



GIBRALTAR FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

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PRESS RELEASE

No: 219/2019

Date: 27th March 2019

Firefighters from the Gibraltar Fire & Rescue Service attend UK Course

Fourteen members of the Gibraltar Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) have attended a Breathing Apparatus and Compartment Fire Behaviour Training refresher course at the Fire Service College in UK.

The delegation was composed of a mix of Operational Officers, Firefighters and one of the organisation's Breathing Apparatus Instructors.

These types of training are considered to be high level performance training objectives and are therefore mandatory in order to maintain safe competency levels in this area of fire service activity. The training safeguards and improves team and individual confidence whilst working in heat and smoke-filled environments, and prevents any potentially dangerous skill decay.

Our BAI, Sub Officer Jared Olivero worked alongside the College's instruction team during the course. Working in partnership with the UK instructors ensures Jared's currency as a BA instructor. This in turn guarantees the GFRS' alignment with best-recognised practices and procedures in line with our UK Counterparts.

The Compartment Fire Behaviour Training element of the course allows our operational firefighters to refresh their skills when recognising the signs and symptoms of Flashover and Backdraught, allowing them to mitigate the effects of these by ensuring appropriate and proportionate fire extinguishing and suppression techniques. The Breathing Apparatus sessions' objectives allow the crews to acquaint themselves with correct search and rescue procedures in what are always physically and mentally demanding scenarios in heat and smoke situations with zero visibility.

In keeping with the organisation's duty of care, both these modules are essential and complement each other. This training ensures that crews can perform safely and competently when deployed into highly dynamic and potentially emotionally-charged risk areas.