



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

International Improvement & Innovation Conference

11 October 2018

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Chair, NFCC

Outline

- 1. Why innovate and improve?**
- 2. Broadening the role of firefighters**
- 3. The role of technology, data and research**
- 4. Cultural and organisational change**



Why do we need to innovate?

- 21% reduction in whole time firefighters over ten years.
- Since 2010, the UK government has reduced funding for fire and rescue authorities in England by between 26% and 39%.
- 17% real-term reduction in spending power of stand-alone fire authorities from 2010-11 to 2015-16.
- Spending power has fallen most in areas assessed as having highest levels of fire need i.e those with high-risk social groups or industrial facilities.
- 30% reduction in audits and inspections carried out by fire and rescue authorities, 2010-11 to 2014-15.
- If funding cuts persist, the sector will be faced with twin challenges: to implement new cost-reduction measures, and to manage increased risks.



The Changing Landscape in Fire

- **Terror threats & the changing nature of crime** - WannaCry Cyber, Borough Market, Westminster (2017 & 2018) attacks, Manchester Bombing.
- **Grenfell**- recommendations and likely increases to building safety activity to come.
- **Climate Change**- flooding, wild fires, clean air zones, heat waves.
- **An aging population** - what will increasing vulnerability amongst an aging population mean?
- **Police and Crime Commissioners** - how will this change effect the governance of Fire and Rescue Authorities?
- **Workforce reform** - challenges to the current delivery model, changes in staffing systems, more diverse duty systems.
- **Impact of resource reduction and changing call profiles**



Our strengths

- A trusted brand
- Safeguarding skills
- Unrivalled access to communities
- Role models and educators
- The skills to identify and work with the vulnerable
- A large volunteer workforce



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Broadening the role of firefighters

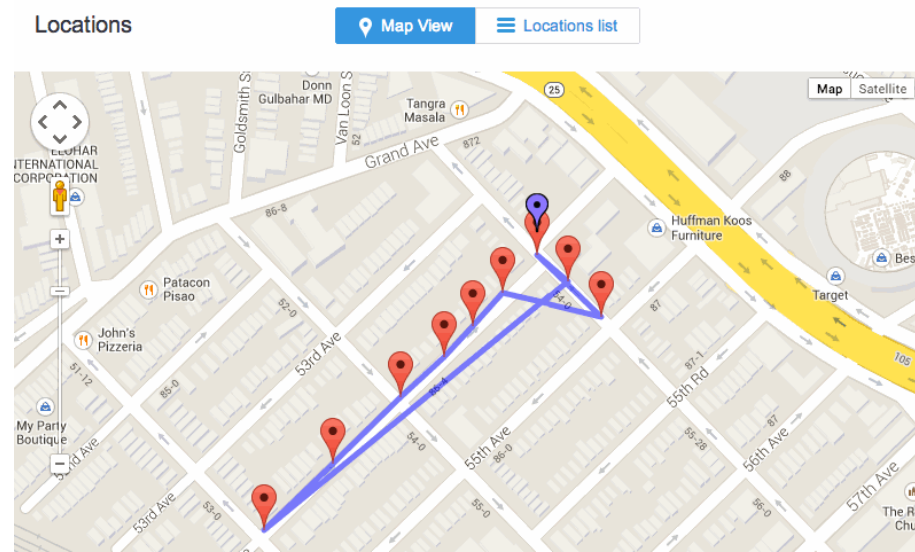
- Emergency Medical Response
- Helping to prevent Modern Day Slavery
- Safe and Well visits
- Capable Guardian



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Embracing technological innovation in firefighting:

- Drones
- Location tracking of first responders
- Physiological monitoring
- Environmental monitoring and warning
- Robotics
- Virtual reality for training and learning
- Cold Cut
- Body worn video



Technology

Partnering with Industry:

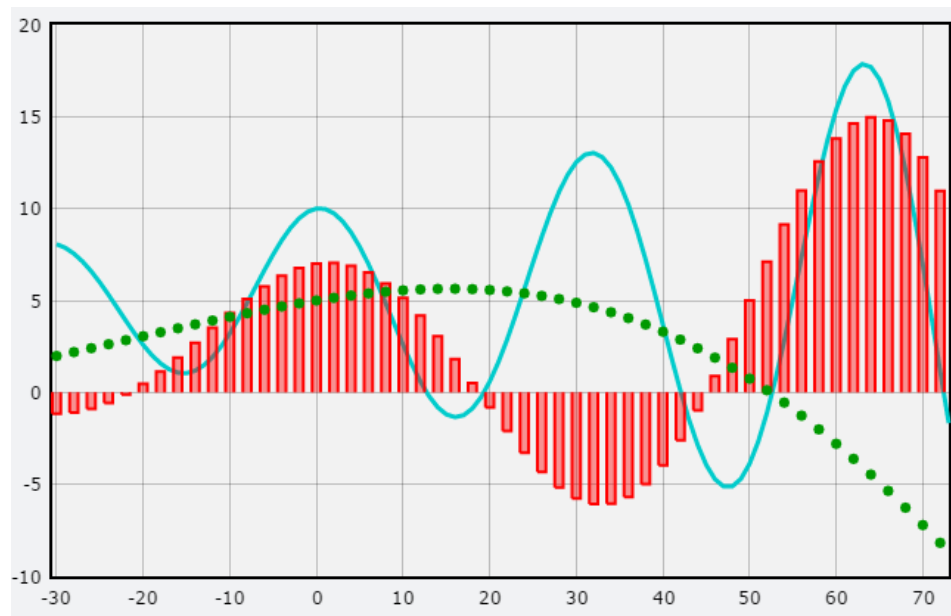
- Using our operational and technical expertise to engage with suppliers around equipment design to continuously improve technological solutions to our industry's unique challenges.



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Harnessing Data

Data strategy: the importance of quantifying demand and building high quality data sets and an evidence base in all work streams.



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Research- Firefighter Health & Wellbeing

- Potential long-term health effects firefighters may experience as a result of work-related exposures are not well known in the UK.
- Links between increased rates of cancer among firefighters are being investigated in studies internationally, e.g. USA, Canada, Australia, Sweden.
- Support and advocacy groups have been established, toolkits and research materials developed to support education and prevention strategies.
- NFCC keen to partner with research institutions and representative bodies in the UK to advance research in this area.
- It is critical to ensure the UK is part of the international research conversation and has a clear evidence base for evolving decision making on this key issue.



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Innovation requires cultural change

- Changing attitudes within the fire service is paramount.
- Embracing and encouraging more diversity in our workforce.
- Changing and challenging the way we have always done things.





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Questions?

