

Ready to save lives across Europe The next generation MOFFETT

A building is engulfed in flames and the blaze is spreading out of control but fire crews can't reach the site because their way is blocked by fallen debris.

Fortunately, these well-equipped fire-fighters have the latest fire spec Truck-mounted Forklift from MOFFETT standing by for action. Ready for even the most dangerous of incidents, the M8 makes light work of the heaviest obstructions and is now ready to be rolled out to fire services across Europe.

A prototype of the M8 has been successfully trialled with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service in Scotland, the second biggest crew in Europe, and is already becoming a key member of its Major Incident Support Unit.



Demonstrating the faith these crews put in the robust machines, this is Strathclyde's fifth MOFFETT to date – all supplied by Scottish distributor Access Mechanical Handling Ltd.

MOFFETT forklifts were originally used for transporting foam and breathing apparatus but their strength and reliability have seen them quickly become an integral daily part of the fire and rescue service.

The new M8 offers a number of enhancements over the M7 model, which it replaces, one being increased operator space with easy reach controls – creating better access for firefighters carrying breathing apparatus.

The prototype model being tested in Strathclyde is also fitted with extra hydraulics capable of powering concrete breakers. These are invaluable for dealing with major emergencies, such as when a structure collapses and people are trapped inside.

Docherty added: "The breakers and cutters are used for accessing collapsed buildings and inserting listening devices when searching for personnel. This means we can get to victims quicker and more safely, greatly increasing their chances of survival."

The hydraulics can also power the concrete disc cutters used when the fire and rescue service is called out to assist with road traffic accidents. "Often people in serious accidents need to be freed from hazardous wreckage before they can receive vital emergency treatment. They may also be trapped somewhere normal fire and rescue vehicles can't get to"

"The vehicle cutters are used for removing panels and roofs from cars at crashes to free personnel, especially if the vehicle is off road and can only be reached by the MOFFETT," added Docherty.

Robert Brown, Technical Support & Logistics Manager for the Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service, is also a big supporter of MOFFETT's new technology. He explained that, while the reliability of the M7 was unquestionable, "the M8, with new hydraulics, upgraded engine, enhanced lights and new level electrics, can only improve reliability and longevity".

Developed on MOFFETT's proven Truck-mounted Forklift formula, the M8 combines engineering expertise with striking, rounded looks, a lightweight, corrosion resistant body and a range of refinements and design features.

To equip the forklift for the rigorous demands of the fire service, the fire specification version comes packed with extra features that ensure it is ready to handle even the toughest conditions.

- Low Baltic Seat
- High Output Alternator
- Tow Hook
- Special Jump Start Plug
- Alarm for low oil pressure, high water temp and ignition
- Double Pole Isolator Switch
- Engine Shutdown Valve
- Mechanical Fuel Pump
- Standby Charging Circuit
- Special Colour
- Reverse Mirror

Like all MOFFETT M8s, the fire spec model is fully customisable – with different tyre options and a choice of forks, lift heights and attachments.

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue specified 31x15.5 tractor-type, 8ply tyres for extra high flotation and added resistance to side wall damage. This increased width also ensures added flotation under the most difficult of conditions.

Along with Strathclyde, fire and rescue services across the UK are relying on the power and performance of a MOFFETT to help save lives.

Michael O'Reilly, a MOFFETT Product Manager, said: "We are very proud that a fire and rescue service of the size of Strathclyde is relying on our truck-mounted forklifts to deal with emergencies.

"The faith they have put in our previous fire spec product to clear obstructions and cut people free from wreckage is enormous and we are confident our next generation M8 will deliver even better performance, regardless of how tough the conditions are."

He added: "Following our success in Strathclyde, we firmly believe a MOFFETT can become a vital member of any firefighting team. We look forward to demonstrating the M8's strength to fire and rescue services throughout Europe."

