

OP FRESCO

BREATHING APPARATUS RESCUE TEAMS (BARTs)



Life-saving is the paramount concern when emergency cover is being provided under Operation *Fresco*. Dedicated teams have therefore been trained in the use of breathing apparatus and specialist equipment to rescue people from fires and other emergency situations, such as road traffic accidents.

- 331 BARTs available across the country.
- They comprise professional Royal Air Force and Royal Navy fire-fighters, supported by other military personnel who have undergone an intensive five-week training course approved by the Health & Safety Executive.
- BART teams will be sent to any emergency where life may be at risk to support Green Goddess fire-fighting pumps.
- 1986 Service personnel are dedicated to the BART teams.
- Each shift-team consists of a commander and two fire-fighters.
- Work 12-hour shifts, with two shift-teams per BART to ensure 24 hour cover.
- BART teams will be sent to any emergency where their skills and equipment might be needed. If more specialised assistance is needed, Rescue Equipment Support Teams are available.
- Each team deploys in a light truck, with blue lights and emergency markings.
- As with all Op *Fresco* vehicles, the police will provide an escort to any vehicle responding to an emergency.
- Equipment is necessarily more limited in scale than that available on some modern civil fire appliances, but includes:
 - hydraulic rescue equipment including cutters
 - breathing apparatus, with spare air cylinders
 - protective clothing
 - hand-held fire extinguishers
 - comprehensive first aid kits
 - other rescue tools

