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This circular is	<b>For information</b>	No response required	
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>This circular provides information on new arrangements for the mobilisation of USAR canine search teams.</b>		

# Mobilisation of USAR Canine Search Teams

## Issued by:

**Bethan MacDonald**

**New Dimension Policy**

## Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority  
The Chief Executive of the County Council  
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority  
The Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority  
The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority  
The Chief Fire Officer**

## Please forward to:

## Summary

This circular describes how Fire and Rescue Services can mobilise Urban Search and Rescue canine search teams via the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre.

## For further information, contact:

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## Website

**[www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)**

## Mobilisation of USAR Canine Search Teams

### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The New Dimension programme, as a collaboration between Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), has enhanced the ability of the FRS to respond to major disruptive events, whatever their cause, involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials, collapsed or unstable structures, and to displace large volumes of water.
- 1.2 As part of the New Dimension programme, and as the final element of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capability, CLG has funded USAR canine search teams in each of the USAR FRSs, from 2007/08.
- 1.3 The Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC) was established to co-ordinate the national and cross regional mobilisation and deployment of New Dimension resources.
- 1.4 Prior to 1 December 2008, London Fire Brigade was responsible for mobilising USAR canine search teams. On 1 December 2008, responsibility for mobilising USAR canine search teams transferred to the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC).

### 2.0 Mobilisation of USAR canine search teams

- 2.1 FRSs requiring the assistance of a USAR canine search team should contact the FRSNCC. The FRSNCC can be contacted as follows:

FRSNCC Primary Contact number                      01274 684 914

FRSNCC Secondary Contact number                      01274 713 310

FRSNCC fax number    01274 680 119

FRSNCC email address    [frsncc@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:frsncc@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

- 2.2 As with all New Dimension resources, FRSs which host a USAR canine search team must notify the FRSNCC when it is mobilised, so that the FRSNCC knows that it is not currently available for deployment elsewhere.
- 2.3 Full details on the role of the FRSNCC and the associated responsibilities of FRSs in relation to New Dimension resources are contained in FSC 30/2006.

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