

Staffordshire Prepared

The Newsletter of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum
August 2007

Staffordshire
Civil Contingencies Unit



Supporting Resilience in Staffordshire
www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk

County Flood Plan to be Updated

A new plan is to be written to help tackle flooding in Staffordshire.

The new Staffordshire Emergency Flood Plan (SEFP) will draw on experience gained from recent flooding in the Lichfield area.

The new plan will replace the current Major Incident Flood Plan which is now outdated.

It means that Exercise Aquarius, which was scheduled for 29 November 2007, will now be replaced with a multi-agency seminar on flooding. The event will be led by the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) and the Environment Agency.

A project board to move forward the SEFP is being set up. It will be chaired by John Tradewell, Director of Law and Governance, at Staffordshire County Council, supported by Marie Dale and Ian Harrison of the CCU.

Major flooding affected over 200 families in the Fazeley and Elford area of Lichfield in June.

Search and Rescue Teams Help Tackle Floods

Volunteers from Rover Rescue and the Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team have been in action during the recent floods.

The organisations worked in the Fazeley and Elford areas of Lichfield during flooding in June to transport evacuees, food supplies and council staff. And they were back in action in July supporting the ambulance service in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Both groups have received letters of thanks from Anthony Marsh, Chief Executive of the West Midlands Ambulance Service for their support.



Newsletter Launched



Welcome to the first edition of Staffordshire Prepared, the newsletter for the Staffordshire Resilience Forum.

Staffordshire Prepared will be produced six times a year to keep Cat 1 responders updated on Resilience Forum news, events and training programmes.

Although produced by the CCU, this is the SRF's Newsletter. We therefore welcome any views, comments or submissions from Cat 1 responders. Please email submissions to us at ccu@staffordshirefire.gov.uk or send them to CCU, Stafford Fire Station, Beaconside, Stafford, ST18 0DD.

Andy Marshall – Director of Civil Contingencies

Town Centre Plans Progress

Work is progressing on Town Centre Evacuation Plans for Burton and Hanley.

A detailed draft plan for Burton was considered at a meeting in July and a desk top planning exercise will be held on 17 October. The final plan will go public on 22 November.

Meanwhile, work got underway on the proposed Hanley City Centre Evacuation Plan at a meeting in July.

New JAPG Groups Agreed

The Resilience Forum has agreed to split the Risk/Business Continuity Management JAPG into two groups. The decision was taken at the general working group meeting on 7 August, 2007.

New Humanitarian Assistance Centres Announced

Two new Humanitarian Assistance Centres (HACs) have been agreed in Staffordshire.

Locations at the new Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre, Stoke on Trent and the recently opened Customer Service Centre, Burton upon Trent, were given the go ahead following a recent inspection by the HAC Sub Group.

There are now seven approved centres across the county. The others are at the offices of: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Leek; Cannock Chase District Council, Cannock; South Staffordshire District Council, Codsall; Tamworth Borough Council, Marmion House, Tamworth; and the Tillington Development Centre, Stafford.

Negotiations are continuing on plans to set up a Virtual HAC at Stoke on Call, Stoke on Trent City Council's Call Centre.

A virtual centre is vital, as recent evidence from the flooding crisis in Yorkshire showed that while few people visited their nearest HAC, thousands rang the virtual centre.

Training Planned for Chief Executive Officers

Training days are being planned for Chief Executives and Directors of all Cat 1 responders in Staffordshire.

The event is designed to raise awareness of the role of senior officers if an emergency happens. The dates for the sessions are 15 and 16 November 2007 and 10 and 11 January 2008.

Media training day – 19 September 2007

The SRF is hosting a training event for Cat 1 Responder Directors and press officers who would be required to speak to the media in times of emergency.

The event will be led by the Government News Network
To book a place contact Sharon Edwards on 01785 232588.

Communications Update

Cat 1 responders in Staffordshire should purchase new satellite telephones.

The recommendation has been made after Ian Harrison and Steve Berry of the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) attended a Government sponsored seminar on resilient telecommunications.

The CCU will circulate recommendations on what to buy soon.

Temporary Mortuary Plan

Sites are being sought across Staffordshire which are capable of housing a temporary mortuary.

Open land measuring at least 140 metres by 140 metres would fit the bill.

There are three temporary demountable mortuaries available nationally. An alternative search for suitable permanent buildings is also ongoing.



Media Project

The Staffordshire Prepared newsletter forms part of a new project designed to

inform partners and the public about the work of Staffordshire Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU).

Nigel Howle, pictured, an experienced Staffordshire based journalist and media relations adviser, is working with the CCU on communications issues.

Work will include regular updates for the Staffordshire Prepared website and a press release service.