

Spotlight on...

Technical Rescue Unit (TRU)

What the need was and how we identified it:

West Yorkshire is currently going through a period of significant change. The Integrated Risk Management Plan agreed a range of changes needed to the way we provide specialist appliances, equipment and skills. This review will greatly improve our ability to support firefighters at incidents and improve service to at risk communities. Following analysis of our local and national risks the need for a Technical Rescue Unit was identified. The aim was to have the right resources in the right place at the right time for our firefighters and to ensure our communities in West Yorkshire continue to receive an excellent service. The outcome of the review was to replace two Major Rescue Units with a cutting edge Technical Rescue Unit which will be used by our Urban Search and Rescue Team.

What we did:

We have created a Technical Rescue Team (TRT) by the amalgamation of the Urban Search and Rescue capabilities, specialist technical rescue skills and the firefighting appliance at Cleckheaton. The TRT has some of the most highly-skilled firefighters within the country and have received additional specialist training to deal with more serious incidents:

- Confined space incidents - sewers, silos and trench rescues
- Level 2 rope rescue
- Road traffic collisions with more than 6 pumps in attendance
- Road traffic collisions involving large goods vehicles, heavy goods vehicles, and coaches
- Multiple road traffic collisions
- People trapped in machinery
- Aircraft incidents
- Structural building collapses
- Railway incidents
- Major incidents



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk

An excellent Fire and Rescue Service Making a difference

Outcomes:

- Implementation of the TRU has enhanced the capabilities of WYFRS and continues to deliver an excellent service
- Personnel now have access to state-of-the-art search and rescue equipment all carried on a dedicated vehicles.
- The TRU has been utilised during rescue operations which have prompted a number of written compliments from members of the public and television coverage
- Crews have been praised for their professionalism and commitment. This has led to a greater level of public confidence.
- This has ensured that WYFRS has a greater capability and a very strong team of committed, motivated personnel with a wide range of specialist skills.

Keys to our success:

Training has been, and continues to be, a huge part of the Cleckheaton workload and is carried out in the following areas: rope rescue from height; large animal rescue; confined space rescue; trench rescue; bariatric rescue; LGV road traffic incidents; line access and casualty extrication; multi agency capability.

The equipment attributes of the TRU and the dedication and professionalism and skill sets of the TRU team, have been recognised and credited nationally as being a benchmark for best practice.

Contacts

AM Ian Dunkley
Operational Resilience
Ian.Dunkley@westyorksfire.gov.uk

SC Andrew Farrell
New Dimensions Lead Officer
Andrew.Farrell@westyorksfire.gov.uk

This 'spotlight on' contributes to...



**DELIVER A PROFESSIONAL
AND RESILIENT EMERGENCY
RESPONSE SERVICE**



**LEADERSHIP, PARTNERSHIP
AND ORGANISATIONAL
COMMITMENT**
INDICATOR: 1.4

**EFFECTIVE SERVICE
DELIVERY AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**
INDICATOR: 3.16



West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Making West Yorkshire Safer
www.westyorksfire.gov.uk