

Development of Operational Command Skills

Scottish Fire Services united in use of training simulator

All Scottish Fire and Rescue Services now use VectorCommand's Tactical Command Trainer - Fire simulation system for training and assessing their incident commanders, it was announced recently at the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (CACFOA) Scotland conference in Crieff.

The recent selection by the Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service of the Tactical Command Trainer - Fire system, after a lengthy competitive assessment and procurement process, means that all eight of Scotland's Fire and Rescue Services are now united in their use of VectorCommand's virtual reality-based training system. Scotland's Fire and Rescue Service incident commanders will

now all be trained to common standards on a common platform.

The announcement came during a visit by Fergus Ewing, Scotland's Minister for Community Safety, to the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers Association (Scotland) CACFOA(S) conference in Crieff. The minister was impressed by the technology and supportive of any initiative that



ensured common standards and ways of working across the services.

This view was echoed by David Dalziel, Grampian FRS's Chief Fire Officer and Secretary of CACFOA(S), who is well aware of the value of a common approach to incident command training, especially when considering that services might have to support each other under mutual aid arrangements and incident commanders should be able to rely on a common approach, regardless of which part of the country they are operating in.

Billy Wilson, Area Manager, People Services Department, Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service, said: 'Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service is delighted to have completed the purchase of the TCT - Fire system.'

Remote Capabilities

'We are particularly excited by the system's remote capabilities, which was a key factor in our choice and realises the potential for the delivery of incident command training across our vast service area from a central location. VectorCommand's TCT - Fire is an excellent addition to the tools we currently use to train and develop our incident commanders at all levels in the service.'

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service has particular challenges with regards to geography, with a highly distributed workforce, often in remote sites and rarely able to take the time to travel for centralised training. The Tactical Command Trainer - Fire, Team Trainer extension, procured alongside the main simulator, will enable comprehensive, realistic incident command training to be delivered in remote locations without the need for the students to travel and without any compromise in the quality of the training.

Collective Procurement

Now that all Scottish Fire and Rescue Services use the technology, VectorCommand will be supporting the creation of a Scottish User Group to focus on the needs of fire services throughout Scotland, with the potential for collective procurement of bespoke scenarios and extensions to the individual service configurations, as and when required.

Jeremy Azis, Managing Director of VectorCommand, said 'We're very pleased that all the Scottish fire services are now on board. We're delighted with this common approach but not surprised: Scotland has tremendous potential to work together, and I suspect that this will be just the first in many such initiatives.'

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Top: From left, David Dalziel (CFO Grampian FRS, Secretary CACFOA(S)), Fergus Ewing (Minister for Community Safety, Scottish Government), and VectorCommand's Rod Stafford;

Left: Selection of screenshots from Tactical Command Trainer - Fire scenarios.

