



NBAC
*Promoting Best Practice in the
Fire & Rescue Community*

National Breathing Apparatus Challenge



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Welcome to the National Breathing Apparatus Challenge

The National Breathing Apparatus Challenge promotes best practice and is open to all of the UK fire and rescue services, with the final being held at the Fire Service College each year.

The assessments are carried out using skilled staff from fire and rescue services from around the UK. Assessments cover an array of components including command and control, breathing apparatus (BA) and fire behaviour instructors.

Teams can enter from the wide range of roles from across the UK Fire Service.

The event is open to teams of five firefighters from throughout the UK competing for the best BA Team. Each team will be faced with a scenario of a property fire with persons reported inside, each team will have 30 minutes to extinguish the fire and rescue any casualties.

The event promotes best practice and firefighter safety in the following categories:

- Incident command
- Breathing apparatus procedures
- Fire ground procedures
- Entry control procedures

All teams will be assessed by national assessors who specialise in their fields across the UK fire and rescue service. The winners of the challenge will display their technical and practical skills and dexterity, as well as gain knowledge and experience.

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The roles

Incident command



This area is commonly undertaken by officers, however, recently firefighters have taken on the role as part of their development. This role involves gathering information on arrival, completing a 360 degree assessment around the risk area, identifying hazards that may be present, prioritising objectives for the crews to undertake, briefing and debriefing the crews.

Breathing apparatus procedures



This area is undertaken by two crew members who will be briefed by the Incident Commander prior to entry. They will conduct a search and rescue with fire-fighting actions being undertaken. Crews will be scored on progress made, fire-fighting tactics, casualties rescued and ventilation options. The BA procedures have the most points available out of all the disciplines.

Fire ground procedures



This area is a physically demanding role which involves the operator running out hose reels for the BA crews, covering jets, supplementing water supplies, managing welfare for the crews, and setting up a casualty holding area and a BA servicing area. Fire ground operators do not need to be drivers as arrangements can be made at the challenge.

Entry control procedures



This role involves setting up the ECB and confirming any briefs between the IC and crews. The ECO will need to keep in contact with the BA teams, monitoring progress made, updating the IC on any changes, gaining an appreciation of building layout and gathering any information from any casualties.

National assessors are available upon request to assist and advise prior to the challenge via email or through the website.



Several regional challenges are run throughout the country over the course of the year, providing opportunities for service teams to take part or observe other teams in action, enabling firefighters to gain valuable experience and knowledge of best practice to benefit them both in the challenge and also their day to day roles across the country.

Henry Cawdron, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service,
IC for one of their teams said:

“As a newly qualified Incident Commander I was keen to expand my experience. The NBAC gave me several opportunities to put my skills to the test in realistic scenarios. I’ve gained vital experience and extra knowledge that helps me in my role.”

For further details contact nationalbachallenge@gmail.com
or visit www.nbac.co.uk

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