

Rope Rescue

Fire and Rescue Services
United Kingdom Rescue Organisation

advancing professional rescue



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UKRO Challenges 2011

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Excel London, Royal Victoria Dock, London E16 1XL



**THE CHIEF
FIRE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION**

The professional voice of the
UK fire and rescue service



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

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1 Introduction

Welcome to the 2011 Rope Rescue Challenge.

- 1.1 To some, the development of the Challenge appears to be just a competition, but far more than that it is a learning platform, matching talents and skills through assessment.
- 1.2 The UK Rope Rescue Challenge is open to all UK, local authority Fire and Rescue Services.
- 1.3 The aim is to bring together teams of rope rescue personnel who are committed, not only to displaying their ability, but also to expanding their practical skills by learning from and teaching others involved in the same discipline.
- 1.4 The experiences teams will be exposed to during the event will fuel their own development and be taken back with them to enrich their service's procedures. It is necessary to study current rope rescue philosophy and techniques, search out new developments and innovative new ideas if we wish to perfect our skills.
- 1.5 The emphasis in the Rope Rescue Challenge is to develop and promote good practice. The ethos is not primarily to win, but to use what is learnt at these events to save those whom we serve, as well as protecting ourselves, the rescuers.

2 The Mission

- 2.1 To provide an arena for rope rescue personnel from across the British Isles to come together, in order to stimulate and develop proficiency levels in all areas of rope rescue and rope access, but specifically in:
- Incident Control
 - Safety
 - General Techniques
 - Pre-Hospital Care
 - Selection and Use of Equipment
- 2.2 To accelerate the natural learning curve of our teams/services to meet the demands made by modern rope rescue emergencies by providing a realistic education platform for rescuers.
- 2.3 To focus the event on personal development, by allowing rope rescue practitioners to meet, exchange and share knowledge, develop skills, and stimulate ingenuity, the teams will achieve a higher level of professionalism to the advantage of those we serve.
- 2.4 To encourage participants to make hard and critical examination of their own command, decision making and risk assessment skills, as well as the practical application of techniques and equipment available to them.
- 2.5 To identify 'good practice' through review of the training techniques/practices implemented by participating teams and transfer that knowledge into the workplace.

3 The Objectives

Our objectives are:

- 3.1 To promote rope rescue training.
- 3.2 To emphasise scene and casualty safety and develop a safety first attitude amongst all rescuers.
- 3.3 To encourage and develop risk analysis skills that result in effective command solutions.
- 3.4 To develop and promote methods and protocols for efficient, safer rope rescue response.
- 3.5 To encourage higher, more proficient levels of casualty care among rope rescue practitioners.
- 3.6 To foster the trial and testing of a wider range of rope rescue techniques and equipment.
- 3.7 Stimulate ingenuity in terms of skill, practices and equipment to advance the best safe concept.
- 3.8 To allow teams to observe other teams at work and learn from them
- 3.9 To allow teams and operators from diverse areas to meet and exchange knowledge and information.

4 The Challenge

- 4.1 The Challenge will be run in two parts over two days. All teams will take part in the first part and are designated a 'run off' time.
- 4.2 Each team will be assessed, using common criteria, by a team of three assessors who will score the following areas:
- Incident command and control, (Command)
 - Physical rescue and general techniques, (Technical)
 - Pre-hospital care, (Medical)
- 4.3 Each evolution will involve elements of raising, lowering and technical rope work where a casualty is to be accessed, packaged and transported to the indicated level over some height difference. Teams are able to utilise the full range of approved equipment and materials to affect the rescue.
- 4.4 The first part will consist of a scenario and skills test each being time limited.
- 4.5 The team will consist of **minimum of FIVE** and a **maximum of SIX** members.
- 4.6 Details of the skills test will be circulated to the Team Leaders prior to the event.
- 4.7 Teams who have progressed through to the second part of the Challenge will take part in the 'Complex' evolution. This scenario consists of core skills/techniques designed to stretch the abilities of the competing teams with in a set time frame.
- 4.8 Each team will be given a hot debrief immediately following their run off. It must be noted that the assessors' decision is final and all participants are asked to respect that decision.
- 4.9 Information regarding the teams performance will be forwarded post event.
- 4.10 The UKRO uses live casualties. They are all medically trained and will have an input into the medical rescue assessment.

N.B. A copy of the scoring sheets which are used by the UKRO assessors will be available to every team via the web.

5 The Rules

- 5.1 No team will participate without the written authorisation from a senior manager of their Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.2 Each team will consist of a **minimum of FIVE** and a **maximum of SIX** personnel.
- 5.3 All participants must wear suitable PPE approved by their own organisation and appropriate to the task. (This will exclude garments that expose arms and legs.)
- 5.4 Each team will be assessed in three primary areas during their evolution:
- Incident command and control,
 - Technical rescue and general techniques,
 - Pre-hospital care of the patient.
- Plus, the urgency in which the whole evolution is undertaken will also be considered as part of the assessment.
- 5.5 Live casualties will be used in the Challenge, and marks will be awarded for correct casualty handling.
- 5.6 Basic packaging of the patient will be evaluated using the ABC and S protocols, with care and safety being of prime importance.
- N.B. A = Airway Management**
B = Breathing & Resuscitation
C = Circulation
S = Spinal Care
- 5.7 Each evolution will have allocated to it three assessors who will be working under the direction of the Head Assessor.
- 5.8 All scoring information will remain the property of the UKRO and shall remain confidential.
- 5.9 The decision of the Head Assessor concerning any assessment or conduct will be deemed to be final.
- 5.10 The Command Assessor will supervise each evolution with authority to halt any action deemed to be in breach of safe working practice. Such a breach shall not on the first occasion incur time penalties, however subsequent breaches will incur penalties.
- 5.11 At the start of each evolution the Command Assessor will read the brief to the Team Leader and answer any questions. Once the evolution has commenced there is to be no more communications with the assessors other than safety critical, any attempt to question assessors during the evolution will be met with silence.

- 5.12 Teams may use radio communications. Teams doing so must supply an additional radio to the Command Assessor. (Radios must not interfere with host service's communications.)
- 5.13 There will be a limited selection of equipment available. Teams providing their own equipment may be required to produce valid inspection records.
- 5.14 Teams will have to provide all their own personal safety and emergency medical equipment.
- 5.15 Access to the kit dump will be unavailable once the scenario starts. Pre-rigging of equipment will be allowed.
- 5.16 Teams may loan equipment to other teams ensuring any safety features are fully understood by the recipient.
- 5.17 Teams will present themselves to the 'Team Registration' area as specified during Team Leaders briefing.
N.B. Failure to do so may result in elimination of the Team
- 5.18 There will be a Team Leaders briefing immediately following the Opening Ceremony.
NB. It is mandatory that all team leaders or their designated deputies attend this briefing.
- 5.19 The Organisers and the host Fire & Rescue Service will not be responsible for any damage or loss of any equipment as a result of participating in this event.
- 5.20 Staff compensation, Insurance etc. for the protection of the team members shall be sole responsibility of the participants in the event. The host organisation shall supply 3rd party liability insurance

6 Code of Conduct

- 6.1 All participants are reminded that they are not only representatives of their own Service, but also the firefighting profession as a whole and are requested to conduct themselves accordingly.
- 6.2 Both the opening and closing ceremonies are formal functions and teams are expected to present themselves in their Service's shirt sleeve order. Caps are not to be worn.
- 6.3 Participants are expected to be smartly dressed whilst at the Challenge venue, it is preferred that working rig be worn to tour the site, however this can be relaxed to casual wear, so long as it is smart and approved by the team manager.
- 6.4 Full protective clothing will be worn in the pit and service area, this maybe relaxed during 'make up' at the discretion of the senior assessor and when weather conditions demand.
- 6.5 It is accepted that the evenings events perform an important part of the socialising aspect of the Challenge, but participants are again reminded to behave in a manner befitting their Service and have due regard to non-service persons who may share the same facilities.
- 6.6 Fair play and good sportsmanship is respected and valued. It is expected from all participants and their teams during their scenarios and as spectators to other teams.
- 6.7 Participants are not to canvass any assessor(s) or official(s).
- 6.8 Team Leaders will be held accountable for their respective teams.

7 Tools and Equipment

All rescue equipment supplied by teams must meet all EN or international standards. Any equipment outside these specifications (e.g. lightweight personal mechanical advantage systems, "home made" gear, etc) must be presented for scrutiny. Use of an unapproved device/equipment not meeting the specifications will result in disqualification of the team from the event.

Equipment List

The list of equipment to be made available for the Rope Rescue Challenge will be published via the UKRO website.

8 Health and Safety

- 8.1 A risk assessment will be conducted prior to each evolution by an assessor to ensure the safety of both participants and spectators. Dynamic risk assessment will occur throughout the evolution, not only by the team involved but also by the assessors.
- 8.2 Any unsafe or potentially unsafe practice will be stopped immediately and put right (see Rule 5.10).
- 8.3 All activities within the Challenge site fall under the control of designated staff who have been tasked by the UKRO to maintain high standards of health and safety principals. Teams must play their part in upholding those standards.
- 8.4 No team will be allowed to commence their task without direct approval of the Lead Assessor, subject in all cases, to the following:
- All team members are properly attired in approved personal protective equipment.
 - All non-proprietary equipment is accompanied by the relevant documentation.
 - The assessor has 'cleared' the scenario.
- 8.5 An official acting on behalf of the UKRO, who observes a potential or existing danger, will immediately halt the assessment by a long whistle blast. Any activity carried out after the blowing of the whistle, other than to ensure safety, will be penalised at the discretion of the Senior Assessor present.
- 8.6 A member of a participating team who notices an existing or potential danger must call a halt to any activity by shouting 'Still'. Any activity carried out after the calling of 'Still', except to make safe, will be penalised at the discretion of the Senior Assessor present.
- 8.7 All scenario activities will halt immediately at the audible signal (Acme Thunderer Whistle) indicating the end of the allocated time. The event assessor(s) will allow a team to complete a specific action to ensure a safe environment is maintained.
- 8.8 The casualty's safety critical PPE must be maintained at all times. Failure to do so may result in loss of points or possible disqualification.
- 8.9 An operator suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs during the event will be disqualified.

9 Assessing and Scoring

- 9.1 During scenarios each team will be assessed in the following areas by a panel of three assessors and are equally important in the overall scenario marking scheme:
- Incident Command and Control, (Command)
 - Physical Rescue and General Techniques, (Technical)
 - Pre-Hospital care, (Medical)
- 9.2 The technical skills test will contribute to the overall score based on the teams ability to safely and efficiently complete a prescribed task.
- 9.3 Copies of all the assessment sheets in use each year will be provided to each team prior to the event.
- 9.4 Basic packaging of the casualty will be evaluated using the ABC and S Protocols, with care and safety being of prime importance.
- N.B. A = Airway Management**
B = Breathing and Resuscitation
C = Circulation
S = Spinal Care
- 9.5 On the assessing sheets points awarded per sub-section will be totalled and each sub-section added together to give an overall score for that particular category.
- 9.6 The total points awarded in each category will be added together towards an overall award for that scenario.
- 9.7 The time penalties system will be:
- Any perceived breach of the standards with in this document will cause the scenario/ test and the clock to be halted, with no activities by any team member.
 - If the explanation/action by the team is satisfactory to the assessor the clock will start again and the scenario/test finish time will be altered to allow the team the full period of working.
 - If the assessor deems that the explanation is not satisfactory the time the explanation took will be deducted from the overall scenario time and the team will be required to modify their plan.
 - Any further breeches will potentially lead to disqualification.
- 9.8 The above system will ensure that any miss-perception of team's actions by assessors will not result in unnecessary penalties.

- 9.9** On completion of all of the first phase heats, the top three/four scoring teams will take part in the final phase.
- 9.10** Every team will be afforded a 'Hot Debrief' immediately following their first phase heats.
- 9.11** It must be noted that the assessors' decision is final and all participants are asked to respect that decision.
- 9.12** Assessors have the authority to suspend any scenario when, in the assessor's opinion, his/her commands (or those of another assessor) have been blatantly ignored or misrepresented and may result in a time penalty.
- 9.13** In the event of any dispute with an assessor's decision concerning any assessment or breach of conduct, the appropriate Lead Assessor will arbitrate.
- 9.14** In the interests of good order and the promotion of a professional appearance of all teams a code of conduct has been prepared. Disregarding the Code of Conduct by any participant or team can, at the discretion of the Lead Assessor, lead to the disqualification of the respective team and/or the suspension of the team from the Challenge.

10 Awards

At each National UKRO Challenge, recognition is given for the performances of the team and team's members in the form of awards. The effort and dedication that has been put in by participants for this Challenge over many months culminates in a formal award ceremony at a prestigious venue, where the following achievements are acknowledged.

Best Team

2nd Best Team

3rd Best Team

Best Team Leader

Best Medic

Best Technical Team

A predetermined number of teams will progress to the final, these teams will be decided based upon the highest cumulative scores from the heat scenarios and skill test. First, second and third placed teams will be decided by the scores achieved in the final scenario.

The 'Best Team Leader', will be awarded to the individual with the highest score in any one scenario.

The 'Best Medic', will be awarded to the individual with the highest score in any one scenario.

The 'Best Technical Team' will be awarded to the highest accumulative score in any one scenario, plus the score from the technical skills test.

11 Documentation

11.1 Enclosed you will find the following forms:

- Team Registration Form
- Authorisation To Compete and Insurance Indemnity

These must be completed and returned, together with the full entrance fee, to the following address:

UKRO
Hollie Tell
CFOA HQ
9-11 Pebble Close
Tamworth
B77 4RD

11.2 The entrance fee must be received before your team can be accepted as a participant in the National Rope Rescue Challenge.

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Rope Rescue

Team Registration Form

I have attached the full entry fee of **£600** (All cheques are payable to 'UKRO')

Cheque No: Date:

Name of Fire and Rescue Service:

Liaison Officer:

Tel No: Fax No:

E-Mail Address:

Team Name:

Team Address:

Six team member names:

(Please indicate by ticking box if team member is participating in another challenge)

E EXTRICATION **T** TRAUMA **U** USAR

1. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name of Reserve:

To be completed by the Team Manager:

On behalf the above Fire and Rescue Service team, I confirm that we have read and understand the rules governing this Challenge.

Signed: Name:
Date:

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Authorisation to Compete

I hereby confirm that the Fire and Rescue Service team below is authorised to take part in this year's UKRO Rescue Challenges.

Signed:

Name:

Position*:

Fire and Rescue Service:

Date:

* The UKRO requires that this person must have the authority to approve the above, preferably the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Chief Executive Officer or their Deputy.

Insurance Indemnity

I hereby confirm that for the purposes of insurance, that the Fire and Rescue Service team below is deemed to be on official duties whilst attending the UKRO Rescue Challenges.

Signed:

Name:

Position*:

Fire and Rescue Service:

Date:

* The UKRO requires that this person must have the authority to approve the above, preferably the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Chief Executive Officer or their Deputy.