

Sembcorp Firefighting Fleet Enhanced



Sembcorp's world class Protection team has taken delivery of its second major fire appliance in a year.

The team, responsible for protecting hundreds of millions of pounds worth of industrial assets on key sites in the Tees Valley, purchased a £270,000 fire engine featuring some of world's best fire fighting and chemical spill protection technology early in 2009.

The Volvo FM440 unit, currently in use at the Wilton International site, has now been joined by a second machine - of similar dimensions and firepower. Ordered at the same time, it is intended for use by customers on industrial sites across Teesside.

Both units significantly enhance Sembcorp's ability to deal with fires and chemical spill emergencies at the sites.

Paul Frankland, Assistant Vice President of the Protection business, said: "We are delighted that we have been able to enhance our fleet even further. Together these units complement our existing firepower perfectly and provide us with formidable cover across all the sites on which we operate."

Built by specialist coachbuilders in Southern France to Sembcorp's exact specifications, the latest machine is capable of delivering 3,000 gallons per minute of water onto a target and has the ability to switch quickly to a foam or powder attack depending on the nature of the hazard.

It is intended for use in a lead role in emergencies and will complement Sembcorp's even larger volume 'Liquidator' and E1 fire engines.

Greg Richardson, Sembcorp Protection's Engineering and Technical Manager, said: "It is an amazing piece of kit.

"We've used all of our knowledge and experience to develop a hybrid unit which combines the best of 'first turnout' and high pumping appliances. It will substantially enhance our ability to provide a high volume attack at an early stage of an incident, minimising danger to people and plants."

Fire fighter safety has been carefully considered in the positioning of the fire pump control panel at the back of the appliance, providing a work area clear of side hoses and potential tripping hazards.

In addition, a 3,000 gallon a minute 'gun' on the top of the vehicle with a range of around 100 metres can be remotely controlled – another important safety feature preventing the need for a person to be positioned on the roof.



Water and foam can be delivered using an injector system which ensures only the correct amount of foam is used – minimising the impact on the environment.

The unit also has excellent water suction capability making it more effectiveness in dealing with flooded areas.

Training is now underway and the machine will be used in a number of emergency exercises on the site in the next year.

The Sembcorp Protection team of around 100 people provides fire and spill protection cover for companies on the Wilton International, Billingham and North Tees sites on Teesside. The team has a fleet of emergency response units across all three sites and guarantees a rapid response time to emergencies.

Widely recognised for its expertise, members of the team were called on to give practical and technical assistance at the massive fire at Buncefield in Hertfordshire in 2005.