

Urban Search and Rescue

Fire and Rescue Services
United Kingdom Rescue Organisation

advancing professional rescue



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UKRO Challenges 2011

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Excel London, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL



**THE CHIEF
FIRE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**

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1 Introduction

Welcome to the 2011 Urban Search and Rescue Challenge.

- 1.1 UK Fire and Rescue Services now have the additional responsibility to attend incidents involving the collapse of structures etc. The Act requires Fire and Rescue Services to be sufficiently trained and equipped not only to deal with incident but to sustain these operations over an extended period in collaboration with other Fire and Rescue Authorities.
- 1.2 The aim of the UKRO 'USAR Challenge' is to bring together teams of Technical Rescue personnel who are committed, not only to displaying their ability, but also to expanding their practical skills by learning from and teaching others involved in the same field.
- 1.3 The UK Challenge is open to all United Kingdom, local authority Fire and Rescue Services.
- 1.4 The skills that the teams have developed in training for the event and pick up during these days will go back with them. This experience, skill and knowledge will be used to great effect when they attend their next incident. The casualty will receive a far better service from firefighters who have attended a UKRO USAR Challenge.
- 1.5 The emphasis at a UKRO Challenge is on developing and promoting 'Best Safe Practice'. The ethos of the 'Challenge' is not merely to win the event. It is more about improving the skills of the UK Fire and Rescue Services in order that they better able to deliver a professional service to the public.
- 1.6 The Challenge is a learning platform, testing skills through strict assessment where participants are encouraged to make a hard and critical examination of their own rescue practices and techniques. Successful teams will need to study current extrication philosophy and search for new and innovative ideas.
- 1.7 Although one team will be adjudged the best team overall, in truth the real winners of this event will be the future victims of a terrorist threat and other major natural or man-made disaster.

2 The Objectives

- 2.1 The Challenge will provide an arena for rescue personnel from across the United Kingdom to come together, in order to stimulate and develop proficiency levels in all areas of rescue, but specifically in:
- Incident Control
 - Safety
 - Casualty Location and Safe Removal
 - Pre-Hospital Care
 - Expert Use of Equipment
- 2.2 It will identify 'best practice' through review of the training techniques implemented by participating teams and transfer that knowledge back to the Fire and Rescue Service of participating teams.

3 The Benchmarks

- 3.1 The UKRO believes that the Challenge is a learning environment. We also believe that the teams that take part are better able to achieve the following benchmarks.
- 3.2 Adopt a 'Safety First' approach, which will be underpinned by dynamic incident command and control.
- 3.3 Possess high and very proficient levels of pre-hospital care attained through a casualty centred approach.
- 3.4 Able to demonstrate their broader knowledge across the spectrum of USAR principles, techniques and scene safety.
- 3.5 Able to demonstrate ingenuity and innovation in terms of technical / practical skill, through deployment of resources.
- 3.6 Teams attain a thorough understanding of the 'safe person' concept.
- 3.7 Through co-operation, teams disseminate an agreed code of best practice.

4 The Challenge

- 4.1 The challenge will be run as a one-off scenario on one of the two days.
- 4.2 Each team will be assessed, using common criteria, by a team of three assessors who will score the following areas:
- Incident command and control, (Command)
 - Physical rescue and general techniques, (Technical)
 - Pre-hospital care, (Medical)
- 4.3 The scenario consist of one of the following 'standard' elements:
- Paratec/airshore shoring
 - Horizontal/Vertical Breaking and Breaching
 - Casualty detection and Safe removal incorporating lifting and moving
- There may be other activities or 'props' in the vicinity in order that the scenario is more realistic..
- 4.4 Teams are allocated forty minutes to complete as much of the task as is safely possible for them to do so.
- 4.5 Each team will be given a 'hot' debrief immediately following their scenario. It must be noted that the assessors' decision is final and all participants are asked to respect that decision.
- 4.6 The UKRO uses live casualties. They are all medically aware and will have an input into the medical rescue assessment.

N.B. A copy of the scoring sheets which are used by the UKRO assessors will be available to every team via the web.

5 The Rules

- 5.1 No team will participate without the written authorisation from a senior manager of their Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.2 Each team will consist of a crew of six; a reserve may be used in the event of an injury or any unforeseen circumstances affecting a participant
- 5.3 Only PPE approved by the crew's FRS will be permitted to be worn by participating team members. UKRO Assessors will have overall discretion on the suitability of the teams PPE.
- 5.4 All participants must wear head, eye, hand, and foot protection at all times.
- 5.5 Each team will be assessed in three primary areas during their scenario:
- Incident Command and Control
 - Technical Rescue and Tool Operation
 - Casualty Detection and Physical Rescue
- Plus, the urgency in which the whole scenario is undertaken will also be considered as part of the assessment.
- 5.6 Basic packaging of the patient will be evaluated using the CABC and S protocols, with care and safety being of prime importance.
- N.B. C= Catastrophic Haemorrhaging**
A = Airway Management
B = Breathing and Resuscitation
C = Circulation
S = Spinal Care
- 5.7 Each scenario will have allocated to it three assessors, who will be working under the direction of the Head Assessor. All scoring information will remain the property of the UKRO and shall remain confidential.
- 5.8 The decision of the Head Assessor concerning any assessment or conduct will be deemed to be final.
- 5.9 A nominated assessor will be appointed as a Safety Officer who will supervise each evolution with authority to halt any action deemed to be in breach of safe working practice.
- 5.10 Teams may use radio communications - in the form of either hand-held radio or helmet attachment, as long as they do not interfere with the host Service's radio frequencies. It will be the team leader's responsibility to supply an assessor with a radio, on the same frequency, in order that instructions to the team can be monitored.

- 5.11** The UKRO and the Host Service will supply a comprehensive selection of equipment (see tool section). Teams may only bring a very limited selection of their own personal equipment with them. For those teams applying to the competition from organisations other than those in England and Wales, or for any clarification/familiarisation on kit requirements, please contact the event organiser mark.nicholas@london-fire.gov.uk
- 5.12** Teams may loan equipment to other teams ensuring any safety features are fully understood by the recipient.
- 5.13** Teams will present themselves to the 'Team Registration' area sixty minutes prior to their designated run off time.
N.B. Failure to do so may result in elimination of the Team.
- 5.14** There will be a briefing of all participants immediately following the Opening Ceremony on the Thursday evening prior to the event.
NB. It is mandatory that all team leaders or their designated deputies attend this briefing
- 5.15** The Organisers and the host Fire and Rescue Service will not be responsible for any damage or loss of any equipment as a result of participating in this event.
- 5.16** Staff compensation, Insurance etc. for the protection of the team members shall be sole responsibility of the participants in the event. The host organisation shall supply 3rd party liability insurance.

6 Code of Conduct

- 6.1 All participants are reminded that they are not only representatives of their own Service, but also the firefighting profession as a whole and are requested to conduct themselves accordingly.
- 6.2 Both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies are formal functions and Teams are expected to present themselves in their Service's 'shirt sleeve order'. Caps are not to be worn.
- 6.3 Participants are expected to be smartly dressed whilst at the Challenge venue, it is preferred that working rig be worn to tour the site, however this can be relaxed to casual wear, so long as it is smart and approved by the team manager.
- 6.4 Full protective clothing will be worn in the USAR training ground, this maybe relaxed during 'make up' at the discretion of the senior assessor and when weather conditions demand.
- 6.5 It is accepted that the evenings events perform an important part of the socialising aspect of the Challenge, but participants are again reminded to behave in a manner befitting their Service and have due regard to non-service persons who may share the same facilities.

7 Tools and Equipment

This year teams may not provide their own equipment, other than personal small gear, i.e. hand tools, medical collar etc. Equipment requested will be provided at team isolation and only equipment that is approved by the assessors prior to commencement of the scenario will be allowed to be used.

Equipment List

- 7.1** The following equipment will be standard and available at each scenario for the UKRO Challenge. All teams must use this equipment.
- A complete set of Paratech Shoring
 - Search Camera and Snake Eye
 - PS 20 Re-bar Detectors
 - Corer DD 130
 - Breaching and Breaking Tools
 - Generators – Electrical & Hydraulic
 - Small Tools
 - Nail Gun, Palm Nailers, Anchors and Bolts
 - Lever Bars, Wedges and Cribbing
 - Timber
 - Dewalt crosscut saw and table
 - Casualty stretchers
 - Trauma kit
 - Selection of lines/ropes for lifting and moving
 - Delsar listening device
- 7.2** Where necessary, backup equipment will be provided.
- 7.3** Please note that all of the above equipment will be available for use and familiarisation prior to commencement of each scenario.
- 7.4** Team's will provide their own dust mask, latex gloves, goggles and ear defenders as appropriate.
- 7.5** Specific equipment brought by individual teams may be considered by the Head Assessor only on provision of current equipment documents detailing that it is fit for use and tested.

8 Health and Safety

- 8.1** A risk assessment will be conducted prior to each evolution by an assessor to ensure the safety of both participants and spectators. Dynamic risk assessment will occur throughout the evolution, not only by the team involved but also by the assessors.
- 8.2** Any unsafe or potentially unsafe practice will be stopped immediately and put right (see Rule 5.10).
- 8.3** All activities within the Challenge site fall under the control of designated staff who have been tasked by the UKRO to maintain high standards of health and safety principals. Teams must play their part in upholding those standards.
- 8.4** No team will be allowed to commence their task without direct approval of the Lead Assessor, subject in all cases, to the following:
- All team members are properly attired in approved personal protective equipment.
 - All non-proprietary equipment is accompanied by the relevant documentation.
 - The assessor has 'cleared' the scenario.
- 8.5** An official acting on behalf of the UKRO, who observes a potential or existing danger, will immediately halt the assessment by a long whistle blast. Any activity carried out after the blowing of the whistle, other than to ensure safety, will be penalised at the discretion of the Senior Assessor present.
- 8.6** A member of a participating team who notices an existing or potential danger must call a halt to any activity by shouting 'Still'. Any activity carried out after the calling of 'Still', except to make safe, will be penalised at the discretion of the Senior Assessor present.
- 8.7** If any item of the casualty's PPE is accidentally removed by a team member, it must be replaced before work can recommence. Failure to do so may result in loss of points or possible disqualification.
- 8.8** Testing of all tools will only be permitted in the designated training area.
- 8.9** No hydraulic power units are to be started without the feed and return lines being connected to a tool and the control valve shut.

9 Assessing and Scoring

- 9.1 Each team will be evaluated in the following areas by a panel of three assessors, these are:
- Incident Command and Control
 - Technical Rescue and Tool Operation
 - Casualty Detection and Physical Rescue
- 9.2 Copies of all the scoring sheets which are used by the UKRO Assessors are available on the UKRO website.
- 9.3 Points awarded per sub-section will be totalled and each sub-section added together to give an overall score for that particular criteria.
- 9.4 The total points awarded in each of the above three categories will be calculated as a placing. That is, the person who is awarded the highest score is awarded one. The person who comes second is awarded two and so on. The team's 'positional score' for each of the three categories are then added together and the team with the lowest score comes first.
- 9.5 In the event that two teams score identical points, under the placing criteria, a count back will be conducted. The team with the highest command score will be awarded first place. If this still produces a draw, the count back will then fall to the technical scores.

10 Awards

At each National UKRO Challenge, recognition is given for the performances of the team and team's members in the form of awards. The effort and dedication that has been put in by participants for this Challenge over many months culminates in a formal award ceremony at a prestigious venue, where the following achievements are acknowledged.

Best Team

Runner-up Team

Best Incident Commander

Best Medical Rescue

Best Technical Team

11 Documentation

11.1 Enclosed you will find the following forms:

- Team Registration Form
- Authorisation To Compete and Insurance Indemnity

These must be completed and returned, together with the full entrance fee, to the following address:

UKRO
Hollie Tell
CFOA HQ
9-11 Pebble Close
Tamworth
B77 4RD

11.2 The entrance fee of £600 must be received before your team can be accepted as a participant in the National Rope Rescue Challenge.

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Urban Search and Rescue

Team Registration Form

I have attached the full entry fee of **£600** (All cheques are payable to 'UKRO')

Cheque No: Date:

Name of Fire and Rescue Service:

Liaison Officer:

Tel No: Fax No:

E-Mail Address:

Team Name:

Team Address:

Six team member names:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Name of Reserve:

To be completed by the Team Manager:

On behalf the above Fire and Rescue Service team, I confirm that we have read and understand the rules governing this Challenge.

Signed: Name:
Date:

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Authorisation to Compete

I hereby confirm that the Fire and Rescue Service team below is authorised to take part in this year's UKRO Rescue Challenges.

Signed:

Name:

Position*:

Fire and Rescue Service:

Date:

* The UKRO requires that this person must have the authority to approve the above, preferably the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Chief Executive Officer or their Deputy.

Insurance Indemnity

I hereby confirm that for the purposes of insurance, that the Fire and Rescue Service team below is deemed to be on official duties whilst attending the UKRO Rescue Challenges.

Signed:

Name:

Position*:

Fire and Rescue Service:

Date:

* The UKRO requires that this person must have the authority to approve the above, preferably the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Chief Executive Officer or their Deputy.