

Grenfell Tower

DATE OF EVENT: 14th June 2017

OUTCOME: 72 Fatalities, 70+ injuries

WHAT HAPPENED:

- A fire broke out in the 24 story tower block.
- The fire was started by a malfunctioning fridge-freezer on the fourth floor. It spread rapidly up the building's exterior, bringing fire and smoke to all the residential floors.
- Residents in the tower block were initially advised to stay put, as tower blocks fires are typically contained.
- Within 40 minutes of the fire starting, the fire had reached the roof and was out of control.
- Smoke spread from flats into the lobbies & stairs.
- The smoke in these areas resulted in people being trapped in their flats.
- The firefighters struggled to coordinate the response as communications between the on-scene commander, the crew and the emergency services call handlers were hampered.
- The fire spread around the faces of the building, engulfing it.

MAH Barriers

Engineering Design:

- Construction standards such as concrete and fire-resistant doors typically contain fire within one flat, however the external cladding facilitated the spread of the fire.

Management of Change:

- The cladding added during the refurb was not fire retardant – it did not comply with building standards.

Escape Routes:

- The primary (and only) escape route was compromised by smoke and heat ingress, likely because fire doors were propped open or did not self-close.

Emergency Response

- The emergency response effort was hampered due to poor radio communication.

7Cs Discussion Points

- **Commitment & Culture** – How would you respond to seeing a fire door propped open or not self-closing properly?
- **Communication** – How confident are you in your site's communication systems and equipment for use in an emergency?
- **Change Management** – How do you ensure changes made at your site comply with the rules & do not introduce new hazards?

