



Fire Brigades Union Tayside

**Supplementary Response
2008/09
No 2
C.A.R.P.**



Pumping Appliance



Aerial Ladder Platform



Combined Aerial Rescue Pump

Tayside Fire & Rescue plan to introduce the use of a Combined Aerial Rescue Pump by allocating it to Station 1, Blackness Road, Dundee. The Fire Brigades Union do not believe this to be an efficient or effective use of resources.

A CARP appliance is part pumping appliance – in this case also carrying rescue equipment – combined with a high reach capability in the form of a hydraulic platform or aerial ladder platform.

A CARP can be either a rescue pump or an aerial ladder platform. **IT CANNOT BE BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.**

This type of fire engine is NOT new technology as the Chief Fire Officer has indicated, Grampian Fire and Rescue were the first in Scotland to purchase one 5 years ago and its introduction was disastrous. This appliance has since been mothballed in Elgin.

This type of appliance has severely tested Fire and Rescue Services Transport and Workshop Dept's, they are notoriously unreliable and difficult to maintain. The unavailability of this type of appliance also means that the equivalent of two appliances are "off-the-run", which can severely impact on the service levels provided.

We in Tayside have the best Workshop Dept in Scotland and I am sure the Technical Specifications will give Tayside the best appliance possible, however the fundamental technical problems inherent in this type of fire engine will place a restrictive burden on Tayside Fire and Rescue.

Now that TF&R have purchased this CARP we must look to where it would be best suited for Service Delivery. The FBU do not think that Dundee City Centre is the proper location for the CARP, the topography does not lend itself to having the CARP as its 1st Machine (a primary pumping appliance).

Currently crews have difficulty accessing certain area's with the specialist Ariel Ladder Platform, however with the proposed introduction of the CARP at Blackness the implications for the public are huge. This is because the CARP is to be used as a normal fire engine, with a pump attending as the 1st Machine to ALL fires and emergency incidents in the Dundee City Area.

Streets with known access problems for traditional pumping appliances

- Strawberry Bank

Streets with access problems for CARP appliance

- Hillside Rd
- Hillside Dr,
- Hillside Terr,
- Hillside Pl,
- Invergowrie Dr (even numbers)
- No access to Ninewells Accident and Emergency from Tom McDonald Ave,
- No access to Ninewells Polyclinic from Ninewells Dr,
- Dee Gdns,
- Luther Pl,
- Dighty Gdns,
- Lochay Pl,
- Hazel Av,
- Rear of Harris Academy,
- Eton St,
- Cambridge St,
- Kelso St,
- Kelso Pl,
- Royal Victoria Hospital via Jedburgh Rd,
- West Park Centre,
- Muirton Rd,
- Old Muirton Rd ,
- Gibbs Lane,
- Pleasance Ct,
- Lower Pleasance,
- Seabraes Lane,
- Tay Square,
- Dundee Repertory Theatre,
- Discovery Quay- Travel lodge and Restaurant,
- Forrester St,
- BT Building,
- Soapwork Lane,
- Constitution Terr,
- Union Terr,
- Prospect Pl,
- Laurel Bank,
- South George St,
- Forebank St,
- Ellen St,
- Balgay Hill,
- William St,

- Cotton Rd,
- Osbourne Pl,
- Seafield Lane,
- Bottom of Seafield Rd,
- Glenagnes St,
- Birchwood Pl,
- Ashbank Rd,
- Lime St
- Elm St,
- Easons Angle,
- Colington Pl,
- Pentland Cres,
- Smalls Lane,
- Cross Row,
- Exchange St,
- Sugar house Wynd,
- Nelson St,
- Forebank Rd,
- Lambs Lane,
- Powrie Pl,
- Laburn St,
- Kenmore Terr,
- Killen Ave,
- Dudhope house,
- Peel St
- St Mary's Lane.

This list is ONLY for the city area, over a 100 other Dundee Streets are inaccessible with this appliance.

The impact of the above is that for fire calls in these areas the Blackness appliance (Oscar 1 – 1) will have difficulty accessing the incident. Given a normal 'Pre-Determined Attendance' of 2 pumping appliances the result will be that appliances from other stations will be required to supplement the attendance.

The FBU believes that this arrangement is not an efficient or effective use of resources and is therefore contrary to the National Framework Document. The lack of consultation over the proposal is also outwith the National Framework Document.

Answers From The Front Line

- Prime Movers re-allocated from Stn 3
- 2 FF x 4 Watches redeployed
- Bronto from Perth to Stn1 Blackness
- CARP allocated to Perth at 3rd pump
- FBU willing to discuss crewing arrangement
- Improves fire cover for Perth
- Best use of resources

The FBU response to the proposal is to suggest that full, open and transparent public consultation take place in line with the National Framework Document and therefore in keeping with the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005.

The professional firefighters of Tayside are putting forward the following alternative.

The prime movers at Station 3, Balmossie are re-allocated to other stations and are mobilised and crewed by other Dundee stations as appropriate.

The 8 firefighter posts released by this would be redeployed, possibly to Perth.

The Bronto appliance currently allocated to Perth be re-allocated to Blackness to replace the current ALP which would be withdrawn.

The CARP would be allocated to Perth where it would act at high reach appliance in replacing Bronto. It would also allow for a third pumping appliance in Perth, forgoing the need for Dundee to supply stand-by pumps each time Perth are mobilised.

The FBU are willing to be flexible in negotiating the crewing arrangements for the CARP at Perth. There is currently sufficient trained specialists at Perth, who with retraining would crew the CARP as a 24/7 high reach capability. Additional personnel could form specialist rescue teams to deal with the likes of water rescues etc.

This arrangement would improve the resources for Perth as laid out in our previous response documents.

It would also represent a far superior use of resources. The FBU would of course be willing to put our proposals out for public consultation.

For further information;

<http://www.fbutayside.org.uk>