



## Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

**Jo Turton**  
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive

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### Service Headquarters

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[www.essex-fire.gov.uk](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk)

Our ref: FOI/3774  
Your ref: N/A

8 June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I can confirm that Essex County Fire & Rescue Service does hold this information. Please see below the answers to your request.

### Final response:

1. With the annual firefighter salary at £29,934, What additional payment(s) are given to USAR personnel (ie USAR Technician and USAR Advisor) in your brigade for undertaking training and delivery of the USAR capability?

In addition to the annual salary USAR employees because they operate on a day duty basis will receive an annual retaining allowance. Should they occupy a service property they will receive additional allowance payments for rent, fuel and light.

2. What on call/recall payments are made to USAR personnel (if additional to above)?

Recall payments are as per grey book terms and conditions if the individual is off duty when the recall is made. Staff on duty and the point of call/recall are not paid any extra.

3. Do USAR technicians undertake USAR/Technical Rescue only or do they also have full firefighting and CFS responsibilities?

USAR employees do not have firefighting responsibilities. They have some involvement in community safety work, for example supporting an open day, or where a dog handler may go to non-Service events.

4. How many USAR personnel do you have?

As of 30 April 2018, we currently employ 16 individuals at USAR. We also have a number of reservists, who receive overtime payments if they are called upon to attend an incident.

The Grey Book states the following:

**Payment for recall to duty as a result of a serious incident**

31. Recall to duty to assist at a serious incident shall be on a voluntary basis and in line with arrangements determined locally following consultation between the fire and rescue authority and recognised trade unions.

32. An employee who is recalled to duty shall be paid for a minimum of three hours. Employees in the role of Group or Area Manager shall be paid at the maximum rate applicable to a Station Manager. Where the period of recall exceeds three hours payment shall be made for complete periods of fifteen minutes. All payments shall be at double time.

5. Please provide a breakdown of your annual USAR budget and expenditure.

The USAR spend budget for 2018-19 is £812K, this comprises pay including oncosts for pension and employers national insurance of £767K and operational equipment of £45K.

6. Please explain the expected training requirements of USAR personnel.

To become a competent USAR Technician, an individual must complete the following training:

- USAR Tools 1 course. This is a 5 day course usually completed at the host FRS by in house USAR instructors.
- USAR Tools 2 course. This is 10 day course undertaken at the Fire Service College or a National Resilience approved USAR Fire Service training venue.
- SWAH (Safe Working At Height) – Completed at the host FRS by in house USAR instructors
- LACE (Line Access Casualty Extrication) - Completed at the host FRS by in house USAR instructors
- Confined Space - Completed at the host FRS by in house USAR instructors

The above courses are the basic requirements set out in the Concept of Operations and the Maintenance of Skills Framework for an individual to operate unsupervised as a basic USAR Technician.

Once the suite of core skills is complete, then an individual can advance onto specialist roles:

- Chainsaw operator
- Confined Space Supervisor
- Hook lift Operator
- Hook lift Instructor
- Hot Cutting Operator
- Hot Cutting Instructor
- LACE Instructor

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- LACE Instructor

- Multi-purpose Vehicle Operator
- Multi-purpose Vehicle instructor
- Prime Mover Driver
- Timber Shoring Operator
- K9 Handler
- General USAR Instructor
- Search Management
- USAR Tactical Advisor

These specialist roles are subject to KPIs. There must be a minimum of each role within every USAR team. The KPIs can be exceeded but these are not funded.

General maintenance of skills is maintained through a local annual training program, attendance at local & zonal training events, CPD gained at incidents and organised National Resilience CPD events.

Specialist skills are maintained through CPD and some also require reaccreditation.

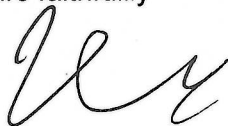
If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request you have the right to apply for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of your original email and should be addressed to: Internal Review, Performance & Data Team, Kelvedon Park, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex CM8 3HB

Please ensure that you quote the above reference number in all future communications.

Please note that the response and data released to you as part of this request will be published on the Essex County Fire & Rescue Service website. The website address is <http://www.transparency.essex-fire.gov.uk/> All requests will be anonymised and no personal information including contact details will be disclosed as part of this process.

Thank you for your interest in Essex County Fire And Rescue Service.

Yours faithfully



Information Governance

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