



# HM FIRE SERVICE INSPECTORATE

**Simon Webb**  
Head of Operational Practices

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**To All CFO's, England & Wales**  
**Northern Ireland Fire Service**

Dear Sir

## **UK FIRE SERVICE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM (UKFSSART)**

Following a proposal from the "New Dimension Group" it was now been agreed that the resources of UKFSSART will be made available to all fire brigades for incidents within the UK. The capabilities and equipment of the team are briefly listed together with the call out arrangements as appendix A.

For more comprehensive information about the team including advice to brigades visit the website [www.ukfssart.org.uk](http://www.ukfssart.org.uk)

If you require any further information please contact AI Simon Webb on 0207 217 8408 email [simon.webb@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:simon.webb@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Simon Webb  
Head of Operational Practices

**UK Fire Service Search and Rescue Team**

**Levels of Response**

1. Advice by telephone.
2. The attendance of an advisor to support the Incident Commander in any structural collapse incident.
3. The attendance of specific search and rescue teams e.g. a search dog team, an acoustic search team, a team capable of precision drilling through structural concrete.
4. The attendance of a full SAR Team that is capable of searching for, location and rescue of casualties trapped by structural collapse.

The UKFSSART operational structure is based on the Incident Command System.

**Capabilities/Equipment available to UK Brigades**

Search and Rescue in collapsed buildings/structures  
Provision of search dogs  
Vibraphones/audio monitoring equipment  
Search cameras with probes  
Concrete drilling equipment  
Communication probes  
Lightweight/portable cutting equipment  
Shoring equipment  
Various ancillary equipment

**Call out arrangements**

The London Fire Brigades Command Support Centre should be telephoned on 020 7587 4704 giving the following information:

- Type of incident e.g. Entrapment, building collapse.
- Number of persons trapped (if known).
- Address including brief directions.

All communications should be passed via the LFB Command Support Centre.