

**General Information**

The Operational Refresher Course is designed to refresh and update firefighters<sup>1</sup> who operate on the MOD Estate<sup>2</sup>. It concentrates on aspects of training that cannot, in most cases, be provided on stations.

The course has been redesigned to be of 4 days duration and moves towards the Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) which the DF&RS is in the process of adopting. Consequently terms used within IPDS are being introduced into the course, which has been changed in 7 important ways.

- The majority of the theoretical input has been removed
- A pre course reading pack has been introduced
- Subjects that are regularly covered on station have been removed
- Confirmation of station training is required
- Syndicate working has been introduced
- The number of students has been decreased
- Formative Assessments

**Theoretical Subjects**

The limited theoretical input on the course should do no more than refresh personnel and should be regularly delivered on station as part of normal continuation training.

**Pre Course Reading Pack**

A pre course information pack located on the DFTDC web site provides underpinning theoretical knowledge and includes all of the theoretical input required prior to the course. All personnel attending the course are required to read this pack before attending the course.

**Completion of Training DFRMO Form 220**

To ensure personnel have attained the required standard of training, a Completion of Training Form has been developed which must be completed by both the student and Fire Station Manager prior to the student attending the course, and is written confirmation that the training has taken place. The completed form is to be brought with the student and handed to the course instructor on the first day of the course.

1. In this context Firefighter includes Watch Manager, Crew Manager and Firefighter.

2. This includes Defence Fire & Rescue Service, RAF Fire Service and Contract Fire Service personnel.

**Syndicate Working**

The course has been designed to provide the majority of training in syndicates. This has the advantage of enabling more operational subject areas to be covered whilst at the same time providing more 'hands on' training.

**Course Size and Format**

The number of students on the course has been designed for 24. However the students are split into 4 syndicates of 6 personnel, with each syndicate designed to have 1 Watch Manager<sup>3</sup>, 1 Crew Manager<sup>4</sup> and 4 firefighters. Each syndicate will undertake different subject areas on each day. Further details are shown in the course programme.

The move to syndicates has enabled maximum flexibility to be introduced and whilst courses are currently being run as either Airfield or Structural there is no reason why they cannot be combined in the future, as shown below:

- 2 syndicates requiring Airfield Operations and 2 requiring Structural Operations
- 4 Syndicates requiring Airfield Operations
- 4 syndicates requiring Structural Operations

**Formative Assessment**

These assessments are designed to record whether each Delegate can demonstrate the appropriate level of skills, knowledge and understanding in tactical teamwork, Incident Command, FFV Operations and Firefighting & Rescue Techniques iaw current best practice/CFOI's.

The formative assessments cover:

- Practical Breathing Apparatus Operations
- Practical FFV Pumping Operations
- Fire and Rescue & Trauma Techniques
- Incident Management Skills

**Future Development**

The current course is designed to run along the traditional lines of Airfield and Structural Refresher Courses (ie all Airfield or all Structural) however the modular format of the course allows other areas to be developed.

**Course Attendance**

Although the DF&RS are moving towards IPDS which will require personnel to demonstrate competence and include a personal training and development plan for each individual, attendance on Operational Refresher courses currently remains mandatory for all firefighters who operate on the MOD Estate at maximum intervals of 4 years<sup>5</sup>.

**Further Information**

In addition to this document you should also read:

- DFTDC Information – General Information, Location Map and Contacts
- General Information – Generic Course Information, MT Regulations, MT Orders and PPE Requirements

**Forms** – DFRS Forms 210, 211, 221 are required to be produced by all delegates to course instructor on the first day of the course.

DFRMO Form 222 is to be returned as conformation of attendance

3. Watch Manager is currently taken to be Sub O, Sgt and Watch/Crew FS.
4. Crew Manager is currently taken to be LFf and Cpl
5. 5 Years if the “MOST” system is utilized on station.