LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Designated water lift pits

New policy number:	**139**
Old instruction number:	**GM496**
Issue date:	**29 March 1993**
Reviewed as current:	**13 May 2025**
Owner:	**Assistant Director, Property and TSS**
Responsible work team:	**Property Group**

Contents

1 Introduction 2
2 Operational procedures 2
3 Pits "Off The Run" 3
4 Maintenance reference 3
Appendix 1 - Log sheet 4
Document history 5

1 Introduction

1.1 This policy describes the measures to be followed by operational staff in order to minimise health and safety risks when using designated water deep lift pits at fire stations and elsewhere for training purposes.

1.2 These procedures are required to demonstrate compliance with the Health and Safety Executive Approved Code of Practice - L8 'The Prevention or Control of Legionellosis (including Legionnaires Disease) and Policy number 762 - The control of legionella in LFB water systems.

1.3 Only those pits which have been nominated by Operations and Mobilising and which have been assessed by the Technical and Facilities Department as being:

- structurally sound; and
- free from the ingress of polluted ground water or leakage from "soil" systems;

can be confirmed as suitable for operational use.

1.4 Subsequently the following named sites will still be retained for training and strategic reason:

- Dagenham (N)
- Dockhead (N)
- Harrow (N)
- Leytonstone (N)
- Paddington (N)
- Plaistow (N)
- Shadwell (N)
- Shoreditch (N)
- Southall (N)
- Stratford (N)
- Tottenham (N)
- Croydon (S)
- Erith (S)
- Mitcham (S)
- New Malden (S)
- Old Kent Rd (S)
- Orpington (S)
- Purley (S)
- Sidcup (S)

2 Operational procedures

2.1 Only these designated pits shall be used for training.

2.2 Pits shall be filled with the minimum amount of water necessary for the drill immediately prior to the drill and the pit shall be left with as little water remaining as possible after the drill has been completed. This system of introducing fresh water into the pits immediately before the drill and leaving the pits as empty as possible will minimise the health and safety risks associated from contaminated or stagnant water.

2.3 A log sheet (see Appendix 1) shall be kept by station personnel detailing when the pits are used for operational drills, including an assessment of the volume of water used on each occasion, any observations regarding the smell or appearance of the water, together with the dates of complete re-charge or any major clean.

2.4 This log sheet shall be available for inspection at any time by Technical and Facilities Department, Health and Safety Services or operational staff. Log sheets can be obtained from the group commander (Health and Safety Services) at Headquarters.

2.5 This log sheet shall be retained in Section 7 of the station's Premises Logbook.

2.6 If station personnel have any concern about the condition of the water in the pit this should be reported to the Bellrock 24/7 Helpdesk at mailto:LFBPropertyHelpdesk@Bellrockgroup.co.uk (extension 89100) option 2. Pending the investigation and resolution period of any such concern the pit must not be used for training purposes whatsoever.

2.7 Water lift pits shall be covered to prevent daylight penetrations with appropriate heavy duty covers and clearly marked and annotated 'Deep Lift Pits'. Care shall be taken to minimise the ingress of pollutants into the water lift pits when using the yard for drills/activities, e.g. foam drills and polluted ground water.

3 Pits "Off The Run"

3.1 Non designated water lift pits will not be regularly maintained and must **NOT** be used for training purposes. These are marked 'Off The Run'.

4 Maintenance reference

4.1 The Technical and Facilities Department will arrange for the maintenance as detailed in Policy number 762 - The control of legionella in LFB water systems to ensure minimal risk to all operational staff.

Appendix 1 - Log sheet

Premises: …… Location of Pit: ……

Size of Pit: ……

Surface Area: …… m^2 depth: ……m Volume*: ……m^3

To be completed by operational personnel

Details of Usage

Date of use	Time elapsed since last use (days)	Volume of water used (m^3)	Water volume returned fresh water (m^3)	Volume made up with (Y/N)	Condition :* odour clear (Y/N)	OIC

Notes

The above information is required in order that water condition can be monitored to ensure compliance with the risk assessment with respect to the Approved Code of Practice L8 on Prevention and Control of Legionellosis (Legionnaires Disease).

The following information is given to assist in the completion of this form.

"Water volumes need only be approximate to indicate the proportion of the initial water in the pit that has been used or replaced.

* Condition of Water – odour – record Y (yes) if the water smells noticeably "off" or is "bad", otherwise record N (no). Clear – record if water surface appears clear (Y) or whether there is any discolouration or fouling (N). Overall Condition / Is it acceptable.

Document history

Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

EIA	12/05/2025	SDIA	**H** – 27/03/2025	HSWIA	12/05/2025	RA	N/A

Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

Page/Para nos.	Brief description of change	Date
Page 3	Paragraph 4 added / Maintenance Reference.	27/05/2009
Page 2 Page 4	Paragraph 2.4 added to add reference to the Premises Log Book. Reference to Section 7 of the Premises log Book added to header.	07/05/2010
Page 2 Para 1.4 Throughout	Removed reference to Dagenham from the list of training stations and added "(Available from the end of 2010)" to New Malden station. Helpdesk extension numbers updated.	18/05/2010
Throughout	Department names changed in line with the Top Management Review (October 2010).	17/05/2011
Throughout	Reference to PN585 – Water treatment and water quality control policy has been replaced by PN762 - The control of legionella in LFB water systems in line with current policies.	30/11/2011
Throughout	Minor updates to text as a result of review.	29/05/2012
Page 5	The SIA date was added.	09/11/2012
Page 5	Subject list and FOIA exemptions tables.	28/10/2014
Page 2	Paragraph 1.4 - PFI stations added and Southwark deleted. Paragraph 2.1 - Procedure changed, such that for each drill the pit is filled immediately before use and left as empty as possible to minimise any health and safety risks to Operational staff.	15/04/2015
Page 2	Paragraph 2.1 changed to 'minimum amount of water'	22/04/2015
Page 2 Page 3	Dagenham, Dockhead, Leytonstone, Orpington and Purley added to the list of designated pits to be used for training. Reference to KBR ICC added.	16/08/2016
Throughout	Department names changes, CAFM system update, minor word changes.	07/06/2021
Throughout Throughout Page 5	Reviewed as current with the following changes made. Department name changes and minor word changes. All impact assessments updated.	13/05/2025

Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

Health and safety at work	Infectious disease
Water	Water lift pits

Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

Considered by: (responsible work team)	**FOIA exemption**	**Security marking classification**