



# Merseyside lights the way

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has been the first UK fire service to get its hands on the new 'Light Roll' mobile lighting system, expanding its visual communication capabilities to a whole new level.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue started its evaluation in its Training and Development Academy in Croxteth back in January, and has gone on to purchase its own after putting a trial unit through its paces within its USAR team. The service is planning to introduce many more into regular use in the service, both within Merseyside and other teams around the country.

The Light Roll, a new innovative lighting system, brought to the UK by Surelight, may be set to revolutionise the way lighting is used in search and rescue, particularly in USAR teams, and may even help increase the capabilities of emergency services to deal with all types of incidents; be it industrial fires, collapsed buildings or domestic household incidents.

Watch Manager Gary Oakford (Operational Equipment Team), the main driving force behind the introduction

of this new piece of kit, said: "Earlier this year Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service were asked to evaluate the Light Roll; we sent it to our dedicated Search and Rescue Team to robustly test it in the urban search and rescue theatre. The feedback from crews was extremely positive; they found it easy to use and it proved to be an excellent addition for both search and pathfinding."

As well as introducing the Light Roll into Merseyside, Gary has also been working alongside Katie Trowse from Surelight to help promote this new technology to other teams around the country.

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Team leader Paul Lawless added: "the benefits of using the Light Roll were seen immediately. It enables search teams to move speedily and safely to the scene of operations and enables us to mark off sectors which have been searched, or are to be searched - a first class piece of kit."



The Light Roll consists of a heavy duty reel carrying 50 metres of illuminated 'glow wire' powered by a battery pack within the reel. It provides a completely portable lighting and demarcation solution in any low-light situation, including search and rescue missions, evacuations and even diving and water rescue.

The Light Roll is currently available in two versions:

The first runs on one set of AA batteries at a time, with a second set ready for backup at the flick of a switch. These two sets provide a battery life of up to 16 hours, and can be set to flash or glow constantly.

The second version has a DC input option instead of the second battery pack for even greater flexibility, allowing it to be powered from a vehicle's cigarette lighter adaptor or a generator.

Surelight, based in Sheffield, provide EL products and LEDs to a wide range of industries in the UK, from safety through to entertainment and retail and can be found online at [www.surelight.com](http://www.surelight.com). Their recent projects have included Kylie Minogue's current world tour, 'KylieX2008', and the upcoming tour of 'Flashdance the musical', featuring Bernie Nolan, and choreographed by Arlene Phillips, from shows such as 'Strictly Come Dancing'. Their EL wire has also been incorporated into safety products such as man overboard systems for Sea Marshall @, and into retail displays for retailers such as Topman.

For more information, please contact Surelight at [info@surelight.com](mailto:info@surelight.com).

