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KIRKLEES BUSINESS NEWS

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Action stations for highways experts

A FIRM of highways engineering consultants has turned up the heat.

Grange Moor-based Sanderson Associates has been advising West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service on specialist vehicle access requirements for a new technical rescue and special operations base.

The company has been working with the fire and rescue service to provide a highly specialist Urban Search and Rescue response facility at Birkenshaw, near Cleckheaton.

WYFRS was selected by the Government to provide a base for the USAR capability for the whole of Yorkshire and Humber.

The purpose of the centre is to provide an effective response to large-scale emergency incidents involving structural or building collapse or other significant events that have been identified by a series of national risk assessments.

Alison France, managing director of Sanderson Associates, said: "We have been both delighted and honoured to work on this vitally important project.

"A swift response to any large scale incident is absolutely crucial and the fire service's Birkenshaw headquarters is now equipped to provide exactly that.

"We worked closely with the fire and rescue service in planning and implementing this USAR development, providing highway consulting services including a highway report supporting the planning application, detailed design of the access road, off-site highway improvement measures and a road safety audit."

Robert Davison, property manager for WYFRS, said: "The assistance from Sanderson was invaluable in providing specialist traffic and vehicle management consultancy services to facilitate this major new development at our fire service headquarters site.

"Their involvement from an early planning stage through to completion ensured that the new main site entrance onto a main carriageway and the associated development was satisfactorily implemented."

Sanderson Associates has been working with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue for the past 13 years and has completed more than 25 projects for the organisation.

Some of the services the company have provided include transport assessments, access and feasibility studies, detailed highway design works, tendering and site supervision, road closure and project management.

Two of the major projects undertaken were for new fire stations at Leeds and Bradford. Both are large five appliance bay stations and strategically located to meet the rapid response time to emergencies required by Government regulations.

BLAZING A TRAIL: Alison France, managing director of Sanderson Associates