

Technical Response Units

In November 2020 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue released its Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020 - 2024, and within the Response section we made reference to the Response Framework 2020-2024 in which we highlighted our Response Objectives. One of the Response Objectives stated:

“We will review our operational assets in line with identified and emerging risks ensuring we provide our operational crews with the most up to date equipment possible.”

Our Operational Response is categorised into 5 Levels

- **Level 1 response - All Hazards Response**

All operational personnel are competent to this level of response. Level 1 enables an appropriate response to any incident, with a fully kitted fire appliance and appropriate crew. This level forms our Initial Operational Response (IOR) Phase.

- **Level 2 response - All Hazards Technical Response**

Predominantly utilising fulltime firefighters this level provides additional 'technical' skills and capabilities to enhance and complement the Level 1 attendance.

This response provides a wide range of support to enhance our Level 1 response. In particular our crews within this capability (technicians) are employed and developed to operate strategically around the county to ensure our wider area response is maintained. For example technicians contribute to wider outcomes through enhanced skill sets eg laying guidelines and the use of Extended Duration Breathing Apparatus (EDBA) Station Rope Rescue.

- **Level 3 response - Specialist Response and Technical Rescue**

These are generally stand-alone assets and capabilities that are strategically located around the County to be able to provide specific capability with dedicated crews. They may be mobilised with a supporting Level 1 appliance to provide additional staff.

Examples of these specialist appliances are: 2 x Aerial Ladder Platforms, Water Carrier, Command Support Unit and 2 x Rescue Support Units.

Examples of our Technical Rescue assets are: Animal Rescue teams, Water Rescue teams, Bariatric Rescue teams and Line Rescue teams.

Our response will also include responding to medical emergencies in support of the wider health and wellbeing agenda and the FRS Health Strategy; these activities are included within our Co-Responding and Joint Ambulance Conveyance activities.

- **Level 4 response - Nationally Available Response Assets**

This level provides assets and crews to fulfil our commitment to the National Resilience Concept of Operations outlined within the National Coordination Advisory Framework document. The assets provide the highest levels of response capability available for local response across the County.

Examples of Nationally available assets are: High Volume Pump, Urban Search and Rescue Team, National Flood Tactical Advisors and Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack specialist response.

- **Level 5 response - International Response**

This level is our International Search and Rescue (ISAR) Team which is part of DFID response to support international aid.

This Consultation focuses on the specific Level 3 Specialist and Technical Response as laid out in Section 5.8 of the Response Framework which states:

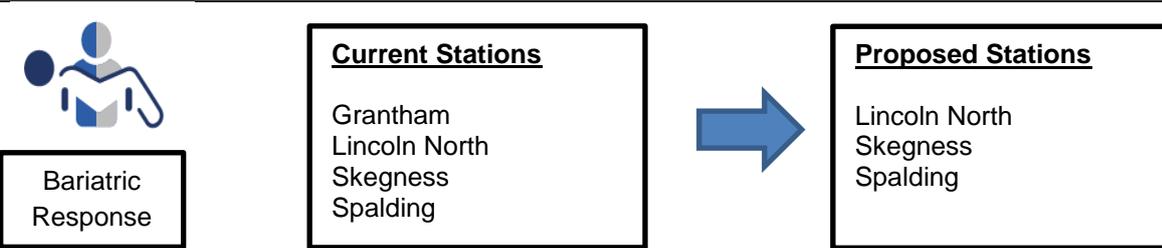
Specialist and technical response - To ensure future service provision around a number of our technical and specialist response areas is fit for purpose and meets the needs of all relevant stakeholders, it is imperative that suitable data is used to allow decisions to be made. To enable this to be planned and resourced fully an information paper was provided to our Service Management Board (January 2020) which analysed data from incidents occurring over the last five years requiring the attendance of LFR specialist/ technical capabilities. This report provided detail on the following capabilities:

- Bariatric response
- Animal rescue large
- Rescues from height (Tech Rope)
- Swift water rescue
- Large transport incidents
- Collapsed structures

In addition to these capabilities Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue shall also be seeking to improve its Command Support Provision. Command Support (CS) is an essential function within the Incident Command Structure and will be used at all incidents. Effective and appropriate CS is critical to the achievement of situational awareness. This will support the delivery of outcome-focused objectives through risk managed response activities.

Bariatric
<p><u>Why we do it?</u></p> <p>In 2011 Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue was approached by Adult Social Care to determine if we could assist East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) to respond and assist with the lifting and moving of +sized patients. Initially we provided one team which was facilitated by the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) crew based from Lincoln North Fire Station. In 2013 the capability was expanded to 4 teams working from Grantham, Lincoln North, Skegness and Spalding in response to the location of the then known +sized patients. As our role is to support another agency the Service does not have to respond within a specific timeframe and therefore EMAS will always be the First Person on Scene.</p>
<p><u>Why do we need to change</u></p> <p>We have reviewed Incident data over a 5 year period between April 2014 and April 2019 and during that time we have attended 120 Bariatric incidents across the County. The team from Grantham has attended only 10 of those incidents, with Sleaford and Spalding attending 34 each and Lincoln North attending 31. Risk Data also shows that of the known +sized people living in the County over 75%</p>

live in the East and less than 5% in the South West of the County.



Relevant Stakeholders:
EMAS, Adult Social Care, Public Health, Local Community, Workforce

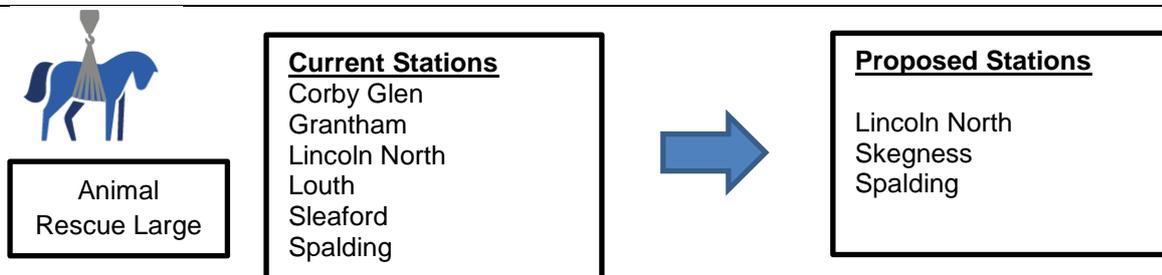
Animal Rescue Large (includes livestock and horses)

Why we do it?

Whilst there is no legal responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service to attend incidents involving animals (responsibility falls to the owner to have suitable means of managing an animal's requirements; where this has not been achieved the RSPCA should be informed), most people will request the Fire Service if a large animal is found in an unsafe position. Whilst the response to the animal is not primarily the reason for a Fire and Rescue attendance the recognition is that people may put themselves at danger if the Fire Service does not attend. In 2008/09 LFR sent members of the USAR team down to Hampshire to become Animal Rescue Large Instructors and used techniques and equipment on this course to build our response. Originally our response was the USAR crew from Lincoln North Station, currently it is delivered by 6 stations (Corby Glen, Grantham, Lincoln North, Louth, Sleaford and Spalding).

Why do we need to change

We have reviewed incident data over a 5 year period between April 2014 and April 2019 and during that time we have attended 88 incidents involving large animals across the County. The team from Grantham has attended only 8 of those incidents, Sleaford 2 and Corby Glen 2, whereas Spalding has attended 21, Lincoln North 29 and Louth 20 with most of these incidents occurring on the East Coast with Skegness as the closest station. Risk data shows the County has 98 farms however it is unknown how many of these farms have animals. We have limited risk data on equine locations but recognise that there are also a number of areas of common land within the County allowing the legal grazing of horses. The known areas are mainly in the north and east of the County.



Relevant Stakeholders:
NFU Lincolnshire Branch, Equine Centres, RSPCA

Technical Rope Rescue

Why we do it?

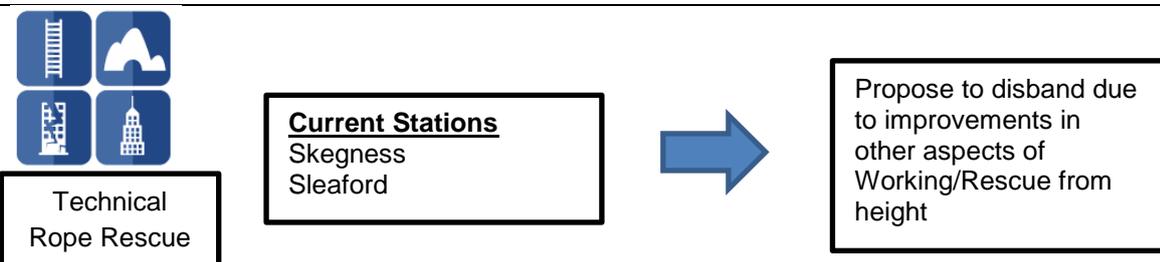
To ensure the appropriate Health and Safety provision is suitable for our operational personnel to complete their work, it is imperative that we have the appropriate systems and equipment to make access to locations where we may be called upon. Standard fire service high level access equipment has been supplemented by some form of high level specialist capability (previously High Line Rescue Team 1980/90s) however following the creation of USAR; personnel were trained to a nationally recognised level of competency by external providers. Within the County some structures have been identified which would benefit from having a Technical Rope aspect, but do not necessarily require all of the skills of the qualified Rope Rescue Operator. Due to the technical nature of the capability there is also a requirement to have trained Supervisors. Lincolnshire has maintained one Technical Rope team since 2006/07. This is now split between Sleaford and Skegness. It must be noted that since the creation of the Technical Rope team other Responses have changed and we now provide a better range of assets to deliver this response including having Station Rope Rescue at all Wholetime Stations, our Hydraulic platforms have been replaced by Aerial Ladder platforms which have an increased capacity and our USAR team have Line Access Casualty Extrication systems.

Why we need to change

We have reviewed incident data over a 5 year period between April 2014 and April 2019 and during that time we identified that our Technical Rope Rescue teams have been mobilised to 17 incidents of which there is no recorded evidence to suggest it was used in a situation that couldn't have been resolved using Station Rope Rescue and other means.

The only known sites in which Technical Rope Rescue was considered was at the Rollercoasters at the Amusement parks in the east of the County. Under the Working at Height regulations owners and operators of these structures have a responsibility to develop an Emergency plan. However Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue regularly exercises at this site and have developed new rescue plans using the Aerial Ladder platform, Station Rope Rescue and Line Access Casualty Extrication.

The training requirements to maintain this skill outweigh the need to provide the asset, the majority of Technical Rope Skills were developed for mountain rescue and the natural terrain in Lincolnshire doesn't present the same challenges.



Relevant Stakeholders:

Fantasy Island, Diocese of Lincolnshire (Cathedral / St Botolphs etc)

Swift Water Rescue

Why we do it?

Whilst there is no specific legal responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service to attend incidents involving water, most people will request the Fire Service if assistance is required. Fire and Rescue Services do fulfil the response under the nationally agreed DEFRA Con ops and as flooding is an ever increasing risk, Fire and Rescue Services under the Civil Contingencies Act, will take on the role of search and rescue in these events.

Lincolnshire hosts 2 different team types as defined by DEFRA:

Type B – boat team with an engine

Type C – boat team without an engine. Boat manoeuvred using paddles and other manual techniques.

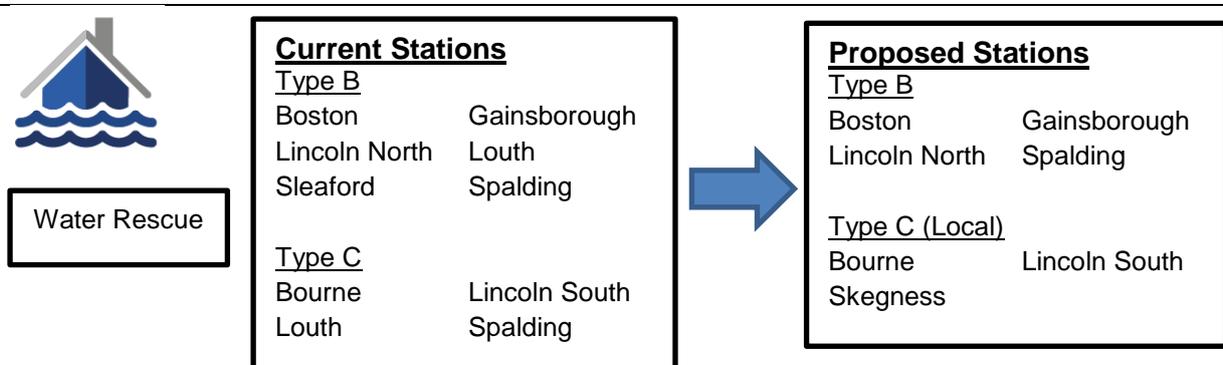
Why do we need to change

Data of incidents attended from April 2014 to April 2019 identified that our Swift Water Rescue teams have been mobilised to 286 incidents of which the majority were resolved before our arrival or by initial attending Fire Crews using basic water rescue equipment. The majority of incidents have occurred in the north east and south of the County. Spalding has been mobilised to 78 incidents, Boston 61, Lincoln North 57, Louth 38, Sleaford 27, Gainsborough 24 and Woodhall Spa 1.

The rivers Haven and Trent are the rivers where our Boat teams have mostly been deployed and used and these rivers, due to them being tidal flow and flow through town centres, are the greatest risk. During flooding incidents our boats have never been used with their engines and when deployed the teams have completed rescues by wading through floodwater.

To maintain this skill requires crews to complete training in Class 2 water (relates to the speed of flow). This requires crews to attend training courses in Wales as this is the nearest suitable Class 2 provider.

Whilst the proposal is to reduce the number of 'Boat teams' it must be noted that all Operational Responders now have Water training and PPE to allow them to complete Water Rescues via a range of other techniques.



Relevant Stakeholders:

Environment Agency, Anglian Water, District Drainage Boards

Large Transport

Why we do it?

As part of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 under Part 2 Core Services, Sections 8 and 9, the Fire Service has responsibility to make provision for response to road traffic collisions and other emergencies.

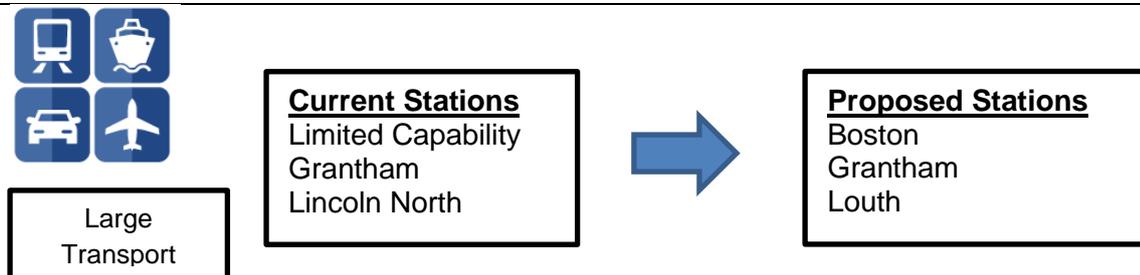
Why do we need to change

Data of incidents attended from April 2014 to April 2019 identified that our crews have mobilised to 526 incidents of which 252 involved LGVs, 178 involved multiple vehicles, 42 involved buses/coaches, 17 involved minibuses, 17 involved aircrafts and 11 involved trains. Our two busiest stations were Grantham and Louth.

The road infrastructure in Lincolnshire is complex and busy with a range of traffic users. The roads have to contend with changes in traffic flow and capacity due to seasonal use related to holidaymakers and agricultural use. Most incidents occurred on the A17, A1 & A16.

The proposal is to increase the number of assets from 2 to 3 by maintaining Grantham, moving the Lincoln North asset to Louth and upskilling Boston. This will provide relevant assets at the locations closest to the highest risks.

The main aim of this upskill is to provide assets that can provide further support to initial attending crews.



Relevant Stakeholders

Hauliers, Road safety partnership? Police, EMAS, NFU

Heavy Rescue (term applied to providing additional rescue capability to emergencies involving collapsed structures and other rescues that may require further equipment and skills)

Why we do it?

As part of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 under Part 2 Core Services Sections 9, the Fire Service has responsibility to make provision for other emergencies.

Why do we need to change

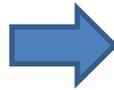
Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue currently provides a limited response to these incidents with further support coming from the USAR team, however, the attendance of USAR is not an immediate response and can take 60 minutes to mobilise. An interim response from an improved Level 3 capability will provide more timely support to our immediate frontline response.

Data of incidents attended from April 2014 to April 2019 identified that USAR has mobilised to 13 incidents which may involve the mobilisation of at least 3 vehicles and 10 personnel. Often when in attendance the requirement has been relatively small and could have been achieved with fewer personnel and minimal equipment.



Heavy
Rescue

Current Stations
Limited Capability
Grantham
Lincoln North



Proposed Stations
Grantham
Louth

Relevant Stakeholders
Commercial Sector

Command Support Provision (relates to an operational activity which supports the Command Team during an Incident)

Why we do it?

Command Support (CS) is an essential function within the Incident Command Structure and will be used at all incidents. Effective and appropriate CS is critical to the achievement of situational awareness. This will support the delivery of outcome-focused objectives through risk managed response activities.

Why do we need to change?

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue currently provides Level 3 Command Support at Market Rasen through a single vehicle. Since the introduction of National Operational Guidance (N.O.G.) Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue has identified those changes need to be made to improve the safe running of operational incidents by updating our systems. Our proposal is to no longer have a single vehicle but to enhance connectivity on all operational assets and provide additional equipment on three Technical Response Units so that they can deliver a better response.



Command
Support
Provision

Current Stations
Market Rasen



Proposed Stations
Gainsborough
Grantham
Louth

Relevant Stakeholders
Commercial Sector

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