

Helping London Manage Building Emergencies

London Boroughs Dangerous Structures Emergency Response Contract

Contract duration :
3 years

Average call outs per annum:
180

Average annual value:
> £1million per annum



Whenever a building suddenly becomes unsafe for whatever reason, age, extreme weather, accidental damage or poor safety practices expert emergency intervention is required to assess the situation, carry out any immediate work required to make the situation safe and identify any urgent requirement for specialist contractors such as demolition, craning and scaffolders. Emergency services also need expert advice as to the safety of the structure before proceeding with and rescue operations.

When this kind of incident occurs in many of the London boroughs it is Linbrook's Dangerous Structures emergency response Unit that is amongst the first to attend the scene and provide these functions.

Linbrook Services Ltd has been successfully providing a Dangerous structures emergency response service to a consortium of 27 London

Boroughs for the past 2 years. Linbrook were awarded this contract based on their in-depth understanding of safety procedures coupled with their building knowledge, experience and expertise.

The service includes a 24/7 emergency response team to stabilise and assess the situation as well as a specialist range of services and skills including

- Health and safety assessment
- Structural engineering
- Scaffold design
- Management of experienced and qualified specialist sub-contractors
- Provision of labour and supervision



For a typical incident the local Borough Building Control Office notifies Linbrook's 24hr call out centre who dispatch the emergency response team with a



specially equipped vehicle to make the site safe from immediate danger.

A supervisor then assesses the situation and in conjunction with any emergency services and any other agencies on site defines the scope of the work required in the short and medium term.

The Linbrook supervisor then carries out the appropriate risk assessments and method statements needed for the works required to make the site totally safe calling in specialist sub-contractors as needed

The type of incident that Linbrook has to deal with can cover anything that can potentially endanger the public and ranges from collapsed garden walls to major incidents involving large buildings and associated scaffolding. Some of these can be high profile for example:



During internal remodelling of a building on Commercial Road the front elevation and attached scaffolding collapsed and was left supported only by the lamp posts in the street.

Linbrook secured the site and carried out a high level survey from a cherry picker. The Linbrook team leader then briefed the Fire brigade Urban Search and Rescue (USR) team so they could carry out a search for trapped people. Linbrook then brought in cranes to lower the scaffolding to the road to allow demolition and removal of the remaining façade.



The collapse of the top 2 floors of the building in Dean Farrer St, Westminster a month or two later again saw Linbrook working along

side the USR and police to ensure that the building could be safely searched leading to the successful rescue of a man trapped in a precarious position.



Linbrook, working closely with the Health and Safety Executive, then organised the demolition and removal of the top two floors and the extensive propping of the remaining parts of the building removing large quantities of material with crane and excavator.

In Bromley the ground under a house collapsed due to heavy rain washing away the underlying soil strata forming a large hole into which the front of the house collapsed. This resulted in Linbrook having to demolish the house.



Over the last 12 months Linbrook has attended over 180 incidents and has built up a strong reputation for competence and professionalism as well as becoming highly respected by the emergency services and agencies with which they work.

I was pleased to see Linbrook were in attendance at Dean Farrer St. They provided the Urban Search and Rescue team with a solid brief and explanation of their capability and equipment which enabled me to develop a well informed operational plan, leading to the successful rescue of a an adult male trapped in an extremely precarious position.

USR team leader