

NEWS



Promoting learning and development across the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services



Palestinian firefighters visit Scotland

A delegation from the Nablus Fire Department received three weeks' training organised by the Fire Brigades Union Scotland

Eight firefighters from Nablus in Palestine arrived in Scotland in October for three weeks of training at the Scottish Fire Services College and Perth Fire Station in Tayside.

The project was organised by the Fire Brigades Union in Scotland, with the cooperation of the Scottish Government and the Scottish Fire Services Training College.

The firefighters were trained in breathing apparatus, search and rescue techniques, road traffic collisions procedures, and urban search and rescue tool handling, before travelling to Manchester for a fourth week of training on how to be instructors.

Ken Ross of the Fire

Brigades Union said: "We are absolutely delighted to be able to offer our colleagues from Nablus this opportunity. The cooperation and assistance from the Scottish Government, in

"We welcome opportunities to share our knowledge and experience with firefighters from other nations."

particular the Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, the Scottish Fire Services College, Tayside Fire and Rescue Service, and Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service, has been invaluable and hugely welcomed. Without them, this would not have

been possible.

"The training programme has been tailored to the firefighters' specific needs and will help them to improve the service that they provide to their communities in Nablus. This is an excellent example of how the fire service is a truly international fraternity."

Garry Burnett, Head of Programme Delivery at the Scottish Fire Services College, added: "For over 50 years the Scottish Fire Services College has played a lead role in ensuring Scotland's firefighters are among the best trained and most highly skilled anywhere in the world. We welcome

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Welcome to SFSC News



Welcome to the first issue of this new publication, which is designed to keep the wider fire and civil contingencies community informed about the activities of the Scottish Fire Services College.

Since it was established in 1954, the College's role has traditionally been centred around the training of all new entrants to the service. However, few outwith the service realise the important role it undertakes in specialist training, its work with other agencies and, most recently, in a central supporting role for the development of a national Learning & Development Strategy for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

In this and future issues the College will explain its expanded role in more detail. I hope you find it a useful and interesting read.

Bob Virtue
Director, Scottish Fire Services College

Capital investment turns up the heat

A £1.1 million capital investment at the Scottish Fire Services College will help provide improved training facilities at the Gullane site

The Scottish Fire Services College first opened in 1954. The existing boiler plant is now around 30 years old, and although well maintained, it is now at the end of its lifespan. New plant will increase efficiency to around 94%, saving energy and reducing the college's carbon footprint. Most importantly, however, it will provide an improved environment for those attending residential development programmes.

The development programmes rely

heavily on the provision of realistic facilities. An upgrade of the Breathing Apparatus Tactical Building (BATB), and the replacement of the old brick tower with a new steel framed training tower are essential in order to maintain the high standard of training delivery.

The old brick tower, which was built in 1953, is now a health and safety hazard due to its proximity to a vehicle roadway entrance, and its overall condition. The new tower will be erected on the lower yard, allowing

instructional staff a 360 degree view of the operations being carried out.

Demolition and rebuilding of the 'fire house' section of the BATB, and installation of computer controls for heat, smoke and humidity simulation, will provide updated facilities for specialist training in search and rescue procedures and additional scenarios for the development of core skills and incident management.

More info: colin.thomson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Palestinian firefighters visit Scotland

(Continued from front page)

opportunities to share our knowledge and experience with firefighters from other nations and we were delighted to help develop the skills of colleagues from Nablus."

Roddy Robertson, FBU Executive Council Member for Scotland, thanked all those involved in organising the trip. He added: "All of the college staff, from the cooks through to the instructors, have made these firefighters feel very welcome. It's clearly been a lot of hard work for all, but there has also been a great deal of humour and you can really see confidence building."



Shamseddin Abughazaleh presented the Minister for Community Safety, Fergus Ewing, with a key to the city of Nablus, on behalf of its mayor.

Lothian and Borders USAR teams train at Gullane

By Peter Heath, Head of Training, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service

The last few years have seen major developments within the urban search and rescue (USAR) world. Scotland's fire and rescue services have invested in training staff to the highest standard, sending instructors to learn from our American colleagues in Texas. The skills and knowledge they gained there have been cascaded throughout the Scottish services, enhancing our capabilities and resilience.

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service (LBFRS) are proud to be part of this specialist discipline, providing a response of highly motivated and skilled USAR personnel, locally and nationally.

This specialism does not come without effort, time and commitment. Progression through the Scottish USAR development pathway is consolidated with regular and intense maintenance training. The SFSC has played an important role in assisting the USAR training maintenance programme within LBFRS.

Over the last few months, the College has allowed Lothian and Borders FRS USAR personnel to use their USAR training facilities. These facilities have allowed our teams to practise and develop their skills. The

main areas of development and activities have focused on shoring, and breaking and breaching.

Full advantage was taken of the tunnelling structure, which has been used to put our personnel through their paces in a very realistic, albeit inhospitable environment. Although very arduous, this experience is invaluable to any USAR technician.

Without doubt, the most technical and time enduring discipline is shoring. The bespoke shoring structure at the College has posed a challenge to our USAR technicians. A super facility, which has been used to not only develop skills, but also to enhance confidence, which is essential for any USAR operative.

Without the cooperation and support from the SFSC management team, this experience would not have been realised. Thanks to all, in particular Station Manager Graham McKenzie, who has ensured that all the training days ran smoothly, providing the facilities to train, and ensured our personnel were adequately 'fed and watered'. We look forward to continuing this important training relationship between our Service and the College.

Building construction comes to the fore

Recent 'Dear Chief Officers (Scotland)' letters (3/2009, 9/2009, 10/2009) have brought the issue of building construction back to the forefront of the Scottish fire and rescue services' attention in recent months

Knowledge of building construction is of key importance for firefighters and incident commanders when dealing with incidents involving structural fire-fighting or building collapse.

Following on from the review of the Firefighter Development Programme, the Scottish Fire Services College (SFSC) has developed the following:

- Delivery of building construction input on the Foundation Programme at SFSC is increased from two to four hours.
- A dedicated Building Construction presentation added to the Firefighter Development Programme (FFDP).
- Increased information

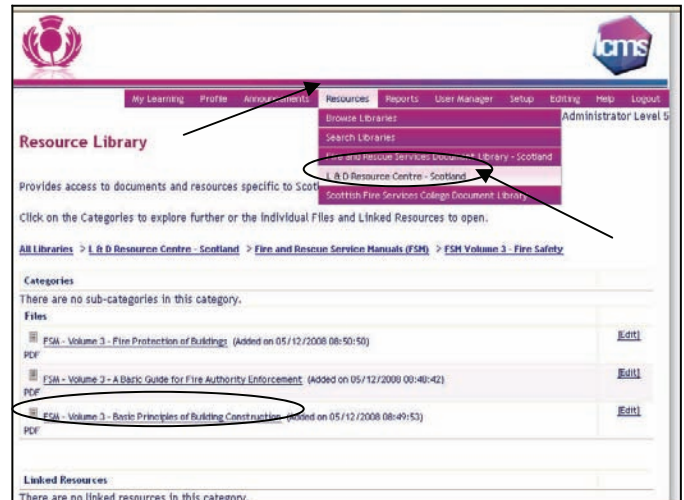
relating to building construction now contained within the existing Domestic Property, High Rise and Retail Warehouses presentations.

- Fire Service Manual, Volume 3, Fire Safety: Basic Principles of Building Construction held on the Learning Content Management System (LCMS).

This manual can be accessed by logging on to the LCMS and following the path shown on the diagram.

We hope this will add to the service-specific material being developed across the eight Scottish fire and rescue services.

More info from: andy.scott@scotland.qsi.gov.uk.



To access the Fire Service Manual, Volume 3, Fire Safety: Basic Principles of Building Construction, log onto the Learning Content Management System and follow the path shown in the diagram above.

- ◆ First click the 'Resources' tab
- ◆ Then click on 'L & D Resource Centre – Scotland'.
- ◆ Finally, click on 'Fire and Rescue Service Manuals', then Volume 3.
- ◆ From here, you will be able to select the Manual on Building Construction.

SFSC and BAA Airport Fire Service join forces to deliver training

Fire behaviour training is a vital part of the development of all operational fire and rescue service personnel.

Achieving realistic training conditions, however, is a major challenge for those

charged with carrying it out.

BAA Airport Fire Service recently built a specialist fire behaviour training facility, where real fire can be used in a controlled training environment.

BAA Airport Fire Service identified from an early stage that there would be spare capacity, allowing the establishment of a partnership with the Scottish Fire Services College (SFSC).

The SFSC decided that a partnership with the BAA Airport Fire Service for the use of the training facility would represent value for money and enhance the training on offer to Scottish fire and rescue service personnel. SFSC instructors used the facility in September to deliver both BA instructor programmes and trainee fire behaviour development.

The collaboration benefited the college and BAA, with BAA personnel being developed in some SFSC Programmes. More info: graham.mckenzie@scotland.qsi.gov.uk.



Inside the containers used for carbonaceous burn exercises during September's exercise at Edinburgh airport.



Trainees climb height of Everest to raise charity cash

The Fire Service has a long and active history of community-spirited activities, none more so than raising money for charities. During the past decade, the tradition at the Scottish Fire Services College has been for courses of trainee firefighters to perform a charity ladder climb to the height of Everest; some 8850m ... as a course and not individually!

The trainee firefighters of Scotland have raised in the region of £250,000 to date, and the organisations that have benefited have been truly global, from as far away as Africa and the Middle East to national and local charities closer to home. These include British Heart Foundation, Scottish Burned Childrens Club, Erskine Home and the Yorkhill Sick Childrens Hospital. This year's ladder climb took place in November, and donations were still being collected at time of going to press.

More info: robert.reid@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

SFSC News

The new *SFSC News* is to be published twice a year by the Scottish Fire Services College. The next issue will be published next summer. It aims to keep those working in Scotland's eight fire and rescue services, and the wider resilience community, informed of the college's activities. If you have comments or ideas for future issues, please contact the college at the address below: Scottish Fire Services College, Main Street, Gullane, EH31 2HG
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 w: www.scottish-fireservicescollege.org

Scottish Resilience

Task management training for retained trainees

The Foundation Programme is developed to educate trainees in basic core skills.

It is made up of eight development units, one of which, 'Task and Task Management Skills' is delivered over a two to three week period.

Scottish fire and rescue services have the choice to use this unit to develop their retained trainees, in most cases training alongside their wholetime colleagues.

The following Scottish

services have regularly made use of this facility :

- Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service
- Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service
- Fife Fire and Rescue Service
- Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service.

In the past few months, SFSC has agreed to develop Strathclyde Fire

and Rescue retained trainees. We are delighted to take on this role.

The other three Scottish Services deliver Task and Task Management Programmes locally.

Consistency and quality assurance of those events are managed by the College. Course materials and content are held on our Learning Content Management System (LCMS) and College staff regularly quality assure practical delivery, attending practical events at local sites.