

Circular number	56/2007	Date issued	30 November 2007
This circular is	For Action by FRSs	Response Required by	17 December 2007
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular asks Fire and Rescue Services to confirm that they are willing to accept the provision of additional prime mover vehicles.		

Distribution of Additional New Dimension Prime Movers

Issued by:

Fay Sowerby
New Dimension Policy Advisor

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:

Senior Operations Managers

Summary

The Fire Minister, Parmjit Dhanda, has recently announced that an additional 48 New Dimension prime mover vehicles will be distributed across Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) in England. This follows representations from a number of FRSs that the vehicles should be distributed to further enhance the capability. This circular provides further detail about this proposal and asks Chief Fire Officers to confirm whether they would be willing to host the additional prime movers in line with the Department's planned allocation.

For further information, contact:

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The New Dimension (ND) programme, as a collaboration between Communities and Local Government and the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), has enhanced the ability of the FRS to respond to major disruptive events involving CBRN materials, collapsed or unstable structures, and to displace large volumes of water.
- 1.2 Under this programme the Department has provided a significant amount of mass decontamination, urban search and rescue (USAR) and high volume pumping (HVP) equipment. To enable the FRS to transport the majority of this equipment the programme has also purchased a fleet of lorries known as prime movers. To date, 151 of these vehicles have been allocated to FRSs in England.

2.0 Distribution of Additional Prime Movers

- 2.1 On 19 November 2007, Fire Minister Parmjit Dhanda announced the proposed distribution of 48 further prime movers to English FRSs. A copy of the press release is attached at Annex A for information. This announcement has been welcomed by CFOA.
- 2.2 The intention is that the vehicles will be provided to FRSs primarily as a distributed strategic reserve to ensure that in the event existing prime movers are written off or prove uneconomical to repair, they have replacements. These vehicles can also be used operationally to ensure that the fleet is not mothballed. This will provide mobilisation benefits in terms of national response (i.e. more prime movers on the ground will allow more equipment to arrive more quickly at the scene of an incident), as well as offering greater flexibility to local incident mobilisation.
- 2.3 Under the proposal, the Department will provide an extra vehicle to those FRS which host HVP units and/or USAR units. Where an FRS hosts both a HVP and USAR unit, one prime mover will be allocated between the capabilities. Those FRS which host two HVPs have been assigned two additional vehicles. The exceptions to this principle are London which, in recognition of the relatively close proximity of their ND assets, has been allocated 4 additional prime movers for its New Dimension fleet and West Sussex, which as the USAR Strategic Reserve, will be allocated 2 vehicles to ensure ready availability of all USAR spare modules. The full prime mover allocation list is attached at Annex B.
- 2.4 The Department expects to transfer ownership of all New Dimension assets to Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs), as outlined in Circular 51/2007, including the additional prime movers to be deployed under this proposal. The New Dimension Long Term Capability Management Project (LTCM) has proposed the establishment of an Assurance Group, to be led by CFOA (known as the Blue-Box), to manage several long-term issues related to the New Dimension capability, including the strategic prime mover fleet. In discussion with CFOA we have asked that the Assurance Group provide the assurance that cover is maintained following the loss of any prime movers owing to irreparable damage or write-off. This could involve the movement of strategic prime movers between authorities to fill a gap in capability. We would expect FRAs to

cooperate with the CFOA-led Assurance Group in arranging for complete cover to be maintained should this be required over time.

- 2.5 Furthermore, these strategic reserve prime movers will be included under the long-term maintenance contract currently being procured for New Dimension assets, and will be under the same terms as the rest of the fleet. FRAs will be funded for use of the maintenance contract to maintain vehicles as required for level 4 incidents under new burdens arrangements. However, the Department will not be offering any further accommodation funding for the additional prime movers. Instead, we expect the vehicles will occupy spaces currently used for storing HVP/USAR modules and in turn, the module can be stored on the prime mover.
- 2.6 Chief Fire Officers from the proposed 41 FRSs which have the option of being allocated additional prime movers as outlined in Annex B, are therefore asked to confirm that they are willing to host the additional vehicles on the basis of the above proposals. Responses are requested by **17 December 2007** and should be sent direct to Fay Sowerby, whose details are provided above. While we expect FRS to welcome these additional prime movers, no FRS will be compelled to accept the vehicles and in the event any FRS does decline, we will discuss alternative arrangements for hosting these prime movers with CFOA and other FRSs.
- 2.7 In terms of distributing the additional vehicles, the New Dimension programme is currently arranging for the prime movers to undergo full maintenance checks before being delivered to brigades. A roll-out programme will shortly be established and FRSs, which have confirmed their willingness to accept the additional vehicles, will be informed of the date by which they may expect them. It would therefore be helpful if FRSs could indicate where they provisionally intend to locate the additional prime mover/s and whether this is with the HVP or USAR units. It is expected that arranging delivery of vehicles may take a few months, but we aim to distribute the extra prime mover fleet by end March 2008.

Fay Sowerby

New Dimension Policy Advisor

ANNEX A – PRIME MOVER PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT – 19/11/07

FIRE SERVICE RESILIENCE BOOSTED WITH DELIVERY OF MORE HEAVY TRANSPORT VEHICLES

Nearly 50 additional heavy transport vehicles are being distributed around the country to help the Fire and Rescue Service deal with emergencies.

Fire Minister Parmjit Dhanda today announced the distribution of additional heavy duty lorries (known as prime movers) to England's Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) for the transportation of specialist equipment to deal with major incidents.

Following requests from FRSs the Department is locating additional prime movers within the FRS so that it has a greater ability to deploy the specialist kit provided by Communities and Local Government. This specialist equipment is part of the Government's investment of over £200million in New Dimension programme which includes mass decontamination and urban search and rescue (USAR) kit, and a high volume pumping (HVP) capability.

Fire Minister Parmjit Dhanda said:

“Locating these vehicles with the FRS across England will help them to respond even more quickly and flexibly to the largest scale incidents. These are the same type of vehicles to those that were used to great effect in the June and July floods to transport high volume pumps to areas of greatest need and more recently they were used to transport USAR equipment to the Warwickshire warehouse fire. This shows the value of the Government's investment of over £200million in the specialist New Dimension resources.”

The Department proposes that the vehicles will be located with FRSs that host USAR units and/or HVP units which are:

Avon, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Cornwall, Durham, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon and Somerset, Dorset, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Humberside, Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, London, Manchester, Merseyside, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire,

Royal Berkshire, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Tyne and Wear, Warwickshire, West Midlands, West Sussex, West Yorkshire.¹

Welcoming the new additions on behalf of the Chief Fire Officers' Association Terry Standing said:

“These are very significant additions to the fleet of emergency Fire and Rescue Service vehicles and will enhance the ability of the fire services to provide a more flexible operational response to national emergencies. These new vehicles will bring particular benefits to FRSs when dealing with incidents such as widespread flooding and collapsed buildings.

“We very much welcome this additional Communities and Local Government funded investment which further reinforces the success of the partnership between central and local government in this important area of our work.”

¹ Hereford and Worcester and Hertfordshire FRS have also been allocated Prime Movers, but were missed from the press announcement.

ANNEX B – PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PRIME MOVER LOCATIONS

Fire and Rescue Service	No. of additional prime movers proposed
Avon	1
Buckinghamshire	1
Cambridgeshire	1
Cheshire	1
Cornwall	1
Durham	1
Cumbria	1
Derbyshire	1
Devon & Somerset	2
Dorset	1
East Sussex	1
Essex	1
Gloucestershire	1
Hampshire	1
Hereford & Worcester	1
Hertfordshire	1
Humberside	1
Isle of Wight	1
Kent	1
Lancashire	1
Leicestershire	1
Lincolnshire	1
London	4
Manchester	2
Merseyside	1
Norfolk	1
North Yorkshire	2
Northamptonshire	1
Northumberland	1
Nottinghamshire	1
Oxfordshire	1
Royal Berkshire	1
Shropshire	1
South Yorkshire	1
Staffordshire	1
Surrey	1
Tyne & Wear	1
Warwickshire	1
West Midlands	1
West Sussex	2
West Yorkshire	1
Total	48