up to 30 fire-fighters. It comes complete with tables, chairs, communications and briefing equipment.)
- **Communication Support** - Communication and recording of actions / decisions and maintenance of the relevant log(s) within the SHA

In all cases the identified ECS capability will have a support fire appliance and crew supplied by the FRS in whose boundaries the SHA is located, or a neighbouring FRS. This crew will be used for marshalling and vehicle movements and will receive instruction, on arrival at the SHA, from the ECS Officer (ECOSO).

## Interim ECS Mobilisation

Until the full ECS capability is rolled out an interim procedure will be in place.

The interim ECS FRS supplying vehicles and / or personnel will be termed the Assisting FRS and the FRS requesting such assistance will be termed the Affected FRS.

Requests for ECS should be made by the Affected FRS to the FRSNCC who will in turn liaise with the ECS capability team before requesting mobilisation from the most appropriate Assisting FRSs control room.

The ECS capability team is;

Mark Wilson-North 07919 492249 (Primary Contact)  
Keith Button 07967 690733

In the event of the ECS capability team not being reachable, FRSNCC must liaise with the NRAT duty officer before mobilising an interim ECS resource.

The interim ECS capability Assisting FRSs are;

Gloucestershire  
Hampshire  
Nottinghamshire

Any of the nine FRSs with specially trained ECS personnel may also be requested to mobilise crews to support the interim ECS capability. The means of delivering the personnel will be determined by the Assisting FRS.

The ECS trained FRSs are;

Cumbria  
Devon and Somerset  
Gloucestershire  
Hampshire  
Hereford and Worcestershire  
Kent  
North Yorkshire  
Nottinghamshire  
Suffolk

The FRSNCC will provide the control room of the Assisting FRSs with:

- The name of the affected authority
- The selected SHA details
- The name of the IC
- The name and details of the ECSO
- Any other operational information such as the likely duration of the deployment and the resources currently being mobilised

FRSNCC will also request the support fire appliance and crew to attend the SHA for marshalling purposes.

### **Mobilisation Triggers**

- A request for national support from an affected authority where significant ND resources are currently being deployed
- A request from the CLG Emergency Room (Fire) or FRSNCC following the deployment of ND resources
- Pre-emptive mobilisation following a significant situation such as serious flood warning or the receipt of verified intelligence information.

### **ECS Crewing**

The interim ECS vehicle will be mobilised with four ICS trained and competent personnel. The means of delivering the crew will be determined by the Assisting FRS.

The Interim ECS capability will be supplemented by suitably trained and competent personnel from the nine ECS FRSs as required.

In addition, a member of the ECS capability team and a suitably trained Enhanced Command Support Officer (ECSO) will also be mobilised, (see NCAF document).

### **Siting of the interim ECS Vehicle**

The following factors should be taken into consideration when siting the vehicle:

- It should be parked in a position so that a line of sight to the southern sky is available for a vehicle fitted with satellite capability
- It should be on a level surface and hard standing

- In sufficient space to provide a safe working area. This should be, if possible, away from moving traffic risks
- If the vehicle is to be used close to a risk area the wind direction will need to be taken into consideration
- To prevent accumulation of vehicle exhaust gases the vehicle should be positioned in a well ventilated area
- Due regard should be given to the proximity of overhead obstructions
- When positioning the vehicles, assistants should be used to guide the driver.

## ECS Roles and Responsibilities

The ECS capability will be responsible at all times to the Incident Commander or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure.

Tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Co-ordinating the mobilised resources into, within, and out of the SHA. Any mobilisation requests must be directed through the affected FRS control room or via the communication channel agreed with the IC
- Facilitating logistical support to all appliances including USAR, MD and HVP crews when not undertaken by the affected FRS
- Providing communication links between the IC, FRSNCC, mobilised National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT) members, the CLG Emergency Room (Fire) and other mobilised ECS teams and national advisors
- Under the direction of and the request of the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure, where necessary, co-ordinating crew reliefs and assisting in the facilitation of the affected FRS welfare arrangements
- Under the direction of and the request of the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure, conduct briefings including safety briefings and de-briefings within the SHA
- Facilitate the maintenance, repair and replacement of ND equipment and vehicles in order to maintain identified levels of resources for the duration of the incident
- Under the direction of the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure, facilitate the structured return of personnel and equipment to their FRS

## Enhanced Command Support Officer

The ECSO will be responsible for all activity within the SHA and will act as the principal link between the ECS team, IC, FRSNCC and the CLG Emergency Room (Fire).

**Role of ECSO:**

- Report to SHA and establish ECS to the incident
- Receive a brief from the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure to establish and determine immediate, medium and long term requirements
- Gather information, location of sectors, objectives, communications channels etc
- Manage the efficient movement of all resources in and out of the SHA
- Establish communication links with the Prime Contractor (VT), FireBuy and Local Authority where appropriate
- Brief Logistics, communication, planning and operations officers within the ECS team
- Manage all Logistic, Communications, Planning, and Operational officers and other resources to meet the IC requirements
- Manage the co-ordination of shift patterns and reliefs for all ECS personnel
- Provide advice and support to the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure
- Liaise with all other agencies present at the SHA
- Liaise and support the affected FRS as requested
- Ensure that the ECS structure is appropriate and flexible enough to respond to the particular requirements of the incident
- Manage the utilisation of the Enhanced Briefing Facility efficiently, when deployed
- Anticipate future incident / ND requirements and discuss with the IC or nominated single point of contact within the affected FRS command structure
- Manage the staged withdrawal and return of resources to their respective host locations through the SHA
- Manage the timely make up of the ECS and if necessary the SHA as the incident needs are met and ECS is no longer required

## Availability of ECS Equipment

The availability of the interim ECS capability will be recorded by the FRSNCC as being either:

- Fully available
- Available with limited capability
- Delayed – over four hours
- Off the run

It is the responsibility of the Assisting FRS to ensure that the FRSNCC is informed immediately of any changes to the operational status of the interim ECS Capability.

The interim ECS capability is not intended to completely replicate the full ECS capability but provides support whilst the full project is completed.

## Glossary of Terms

<b>CLG</b>	Communities and Local Government.
<b>CLGER</b>	Communities & Local Government Emergency Room
<b>DRA</b>	Dynamic Risk Assessment
<b>EBF</b>	Enhanced Briefing Facility
<b>ECS</b>	Enhanced Command Support
<b>ECSO</b>	Enhanced Command Support Officer
<b>FRD</b>	Fire and Resilience Directorate
<b>FRS</b>	Fire and Rescue Service
<b>FRSNCC</b>	Fire and Rescue Service National Coordination Centre
<b>Assisting FRS</b>	An authority providing assistance to the affected authority
<b>Affected FRS</b>	An authority in whose area a incident occurs
<b>HVP</b>	High Volume Pump
<b>IRU</b>	Incident Response Unit
<b>IC</b>	Incident Commander
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System
<b>LA</b>	Local Authority
<b>MD</b>	Mass Decontamination
<b>NCAF</b>	National Coordination & Advisory Framework
<b>NRAT</b>	National Resilience Assurance Team
<b>NSAT</b>	National Strategic Advisory Team
<b>SHA</b>	Strategic Holding Area
<b>USAR</b>	Urban Search and Rescue