

Chief Fire Officers (Scotland)

28 February 2011

Dear Chief Officer

DEAR CHIEF OFFICER (SCOTLAND) LETTER 4/2011

**URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
SPECIFICATION FOR HIGH DUST AND CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND
RADIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENTS**

1. Department for Communities and Local Government Bulletin 6, issued on 4 January 2011, contained information in relation to research conducted in support of Urban Search and Rescue Personal Protective Equipment specification for high dust and chemical, biological and radiological environments. A copy of the relevant section is attached at Annex A.
2. I would ask that you bring this to the attention of relevant staff within your service.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN TORRIE
Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit

Annex A

1. Urban Search and Rescue Personal Protective Equipment specification for high dust and chemical, biological and radiological environments

1. Background

1.1 This item is to signpost the publication of two research reports on urban search and rescue personal protective equipment specification for high dust and chemical, biological and radiological environments. These were published on Monday 6 December 2010.

2. Summary of Reports

2.1 In 2007, the Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned research from the Health & Safety Laboratory. The aim of this work was to assess the protection provided by the Fire and Rescue Service urban search and rescue personal protective equipment against high dust and/or chemical, biological and radiological materials, and to identify options to enhance the protection against these hazards.

2.2 Key deliverables from this research were specifications for the selection and procurement of personal protective ensembles suitable for high dust and chemical, biological and radiological environments.

2.3 A Fire and Research Service Task and Finish Group, reporting to the Fire and Rescue Service Urban Search and Rescue National Working Group, has been convened to consider and implement as appropriate the research outputs.

2.4 The reports are available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire/researchandstatistics/researchpublications/fulltechnicalreports>