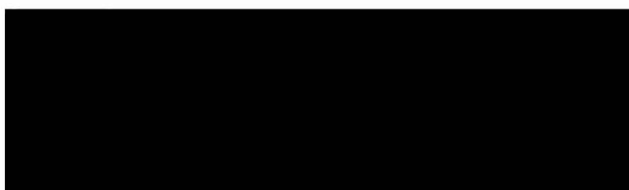




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Fire and Emergency New Zealand
National Headquarters
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23 August 2023



Tēnā koe

Information Request – Wellington appliances out of service

I refer to your official information request dated 26 July 2023 asking for the following information.

*At the time of the Loafers Lodge fire, which major appliances in Wellington were out of service?
How long had each of these been out of service?
Did not having any of these appliances impact on the effectiveness of your work at the Loafers fire?*

While we do not have a definition for “major appliances,” we have taken your request to be referring to large appliances as opposed to support vehicles or utility vehicles. Please note we do not record appliances as “out of service”. We record the availability of an appliance by its callsign with KO meaning it is unavailable. If an appliance is unavailable but the callsign is not KO that means the appliance has been replaced by a relief appliance. As such there is no operational impact and we would not consider the appliance to be out of service.

The appliances that were unavailable at the time of the Loafers Lodge Fire (16 May 2023 00:25:16) were:

- Avalon 414 (Type 4) had been unavailable since 8 April 2023, replaced by a pump appliance.
- Newtown 225 (Type 5) had been unavailable since 2 Feb 2022, replaced by a Type 4 appliance

You asked whether not having the appliances listed above had an impact on the effectiveness of Fire and Emergency’s response at the Loafers Lodge incident.

Fire and Emergency has commissioned an independent review of this incident. Specialist equipment and resources used in response included a command unit, BA tender (a fire truck for breathing apparatus equipment), operational support, fire investigators, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) technicians and drones, a USAR engineer, and two aerial trucks. Newtown’s Type 4 17m

aerial truck and Type 3 pumping truck were both operational at the incident along with Thorndon's Type 5 32m aerial. Early findings from the operational debriefs indicate the incident controllers' tactics were sufficiently resourced to carry out operations safely.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa nā



Julia McCook-Weir
Manager, Information Requests

